

News & Views

April 2006; 24th Year

Issue 232



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: Dianne Fitzgerald
Membership: Dianne Fitzgerald
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change and confirmation closer to the event)

06 Apr: Dr Stephen Hamilton - Archivist UH Library

20 Apr: June Orr - William Mein Smith

04 May: Angela McCarthy - Scottish-Irish Migrants

18 May: Sharon Frederickson - Family History on Video

01 Jun: Michael O'Brien - My family history

15 Jun: Branch Members - Problem Solve / Brick walls

06 Jul: Joe & Stefania Zawada - Polish refugee children to NZ during WW2

20 Jul: Alison Underhill - 19th Century Clothing

03 Aug: Joan McCracken - ATL Pictorial Collection

17 Aug: TBA

07 Sep: TBA

21 Sep: Old King Cole alias Dr David Collingwood

19 Oct: Alison Ainsworth and Eileen Kennedy from Births, Deaths and Marriages

6 APR: EVENING MEETING - DR STEPHEN HAMILTON

Dr Stephen Hamilton is the Archivist at the Upper Hutt City Library. He will be talking about the Community Archives generally, sources for genealogists, and their digitisation project.

20 APR: MORNING MEETING - JUNE ORR - WILLIAM MEIN SMITH

William Mein Smith was New Zealand's first Surveyor General and is an ancestor of June's

RAFFLES

There will be a raffle at each of the meetings. Tickets will be 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.

Where in the past would you like to go to today?

RESEARCH REQUESTS

The Branch receives requests for help with research. Would you like to help with the research requests? This may involve completing some research on their behalf and providing guidance.

If you are able to help, please let Carol Ann Mason know at the branch evening meeting, email ca_mason@yahoo.com

WEBSITE FOR HUTT VALLEY BRANCH

We are looking at creating a website about the Hutt Valley branch. Are you able to help with the creation of this website? Or do you have any suggestions about what the website should contain?

Please let Carol Ann Mason know if you are able to assist either at the branch evening meeting or email ca_mason@yahoo.com

OTAKI GENEALOGY BRANCH - FREE WORKSHOP

April workshop - What the New Zealand Society of Genealogists has to offer to members. Sue Green will be doing a demo using the NZSG web site going through the NZSG services.

VENUE. Otaki Supper Room next to the Otaki Public Library Cnr. Of Aotaki and Main St. Otaki.

DATE. April 11th.

TIME. 11am to 12pm.

For more information <http://www.genealogy.org.nz/about/memlist.html>

NZSG CONFERENCE & AGM, HAMILTON, 2-5 JUNE 2006

Settling the Waikato and Beyond'

At Sacred Heart Girls' College, Clyde Street, Hamilton

Key note speakers are Christopher Pugsley from the UK and Richard Reid from Canberra, with 25 other speakers.

To read more about the speakers and lectures visit the NZSG website www.genealogy.org.nz under 'What's new', conference 2006. A registration form can be downloaded.

SCOTLANDSPEOPLE

In addition to the 1861, '71, '81, '91 and 1901 census records, the indexes and images for the 1851 Census for Scotland are now available online at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

MCKIRDY INDEX LTD - www.mckirdyindex.co.nz

This is a Wellington based genealogy company which has launched a new and innovative online tool to help both professional genealogists and amateur family historians alike find information about long gone relatives.

Each record in the original 'Index to the Register of Deaths for Scotland;' has not only information about the deceased, but also much information about the deceased's family; often including references to family members that a researcher would not have known about. Copies of original hand-written records are stored on microfiche and microfilm, making them painstaking to search through and near impossible to access outside Libraries and Family History Centres

A form of the index itself has been commercially available on microfiche since 1993, after Wayne McKirdy, a Lower Hutt based genealogist, got frustrated with using only the official index. He has hand-typed over 310,000 records currently available in the index, which has grown considerably since he made his first sale, to Porirua Library in 1993. Since then libraries and genealogists from all over the world; including Scotland, have bought copies of the index. He hopes to add marriage records to the site at some point.

BMD CERTIFICATES - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW -from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

We recently heard about a great site that's been created by Barbara Dixon, author of two booklets on birth, marriage, and death certificates. In our experience there's a lot of confusion about what the entries on certificates mean - but once you've read the information on Barbara's site you'll no longer be in any doubt. <http://www.dixons.clara.co.uk/Certificates/indexbd.htm>

HIRING FAIRS

From the late 14th century until well into the 20th century hiring fairs regularly took place in many parts of England. They originated at the time of the Black Death, when fit workers were in short supply, and continued as a way of regulating the supply of labour - no doubt with a view to keeping the cost down! Perhaps your ancestors attended hiring fairs.

