



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 Sep: Shetland - Hamerain & Resources – Ruth & Ross Mainland
15 Sep: Shetland - Hamerain & Resources – Ruth & Ross Mainland
13 Oct: Researching in Salt Lake City – Annette Gazley
20 Oct: Wellington's First Catholic Cemetery – Friends of the Mount Street Cemetery
10 Nov: My Norwegian Grandfather – Kathy Callaghan
17 Nov: My Norwegian Grandfather – Kathy Callaghan
08 Dec: Christmas Party & Displaying your Family Tree - Members

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

In 2010 Shetland hosted a "Hamefarin" (homecoming), welcoming Shetlanders from all around the world back to their home islands. Ross & Ruth Mainland will be giving a presentation about their experiences as Hamefarers.

CD COLLECTION

At each of the branch meetings, Lynly Yates will discuss one of the CDs from our collection, showing how to best to access relevant information.

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

10am -12pm 1st and 4th (not necessarily the last) Wednesdays and the 1st Saturday of the month. This is a good opportunity for those new to family history to get advice from the experts!

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

PALMERSTON NORTH NZSG - RESEARCH DAY

Saturday 10 September 9:30am-4.00pm

Kilwinning Lodge, Church Street (opp 'Farmers' and Ashley St)

Entry \$10

- ✓ 10am Speaker Dr Graham Langton from Archives New Zealand – Immigration. Shipping & Immigration resources and advice on hand throughout the day
 - ✓ Introductory talks on Papers Past & Electoral Rolls. Genealogy beginners advice available
 - ✓ Book a consultation to break down your brick wall
Large range of resources available for research
 - ✓ Free tea and Coffee – bring your own lunch or eat out
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POSSIBLE SPEAKER IN NOVEMBER

The Wellington combined branches have offered to set up an opportunity for a visiting speaker, probably an experienced Australian genealogist, to give a public address in late November in Wellington. The venue may be Connelly Hall in Wellington. A group of speakers are aboard a cruise ship visiting various Australian and New Zealand ports and have indicated a willingness to address local groups. We hope to hear something more in a few weeks.

SHETLAND SOCIETY OF WELLINGTON FAMILY HISTORY MATERIAL

The Shetland Society of Wellington (www.shetlandwellington.org.nz) has recently launched a library collection, convened by our early branch member Jane Haskell. Included are a few items of family history material that may be of interest to Hutt Branch members with Shetland connections.

This month's speakers, Ruth and Ross Mainland, report that the family history section is small at present, but it is hoped that it will grow to a useful collection of material to allow people to research Shetland ancestry and family history, of mutual benefit to our members and the Shetland Society. Any additional material or recommendations of useful material about Shetland genealogy would be welcome.

Information on current family history items from the Shetland Society's listing of library resources includes:

- ✓ J. Laughton Johnston. *A Kist of Emigrants*. This is about Shetland's emigrants, commissioned by the Shetland Homefarin Committee 2010.
 - ✓ Alan M. Beattie. *Shetland surnames*. 2nd Homefarin edition. This is a background to the origin of surnames in Shetland and a dictionary of names.
 - ✓ Graeme Laureson. *Burrafirth: the family of Graeme and Marjorie Laureson*, "Burrafirth", New Plymouth, NZ. This is a family record of the Lauresons who emigrated to New Zealand from Shetland.
 - ✓ Graeme Laureson. *A Kiwi in the Shetland Scattaid*. Stories of Shetland and Shetlanders in New Zealand.
 - ✓ A full set of monumental inscription booklets for Shetland graveyards.
 - ✓ Shetland census records on CDs.
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FAMILY HISTORY MONTH AUGUST 2011

For those of us who made it to the Family History Month events, there was a lot to be gleaned from the huge variety of things going on.

Alistair Hardy made it into the Dominion Post, page 15, on the 25th of August complete with photo. The article on his sheep stealing great great granny and other convict ancestors caused quite a stir.

Hutt Branch shared a table at the family history expo with Petone Historian, Warwick Johnston and Mount Street Cemetery. Although we weren't as busy as the tables with jelly beans and licorice all sorts, we did have a very enjoyable day and were able to help a lot of people with look ups and other information.



Lynly, Suzanne and Helene at one of the Family History Month Wednesday evening lectures



Alistair, Lynly and Terry at the Hutt Valley Branch's Table at the Family History Expo in Johnsonville

Warwick was able to sell quite a few copies of his book, *Port Nicholson's First Town, The Story of Britannia by the River 1840*. This book covers what he spoke about on the first Wednesday of Family History Month.

We also benefited from information volunteered by those who visited our table. Lois provided evidence of a Mount Street burial that had been missed and Warwick was very interested in some information someone provided about the bugler who was killed in the Boulcott farm incident.

I want to thank all those who participated in the August Family History Month activities, whether as participants or as attendees. The Wednesday evening presentations were well attended, as was the Expo at Johnsonville; I understand the lunchtime talks at Wellington Library and the repository visits were well patronised.

