



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)

13 Sep: Child Evacuees UK WW2 - Sheilah Downs
20 Sep: Photo Books – Suzanne Sutton-Cummings
11 Oct: National Library, new layout
18 Oct: Visit to National Library (meet at National Library)
08 Nov: TBA
15 Nov: The Privacy & Official Information Acts for Genealogists -Anita West & Alistair Hardy
13 Dec: Christmas Party

Evening meeting Doors open 7pm. Notices begin 7.30pm. Speakers begin about 8pm
(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 Meeting

Sheilah will talk about what happened when children were evacuated into the countryside during World War 2. For more information see page 3.

Morning Meeting

Suzanne will talk about putting family history into photo books. Daniel has seen the draft copies of his 21st present and the first book, his Sutton branch, is complete. Putting it into books is an excellent exercise in finding and scanning pictures and documents, checking the facts and confining the results to 40-50 pages within a time limit!

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

✓ 10am -12pm, Wed: 26 Sept, 3 & 24 Oct, 7 & 28 Nov and Sat: 6 Oct, 4 Nov

If there is anyone else interested in helping please contact Marie Perham. If you are new to genealogy or stuck on something, our team might be able to help you!

VISIT TO NATIONAL LIBRARY

A visit to the National Library has been arranged for the morning of Thursday, 18 October from 10:15am to 11am. We are to meet in the foyer. The Library opens at 10am.

The maximum number the library can cope with just now is 22 and this group will be split into two smaller groups.

Please make your own way to the National Library. Transport has not been arranged as members might wish to stay after the visit to do some research or have a more leisurely look around.

If you are interested in this visit, please put your name and phone number on the list that will be available at both the evening and morning meetings.

Dianne Stinson

BRANCH CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Recently the committee recognised the efforts of five branch members in sharing their knowledge by awarding Certificates of Appreciation. All have assisted the branch in their various ways. Details are as follows:

Lois Bartlett has responded for some years to requests for research into former Hutt residents. She is happy to share her finds and new sources of information. Lois has assisted at Branch Open Days.

Ian Fyfe - a long time researcher into his Scottish ancestry. He has always been willing to report on his overseas trips, his various finds and his methodology.

Mike Guest - a former Convenor and long time stalwart at the Totara Park Family History Centre. Mike has contributed to Branch Open Days and has addressed Branch meetings on his research. He also provides updates on the research holdings at Totara Park.

Carol-Ann Mason - a former Committee member with responsibility as Membership Secretary and more recently as Webmaster. She has worked behind the scenes to develop and maintain our membership database and email contact list. Our website was initiated by Carol-Ann and others.

Lynly Yates - Life Member, former Committee member and contributor to branch activities for many years. In recent times she has sought to reorganise our library at the Heritage centre. Using the laptop Lynly has illustrated the range of information held by the branch in our collection of CD's.

The Committee will continue to recognise those members who have contributed to branch activities by way of similar awards.

Alistair Hardy
Convenor

FAMILY SEARCH DEMONSTRATION 3 SEPTEMBER - REVIEW

Most of the audience at the FamilySearch demonstration by Mike Higgins, the local manager of FamilySearch, was made up of Hutt Valley branch members. Everyone appreciated the time that was spent showing the improvements to the website and hearing how FamilySearch and National Archives are working together to digitise records.

Dianne Stinson

RULE CHANGE

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the NZ Society of Genealogists members voted to accept the wording of a new clause as to the disposal of assets in the event of the Society being wound-up; this clause having been demanded by the Charities Commission in order to maintain the tax-free status in respect of interest income. There was no opportunity to amend the wording. Details of the new Rule were published in the August 2012 edition of the Genealogist magazine.

In late August Branches were advised by the Society that a similar clause must be accepted by each branch without amendment and that the Charities Commission be advised by 2 September that this had been done. Failure to do so could well see a branch lose its status as a charitable entity and therefore its tax-free status.

Your Committee decided to deal with the issue by way of an exchange of emails in which each committee member was asked to signify his/her acceptance or otherwise of the required clause. The motion to accept the clause was carried and the Commission duly notified. There was simply no time to organise a branch meeting to discuss the issue.