Find out more on the BBC website at: <http://tinyurl.com/j9yrx>

THEY LOOK JUST LIKE US??

TV3 8.30pm Thursday 2nd March: Inside New Zealand: Nathan and Oscar's Excellent Adventure

When watching this programme one very quickly became suspicious at what seemed like 'doctored' incidences. For example, why did a man with a European surname have a Polynesian Y chromosome?

Niwa, the guide from the mountains, looked very Polynesian and yet the people from the coastal areas of Taiwan drinking sake looked Chinese. If one were to study the history of Taiwan, one would find that when the Chinese invaded Taiwan the indigenous people went into the mountains.

Who knows? Maybe that is when a group of indigenous people decided to leave the island!

WEBSITES

- ✓ www.learningcurve.gov.uk - National Archives Schools Website - an award winning site also good for adults wanting to brush up on their history.
 - ✓ www.archivegifts.co.uk - recreate your favourite image from collections at the National Archives as a poster, cards or on a mug!
 - ✓ www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/familyhistory - take a walk through the online family history galleries
 - ✓ www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners - learn Latin online so that you can read the official government documents of Britain between 1066 and 1733.
 - ✓ <http://www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/page143.htm> - here is a site for those of you who have had relatives involved with the Presbyterian church as Ministers, Deaconesses or Missionaries in the past. It covers the period 1840 to 2005 but does not include Ministers or workers currently employed by the church.
 - ✓ www.genealogy-quest.com/glossaries/diseases1.html and www.whonamedit.com
2 sites to find explanations of the terminology & meaning of archaic diseases
 - ✓ www.tracesmart.co.uk - a research service to help you find living relatives
 - ✓ www.ww2roll.gov.au - people who served in the Australian Army in WW2
 - ✓ www.memorialinscriptions.org.uk - The National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions (NAOMI). This is the largest site on the internet giving full memorial inscriptions. Although so far NAOMI has only surveyed graveyards in Norfolk, the database already holds information from over 200 burial grounds, including more than 70,000 inscriptions and names, ranging from the 12th to the 21st century.
 - ✓ www.origins.net - 1841 census data for 17 English and Welsh counties. Also 165,000 Irish birth records that have been extracted from its 1841 and 1871 Census data.
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SPEAKERS' REVIEW - BRAD PATTERSON - THE SCOTS MIGRATION PROJECT

The international project on Scottish migration to New Zealand to 1950 is based in Victoria University's Irish-Scottish Studies Programme.

The best available estimates indicated that Scots-born accounted for up to 25% of all migrants to New Zealand in the century to 1950, and it has been suggested by Jamie Belich that Scottish influences are more pervasive in New Zealand than any other country outside Scotland - but the Scots remain the least studied of all New Zealand major Ethnic groups.

To date there have been no scholarly study of the New Zealand Scots, their backgrounds, or their post migration experiences.

In late 2003, Brad visited the University of Aberdeen's AHRB Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, ultimately securing the agreement of leading researched at that university to join with a New Zealand-based research team.

Then, in February 2004, a bid was made for a substantial grant from the Royal Society's Marsden Fund and they were fortunate to be one of the few projects in the humanities selected to proceed to the second round. In September 2004, they were officially informed that the bid had been successful. The project formally commenced on 1 January 2005.

The current research team is nominally 7 strong but there is a strong desire to involve as many people as possible in the project. though it is hosted by Universities, there is a hope that it can be truly national, indeed an international, project.

GENERAL GOALS

1. Increase knowledge of the Scots
2. Place New Zealand experience in international context
3. Areas of study - demographic profile, settling process and legacies

Thank you Brad for your notes.

MY TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY by Carol Ann Mason

At the beginning of 2005 I decided this was the year that I would fulfil a long held dream – to go to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. I decided I would go on Jan Gow's 'Hooked on Genealogy' tour.

Before actually going on the tour I needed to get organised! As part of the tour Jan has seminars to help the tour members to get the most out of the tour. I was unable to get to Auckland so Jan sent me the DVDs of the seminars.

To get organised I set some priorities within my family lines and sorted out what I wanted to achieve while I was away. I did this by using my family history program RootsMagic To Do tasks for each person. I then used the Family Search Library Catalogue at www.familysearch.org to see what was available for the locations and time periods. I recorded the details of what I wanted to achieve and film numbers in the To Do tasks. I also used program Parish Locator to find the neighbouring parishes around my ones.

