

News & Views

October 2009; 27th Year

Issue 272



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

Evening Meeting	7.30pm, 2 nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting:	9.30am, 3 rd 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
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COMING EVENTS

08 Oct: NZ Magistrates (from 1980 district) Court Records – Donald Hansen

15 Oct: Drawings and Prints at Alexander Turnbull Library – Marian Minson

12 Nov: Overseas Research from New Zealand – Panel of 4 from the Hutt Branch

19 Nov: Maps at Alexander Turnbull Library – Dave Small

10 Dec: Christmas Party – Petone Mayor Project – Branch Committee

Evening meeting doors open 7 pm notices begin 7.30 pm speakers begin about 8 pm
(approx 1 hour)

Day meeting doors open 9.30 am notices begin 10 am speaker begin about 10.30 am
(approx 1 hour). Please note the Library does not open until 10am.

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

10am-12pm Wednesdays and Saturdays.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Membership cards must be shown to the Petone Library staff if members wish to borrow our own branch resources outside branch meeting hours!

Research can be undertaken 7 days a week at the Petone Library during their opening hours. Opening hours are 10:00 am to 5:30pm. The Petone library has plenty of long-term parking. The NZSG Hutt branch library books will only be able to be taken out by branch members.

2009/10 SPEAKERS PROGRAMME - WE WELCOME BRANCH MEMBERS IDEAS

Please let Lynly or your committee know if you or any members of the Hutt Branch would like to give a presentation and/or if anyone has a particular speaker they would like us to invite to talk at our branch meetings

NEXT MONTH'S EVENING MEETING 12 NOVEMBER

There will be a panel of 4 members who will talk for 10 minutes each on the subject of "Overseas research from New Zealand".

The panel will consist of:

- ✓ Alistair Hardy talking about Australia
- ✓ Graeme McVerry talking about Ireland
- ✓ Ian Fyfe talking about Scotland
- ✓ Mike Guest talking about England

BRANCH CD COLLECTION

The branch CD collection is also available to use during Petone library's opening hours. A computer is available in the Heritage area to view the CDs. This is the stand alone computer near the branch's shelves of resources. The librarians can help you to log you onto the computer as it is user id and password protected.

The CDs are stored in the large grey cabinet in the Heritage area on the left hand side opposite the Evening Post newspaper microfilms.

To gain access to the collection, please show your membership card to the librarians and ask for the key to the cabinet. If you require help, branch assistance is available on Saturday and Wednesday mornings 10–12.

BIRTH DEATH AND MARRIAGE CORRECTIONS (submitted by Jenny Martin)

Members should note what happens when a correction to a record, including those that appear on the BDM on-line (www.bdmrecords.dia.govt.nz) or to an original scanned registration is passed onto the Registrar Generals Office (RGO).

The Registrar General is legally bound to ensure that the information held in the databases is accurate. Hence the RGO is obliged to investigate and correct errors, where he is notified of such, and to update the registers where corrections are authorised as a result of court orders e.g., Dissolutions of Marriage, adoptions etc.

For reported errors the entry is checked against the scanned registration to determine if the error is a "Transcription error", resulting from when the registrations were scanned,. A "Transcription error" is one where the "Original Scanned Registration" is correct but a mistake has been made when creating the data entry which is then used in the on-line searches.

Once a transcription error has occurred, and has been verified by the RGO, then the databases will be corrected to show the correct transcription, but no change will be made to the "Original Scanned Registration" (as none is necessary). So there is no problem with this type of entry correction.

Where reported errors are determined to exist in the "Original Scanned Registration" or a registration is amended for any reason e.g. where the court orders an original registration to be altered perhaps for a dissolution of marriage, or a person changes their names with BDM etc a different process is followed. What happens is that the registration is updated in the databases and the "Original Scanned Registration" becomes CLOSED to public access. The registration will be maintained, with the correction applied, but only as data. So if you were to request a Data printout of the record you will be not receive the "Original Scanned Registration" copy (which may have been available prior to the correction being made), but instead will be given a "printed" copy of the corrected entry, as it is not possible for a correction to be made to the "Original Scanned Registration."

The issue is that, data which may be of importance to Genealogists, such as the participants or witnesses signatures (which may exist on the Original Scanned Registration) will no longer be accessible, as these signatures are not shown on the "printed" text copy of the record.

So what should members do when they come across suspected errors ???

The following is suggested....

- 1) Obtain the "Original Scanned Registration" of the suspected incorrect entry from the RGO.
- 2) Inform the RGO (bdmhistoricalrecords@dia.govt.nz) of the details of a transcription error that is suspected and any supporting data e.g a folio number.
- 3) If the error is an 'Error of Fact' e.g in the information provided at the time of the registration, inform the RGO's office in writing, including any supporting evidence and post to: Births, Deaths & Marriages, P O Box 10526, Wellington 6143
- 4) Send a copy of the "Original Scanned Registration" to the NZSG Certificates Collection Officer (Mrs June Stratford, 31 Mains Avenue, Whangarei 0112)

Then if it is a transcription error as mentioned above the RGO will correct this in the database and all will be fine. If it is an error in the "Original Scanned Registration", the text record will be corrected by the RGO, the "Original Scanned Registration" will be CLOSED, but you will have a copy of the original image yourself, and other NZSG members will still have access to that "Original Scanned Registration" (albeit containing an error) via the NZSG certificates collection. A note should then be sent to the Certificates Collection Officer stating the error so that this may be attached to that "Original Registration".