Alistair Hardy
Convenor

MARITIME MEMORIES OF MOUNT STREET

- ✓ 27 September at 7.30pm, as part of Heritage Month in Wellington
 - ✓ Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce, Thorndon
 - ✓ A number of people buried at Mount Street Cemetery have strong maritime links. Two were victims of shipwrecks, some were officers or crew, and others suffered tragic maritime accidents.
 - ✓ Come and hear their stories in a lively illustrated lecture by maritime historian and Friends' Committee member Ken Scadden.
 - ✓ \$10 including supper – a benefit event to raise funds for restoration of the Cemetery.
 - ✓ Contact: Ken Scadden
 - ✓ www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz or email mountstreetcemetery@wn.catholic.org
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CLIMB YOUR FAMILY TREE - UK GENEALOGY TOUR - FEBRUARY 2013

- ✓ Victoria University is organising a Genealogy Tour to the UK. Information can be found in this website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/cceshortcourses/UKGenealogy.html>

FIRST STEPS IN RESEARCH

- ✓ There is also a Pre-tour study "Family Tree: First Steps in Research" course with Rachael Brown 6 & 13 October. \$160 or early bird \$144 (or free if enrol with the tour):

<https://shortcourses.victoria.ac.nz/ei/cm.esp?id=103&pageid=2UP11BFCJ&showpage=coursedet&child=yes&parentpage=browser&course=12C002C&cd=5782149735&eiscrypt=WKC42PS0S>

EVACUEES REUNION ASSOCIATION OF HV/WELLINGTON REGION - WHO WE ARE

The ERA is a branch of the UK organisation formed in 1996 to reunite those people who as children during World War II, were evacuated from the major cities in Britain to areas deemed safe from the effects of Hitler's bombing raids during the war. 3.5 million children were evacuated away from homes and family during World War II under a plan known as Pied Piper.

Children as young 3 yrs old were sent off to live with total strangers in areas deemed safe from the reach of the German planes. Some had happy experiences, others suffered severe trauma, forced to live with people who did not want them and who treated them as unpaid servants/farm workers.

There were two periods of evacuation – the first starting soon after war was declared in September 1939, when there was great fear of mass bombing and even the fear of invasion. This lasted probably around 12 months and was often known as ‘The Phoney War’ when the planes and bombs didn’t eventuate. During this period many families decided their children would be happier back home and evacuees trickled back to home and family.

However, once France, Belgium and Holland were over-run, Germany established their air bases in these countries. Britain was now within easy reach of the bombers and the skies were soon full of planes coming over to bomb cities such as Manchester, Coventry, Liverpool and Glasgow as well as London. Anywhere there was industry or large civilian populations were deemed targets and suffered accordingly.

The second evacuation occurred around 1944 when Germany developed flying bombs, known as ‘Doodle Bugs’. These were bombs with small wings and a motor set to fly for a set period of time. When that expired and the motor cut out, there was a period of silence as the bomb fell followed by the sounds of explosion. One can imagine the fear and panic as people saw and heard these evil things flying overhead, never knowing when they were going to drop. Children were once again hurriedly sent off to country areas, where many remained until the end of the war in May 1945.

In NZ there are 10 branches of the ERA made up of members who have come to live in NZ from the UK or else were evacuated directly to NZ under a scheme (CORB) whereby children were sent to Commonwealth countries such as NZ, Australia, Canada and South Africa.

Each year a national reunion is held and run by one of the branches. Our local group, started in February 2009 comprises members from Wairarapa through to the Kapiti Coast and is now the largest group in NZ with approx 85 members. In 2010 we hosted the annual Reunion over the weekend of Friday 27 August to Sun 29 August.

Our group meets on a regular basis with a Saturday lunch meeting, often at the Angus Inn in Lower Hutt. We often have an interesting speaker, show a short film relating to WWII and get one of our members to recount their wartime experiences.

Sheilah Downs

Hutt Valley/Wellington Branch of Evacuees Reunion Association

Email: sedowns@actrix.co.nz

www.evacuees.org.uk

BRANCH MEMBER PROFILE - IAN FYFE

I’m not sure when I first became interested in family history, but I was probably about 14. I asked my father whether he knew where my great-grandmother Jane Armstrong came from, and the response was along the lines of “My father thought that she came from somewhere beyond Inverness.” Because of family correspondence Dad was able to make contact with Scottish relatives during the war years, but it was not until the Mormon church records became available that I really started to make progress.

