

News & Views

July 2007; 25th Year

Issue 247



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 sjsc@clear.net.nz

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

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05 Jul: Judy Kirby – NZSG's Pedigree Collection
19 Jul: Warwick Johnston – Port Nicholson's First Town 1840
26 Jul: Barry Thomson - Scanning Photos for e-mail and Printing

02 Aug: Derek Griffis NZ Illegitimacies
16 Aug: TBA
30 Aug: Computer Special Interest Group

06 Sep: Rob Aspden - Probates
20 Sep: Joanna Newman WCC Archives
27 Sep: Computer Special Interest Group

04 Oct: Rachel Brown – House research
18 Oct: 'Unusual places we have found family information' - Branch members
25 Oct: Computer Special Interest Group

01 Nov: Pam McKirdy – Death Records and AGM
15 Nov: TBA
29 Nov: Computer Special Interest Group

06 Dec: No speaker - Supper will be provided by the Committee

05 July – Peter Nash did not talk about the NZSG's Pedigree Collection last month because it is a whole talk in itself and because we have Judy to talk about it this month.

19 July – Warwick will talk about his latest book about the history of the Hutt Valley.

26 July - Barry Thomson on "Scanning Photos for e-mail and Printing".

COME EARLY TO ALL MEETINGS FOR RESEARCH AND LIBRARY - 6.30pm for evening meeting and 9.15am for the morning meeting on branch meeting days and 6pm on ComSIG night.

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

"AFTERNOON RESEARCH" - SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP OF GREATER WELLINGTON

Sunday afternoon 12th August, 2007, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Using our own usual resources plus a selection of census index resources from Auckland with an emphasis on 1851, 1881, and 1891 censuses.

If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along, and do label with your name.

NB: 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. Contact: Pen Brown penbrown@globe.net.nz

NZSG AND THE CHARITIES COMMISSION REGISTRATION

No doubt you have heard rumours about this and are wondering why this is happening and how it affects you.

Very simply-----

To maintain tax free status the NZSG has to register with the Charities Commission. This registration has provisos which affect the branches and one of those is to do with membership.

Four committee members attended a meeting in Otaki on Saturday and we are now in possession of the facts. Neither your membership of the NZSG or Hutt Branch will be affected. It will not be compulsory for you to join the NZSG.

We will have more information at the next meeting.

Janice

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

- Wellington CD
 - 2007 Conference proceedings
 - 'On our Way' 150 years of the Methodist Church
 - Latest Family History Magazine & CD
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FAMILIES IN TAITA

From: **Owen Ormsby** <owen.ormsby@aut.ac.nz>

Family Parker

Parker family arrived Wellington in 1856 from Devon on the Indian Queen

Richard Parker and his wife **Elizabeth Neno** with Richard's sister Sarah Parker were passengers on the ship. Sarah who married in Wellington or Taita area a Mr **Judd**, the surname **Sage** is another connection.

Richard Parker was buried in the old Taita cemetery, **two sons of Richard and Elizabeth** went with their mother to New Plymouth, they were Thomas and Joseph Parker, I descend from Joseph Parker through my mother who is his granddaughter.

My reason for seeking these families is to secure a Parker family network to unite our families together for genealogy and history to Devon and to bring about a publication that will continue to keep us united as one group with newsletters and updates hopefully leading to a tour to the old world to visit villages and churches (churchyards) of our ancestral areas and centers of records for ongoing pursuits to other family lines.

Am hoping that there are Parker descendants out there like myself interested in family pursuits for genealogy

Regards, Owen Ormsby

HELPFUL HINT - POST OFFICE PREZZY CARDS

Prezzy Cards can be bought from Post Shop. They can be used anywhere Visa is accepted electronically - in New Zealand, on-Line, and overseas.

This enables the bearer to buy anything that takes their fancy. These cards solve the problem of the possibility of anyone accessing one's credit card. The Prezzy Card is available for any amount from \$25-00 to \$500-00 making its use with Internet pay-to-view sites readily accessible.