The Expo was well attended with 226 people logged as visitors. We believe the bulk of these people were not committed genealogists, but rather members of the public.

The organising committee will meet next Saturday to review our efforts. There is a considerable amount of effort required to deliver a month's activities on the scale of this year's programme. I have some doubts we can repeat this effort each year. There is also the question of timing; should we coincide with the Fair at Hamilton, or perhaps move to July ?

My thanks to Terry Stock and to Suzanne Sutton-Cummings for their input and their stamina over the month. A financial report is being prepared.

Again my thanks to all concerned.

Alistair Hardy
Convenor

Hi All,

I would like to thank you all for your help and support of our Family History Month in Wellington. This by purchasing a ticket in the Raffles we ran!

Below are the prize winners which were drawn last Saturday at the Expo.

Salt Lake raffle

1. Jenny Hall
2. Ingrid Lowry – FindmyPast Subscription
3. Suzanne Sutton-Cummings – 2hrs Jan Gow Tuition

Quilt raffle

1. Lily Baker
 2. Gill Knox – stationery value \$180.00
 3. Jenny Martin – stationery value \$120.00
- Consolation prizes of \$20 stationery to Wendy Cockburn, Graham Langton and Kirsty Willis.

Once again thank you for your support and I'm sorry you couldn't all have won something!

Kind Regards

Jenny Martin

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

For those who couldn't make it to the BNZ museum and archives tour, here's a copy of the hand-out.

Located in the Harbour Quays building on Wellington's waterfront, the BNZ museum is a good place to start when familiarising yourself with BNZ's banking and social history.

We also have an extensive archival collection, and our staff are more than happy to help you investigate your family tree. A list of possible resources is below, this is not an extensive list, but these resources are the best place to start when researching individuals:

RESOURCES

If your family member was a BNZ employee

- staff registers
- staff lists
- confidential staff reports
- World War Staff Cards
- BNZ Staff News (Monthly staff magazine, 1950s-1990s)
- Photograph collection
- General Managers' correspondence (usually only applicable if your family member was in management)

If your family member was a BNZ customer

- Signature books
- Account ledgers
- Managers' Diary Notes for lending within their region
- General Managers' correspondence
- Obsolete Safe Custody Records (not indexed)

NOTES OF ACCESS TO THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION

Depending on the nature of your research enquirey our staff will often do some preliminary searching for you and may be able to answer your query from this research. In other instances we can assist you with access to the relevant resources within our collection and you can undertake your own research.

Our archives were recently relocated off site and are still in the process of re-shelving and organising our collection. Research is still possible during this time but may take longer in some instances if the resources are not shelved and listed as yet.

An increasing portion of our collection is being digitised and we are in the process of creating an improved database of our holdings. In the future, through these two processes, we hope to make more of our collection available to the general public.

Contact us: museum@bnz.co.nz or (04) 474 6933

NOTES ON HIDDEN CEMETERIES IN THE HUTT VALLEY by Warwick Johnston

These are remnants of, or disappeared or even lost burial areas of the lower part of the Hutt Valley. In some cases the areas have been readjusted, redeveloped, have had a makeover, been built on, reduced or even lost.

Hidden Cemeteries

- ◆ Korokoro
- ◆ Knox
- ◆ Wesleyan
- ◆ St. James
- ◆ Te Puni
- ◆ Owhiti
- ◆ Aglionby
- ◆ Gear Island
- ◆ Military Rd

Korokoro Catholic Cemetery

- ◆ Roman Catholic Cemetery, Old Catholic Cemetery Korokoro, Roman Catholic Cemetery McKenzie St.
- ◆ Maori land obtained in the late 1840s. 1854 fenced. Earliest date 22 May 1853. Only few European catholic families in the area at first.
- ◆ 1956 closed by Act of parliament. Given to Petone Borough Council. Land then taken for State Highway 2. Two rows, Borough records show three rows, of graves disinterred and reburied (44). Headstones removed.
- ◆ List is incomplete – headstones missing, some indecipherable, parish records incomplete.
- ◆ Several more records made, sources checked – however there are discrepancies in all the lists.
- ◆ List on site with two additional headstones.
- ◆ Burials on hill behind Memorial are a possibility. There is a list and overgrown remnants of headstones have been sighted.

Knox Presbyterian Cemetery, High St. 'Blackbridge Cemetery'

- ◆ Most of the early records lost.
- ◆ Earliest 1857 – David Speedy & Donald Couper. First open to all.
- ◆ 1885 allotments only to church members
- ◆ 1891 Hutt Borough Council prohibited internments within the borough
- ◆ Little use made of Knox after 1892. Last recorded internment 1913
- ◆ 1949 Knox Presbyterian (Lower Hutt) Cemetery Act. Closed and laid out in lawn.
- ◆ List on site.
- ◆ Headstone laid face down half a metre below ground. Levelled and grassed, with a memorial plaque of known burials (75).