On my father’s side almost all the ancestry is from Scotland: Fyfe and Graham from around Glasgow, Scroggie, Crosbie, Pow, Anderson and Stewart from Ayrshire, Armstrong and Rutherford from the Borders, and McLauchlan, McIntyre, McDonald, Fletcher and Campbell from the Highlands, mainly from the island of Lismore on Loch Linnhe. The one exception is Sarah Wilkinson from Middleton St. George in County Durham who married Thomas Armstrong in Jedburgh in 1802. Fortunately the event is also recorded in his parish of Southdean, as the relevant Jedburgh records were eaten by mice!

On my mother's side half the ancestors came from Ireland: Wallace, McKain and Maze from County Antrim and Plunkett from Dublin. We had been told that great-great-grandmother Mary Plunkett was the daughter of a convict but have since disproved this.

The McHardie and Cunningham families originated in the Kirriemuir area of Angus, and were among the earliest settlers in the Hutt Valley. David and Elizabeth McHardie arrived on the "Lady Nugent" in March 1841, and later took up land at the foot of the western hills, close to what is now Wairere Road, some of the land being on the hill, and some on the flat. The Cunningham family records from Ruthven (pronounced "Rivven") in Angus have caused some problems as they are missing for several years late in the 18th century.

According to the locals the records were removed to keep them from nosy army recruiting agents during the Napoleonic Wars, and never put back.

James Saunders arrived in Wellington in 1857, having come originally from Llangarren in Herefordshire, although he lived in London prior to his departure for this country. Llangarren is close to the Welsh border, and Welsh names are common in his family tree: Dance, Evans, Morgan and Jones.

As well as finding names of ancestors, I have become more and more interested in finding out about what encouraged them to come to New Zealand and the standard of life that had in Britain. For instance, many of the Ayrshire ancestors were miners (coal, lead and iron ore) and until 1799 families were in bondage to the mining companies, meaning that the sons of a miner were forced to become miners, whether they wanted to or not. Another interest is in the origin of surnames.

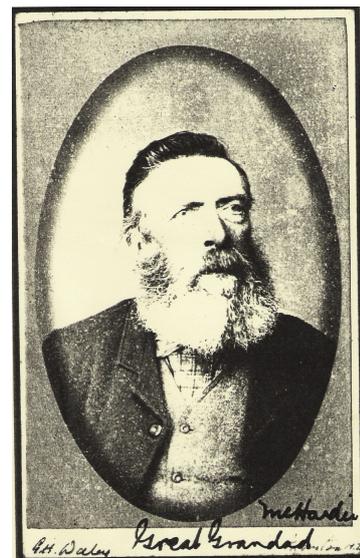
Following on from this I have used "Papers Past" over recent times to find out more about my ancestors following their arrival in New Zealand as they became established here.

We have had the opportunity over recent years to visit Britain three times, and have found a number of the farm-towns on which ancestors worked. Just last year we found the farm of High Letterpin near Girvan in southern Ayrshire and had a great welcome from the farmer. Back in 1774 my ancestor Thomas Pow is shown as being born at the farm of "Muckle Letterpine!"

Over recent years my wife has also become interested in her family history. Most of her ancestors are from Britain, but she also has Swiss and Italian ancestry. It was a great thrill to stand in the church in Les Bois in Switzerland where her great-great-grandparents Charles Aime Viatte and Marie Bietry were married.



Above: Auld Allan Farm in Angus where Alexander McHardie and Elizabeth Peter were living when they were married at Bridgend of Lintrathen parish church in 1778.



Right: Their grand-son David McHardie (1801-1886), an early settler in the Hutt.

MARGARET CRUICKSHANK – by Terry Stock

Sometimes in our research we get diverted when we stumble on something interesting.

I recently did some research for a cousin by marriage. He had a great uncle who died by sleep walking out of his hotel room in Waimate one summer night in January 1917. When he was found on the footpath by a night watchman a doctor was called for. The doctor who attended was Dr Margaret Cruickshank. It crossed my mind that it was unusual for there to have been a woman doctor in 1917, so I took a diversion.