In other words it's a pre-paid Visa or Master Card at a cost of \$5-00 when you purchase your card. For example a \$50-00 card will cost you \$55-00 and you have about a year until it expires.

For more information about Prezzy Cards visit www.nzpost.co.nz/prezzycard

(From the Waitara Branch Newsletter)

SPEAKER'S REVIEW - PETER NASH - HOW TO AVOID BUYING CERTIFICATES

The NZSG's website has been a great success. Before the upgrade the NZSG was getting about 10 new members a month but now it gets about 50 a month.

THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION

First families before 1900 – these are forms that members have filled in and sent to the NZSG containing family groups

Members' interests – find someone who has already done a lot of the work for you

Certificate Collections – there are over 70,000 of these certificates that members have sent in. It consists of NZ and overseas certificates. Instead of destroying a certificate that is not what you were looking for, send it to the NZSG for someone else to have a look at. You can also send copies of certificates that you are keeping. This makes sense as what would you do if all your certificates were destroyed? Having copies with the NZSG is an excellent way of having a back up.

You can order a printout of your surname and need to send an A4 envelope. You cannot order them by email but need to see the back of the NZSG magazine for details.

Pre-1856 marriages (before registrations) – The NZSG think they now have them all.

Pedigree Collections – a subject for July's evening meeting.

Obituaries Collection – If you have anything to add to this collection, do send it in.

Cemetery Fiche – see hand book in our library for when and where records were done

Burial Locator – a new cd in our library. This is a full list of all the burials on microfiche.

Books in the NZSG library – there are over 90,000 of them worth around \$1.9 million. Look in the library catalogue to see what is there. E.g. The Tablet Index (Catholic)

Birth and Death Notices

Cemetery Fiche – all the information that is on the death certificate available for free!

Monumental inscriptions – once you have a date – see the local newspaper for the death notice

Wills and Probates – death date on a will has an affidavit so it cannot be wrong. Intestate probates are more interesting as details of next of kin are detailed. If there was a possibility of someone being an alien between the 2 World Wars then one has to prove that they were a British subject.

Turnbull Library Biographical Index

IGI – family group records

Who's Who – autobiographies – most are not going to admit they have any faults!

- www.genealogy.co.nz – go online and have a look!
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INFORMATION FROM OTHER BRANCHES

A lot of the branches have information other branches and the NZSG don't have. We have 10 booklets of areas around New Zealand detailing what is available from the branches in those areas. You need to write to the the branch concerned for more information.

The same applies to local museums and libraries.

WEBSITES

The Petone Settlers Museum Passenger Database to arrivals in Wellington 1839-1897 is now online; go to HCC page then down to Petone Settlers Museum:

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/>

Or try this, which may work:

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/templates/StandardWithUserControl.aspx?id=1756>

Yours, John Wilson

LAND OF DATING COUSINS - from geneologue website

Everyone in Iceland is related. So says the website islendingabok.is, home to a registry of nearly Icelander born since 1703. Eygló Svala Arnarsdóttir was skeptical.

"I am not related to my boyfriend," I stubbornly insisted the other day, having carefully made sure we weren't before we started dating. I was having a debate with my brother about his theory that all Icelanders were related to each other. He offered to prove it to me.

The next day there was an email from him waiting in my inbox. I opened it and discovered a list of names and dates of birth – a family tree. I recognized some of the names and soon realized that this was a list of my ancestors and my boyfriend's ancestors, all the way back to the 18th century.

Apparently we share a great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandmother, whose name was Guðrún Einarsdóttir.

INBREEDING CAN BE HEALTHY - from geneologue website

Residents of the tiny town of Stoccareddo, Italy, eat all the bad stuff that doctors warn us about. But they rarely develop heart disease or diabetes, and often live into their 90s. What's their secret?