As a general comment, copies of all certificates should be sent to the NZSG Certificates Collection as a way of providing a back-up of your valuable certificates, should they be accidentally destroyed or lost. It also is a way of maintaining what was held on the original registers, which as shown above may in certain circumstances become unavailable to the public because of errors or court actions that members may have no control over.

A well know family historian, Archibald Bennett said:

"To portray truly the lives of forefathers, the genealogist must understand the spirit and events of the times in which their lives were cast and the intimate environments in which the various generations of the family lived and played their part . . . Maps enable us to understand the forces (climatic, political, and religious) which helped to mold their characters."

USING MAPS IN YOUR FAMILY HISTORY (from Ancestors Magazine August 2009)

The first maps date from the middle ages, although mapmaking as we know it, really dates from the 18th century. The Ordinance Survey was founded in 1791 to map the whole of the British Isles. Millions of maps survive – The National Archives alone has five million from around the world. Most local studies libraries have maps for their areas. There are four main types, which are likely to be of use:

- Enclosure maps – were drawn up at a time when the land in a parish was enclosed (ie divided up among the local landowners). This usually happened between about 1750 and 1850. The maps show how the land was divided up and there were accompanying schedules showing who owned what parcels of land. Incomplete sets are held at the National Archives and local record offices.

- Tithe maps – also relate to property ownership and were drawn up under the Tithe Commutation Act 1850, to assess the amount of tax due to the paid to the Anglican church. The maps and the accompanying apportionments (assessments) indicate how much land an individual owned. Again, incomplete sets are held at The PRO Archives and local record offices.
- Valuation Office maps – are little known – little wonder because they are difficult to use, but persevere as they are full of fascinating information about the houses your ancestors lived in just before the First World War. The maps and related field books, all of which are at the National Archives, were drawn up between 1911 and 1916 in preparation for a land tax, and contain detailed descriptions of most properties in urban as well as rural areas.
- Ordnance Survey maps – began by publishing the famous inch-to-the-mile series of maps in the early years of the 19th century. By mid-century they had begun producing detailed surveys of towns, even down to indicating the location of lamp posts. They can give you a good idea of the layout of an area. The National Archives has a reasonable collection, as do many local archives.

SEARCHING FOR BRITISH MAPS ONLINE (from Ancestors Magazine August 2009)

Maps are valuable tools for family and local historians alike.

- www.multimap.co.uk and www.streetmap.co.uk A useful starting point (for the UK) is two sources of contemporary Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. Both provide recent OS mapping extracts with a choice of scales, and you can search for postcodes, street names or place names. The OS's Get-a-map search facility will help you match place to map. Streetmap's system is a little better at locating the names of single features or houses.
- www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk If you need completely up-to-date material, you can order the most recent editions online.
- www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/products/historicaldata use this site to browse printed historical maps.
- www.old-maps.co.uk This site claims to be 'Britain's most extensive digital historical map archive' with 19th and 20th century OS maps. A useful facility is to be able to compare a modern OS map with the equivalent historical source.
- www.british-history.ac.uk/map.asp British History Online's digitisation of some 18th and 19th century OS maps. Its coverage does not stretch to the whole of the UK, but if areas that interest you are on the maps, they are an interesting resource.
- www.bl.uk/reshelp/index.html British Library has a bewildering range of maps available. The site also has a useful series of guides to maps that are of particular value for tracing the history of, for example, buildings and houses. However the amount of material available digitised on the site is disappointingly small.
- www.nls.uk The National Library of Scotland has a wealth of online mapping resources. The digital map library is at www.nls.uk/maps
- www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=73 The Digital Mirror section of the National Library of Wales includes a fascinating series of county maps, published in 1718 by Thomas Taylor London. These have been taken from his atlas, *The Principality of Wales Exactly Described*, which as far as anyone knows, is the first devoted entirely to Wales.

- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/imagelibrary/maps The UK National Archives has a small selection of digitised maps, e.g. it has a map of part of the Irish coast from 1580 and a sketch-map of the area Nonsuch Park, Surrey, from the time of Edward VI.
- www.copac.ac.uk If you want to try a more general search, you can access what's held in the paper archives of all major UK research libraries through the facility at COPAC. To look for maps, click the "ENTER COPAC" button and then choose "Map Search".
- www.maphistory.info Numerous sites are gathered in a bewildering array of historical maps on this site which covers not just the UK but the rest of the world. There are even suggestions of useful websites for family historians.
- www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/users/nnj/maplinks.htm Oxford's Bodleian Library signposts a wide range of map sites all around the world from this site.
- <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk> It is also worth checking the website of your local archives, library, museum or college for online maps of local interests. Some counties also have collections of digitised maps like this one of Cheshire.