I took my laptop computer, whilst it was a hassle getting through Customs, unpacking and repacking for the security scans, it was worth it. I also printed out my To Do tasks from RootsMagic for the priority families as a backup. I stored these in plastic files by family along with the pedigree chart, family group sheets and maps. .

We arrived around 7pm on Saturday had a chance to freshen up and then we had our first trip to the library. We stayed next to the Family History Library and it was only a couple of minutes before we were in the library.

The Family History library consists of five floors

- Basement 2 - British Isles, including Australasia,
 - Basement 1 - International including Europe
 - Main Floor - reception area and some 'beginners type area'
 - Second Floor – United States and Canada – microfilms
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- Third Floor – United States and Canada – Books

Each floor has computers which you can search the library catalogue, Ancestry.com and connected to the Internet. There is also an information desk on each floor that is attended by a combination of paid staff and volunteers. On the International floor there is also help available to interpret some of the European languages.

The British Isles is the quietest of the floors, other floors you may need to wait to get onto a computer or microfilm reader.

Many of the people on the tour took their laptop computers and we were able to connect to the Library's network and Internet at the library. We also took the precaution of locking our computers to the desks to prevent them from being stolen.

Lectures are given on week days generally they can be around using PAF or some research topic such as Getting started in Swedish Research or Ireland census substitutes. Jan had also arranged for some special talks by some of the experienced staff, which gave us some more food for thought for English, Military and Irish research.

I spent the majority of my time on Basement 2 – British Isles where was rows of cabinets full of microfilm, rows of microfilm and microfiche readers, books, computers with some specific databases such as the Scottish parish records, this is different from the IGI, and maps. This floor also had a computer which enables you to copy microfilm images onto CDs and flash drives. I came home with two CDs full of images of parish records, census, naturalisation and probate records. I also have printouts of most of the records as well as there is a series of microfilm printers as well.

As we were connected to the computer network I was also able to download images from Ancestry.com from newspaper articles and I was able to follow the musical 'career' of one of my Candoo family.

I basically worked through the list off my To Do printouts and got the microfilm straight from the cabinets. Some microfilm are restricted and you need to provide identification – my drivers licence was good enough. Also some microfilms are held in the Vault – this takes about three days to get.

I had some good 'finds' :-

- I did a special 'dance' in the microfilm reader area when I found the marriage of my Great, Great Grandparents in Stewartstown, Tyrone, Ireland. It was in 1862 and catholic and couldn't really find a lot more, but I have two witnesses of the same surnames as the bride and groom to try and follow up on. I knew the date from the children's Queensland birth certificates but it was great to see it and that they were telling the truth.
- I was able to view the rest of the Stewartstown baptism, burial and marriage records. I was able to look at the Irish Birth, death and marriage indexes on microfilm and then have a look at the actual entries as well.
- I even had a look at the Australian cemetery transcriptions and found some entries for my Irish family.
- I got a copy of the probate record for my Great Great, Great, Grandmother who lived in St Kilda in Melbourne.
- I was able to find one of my Great, Great Uncle Herbert Harper Mason's naturalisation papers into the United States of America.
- I ploughed through 1841 – 1871 census for Tranent, Scotland looking and finding my Taylors.

I also did a small trip to the United States floors, although the helpful assistant could not help find my George William Patterson who is supposed to have moved to United States somewhere and lived on a ranch, I spent a few hours up n the Third floor in the United States Books some of which are indexed looking for my George William Patterson there were a couple of prospects but they didn't fit what the family story told me. I'm still working on this one.

It wasn't all research we did do a day trip to a Salt Lake. We went to Kennecott Copper Mine, the world's largest man-made excavation open pit. A bit of shopping here and there as well.

Some people have asked why I went to Sale Lake City, given that you can get all of the microfilm here through the LDS Family History Libraries.

Well apart from having a great 'winter' holiday in a warm climate, doing something I enjoy and with people of a like mind. The immediacy of it all - if I found something I was able to follow up on it straight away- not having to wait weeks for the film to be ordered and received. I could just go and find the item on the catalogue and go to the microfilm cabinet take it out and read it.

Although as the LDS church have announced their intention to digitalise most of their records over the next few years - I will go again some day – maybe I can enjoy some Utah winter.