Dr Margaret Barnet Cruickshank, was born in 1873 at Palmerston, Otago. After their mother's death in 1883, Margaret and her twin Christina attended school on alternate days. One stayed home to care for five younger children in the family, and in the evening the other one taught her twin what she had learned at school during the day.

They taught each other well - Margaret and Christina were joint dux at Otago Girls High School in 1891!

In 1897 Margaret became the first New Zealand woman to register as a doctor. In November 1918 she died as a result of the influenza epidemic. There is a memorial statue of her in Seddon Park Waimate.

Christina became principal of Southland Girls High School and Wanganui Girl's College.

If you want to learn more about Dr Margaret Cruickshank, check out her biography at *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*; <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3c41/1>

WEBSITES

- www.portstories.co.nz - This is an interesting account by people of Port Ahuriri in Napier – its history, people, etc. 'Voices of Ahuriri' online can be heard on this website.

From the Hawkes Bay Twig, Aug 2012

- [For those with an interest in the WWI and the Western Front](#)

Prime TV showed a BBC documentary on Sunday (9 Sept 2012) entitled "The First World War From Above".

So for anyone who missed it or would like to see it again, use this website link:

<http://www.watchdocumentary.tv/world-war-1-from-above/>

To quote: This BBC documentary brings a fresh perspective and summary of the battles of World War 1 who fought by many countries caused over 15 million casualties. Hosted by Fergal Keane, "**The First World War from Above**" provide unique new aerial viewpoint, showcasing 2 extraordinary historical finds, which includes an old archive footage recorded from a flying airship in 1919, filming the trenches as well as the battlefields in such a way rarely been witnessed before.

Additionally includes aerial pictures taken by WW1 aircraft pilots, developed for the very first time for more than 90 years. The pictures clearly show not just the destruction caused throughout the battles, but also the unaccountable acts and human stories seen solely from air.

This blog gives a bit of background to the item:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/tv/2010/11/the-first-world-war-from-above.shtml>

Susan Wilson

- [Auckland War Memorial Museum Cenotaph Database](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/130/cenotaph-database)
<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/130/cenotaph-database>

Click on 'Cenotaph' to search names and places. World War 1 soldiers have a link to Archives New Zealand's Archway website. Click on 'military personnel file' and then on the digitised record tab to get a digitised copy of his war records.

This website also has links to other related war websites.

- <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot> – this is a free website and is all about Scotland's statistical accounts and how the Scottish people lived and the background. In the 1790s, Sir John Sinclair, the first President of the Board of Agriculture sent a questionnaire to the minister of each parish. Some gave more information than others but they were first hand accounts written on the spot. The first accounts were written in the 1790s and gave a picture of Scotland before the industrial revolution. The second accounts were written in the 1830s. On reading both accounts, one can learn all about the parish. To get to the website, click 'browse scanned pages'. Enter the name of your parish and click 'search'. Choose 1st or 2nd accounts. Page may be enlarged or printed.

PROBATES ONLINE

Probate papers held by Archives New Zealand usually don't provide extensive information about the administration of a deceased's estate, but usually at least contain the person's last will and instructions on how the estate should be dispersed.

To view these papers it has usually been necessary to make a visit, or pay for copying, at the respective branch of Archives New Zealand.

But images of some probate papers are now available on line at FamilySearch.org.

They are mostly not indexed, but if there is an image of the one you seek, it can usually be located quite easily. Go to:

www.familysearch.org

Select *Australia and New Zealand*.

Select *New Zealand, Probate Records, 1878-1960*.

Select *Browse through 742,949 images*.

Select the district court that interests you.

Select the year and relevant range of probate numbers.

Work your way through the images until you find the one you want. If the number you want is ½ way within the range then start with an image about ½ way in the range and move forward or back as necessary.

Before you get started, you need the probate number. If it has been indexed it will be found in one or both of these two sources:

The NZSG Kiwi Index CD (take a note of the *Probate Number*); or

www.archway.archives.govt.nz (take a note of the *record no*)

At the time of writing this, images of probate files are available at FamilySearch for the following courts and years:

Blenheim	1879-1959
Gisborne	1879-1949
Masterton	1892-1961
Napier	1858-1966
Nelson	1849-1960
Timaru	1871-1956
Wanganui	1900-1959

Terry Stock
