

News & Views

March 2006; 25th Year

Issue 231



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: Janet Ketchell
Membership: Dianne Fitzgerald
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

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

02 Mar: Evening Meeting - Brad Patterson - Long Term Project

16 Mar: Morning Meeting - Bill Ireland - 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 / Brick walls

20 Jul: Alison Underhill - 19th Century Clothing

03 Aug: Joan McCracken - ATL Pictorial Collection

17 Aug: Branch Members - Problem Solve / Brick walls

2 MAR: EVENING MEETING - BRAD PATTERSON - LONG TERM PROJECT

Brad will be doing 3 semi-public lectures on the Scots/Scots migration project here in the city over the next 3 months, so thought a relatively informal session might be appropriate. What he is considering was an overview of what the international research project is about, the major questions being considered, how they propose going about it, then throwing the floor open for questions/discussion.

He has found such an approach very valuable when talking to other interested groups - he is genuinely seeking input from members as much as entertaining. Members of Clan Cameron may already have heard an outline, as also a few who attended a paper by Tom Brooking at Culture & Heritage last May, but he assumes it would be new for most of your members.

He may also bring his 2 PhD students. They have only started with him this year, but he thinks it is important that they meet people who are working on family histories.

16 MAR: MORNING MEETING - BILL IRELAND - HERITAGE

Phillip Vallance can't make it so his mate Bill Ireland is coming to talk about his family tree and a book he wrote and how to put it all together. He lives in Eastbourne.

If it's not written down, it ain't history yet - Dollarhide

RESEARCH REQUESTS

The Branch receives requests for help with research. Would you like to help with the research requests? This may involve completing some research on their behalf and providing guidance.

If you are able to help, please let Carol Ann Mason know at the branch evening meeting, email ca_mason@yahoo.com

WEBSITE FOR HUTT VALLEY BRANCH

We are looking at creating a website about the Hutt Valley branch. Are you able to help with the creation of this website? Or do you have any suggestions about what the website should contain?

Please let Carol Ann Mason know if you are able to assist either at the branch evening meeting or email ca_mason@yahoo.com

WANTED

Interesting stories, poems, photos etc about or of your ancestors for the newsletter. Please contact the editor.

THEY LOOK JUST LIKE US!

TV3 8.30pm Thursday 2nd March: Inside New Zealand: Nathan and Oscar's Excellent Adventure

For those of you who can, this might be worth taping while you are at this month's evening meeting. Nathan and Oscar use their DNA to trace their origins over thousands of years. They went to Taiwan in search of their most distant Polynesian origins. What they got was a shock of recognition in the faces of a race they did not know existed. The homes and villages they visited in the company of a guide called Niwa were not those of the predominant Chinese culture but the indigenous Taiwanese who live mainly on the Eastern coast of the Island.

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.

Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn't mean you are related to George - Dollarhide

SPEAKERS' REVIEW – SUZANNE SUTTON-CUMMINGS - A PARALLEL LINE

Many of the early settlers in New Zealand did not leave written records and the best we can hope for is someone in the family or who was associated with them to have left records mentioning them. Having a good look through the repositories can yield some surprises.

The Bevans came out to New Zealand with the Prince family who were related to each other. Although there is not much to be found written by the Princes in New Zealand, the Bevans make up for it with their written material and other records found in the National Library.

✓ *Reminiscences of an Old Colonist* by Thomas Bevan sen. published 1908 by Frank Penn Otaki Mail.

In this book, Thomas relates his story beginning with the fateful journey to New Zealand leaving Gravesend on the Lady Nugent in 1840. His mother, his new-born sister, 11 year old brother and a cousin died during the journey leaving his father with 2 teenage sons and 4 young children.

Mr Bevan was a rope maker and moved to Waikawa, near Otaki, where there was an easier supply of flax. Once he was ready for them, a schooner was commissioned to take the 4 younger children up the coast but after a terrifying experience in a storm, the children refused to get back on the schooner. This led to a legendary journey by foot in June 1845 with their Maori guide, Ropina. They walked up through Maori country staying with tribes that had never had European children visit them before. These 4 children were, Margaret 12, Mary 10, Thomas 8 and William 6. William, being the weaker one, often had to be carried by Ropina, who also carried their blankets and their food up and down steep narrow tracks and through thick bush.

