

News & Views

April 2005; 23rd Year

Issue 222



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)

07 Apr: Evening Meeting – Bobbie Aymes – Great Grandma and her sisters
21 Apr: Morning Meeting – Diane Fraser – Queensland Research
28 Apr: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
05 May: Evening Meeting – Warwick Johnston - Hutt History
19 May: Morning Meeting – Elaine and Ron Keown - Emily's Trunk
26 May: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
02 Jun: Evening Meeting – Natasha, Petone Settlers Museum
16 Jun: Morning Meeting -Kelly Crandle - Taita Cemetery
30 Jun: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
07 Jul: Keith Griffith - Adoption
21 Jul: David Lee Smith - Early American History
28 Jul: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
04 Aug: Vicky Alexander - WOA History
18 Aug: Malcolm McGregor - Plimmers Ark & Early Wellington History
25 Aug: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
01 Sep: Brenda Joyce - Writing and Publishing Family History
15 Sep: Graham Price - Convict Ancestor
29 Sep: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
06 Oct: Jeremy Lowe or Dinah Priestly - Thorndon
20 Oct: Rae Peiser - My Family History
27 Oct: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
03 Nov: Sharon Fredriksson - Recording Family history on Video
17 Nov: Margaret Hurst - National Turnbull Libraries and Photographic Collection
24 Nov: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research
01 Dec: Jan Gow - Computers and their use in Family History

EVENING MEETING 7 APRIL - BOBBIE AYMES – GREAT GRANDMA AND HER SISTERS - THE ROBERTSON LASSES

Bobbie always wondered why her great grandmother, Isabella, had come out to New Zealand as a youngster without her parents. Oral family history had suggested she was only about four! Why would Isabella's mother have taken another daughter and gone to live in America? Bobbie's talk unravels the mystery of the Robertson lasses and explores genealogical research in Scotland, New Zealand and Canada.

MORNING MEETING 21 APR MORNING MEETING – DIANE FRASER – QUEENSLAND RESEARCH

Diane runs the Porirua branch of the NZSG at the Porirua Library which has about 30 regulars at each meeting. She is the person who did the New Zealand Divorces and put them on fiches selling them to fundraise for the Porirua branch.

Sandra was guest speaker for Porirua and in return for the favour Diane and her offside have agreed to talk to us about Queensland research.

HUTT GROUP RESEARCH DAY JULY 17

July 17, 10am to 4pm, BYO Lunch - Keep this day free for a day full of variety!

NEW ZEALAND BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

This book, written by the late Anne Brommell, is available for beginners to buy from the branch at the reduced price of \$13.00 (normally \$14.99 at Whitcoulls). This book is for those who don't know where to start. Whether your family had humble beginnings or were part of the aristocracy, good research techniques will help you find out more. This book shows you how and where to locate information, how to use various resources, and how to record what you find.

Best of all, the work you do will leave a legacy for your descendants. As seasoned genealogists know, there is no time like the present to start preserving your past for future generations.

KAPITI BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

Enrolments are now being taken for a 'Getting Started' course. All welcome. The course includes practical demonstrations & time to work on your own family tree.

Part 1 Getting started

Part 3 Immigration & Shipping

Part 2 Finding people

Part 4 Repositories & Resources

Saturday April 9th, 10am to 4pm

Kapiti Community Centre Ngahina Rd, Paraparaumu.

Cost \$20.00

MATAMATA CEMETERY HEADSTONE TRANSCRIPTIONS

Matamata Branch has a CD available for purchase - entries begin 16 Oct 1910, with the last entry being 5 Dec 2004. The entries are complete transcriptions, searchable by surname. A map of the layout of the cemetery blocks is included.

The CD is available from the Branch Secretary - at a cost of \$20 + p & p. A booklet form is also available at a cost of \$25 + p & p

Contact - Matamata@genealogy.org.nz

WORLD WAR ONE PERSONNEL CD ROM, SECOND EDITION

The NZSG has just produced a 2nd edition of the World War One Service Personnel CD ROM that was issued by the St Johns branch. It contains all the first edition plus the Westland names and names of men that joined overseas. There are about 1300 extra names.

Cost \$40 plus \$4 if posted overseas.

THE 1871 CENSUS FOR SCOTLAND IS NOW ONLINE!

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

The Scotland's people website is delighted to announce that in addition to the 1901, 1891 and 1881 census records, the indexes and images for the 1871 Census for Scotland are now available online.

COPIES OF WORLD WAR ONE DIARY FOR SALE

Ross Miller, 142 Ohaupo Road, Hamilton 2001, Ph. (07) 8436367 (home) or Email:armiller@xtra.co.nz

I have just recently published an account of a WW1 diary of my great uncle, Jesse William Stayte. It was originally written as a result of the Imprint 2002 seminar and it is available for purchase.

