



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 Apr: Writing your Family History – Warwick Johnston

15 Apr: Writing your Family History – Warwick Johnston

12 Apr: Ypres – Ian Fyfe

19 Apr: to be advised

10 May: National Monuments & War Graves – Margaret Marks and then AGM

17 May: Visit to the Hutt Archives

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 EVENTS

EVENING AND MORNING MEETINGS

Local historian and genealogist Warwick Johnston will talk about his new book on writing family history. He will also provide pointers on what information to bring along to our research day on 31 March to help our volunteers help you on your way in genealogy.

Warwick may also bring along his map of Taita Cemetery!

RESEARCH DAY – SATURDAY 31 MARCH - 10am–3pm at Petone Public Library

- Free entry to all financial members of the Hutt Branch
 - \$5 charge for non-members
 - Tea, coffee and milo provided free
 - Bring your lunch and stay the day
 - We will have branch members on hand to steer you in the right direction. There will be help desks for NZ, Australian, English, Irish and Scottish research with interest group resources available.
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AGM ON 10 MAY

It's nearing that time of year again and the AGM is to be held on Thursday 10 May. Opportunities will be available to join the branch committee and contribute to the activities of the branch.

TEA ROSTERS

Thank you to all those who put their names down on the evening and morning rosters. I have ten names on the evening roster and eight on the morning roster. Two or three more names for the evenings and mornings to cover any 'unavailabilities' would be appreciated Diane

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

- ✓ 10am -12pm
- ✓ Wednesdays – 28 March, 18 April,
- ✓ Saturdays – 14 April,

If there is anyone else interested in helping please contact Marie Perham

HUTT OLDER PERSONS' EXPO

- Aging disgracefully!
 - 14 April 10am-4pm
 - Hutt Town and Horticulture Hall
-

THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE ON THE NZSG VOLCANIC TAUPO – STEAMING AHEAD

This year's conference will be held in Taupo at the Wairakei Resort during Queens Birthday Weekend 1-4 June.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Nick Barrett – British author, broadcaster, historian and professional genealogist, well known for his work on the “Who do you think you are?” BBC television series.

Registration forms are available in the January/February issue of the New Zealand Genealogist or on the website - www.genealogy.org.nz

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH 2012

- 11 August 1-5pm
 - Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington
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NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Yvonne Airey has donated five recent issues of Tasmanian Ancestry magazines from The Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

- March and June 2010, June, September and December 2011
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1611

- James I attempted to unite the various factions of the Anglican Church. In particular, he attempted to limit the influence of the English Puritan faction within the Church of England. The Puritans objected to various translations from the previous versions of the English bible that was approved by Henry VIII.
- James I introduced a new translation of the bible to England at this time. This version of the bible eventually became known as the King James Bible. It was widely adopted by the Anglican Church and various Protestant faiths.
- The King James Bible was for many years the only book owned by most English households. As the only book in the house (and presumably one that was consulted regularly), the blank front and back pages of the King James Bible served as many family's unofficial log for recording births, marriages and deaths.
- In England, family bibles were traditionally handed down to the oldest daughter. That means the surname written in the bible would change with every generation. It can also provide an important clue as to the origin of the name they wrote in the bible.
- 1611 was also the year the English crown began the plantation of English and Scottish Protestants into Ireland, primarily around Ulster.

1642

- Civil War ensues and lasts until 1649, at which time Oliver Cromwell overthrows the monarchy and England becomes a Republican Commonwealth
- The seven year Civil War caused a tremendous amount of social upheaval. Families were split and forced to move and there was considerable hardships and tragedy. Religious persecution was a keynote feature of the period
- The Civil War period also corresponds to a time of great expansion in the British Empire overseas (Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in 1621, Virginia became an official colony in 1624, Maryland in 1634, Bahamas in 1646, New York seized from the Dutch, etc).
- A combination of new opportunities overseas and civil war at home resulted in a substantial increase in emigration from England to the new colonies.
- Parish record keeping was sporadic during the Commonwealth Period (1642 to 1660). It is very difficult to trace ancestors during this period. For example, during this period, many marriage ceremonies were performed outside of churches and banns were often called in public market places, not in churches. In particular, in 1653 the right to perform marriages was removed from the clergy and given exclusively to justices of the peace. Between 1657 and 1660 either clergy or justices of the peace could perform marriage ceremonies.