Bevan mentions a lot of names in his booklet so it is of interest to anyone who might have had ancestors who just might have crossed his path.

Halfway house was owned by Mr and Mrs Wall; Mrs Jackson, a Negro woman owned a 'rude accommodation house in Porirua; Mr Rhodes, a storekeeper they met at what is now Plimmerton; Mr William Jenkins who kept an accommodation house at the mouth of the Waikanae river; Mr Harvey ferried them across the Otaki river and then there was the Rev W Williams. Major Durie was the local magistrate in Waikanae with Mr Knocks as the interpreter. Mr Taylor owned an old fashioned mill in Rangiuru, Otaki and so the list goes on.

Although I have a copy of the Prince family history, it was not until I purchased Thomas Bevan sen.'s *Reminiscences on Trademe* that I discovered the source of some of the information. It was then that I also found other records left by the Bevans.

A few of the Prince children had also walked up to Waikawa to visit their cousins. The National Library has a book containing transcripts of their father's (also called Thomas Bevan) letters home to Whitchurch, Shropshire which stated that his brother [in-law] Prince was employed by the government to make as many door and window sashes as he could at one shilling a foot making as much as 10 to 12 shillings a day (Thomas Bevan, *Narrative of a Voyage from England to New Zealand*).

Another surprise was a photo of one of Thomas Bevan's daughters who looked very much like my mother and grandmother. Also not surprising, the Bevans appear to be a source of the strong musical talent in my family.

MISER'S FAMILY TIPS

Check for the wife's death first when you are trying to 'kill off' a couple. Her death certificate will say whether or not she was a wife or a widow and thus help you to narrow the search dates for a husband's death.

HINTS FOR FINDING FIRST-HAND REFERENCES TO YOUR ANCESTORS

- ✓ Read up on the area and era of your ancestors - you never know where their names might pop up
 - ✓ Search the repositories for written records and family histories by cousins, uncles etc of your ancestors
 - ✓ Look amongst the church records where they were associated and the cemetery records where they are buried.
 - ✓ Archives New Zealand have copies of probate papers which give a wealth of information on what land they owned, who they left it to, who their daughters married and even where they were buried.
 - ✓ Search the National library timeframes website for photos donated by family members.
 - ✓ Have a look through the shipping records and dairies of those who were on the same ship as your ancestors and commentaries on these records.
 - ✓ Look for obituaries in the local newspapers when they died.
 - ✓ Look at your own family history written by others for the sources of their information.
 - ✓ For towns of origin of your ancestors, check the internet to see if they have a Historical Society.
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THOMAS BEVAN WITH A GROUP OF MAORI PEOPLE from <http://timeframes.natlib.govt.nz>

Back Row left to right:- Thos. Bevan Snr, Karhana Te Whenna, Mrs Margaret Clark (Thos Sr's sister) Kauwhata Riroa, Akuhata Warehi. Front row:- Pine Riroa (Ropina), Pareake Ngapari, Ehaka Ngapari, Makuini Ranapiri and child Pareake Ranapiri. [Would anyone know what the medals are that 4 of the men are wearing?].

Photographed circa 1890s by an unidentified photographer. Reference No. 1/2-057399-F. This photo is also in the Bevan family history, *Tatou Tatou*, by Val Bevan and has everyone named.

WELLINGTON'S FIRST BRASS BAND - according to Thomas Bevan Senior

Joseph Masters, John Webber, Henry Overend, Joe Grimaldi, Charlie Howe, Robert Durie, John Woods, Edward Bevan, George Bevan, William Dodds.

SPEAKERS' REVIEW – RACHEL BROWN - BEGINNER GENEALOGY

About 30 people turned up to hear Rachel which was less than we normally have at a morning meeting but more than Rachel was expecting. What she had to say was also of interest to the more experienced of us as she went into great detail of what is available at the National Library and Archives New Zealand. She has organised a tour of the two repositories with some of those who were there.

POOR LAW UNIONS & WORKHOUSES from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

Many of our antecedents fell on hard times, and without Social Security the only safety net was the Poor Law system. The Poor Law Act of 1601, which remained in force until 1834, provided for overseers to levy a poor rate on the householders in a parish in order to support the poor of that parish.