The diary reveals the life a soldier in France during the War and the experiences they went through. Glynn Harper, a well known military historian, said about Jesse' diary when he was doing research for his book, Spring Offensive, *"Private Stayte's diary is unusual in its lucidity."* He also goes on to say *"I find it particularly moving when you're reading an account like Stayte's. He is obviously very observant and intelligent. You get to understand a little bit about their personality and then, all of a sudden, the diary just stops. Then you find out they were killed. It's also quite moving when they talk about their own family and friends who were killed."*

This book is ideal for NZSG members who had family who served in WW1 to a first hand idea of what life was like in France and in the trenches and for use to get a social background when they are compiling their family history. The book has a comprehensive index with hundreds of names, places and events.

Kindest regards
Ross Miller

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE - DIANNE FITZGERALD

I was born and bred in Auckland, New Zealand, the youngest of 3 sisters. Both my parents were born in the UK. My father William White, born in Staffordshire 1899 and my mother Phyllis Thomas born in Tonyrefail, Glamorgan 1907. They were married in Auckland 1938.

Through a friend I began my research for my ancestors about three years ago having managed to trace my Fathers line back to 1725 in Steppingly Bedford and mothers back to 1800 in Glamorgan.

Like most of us when researching, we generally find something a little bit out of the ordinary. My maternal ggrandmother was the daughter of nobility, but ran away with my ggrandfather who was the gamekeeper on the estate. Gamekeepers seem to be very prominent in the White history

I am married with 3 children and have lived 26 years here in Lower Hutt. My husband was in banking and we moved around a bit - a wonderful way to meet new people!

My husband's family of FitzGerald's and O'Neill are a bit more illustrious than mine. His maternal ggggreatmother was on the first ship "Charlotte Jane" to arrive in Lyttelton in 1850 and the Grubb family had quite a lot of involvement developing Lyttelton, in fact John Grubb built the wharf in Lyttelton Harbour And established a shipwright company there.

The O'Neills arrived in 1860 went to the Gold mines in Otago, but actually set up a mobile butchers cart which went round selling meat at the gold fields. They moved to Reefton and did strike gold there then moved into farming in Wanganui

The FitzGeralds went to Tasmania in 1840 and grandfather Charles came to Wellington and married had 4 children, then ran off back to Australia leaving his wife and children.

The saga can go on but this is just a very brief outline of us and our ancestors

[WEBSITE FOR IRISH RESEARCHERS](#) - contributed by Inga Jackson

I thought I would reveal the "mainstay" of the Irish research I am doing. Becoming a Premium Member last year of "Irish Family Research" I reckon it is the best money I have spent on research so far. They have 4 types of membership, but best of all one can see what databases are available before one signs up. They also have a Look-Up Service, a capable and friendly research team to assist Premium Members in researching a selection of off-line Material.

It is certainly worth a look! <http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk>

SPEAKERS REVIEW - JONATHAN HUNT

We had a very big turn-out for the Right Honourable Jonathan Hunt, MP and Speaker of the House.

He has been a member of the NZSG since its early days in West Auckland. He joined the NZSG in July 1968 and his membership number is 92! A group of them decided to create a Society of Genealogists and it was to be one of the first meetings of the NZSG.

Having hit the limelight because of his woman replacement in Parliament, it is not hard to find plenty of information about his political career in the newspapers. Jonathan took over a 'safe' seat in 1966 from a Labour MP who had sat quite comfortably in the New Lynn seat for 40 years.

Becoming the Speaker of the House in 1999 made him the third most important person in New Zealand after the Governor General and the Prime Minister.

He was the first speaker in New Zealand not to be ceremonially dragged up to the speakers chair. This odd tradition has its origins in Westminster where the speaker conveyed what the House had to say to the Monarchs. The speaker's life would be in grave danger if the monarch did not like what the messenger had to say. As a result, over time, seven speakers had the misfortune of being executed by a monarch. Cromwell finally settled things once and for all and executed a King, the price now paid, there have been no executions of the messenger since!

The speaker needs to be able to chair the meeting as a non partisan and needs to maintain independence from the executive of the day - i.e. he is no longer a labour party member in that role.

His roles include presiding over Parliament, being responsible as 'landlord' for the upkeep and maintenance of government property, a committee chairman, maintaining dignity, minister of the crown and Member of Parliament.

New Zealand is the oldest democracy in the world having given the indigenous men the vote and then women the vote in 1893. Because we are a democracy, the losers admit defeat after election day and there is no coup d'etat like there is in many other countries.

The speaker, as landlord, owns all of parliament by statute but does not get to keep the property when resigning. The job came with a resident flat in parliament, a privilege only shared with the deputy who also has a resident flat in Parliament.