Buying British Reproduction Maps Online

- www.cassinimaps.co.uk produce one-inch maps showing a particular county or area.
- www.alangodfrey.com produce large scale maps of late-Victorian and Edwardian towns and cities.

NEW ZEALAND MAPS AND OTHER CARTOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL

The one map of New Zealand that has been reproduced the most is Captain Cook's original with its 2 mistakes – Banks Peninsula as Banks Island and Stewart Island attached to the South Island. Having been to Stewart Island by boat, I can understand how easily the mistake could have been made. Shortly after leaving Bluff and looking south, one has the illusion of a strip of land joining the 2 islands.

Although Abel Tasman is said to be the first European to discover New Zealand, his map only features the north-west coast of the South Island joined to the North Island's South West Coast. This was as far as he chose to go after losing 4 of his men at Murderer's (or Massacre) Bay (now called Golden Bay).

It was up to the imagination as to how big the land mass actually was. There was a belief that there just had to be a very large land mass down there somewhere to even up the world. (The world appeared to be top-heavy). Perhaps this land that Abel Tasman discovered was it!

Cook, of course, spent 6 months circumnavigating the islands of New Zealand in 1769-70, drawing his famous map, dispelling the idea that New Zealand might be this great southern continent with untold riches.

Archives Wellington hold over 300,000 maps, plans and cartographic archives. These are official government documents, the bulk of them being from Lands and Survey.

A recent find is 2 maps of Westland, one of them 5½ metres long. They show Westland's minerals, geographical features and places where gold has been found. They were painstakingly drawn and coloured between 1896 and 1903 by explorer Charles Edward Douglas. He spent more than 40 years in Westland and would have walked every valley on his meticulous maps (see also The Dominion Post Sept. 30 page A9).

The Alexander Turnbull Library's cartographical collection holds over 60,000 maps, charts and atlases. Our daytime speaker for November will talk more about maps held by the ATL.

Most cemeteries have detailed maps showing where to find burials. If they are not at the cemetery they relate to, they are probably either held at the local council or in a church archive.

OTHER WEBSITES FOR MAPS

- http://fhr.kiwicelts.com/Cemeteries/NZ_Cemetery_Map.html New Zealand Cemetery Database and Maps
- <http://www.jelleyjar.com/ancestor/maps.html> Genealogy and old maps
- www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein An Atlas of the old German Empire.
Germany never really existed as a nation until 1871, so if your ancestor came from a German villiage with a fairly common name before 1871, you have a challenge!
- <http://www.feefhs.org/maplibrary.html> The Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies

A FEW USEFUL AND INTERESTING BOOKS OF MAPS

- *Map New Zealand, 100 Magnificant Maps from the Collection of the Alexander Turnbull Library*, first published in 2006 by Random House. This book has an interesting cross-section of types of available maps old and not so old. The book includes the first map of New Zealand taken from Tasman's charts, original town plans with section numbers, tourist maps, maps of goldfields and coalfields, shipwreck charts and just about anything else in New Zealand that can be mapped.
- *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers*, Cecil R. Humphery-Smith. We have the second edition in our branch library which contains English and Welsh parishes with indexes. The 3rd edition which can be read at the National Library, also has Scottish parish maps.
- *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, Brian Mitchell 2e Genealogical Publishing Co. Ltd. This book has all the Irish administrative divisions of Ireland. This includes each county and barony, maps of poor law unions, civil parishes, Church of Ireland parishes, Roman Catholic parishes and Presbyterian congregations.
- *1844 World Atlas for the Diffusion of Knowledge*, Published by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge from 1827 until 1846.

If you really want and can find, an original copy of this oversized book with its colourful maps, you will be looking at paying out a small fortune. However, excellent black and white images of the 1844 edition of these maps of all the countries of the world, major cities and even the stars as they were known then, are available on 2 CDs from Archive CD books.

Following is an extract of the map of New Zealand from these CDs which was published originally in November 1838.

How many potential immigrants to New Zealand in the 1840s would have seen this latest map of New Zealand and noticed place names like 'Massacre Bay', 'Cape Foulwind', 'Poverty Bay' and 'Cape Kidnappers'?

HOW TO FIND A PARCEL OF LAND IN NZ

If you have COT, Folio and Section number, you can try these options:

1. Obtain a copy of the certificate of title through Land Information NZ (go to www.linz.govt.nz and follow links - you can order online) – order Historic Title so that you get the full details in your printout rather than just a plan and present owner (if it's a cancelled title - and most issued prior to 1960s will be as they changed the system - you will have to get an historical title anyway) - they will post you a paper copy
 2. Go to www.terralink.co.nz and do a search for that title number - you may or may not end up with details - you can order CTs through this site (have to register) and they email as PDF file - which is good as you can enlarge to read faint / obscure details
 3. If you are in NZ go to a surveyor, real estate agent or solicitor who has Landonline facility - they will do the search and open up the image on screen for printing out.
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