Weslyan Cemetery, Bridge St.

- ◆ Opened 5 Nov 1845. Chapel St./ Marsden St.
- ◆ Used until closed in 1901, upkeep taken over by HBC.

- ◆ “28 Dec. 1887 – Bridge St. Cemetery closed to strangers as Taita was opened.” Methodist Church Trust minutes.
- ◆ Land taken for roads in 1872 and 1912. Borough erected memorial stone containing names of those buried in those parts (50).
- ◆ List on site.

First St. James Cemetery, Aglionby

- ◆ Established with 1840 settlement at Aglionby.
- ◆ Western side of the river, just below present bridge. Cnr Maudie and Montague Streets or quarter mile from Bridge, in area around Alice St ?
- ◆ Washed away in floods of 1845

Second St. James Cemetery, Woburn

- ◆ Church opened 1848. Capt. Daniell donated extra land for burials in 1855.
- ◆ 1888 extensive use of cemetery forced solely for St. James parishioners.
- ◆ During 1950s Civic Centre redevelopment Cemetery reduced to present size – controversy & headstone rearrangement.
- ◆ Seven burial registers 1841- 1964 at the Alexander Turnbull Lib. Indexed and transcribed by the NZSG.
- ◆ Information on Lych Gates.

Te Puni Maori Cemetery

- ◆ Earliest record is 1870.
- ◆ Urupa and Pa site identified as far back as 1839, but earlier back to 1830s.
- ◆ Early settlement Pakeha burials were here according to M. Alington (Unquiet Earth), including boats deaths.
- ◆ Over 200 buried, some 3 deep. Only 125 listed.
- ◆ Extended right through to Victoria St. – according to Survey map dated 1889.
- ◆ Section set aside by GM for remanent of urupa. Remains found there when GM demolished.
- ◆ No list on site

Owhiti Maori Cemetery, Seaview.

- ◆ Waiwhetu Pa, No. 4 Cemetery Reserve.
- ◆ Earliest record 1890.
- ◆ Site of old Waiwhetu Pa and urupa, as shown on very early surveys, over 2 acres.
- ◆ Land taken for roads and buildings.
- ◆ No list on site.

Gear Island Cemetery

- ◆ An island part of extensive river mouth estuary in the 1840s.
- ◆ Rev. John Gare Butler recorded as being buried there in June 1841. “He was buried on Gear Island, with many others, was swept away to the sea by the River Hutt.” 1927. Earliest NZ.
- ◆ Also close to Paetutu kainga at end of Jackson St.

Military Rd.

- ◆ Memorial plaques to 1846 incident there and at St. James.
- ◆ Bodies buried at Bolton St. However sketches at the time show burial near the stockade itself.

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH THESE BURIAL AREAS ?

- ◆ Carefully
- ◆ Burial Registers are limited, with only St. James with any sort of collection.
- ◆ Even Christ Church Taita records are held by St. James.
- ◆ Use Cemetery records here in Heritage Centre

- ◆ If family records show burial then strict co-ordination with burial register and site plans is crucial.
- ◆ In situ headstones do not necessarily relate to actual burial.

As these are only notes it would be useful if anyone else has additional information or knowledge to add it to the above so that we keep some sort of record.

Thanks

Warwick Johnston

Historian

Heritage Research Associates

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WEBSITES

- British Marriage Locator Tool <http://www.marriage-locator.co.uk>
The Guild of One Name Studies has launched a marriage locator tool designed to decode GRO marriage index references to pinpoint churches. You will need the year, qtr vol and page no.
- USA <http://www.ellislandrecords.org> Search the index of more than 22 million immigrants, passengers and crew who came through Ellis Island and the Port of New York 1892-1924
- Scottish Post Office directories (Free) <http://www.nls.uk/family-history/directories/post-office>
Scottish Post Office directories provide a perfect basis for researching family or town history. These annual directories include an alphabetical list of a town's or county's inhabitants, called a general directory, enabling you to easily find out where people lived at a certain time. Online you can now access 694 directories for the period 1773 to 1911, covering 28 of Scotland's towns and counties. The number in brackets with each place name is the number of directories available.
- Historical directories <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/> (free) Historical Directories is a digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales, from 1750 to 1919. It contains high quality reproductions of comparatively rare books, essential tools for research into local and genealogical history.
- NZ Library Catalogues
<http://publicationsnz.natlib.govt.nz> to search all published NZ books, music, films magazines and journals
<http://tapuhi.natlib.govt.nz> to search NZ manuscripts and unpublished material
<http://nzlc.natlib.govt.nz> to search all library holdings in NZ
www.worldcat.org to search all library holdings in NZ
- NZ Reference
www.teara.govt.nz for the Encyclopaedia of NZ
www.dnzb.govt.nz for the Dictionary of NZ Biography
www.nzhistory.net.nz
Hansard via www.tinyurl.com/5qep5d for NZ Parliamentary Debates

When writing the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen.

[From a Harley-Davidson advertisement!]