A Scottish Family History Part 1 - submitted by Stafford Cull

A NARRATIVE OF ANCESTRY AND IMMIGRATION BY JAMES ROY

Wairuna 1905 - Our Ancestry - First on my Father's side

It hath seemed good to me, being laid aside from active labour, and nothing particular to engage my attention, to note down for the sake of our descendants, a sketch of our family relationships as far as my knowledge and memory of the same will serve me.

The farthest back progenitor of whom I have knowledge (for I have no recollection of the same, he being dead before I was born), was my grandfather on the paternal side, Alexander Roy. He came from the Parish of Boharm, to reside in the Glens of Foudland where he was the tenant of the farm of Clinkston. His wife, my grandmother, was Grace Roy, his cousin. They had two sons, Alexander and James, that was all the family. My grandmother, however, had been married before, her first husband's name being Robertson. Of this family I have some knowledge. One son, Alexander, was a saddler in Invergordon and Tain in Ross-shire. I have seen and known several of his family. One was a merchant in Invergordon, another (John) was a Free Church minister, when I knew him, at Guthon and Anworth (the Rev. and most godly Samuel Rutherford's parish) in Kirkcudbrightshire. There were two daughters at home when I was there and there were some in Australia. There was another son of this family, that is my Grandmother's, whom I did not know, but some of his daughters did. There were two, Grace and Elspet. Grace was a frequent visitor at our house, she was married to one John Dunbar; their family and ours were very intimate, and I have corresponded with some of them since I came to New Zealand, especially James. There were other Robertson relations; some living in the parish of Knocklands on Speyside, but though I have been there and seen them, I could not describe the connection. One of these, a young woman, Jessie Robertson, was a ship-mate of ours on the way to New Zealand, as we found out. Grandmother Roy was alive when I was born, but she did not live long after.

There were two families of our relations on the father's side that I wish to take notice of, as they lived near and we were very intimate. I cannot tell on what side the connection lay, whether on the Grandfather's or the Grandmother's, (the former I think) as these were both of them Roy. One family was named Hall. There were to my knowledge three males; James, Alexander and John, and two females; Grace and the other name I forget, but she was married to one Horn. My father, and all of us were very intimate with these, and I, when a boy was often at Whitelums in Gartly, where three of them lived. These three: James, John and Grace never married, but Alexander was twice married, and left two daughters; one married a John Booth, and the other a man named Harper.

The other family was named Morrison. There were three women, Ann, Margaret and Grace. Ann never married, she lived a good way from us in the parish of Rhyme, but she generally paid us a visit once a year, and brought us some cranberries. She was in indigent circumstances, and I suppose went home with more than she came with. Margaret lived not far from us. Her married name was Meldrum, she had several sons and daughters, but I may speak more of these by and by. Suffice it to say that she was looked upon as a very dear friend, for more reasons than one, she was a Christian woman and a friend in need. She live many years a widow. Grace, the other one, was married to one of my own name, James Roy; but he was not of the same family as we. He did not prove a faithful husband, by and by he left her with a large family to provide for, but she had a good stout heart, and laboured hard to bring up her children. She lived quite near to us, only about a mile away, and we children were very friendly. While they were young they came regularly for a supply of milk or something of that sort. I have still an affection for them all, but where they are I know not.

As I have said, my grandfather had only two sons, and I may at present say what I know of my uncle Alexander and his family. After leaving Clinkston, where my father and uncle were born, my grandparents came to live at Begshill in the Parish of Drumblade, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. My uncle married from there, a woman named Jane Mann, also belonging to the parish. My grandfather gave him a small farm adjoining his own. He was there when I came of age to remember him. He had seven daughters and two sons. Their names were Grace, Jane, Alexander, James, Elizabeth, Jessie, Isabella, Barbara and Margaret. Jane, James and Barbara died unmarried, the others were all married. James left a son named Alexander. I have only had communication with one, (Jessie, Mrs. Douglas) since I came to New Zealand. My uncle left the farm (Newton of Begshill, which I have mentioned) sometime about 1849-50, and came to reside at Begshill in a house given him by my father. Here two of his children, Barbara and James died. (James died of Consumption and was unconscious of the nature of his disease until the day he died, his parents keeping him in ignorance of it. The day he died I told him of it, and he was surprised at it.) Some time after this, my uncle built a house for himself on a part of our farm where he resided till his death.

I shall now sketch our ancestry on the mother's side.