The speaker chairs 3 committees which regularly meet once or twice a week. The job has been complicated a bit by MMP and the many more parties.

His advice for genealogists is to send any important documents you might not want up to the NZSG office in Auckland. Also if you know of anyone thinking of throwing out old papers and things, grab them too and let head office decide whether or not they are important.

Jonathan left New Zealand on the 31 of March and as soon as he touched British soil on the 4th of April he became New Zealand's High Commissioner to the UK, Ireland and Nigeria!

He is looking forward to meeting up with Scottish relatives and furthering his family history research in the UK.

We wish him well and are all looking forward to having a cup of coffee with him when we visit London!

SPEAKER'S REVIEW – ADELE PENTONY-GRAHAM – THADOPHILE & CLAREVILLE CEMETERY

I am Adele Pentony-Graham, secretary of Carterton District Historical Society, and currently researching Early Settlers and any that are buried at Clareville Cemetery, which is also Carterton's Cemetery.

I first got interested in the cemetery, when I walked around it with my late husband. We were almost in tears seeing the overgrown state of it and sought help with the local Council. They said any weeding must have permission from family as it is their plot. Regardless of this advice, we set too and weeded until the locals found out and took over.

After losing my husband, I decided to research the buried which is far more enjoyable and rewarding. I meet people from all over the world...wonderful...

I hold the monumental inscriptions up to 1980 and have the plans of the cemetery from first recorded burial in 1866 which was Thomas Reid. He came out from Scotland and died by a falling tree, whilst cutting down trees to build his house.

Another interesting burial is Jane Haxton, nee Anderson who died in 1867. She was born in Shoreditch Workhouse in London and died in childbirth.

One very interesting grave at Clareville is for Ellen Dougherty who is the first registered nurse in the world. Ellen was the daughter of Daniel (a whaler) and Sarah Dougherty, who met and married in New Brunswick, Canada. They settled in Port Underwood, South Island and later came up to Wellington. Ellen began nursing in her 40's trained at Wellington Hospital (who also hold her No.1 medal in the nurses chapel. I have a photograph of it in our museum in Carterton).

When NZ began registration of nursing, Ellen's name was the first on the page, thus became No. 1 registered nurse in the world in 1901. For the centenary of registered nursing in 2001, I had asked the Nursing Council to restore her grave, so this was done, and on the 100th Anniversary of her becoming a Registered Nurse, 10th January 2002, we had a rededication service at the graveside for her. Historians and family were present. Ellen never married. She also became Palmerston North's first matron for their hospital. Her life story is in a folder in our Museum in Carterton, complete with her photograph.

There is also a William Skey who was Colonial Government Analyst for 37 Years.

One grave I mentioned at the talk, was for Stuart-Forbes, Baronets wife and daughters, Sir William's brother, John Hiley met his death with Custer, more on this in our Museum. Sir William, is buried in Blenheim.

Charles Rooking Carter, who was the main benefactor for Carterton, and named after him was also buried there in 1896. I visited his family grave at Burbage, Derbyshire last year. His wife died in Buxton in 1895 and their only daughter died in 1870 in London and is also with her mother in Burbage.

Whilst back home (in England) last year, I visited where some of our early settlers came from, Jane Bonsall who married Samuel Oates, met a very distant cousin in Hulme End. Tancred family in Yorkshire, stayed with them. Charles R. Carter came from Stricklandgate, Westmorland. I visited there as well.

I am London born and bred, so I have no known ancestors buried in New Zealand. I ask for family trees and photographs of people, where they lived, what they did here in the Carterton area. Its so interesting - all will be lodged with Carterton District Historical Society eventually. Most of the history I am finding, was not previously written down.

At present, I am endeavouring to name the 300 unmarked graves. I have the surnames from the 1800's but need first names. If anyone has lost a grave, please get in touch. I am also photographing all the old headstones in case they get damaged in the future. I will have them recorded - all this work is pure voluntary but very enjoyable!

I will give a tour of the cemetery at any time if anyone is interested and afterwards visit our museum in Carterton which is at 44 Broadway. I can open up any time to suit. I am also a member of Carterton Railway Museum - another interesting place to visit.

Our Society does not have a website at present but we hope to join in the near future with the Wairarapa Heritage Association which we belong to as well.

Thank you Adele. Its a bit tough having to do your own speakers review!

To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness - [Oscar Wilde](#), *The Importance of being Ernest*

WHO WAS SAINT PATRICK ?

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of Bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul present day France, where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as Second Bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He travelled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches, which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic Holy Day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom went to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in the New World.