Because the rates were levied by parish there was an inevitable reluctance to pay for the poor of other parishes, so it was not unusual for them to be returned to the parish from whence they came. From 1697 paupers were supposed to wear a large badge with the letter P and the first letter of their parish, and although often not enforced, this provision remained on the statute books until 1810.

In 1834 the system was comprehensively overhauled, with the establishment of 600 Poor Law Unions, and a switch from 'outdoor relief', where the poor continued to live in their own homes, to workhouses. Anyone who has read Dickens will know what dismal places they were - but you may be surprised to learn that workhouses were not abolished until 1930.

There is a database of Poor Law Unions at: <http://www.fourbears.worldonline.co.uk/Database.html> This allows you to find out the Union in which each parish was situated, and also the records office that holds the surviving records. Some records offices have indexes of the names that appear in documents - this may be no more than a card index.

There's a site that is unequalled in the information it provides about workhouses: <http://www.workhouses.org.uk> On a page entitled 'Workhouse Memories' you can learn something of what is like to live in the workhouse from those who survived the experience.

1830 MAP OF LONDON from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

<http://www.motco.com/Map/81003/> There's an 1830 map of London, and if you click on any part you can view a highly-legible section of the map (it's divided into 81 sections).

Another site with 19th century maps is <http://www.old-maps.co.uk> and for modern maps we'd recommend you use <http://www.multimap.com>

THE SLUMS OF LONDON from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

Though some of London's worst slums were demolished during the reign of Queen Victoria, many survived well into the 20th century, as this extract from a documentary film made in 1935 shows: <http://tinyurl.com/983lz>

An outstanding description of life in the slums of south London between 1909-13 was published as "Round About a Pound a Week" by Maud Pember Reeves (1865-1953).

She and her colleagues collected information about the income and expenditure of working-class families living in Lambeth, where the mother of the family had to house, clothe, and feed an entire family with perhaps 5 or more children out of a housekeeping allowance of about one pound a week. First published in 1913 the book was republished 66 years later, and has since been reprinted many times: <http://tinyurl.com/eypa9>

In case you're wondering how much a pound then is worth now, we used the calculator at <http://www.eh.net> which indicates that it's about 63 pounds (or \$110) in today's money.

Life was no better in other city slums. In 1971 Robert Roberts, who had been born in a Lancashire slum in 1905, wrote "The Classic Slum - Salford Life in the First Quarter of the Century":

<http://tinyurl.com/axsmv>

Despite the deprivation in the cities, people still flooded in from the countryside as mechanisation reduced the demand for agricultural labour. The percentage of the workforce employed on farms dropped dramatically during the 18th and 19th centuries, and this decline continued through the 20th century. Once 75% of the population were involved in agriculture - today it's just 1%.

SURNAME MAPPING from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

A new website set up recently received over 3 million hits in 5 days! The 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>

NAMING PATTERN OF CHILDREN

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1st son after father's father | 1st daughter after mother's mother |
| 2nd son after mother's father | 2nd daughter after father's mother |
| 3rd son after father | 3rd daughter after mother |
| 4th son after father's eldest brother | 4th daughter after mother's eldest sister. |

DOMESDAY BOOK (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>)

At Christmas 1085 William the Conqueror ordered a great survey of land holding in England. This recorded who owned or lived on the land, what livestock they kept, how much the land was worth, and what taxes were owed to the Crown. It was nicknamed 'Domesday' by the native English, after God's final Day of Judgement when every soul would be judged and the verdict written in a book, with no right of appeal. The scale of the survey was unprecedented in Europe at the time, and not repeated in Britain until the census in the 19th century. Although its exact purpose is unclear, the Domesday Book records people's rights to land and their duties to give tax and military service.

There were originally 2 volumes of the book, Great Domesday and Little Domesday. These fill 913 pages and describe over 13,000 places in England and parts of Wales. The handwriting shows that a single clerk wrote most of Great Domesday, with a second clerk checking the work and adding notes. Little Domesday is a more detailed version for the counties of Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. It was the work of perhaps as many as 7 clerks.