1844

- The Poor Law Amendment Act introduced the concept of affiliation orders for illegitimate children. Illegitimate children often had no father listed on birth certificates. However the 1844 amendment to the Poor Law legislation allowed the mother to apply for maintenance payments from the father of such children. Thus, if there is no father listed on a birth certificate, always check Poor Law records to see if the mother made an application for child support payments. These applications were known as

affiliation orders. Initially, the applications had to be made within one year of the birth of the child, but it was later increased to within three years of the birth of the child.

- Foundlings were newborns that were abandoned and often left at a safe location, such as a church. The mother and father were unknown. Foundlings were listed in birth registers after the letter Z. Foundlings were sometimes given a Christian name plus a surname that was sometimes named after the day of the week that they were found.

1849 (1 July)

- Birth, marriage and death of British subjects in foreign countries was recorded for the first time by consular officers.

1851

- The 1851 census was the first census to list the place of birth. However, for anyone born before 1837 (when the government started birth certificates), many people genuinely did not know how old they were or where they were born. Often, they guessed at their age and gave their birthplace as the first place they could remember. As well, even for people who did know where they were born often listed the largest town or city near their birthplace instead of the actual hamlet of their birth.
- A study of English census records suggests that approximately 10% of census returns lists an age that is incorrect by more than one year. Some parents (particularly on rural areas) exaggerated the age of male children because they had told the farmer who employed their son that he was older so that he could earn a larger wage. In general, though, adults under the age of 30 usually gave the correct age. People over the age of 30 are more likely to underreport their age, with women being five times more likely to do so than men. Older women who were married to younger men tended to be the worse offenders in understating their real age. This trend changes at the age of 50, when people tend to overstate their age. As people get older, this tendency to overstate their age increases. Oddly enough, studies have shown that when people misstate their age, they usually give their age as an even number, not an odd number.
- Illegitimate children of the daughter in a household were often attributed as children of the grandparents in a census to hide the fact it was their daughter's child.

FAMILY HISTORY AND POLITICS – contributed by Marie Perham

Judy Rudd an amateur genealogy researcher in south east Queensland, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that ex-Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's great-great uncle, Remus Rudd, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Melbourne in 1889. Both Judy and Kevin Rudd share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows at the Melbourne Gaol. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription: 'Remus Rudd horse thief, sent to Melbourne Gaol 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Melbourne-Geelong train six times. Caught by Victoria Police Force, convicted and hanged in 1889.'

So Judy recently e-mailed ex-Prime Minister Rudd for information about their great-great uncle, Remus Rudd. Believe it or not, Kevin Rudd's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

"Remus Rudd was famous in Victoria during the mid to late 1800s.

His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Melbourne-Geelong Railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted

several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad.

In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the Victoria Police Force. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

How's that for POLITICAL SPIN?

IT'S SO EASY TO GET THE WRONG STORY – by Suzanne Cummings

Whenever a member of my family comes to Wellington, I have to take them to 19 Princess Terrace in Newtown and tell them the story of how my great grandfather owned this house and lost it during the depression. He bought it with money saved up for him by his grandmother and he owed £400 on it. Times were hard, he couldn't pay the mortgage and so he just walked out of it with his second wife and five children.

One of my uncles just couldn't get his head around the fact that he didn't get a penny for that house after he walked away from it.

Our ancestor was a carpenter, a draftsman and an amateur musician. At one stage, he went into business with another man and went bankrupt. People did not pay him for the plans he drew up for them and he was not a good business man.

He even had to resort to busking to make a living. One story I read about him on the internet was that he played the cornet and made his children beg for money – a story told by his brother who outlived him by about 40 years. Busking back then was seen as begging!

When I mentioned this to a couple of his children they were surprised. 'No, we weren't made to beg for money!'

Several years ago, 19 Princess Terrace came on the market and I went along to have a look inside. The real estate agent told me it was built in 1896 and the history of ownership didn't go back all that far. It had somehow got lost. (Funny that! I would love to know the ownership history of the house after my family walked out of it).

It was not long after that, that a relative informed me that my great grandfather was an *architect* and that he built the house himself!

'Really?' I replied, 'He must have been incredibly clever because the house was built when he was three years old!'