My grandfather's name on my mother's side, was Theodore Dufton, and his wife's name, my grandmother, was Isabel Andrew. He was a blacksmith to trade, and lived about a mile and a half from us, at what was called Mosside of Drumdolls. They had eight children, four sons and four daughters: Alexander, Theodore, James, Robert, Jane, Christian, Isabel and Margaret. Isabel became my mother and Margaret became my wife's mother. Their family all married and settled in the neighbourhood. My uncle Alexander married Elspet Forsyth; Uncle Theodore married Isabel Ledingham; Uncle James married Mary Booth widow of Alexander Booth, a brother of Uncle James' wife: her maiden name was MacHattie. My Aunt Jane was married to William Gerrard; Aunt Christian to John Sangster; my mother to James Roy and Aunt Margaret to Robert Bagrie. They nearly all had large families, most of whom are still alive.

I never knew anything about Grandfather Dufton's relations; as far as I know he was like Melchisedec of Scripture, as regards his parentage, but he must have been born, and I know that he died. He was reckoned to be a good man. As regards Grandmother Dufton I was "Born again" ere she died, and well do I remember sitting up with a cousin, Jane Gerrard, one night while she was a corpse. She died in the winter of 1852/3, a very snowy winter indeed.

I will here give a sketch of my wife's family.

Her grandfather's name was John Bagrie and her grandmother's name, Isabel Tocker. Her grandfather had one brother, Robert, and three sisters, Isabel (Mrs Fletcher), Christina (Mrs Watt) and Annie, unmarried. Grandmother Bagrie had two brothers, James and John, and two sisters, Janet (Mr Cowie) and Jane (Mrs Young). Grandfather and Grandmother Bagrie had two sons, Robert and John, and two daughters, Annie (Mrs Sim) and Jane (Mrs Wilson). Having thus far given an account of our ancestors and their immediate relations, I will now come more immediately to our own. I have said that James Roy of Begshill, my father, married Isabel Dufton, and that Robert Bagrie of Burnside of Drumdolls in the parish of Fergie, married Margaret Dufton. These were my wife's father and mother. My parents had ten children; James, Alexander, Isabella, Jane, John, Grace, Andrew, Margaret, William and Christian. Alexander was drowned in the garden well while yet a child, which I yet well remember, a sore trial to my parents. Andrew and Margaret died of Scarlet Fever while yet young. William died here in Wairuna, but a lad.

My wife's parents had ten children, eight daughters and two sons; Annie, Isabella, Margaret, Christina, Jane, Robert, Jessie, Annie No.2., Mary and John. The two Annies and Jane died in youth, when about twelve years of age. The father died ere the youngest child was born. Sore times these for a mother of so large a family, and no son to take the father's place. But God who is merciful and very gracious especially to His own, strengthened the mother to bear her trials, and brought her and the children through wonderfully, proving Himself indeed a Father to the fatherless and a Husband to the widow. Mrs Bagrie was a very sincere Christian and a woman of great faith. I was married to Margaret Bagrie at Burnside of Drumdolls, in the Parish of Fergie, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the 20th day of September, 1860. We lived together in her mother's house for a year and a half, and it was there that our first child was born, Margaret Ann. From the time I left school, I had learned and followed farm work, and at the time of our marriage I was then working on my father's farm. Having

married, and no home of my own, it came to be a serious question, what was I going to do? I did not think there was room enough for our expansion, and suppose I did settle there, I could see it would be a hard grind all the days of my life, and perhaps have little for it after all. So I waited and considered, and looked about, but could get nothing to suit, or that seemed of the Lord's providing, so made up my mind to emigrate. It was not New Zealand that I first thought of, but the United States of America. I was acquainted with some people who had sons there, and at first was minded to go to the States, but the Civil war broke out then and that put a stop to America, and my thoughts turned in other directions.

About this time, William Murray (who was afterwards my brother-in-law) and two other young men went off to New Zealand. I had not made up my mind to go at that time, but resolved to wait and hear the report they would send of that country, for it was little known at that period, and it was doubtful whether it was all true that handbooks etc. said about it. But we could believe our friends, and their reports proved sufficient, with other favourable circumstances to decide our, or rather my, mind to try New Zealand as our future home.

To be continued....

DID YOU KNOW? (from http://www.flatrock.org.nz/topics/science/strange_nz_facts.htm)

- ✓ A total of 194,000 men (67% of all NZ males between 18 and 45) served in World War II
- ✓ New Zealand has more bookshops per head of population than any other country; one for every 7,500 people (compared with one for every 19,000 in England and one for every 50,000 in the USA).
- ✓ Less than 5% of the population of New Zealand is human - the rest are animals, giving one of the highest ratios of humans to animals in the world
- ✓ There are more Scottish pipe bands per head of population in NZ than in Scotland.