WEBSITES

- ✓ <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/Gallery/Anzac/memorial/mem-index.html> - photos of WW1 memorials throughout New Zealand. Each record contains information about the location of the memorial and the number of soldiers listed who died in the First World War. Some list the actual names on the memorials.
- ✓ <http://www.wishful-thinking.org.uk/genuki/index.html> - A site that has pictures and information about the old churches of England. Selected by index of areas
- ✓ <http://www.footstepsphotos.co.uk/main-index.htm> - this site has many old photos of streets, some of specific addresses in England - you may find the exact place your ancestor resided. Search by area

from Wairarapa newsletter Feb 06

A genealogist needs to be a detective. Just gimmy da facts Ma'am - Dollarhide

ARE YOU A GENEALOGIST?

/ \ wide-brimmed hat to ward off sun and rain in cemeteries

trifocal glasses |0^0| pious expression for begging documents from distant relatives
dust mask (|-----|)
 \---/ sticky tongue from licking stamps
 |-|
 -----|-|-----
 ^\\ \-/ ^\\ \ /8|--| bent back from bending over documents
muscular right /|| o || \ \ /8|_| coffee mug that says "I brake for cemeteries"
arm from //|||o||| \ \ /0/ a watch (to make sure you have time before
cranking microfilm //|||o||| : \ \ /: the library closes to check one more reference)
readers // \ o \ : \ / : vest with pedigree chart on back for others to read
carpal tunnel // | o | : \ \ shirt with large pockets for pens, cards, etc.
syndrome // | o | : : wallet (you can afford genealogy because you don't
 _ / /ooo ==== | : : spend your salary on food, clothing, or shelter)
inky hands ///:UUUU _| : : coin changer for photocopy machines and the lockers
writer's cramp ::| / \ | : : at the Repositories
 | || | : :
 | || | :
 /---\ /---\ :
 | | | | : knee pads for finding books on low shelves
 \---\ /---/
 | | | |
 | | | |
 | | | | bottom of jogging outfit (recycled: who has time to jog?)
 /--/---| |---\--\
 \--_| | |_/--/ hiking shoes or duck boots

--by Carol Botteron as posted on soc.roots/Roots-L with suggestions from fellow Roots-L contributors

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR NAMES:

1. Thou shalt name your male children: Albert, James, John, Joseph, Josiah, Richard, Thomas, William
2. Thou shalt name your female children: Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah
3. Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
4. Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, call them by strange nicknames such as: Polly, Dolly, Sukey
5. Thou shalt NOT use any middle names on any legal documents or census reports, and only where necessary, you may use only initials on legal documents.
6. Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled, in various ways: Hicks, Hickes, Hix, Hixe, Hucks, Kicks
7. Thou shalt leave NO cemetery records, or headstones with legible names.
8. Thou shalt leave NO family Bible with records of birth, marriages, or deaths.
9. Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make all the rest of thy records in the names of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Alfred.
10. Thou must also flip thy parent's names when making reference to them, although "Unknown" or a blank line is an acceptable alternative.

contributed by Dianne Fitzgerald

It's really quite simple. First, you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents... then you QUIT... and start teaching courses in genealogy ...Dollarhide's Rules for Genealogy

FROM THE EDITOR'S DISTANT PRINCE COUSIN IN THE UK - thanks to
www.genesreunited.co.nz

Thanks for your message. Yes I am related to the carpenters of Erddig Hall [Wrexham, Wales], which my wife & I have visited. It is most interesting, & even more so when they have a portrait of one of your 5xG Grandfathers hanging in the servants quarters.

I do have a copy of the poem & yes Charles (the Black Prince) [nick-named because he was so dark] was Edward Prince's father. Edward had 4 wife's (not all at the same time) & numerous children so it's not surprising I have heard from several descendants.

One labour more thou muse of mirth,
That broughteth dogg'rell into birth
And before you leave us, enter,
To record our old carpenter.

'Tis three score years, then young in grammar,
When here at first, he held a hammer,
Under his father, dead long since,
Who was entitled - the Black Prince.

A raiser this, indeed of houses,
That has already had four spouses,
And if the present one don't survive
Hopes to build the number up, to five.

From these bold strokes arise a race
Of Princes, to adorn the place
Who thrive beneath their parent stock
And make good chips, from that old block.