MORE ABOUT THOSE SLIDES

After bringing home my Dad's box of slides in September, I sorted through them all, scanned them and then sorted them again into folders in my computer.

I had also bought three discounted vouchers for www.my-books.co.nz These ended up being redeemed on the day they expired on the 31st of January. I bought three forty page hard cover 9"x7" landscape books. It took me quite a while to decide what to put in them. In the end I did all three books the same – fifty pages in each book using most of the slides and paying more for the extra pages – one book for each of my brothers.

The slides weren't all the best photography, some were blurry, one or two need a bit of a clean up, a few I cropped but on the whole they tell an amazing story in pictures. They span a ten year period – 1960 to 1970 and yes, I did find two of my youngest brother born in 1968.

It took a few attempts to work out how to get the photobook programme to work. I picked a theme for the pages, picked photos and a title for the front cover and then went through the remaining photos putting them on the pages. There was a text box and different fonts. By pressing a button, it rearranged the photos and the text for me.

My family thought I was so clever putting the book together but it is actually a lot easier than it looks

I emailed one photo to Dad via my step-mother asking if he could tell me who these people were. It was of a couple with their two children who were about the same age as my oldest brother and me. A reply came back with a comment from my step-mother. 'Please send more, I am enjoying this!'. And so I sent more images and more interesting stories came back about the slides.

I am so glad Dad didn't make me wait until he was dead before giving me these slides. The stories would have died with him.

Now I want to get my parents' 35mm black and white negatives done by 31 March as I was offered and bought another three discounted photobooks.

My scanner only does slides and 35mm black and white or colour negatives. I also have heaps of odd sized negatives inherited from my parents and my grandmother but I will work on what I have for now and worry about the others later.

TELL US YOUR STORY

Tired of the editor's stories? Briefly tell us what you found and how you found it. We want your success stories and a few ideas on where we can look next!

WHERE DID 'PISS POOR' COME FROM?

They used to urinate to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot! Once it was full, they would take it to the tannery ...

If you had to do this to survive, you were 'piss poor'. But worse than that were the really poor who couldn't afford to buy a pot ... They 'didn't have a pot to piss in' and were the lowest of the low.

From Tokoroa Branch Newsletter Feb 2012

'DIT' NAMES – CAN ANYONE GIVE US SOME EXAMPLES?

Hi Terry,

I was very interested to read of 'dit' names in Hutt valley's latest newsletter. I'm not a French scholar but I do know that 'dit' comes from the verb 'dire' which translates as 'to say'. Therefore 'dit' would translate as 'said' or more figuratively as 'called'. Unfortunately I don't know of any examples, but I should imagine the 'dit' part could be the name of the place the family came from, or occupations or characteristics such as bald, crippled, dark, fair, etc. French kings have their common names as well as their numbers eg. Louis the Ugly, Charles the Tall, etc.

I would like to hear of any examples of dit-names if you should have any.

Kind regards,
Evelyn Robertson
Canterbury Branch

WEBSITES

- School Photographs – www.worldschoolphotographs.com Unless you went to a school when cameras weren't invented, yours should be there. Enter the name of the school and the year you were there.
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- Free Pages Past - <http://freepagespast.com/>

This website has a collection of material from Australia and New Zealand. You may have already seen some items in their collection elsewhere, but there are also some items new to me. These include:

- Freeholders of New Zealand 1882
 - 1907 register of nurses
 - 1907 register of medical practitioners
 - 1907 Post and Telegraph staff list
 - 1907 teachers with certificates or licences
 - 1907 register of chemists
 - Taranaki Almanac and Directory (1869)
 - Wanganui Old Settlers (1902)
 - Telephone directories for Auckland (1939) Wellington (1941), Nelson (1938), Christchurch (1922, 1940, 1944) and Invercargill (1937)
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- Cemeteries Database – <http://cemetery.huttcity.govt.nz>

I am happy to advise that the cemeteries database is now online.

This does not of course include the data for the old section of Taita Cemetery, but the information we are now compiling will be added to this database when it is ready. I trust that this database will be of assistance to the members of the NZSG.

With kind regards
Chris Gousmett
Corporate Information Manager
Hutt City Council

- Genealogy in Time Magazine - <http://www.genealogyintime.com/>

Completely free with a lot of interesting and usefull genealogical information