While at first glance nothing seems to be unusual about the town, a closer look reveals almost everyone is related and shares the same last name of Bau (pronounced Bow-oooh). According to Amerigo Bau, the unofficial town historian, the first Bau family arrived in Stoccareddo from Denmark about 800 years ago and ever since, Baus have been marrying Baus.

"It happened because the town was in the mountains," explains Amerigo Bau. "It was isolated, and so the likelihood of marrying another Bau was quite strong."

Most Baus tended to marry more distant relatives and not first cousins, which can cause genetic defects.

OUT OF AFRICA (BY WAY OF YORKSHIRE) - from geneologue website

Seven British Men who share the unusual surname of Revis have a rare West African Y chromosome.

John Revis responded to a newspaper advert by Leicester University asking for people who have traced their ancestry to give DNA samples for a study on world populations.

He said: "The scientists took some of my DNA away for analysis and then one day they called me up

and were very excited. They said I had a Y-chromosome that was extremely rare. I was flabbergasted. I had no idea that I was so culturally unique. But I am not going to start eating couscous and riding a camel."

This African Y chromosome -- the packet of genetic material passed down through the male line -- probably originated from a man from Senegal or Guinea-Bissau who lived in Yorkshire in the early 18th century and was inherited by his male descendants.

It is even possible that the line goes back farther still, to Roman soldiers from North Africa posted to Hadrian's Wall 1,800 years ago. This "division of Moors", which included the earliest known Africans in Britain, included recruits from what is now Morocco.

IS THIS DUDE FOR REAL? - from geneologue website

A Genealogue Exclusive The announcement that the National Archives (in the USA) intends to significantly raise its copying fees is bad news for genealogists, but great news for one Washington, D. C., entrepreneur.

Sandy Berger is best known as Bill Clinton's National Security Advisor, but he considers his new job just as vital. As founder and president of DocuDirect, Berger says he can deliver documents at half the price of other companies.

"At DocuDirect we cut out the middleman, saving you both time and money," he explains. "I know the Archives, and it knows me. In fact, some of the security guards even carry around my picture."

Familiarity with the Archives is just one part of the "DocuDirect advantage," Berger says. The former presidential advisor personally handles each request, wearing white gloves to avoid leaving fingerprints and clothing with extra-large pockets. Unlike other researchers who provide their clients with copies that are sometimes illegible, Berger delivers the original records.

"You'll receive your ancestor's actual Civil War pension record," he promises. "No matter how big the file is, you'll get every page—even if I have to stuff them in my socks."

Already fielding more requests than his small office can handle, Berger is planning to expand capacity once the fee hikes are implemented.

"I'm on the South Beach Diet," he confides. "I should be able to fit a half-dozen pension files in my pants come August."

NB. THERE IS A WEIGHT LIMIT ON HOW MUCH INFORMATION THE EDITOR CAN BRING BACK FROM THE UK FOR YOU!

GUTEN TAG AUS DEUTSCHLAND – from the editor

After about 30 hours of travelling via Auckland, Sydney, Bangkok and Dubai, we finally landed in Glasgow, only to find our bags were still in Dubai. They were delivered to my brother-in-law's door 3 days later, which was jolly decent of them!

Our guide for Sunday was an Irishman from Belfast who met us for a late breakfast and told us that his family had a saying 'Why say something in a few words when you can say it in a hundred' – and boy could he talk!! Being from Belfast it matters which area you live in. He left because he was not interested in taking sides in the Protestant/Catholic issues. His standard answer to anyone asking which part of town he came from is "Does it really matter?"

We spent a week in the Highlands and were amazed at how much like Otago and the MacKenzie Country the area was. Every time I saw the black-faced sheep, I thought of all the people who lived on that land who were cleared off it to make way for these sheep. These sheep have become a symbol of Scotland, just like they are in New Zealand (only ours have clean faces).