ENCLOSURE MAPS OF ENGLAND & WALES

<http://hds.essex.ac.uk/em/index.html>

There is a "search catalogue" button, that brings up a Search Page for "The enclosure maps of England and Wales". All you need do is use the single box "County", and select say Cornwall, or Hertfordshire, etc - don't type it in anywhere.

There are no maps on the website. The resulting information is really only useful for reference purposes but may be helpful for those researching land titles, etc. This is useful for anyone living near English county archives because going through these maps, noting down surnames occurring on the maps, could be most useful." Are they available on film from Family History Libraries?

Enclosure maps are large-scale maps mostly dating from before the mid-nineteenth century which record much valuable information about the rural landscape. They provide a record of parish and township boundaries before major changes took place, of enclosed and open fields, of farms and settlement forms, and of rural land ownership. For local historians concerned with the history of particular places, such maps can provide a first point of reference in retrogressive enquiries. See <http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/RdLeaflet.asp?sLeafletID=252>.

These are maps showing the allocation of fields after the open fields and common pasture of the medieval agricultural system were divided up into private enclosures. Succinct explanation is at <http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Enclosure> and an account which views the process rather negatively at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inclosure>.

MEN WHO DISSAPPEAR by Suzanne Sutton-Cummings

- There is a story in the December 2004 issue of 'Your Family History' of a woman by who only found out by a chance remark by a relative that her surname was not that of her great-grandfather. Edgar Watkinson disappeared mysteriously in 1913 leaving a wife and 3 children. To this day it is not known what happened to him.

His widow, Lillian, took a job as a cinema pianist and soon met a man called William Ayloff whom she moved in with and also had 3 children to him. They could never marry as Edgar was not officially dead and Lillian not officially a widow. This meant also that her children could not bear the name Ayloff and so his 3 children were registered with the surname Watkinson.

- On my family tree is a man who disappeared one day while fishing in a Nelson lake. Many years later, his son was presented with a human skull to see if he could identify it as that of his father, but he couldn't!
- A friend once told me the story of how her one of her ancestors disappeared. The 'widow' of this man collected the widow's benefit for many years until he suddenly reappeared on her doorstep. This poor 'widow' was absolutely devastated when the powers-that-be demanded that she repay every cent of her widow's benefit!
- More recently a young, attractive woman, who became second wife to a rather well-off older widowed man, was devastated when her husband suddenly disappeared without a trace. The circumstances appeared to be very suspicious and many people went out of their way to search for him. After a reasonable amount of time passed the young woman met and moved in with another man. She recently gave birth to her first child, a little girl, who has the father's surname.
It transpired that this man had had a major break down and had moved to another part of New Zealand where he was eventually spotted by 2 or 3 people who knew him.
- When a Johnsonville man disappeared a few years ago, leaving a wife and young son, I remember reading a comment made by the Salvation Army which said that if people did not want to be found, then they did not interfere - poor comfort to those left behind still wondering what happened to that person!

LORD SHAFTESBURY

To me Lord Shaftesbury seemed to be an aristocrat who pushed for the cause of the poor. He pops up in history quite often. My cousin, Bart Russell, mentioned him as being the man who founded the orphanage in Surrey where he went in 1931 after his mother died. When reading about Bastardy laws, I came across this Lord Shaftesbury again as the man who was asked to support an inquiry into baby farming.

In the April issue of the Family History monthly he is mentioned as the President of the Ragged School Union when it was set up in 1844. This Union raised funds to set up schools and enlisted the help of voluntary teachers with the aim of also helping pauper kids find work, or even emigrate. A rich land owner and an MP, he was known as a distinguished philanthropist - the poor man's Earl.

I was rather surprised to read recently that there were 10 of these Earls of Shaftesbury. The one mentioned above was the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801-1885).

The 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury (1671-1713) was known as a statesman and one of the most important philosophers of his time.

However, the latest one, the 10th Earl of Shaftesbury, recently hit the headlines after disappearing in November 2004 in suspicious circumstances. He had decided to divorce his wife of Tunisian origin in order to marry another night club girl. Unfortunately this ex-wife had her brother, who has a criminal record, step in to help 'persuade' the Earl to continue her generous allowance. The brother appears to have killed him and hidden the evidence in a forest on his way back home to Germany.

The sad thing is that the 10th Earl of Shaftesbury, alias Anthony Ashley-Cooper, was a heavy drinker and had a weakness for night clubs; not to mention the girls who entertained there! He had a 'ph' word too. The media called him a philanderer!

Suzanne

FINAL NOTES

Any contributions to the newsletters for April need to be received by the editor by the last Thursday in April, the 28th of April 2005. Thank you to all those who contributed.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

When I was younger I hated going to weddings ... it seemed that all of my aunts and the grandmotherly types used to come up to me, poking me in the ribs, cackling, telling me, 'You're next.'

They stopped that after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals!