We headed off down South to Darlington and stayed there for 2 nights and checked out the area my grandfather lived but unfortunately could not catch up with the historians in the village.

One important lesson I learned was that you have to give the British plenty of notice before arranging to meet them as they are very unlikely to cancel whatever they have on to fit you in.

Second lesson, check when things are open and when they close the doors on the last visitors of the day. The National Trust properties are usually manned by volunteers and no matter how much you plead with them or offer to pay them, the rules cannot be bent. You can also save by buying a pass to National Trust Properties in Scotland and/or England.

We saw so many castles mostly in Scotland and today in Germany along the Rhine. Many were only ruins and some are still occupied. The Scottish ones are mostly owned by the traitor Campbell families who sided with the English and did not get their properties confiscated. A few of the sites of famous battles in Scotland are now tourist attractions and archiologists are always digging up something of interest on these sites.

York with its Shambles and its Minster was fascinating and Chester with its 2000 year old Roman walls was also very interesting. We walked passed a site being worked on by archeologists and were very surprised to see a woman's skeleton being dug up. I found it amusing seeing a 'lackey' doing the digging while the archiologist watched. The skeleton belonged to a short lady with excellent teeth and we were told there was a burial ground nearby and she must have been part of the overflow. Also being dug up is an old sports arena and the artifacts found consisted of mostly finger and toe bones and teeth!

While up North we found the houses and buildings fascinating. Everything was so old, mostly made of stone, brick or sandstone and the terraced or semi detached houses were often so cramped looking. By the time we got to Birmingham and onto London, it was the people who fascinated us. It was like we had the whole of the United Nations walk past us every 2 minutes – such crowds! and such diversity!

The National Archives in Kew Gardens was interesting. I especially liked the shop! All the books we see in the Family History Magazines were there, fridge magnets of old posters and even pencils as they are not provided when you enter the archives. I registered online before I went out there to save time when I lined up to get my ID card. The ID card has my photo and lasts for 3 years.

I looked through the indexes for the burnt records but could not find the 3 soldiers I was looking for from World War 1. I then looked through the birth death and marriage microfiche which are all in quarters right up to the end of 1992. There were plenty of microfiche readers but I noticed that it was best to get there earlier rather than later in the day, as the rooms tended to fill up more and more as the day wore on.

Amsterdam was a bit of a health hazzard with bicycles whizzing past us all the time. Cyclists have their own lanes and their own traffic lights. There are 11 million bicycles in The Netherlands - almost one per person. They are quite old fashioned looking and don't appear to have gears – only a bell on the handle bars which is constantly in use.

I wondered why the Dutch managed to reclaim so much land, but most of the land they have reclaimed is actually not that much below sea level. We were taken to a new area of reclaimed land with rows and rows of new houses. They were in neat rows, multicoloured and in exactly the same style as the old houses in Amsterdam – 3-4 storeyed, gabled, terraced with very big windows so that you can get your furniture in through the windows and the stairs are still very narrow and steep. One does see the odd gate in the countryside but instead of fences there are quite deep ditches. The sheep in the Netherlands are smart enough not to go into the water.

Our 8 day tour on the Continent also includes Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. Our tour guide is a character of an Italian who speaks 6 languages and the driver a Belgian. I commented to the tour guide that I thought the driver was very good navigating the narrow streets, avoiding bikes and pedestrians everywhere and not slipping into the canals. The driver had to be quite aggressive and often had barely a few inches to spare wedging his way through the cities. His mirrors, which look like bunny ears, also have to stay out of the way of other mirrors on trucks and buses. He said that all drivers have to be that good on the Continent. His idea of a good driver is one who would take him along the route that he wanted – e.g. along the narrow scenic route rather than the quick and easy autobahn ... and a good driver also spent his waiting time cleaning his bus!!



Above: Ruins of a castle on the Loch Ness in Scotland

New Houses on reclaimed land in the Netherlands
