

News & Views

December 2003; 21st Year

Issue 208



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

Evening Meeting	7.30pm, 1 st Thursday, February to December.	
Day Meeting:	9.30am, 3 rd Thursday, January to November.	
Research Evening:	6.30pm, last Thursday each month. Library open.	
Venue:	Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Lower Hutt	
Co-ordinator:	Sandra Greig	
Editor:	Suzanne Sutton-Cummings	sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS

4 December: Evening Meeting

Christmas Meeting: David Burton – 220 years of NZ Food and Cookery. Please bring a plate for supper afterwards.

05 February : Evening Meeting

Workshop: UK and Ireland.

19 February : Morning Meeting

Speaker: Len Dangerfield - What is available the National Archives and the National Library and how to access it.

26 February 2003 Research

The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research.

OBITUARY

Jim Dempsey 1919 - 2003. Sadly, Mr Jim Dempsey passed away. Mr Dempsey was well known for his keen interest in genealogy, and was recently the speaker at the morning meeting. He was a former Hutt Member and New Zealand Society Councillor. As a tribute to the recent passing of Mr Jim Dempsey, the members stood and observed a minutes silence for his memory.

AGM

About 80 people attended the AGM on 6 November. Officers were elected for the coming year, along with new committee members, and the outgoing committee members were presented with rose plants.

The meeting unanimously supported holding the subscriptions at the current rates.

Also raised was the question of the rules as to which books and information would be put in the library.

A full report is available from the Chair for those who have not already received it.

SPEAKER'S NOTES

We all enjoyed Alistair Hardy talk at the conclusion of the AGM. He spoke on the many variations of his Grandmother's maiden name as found in the Australian certificates of their children and her death certificate. There will be more on his talk in the next newsletter.

OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2004

Chair	Sandra Greig
Secretary	Deb Beban
Treasurer	Janet Ketchell
Library Assistant/Hospitality	Lynne Gentry
Membership	Dianne Fitzgerald
Speakers	Janice Price
Hall/Equipment	William Clark
Editor	Suzanne Sutton-Cummings
Library (ex officio)	Pauline Innes

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

A reminder to Members that no Library books will be issued until February next year and that all books still on loan **must** be returned so that the annual stock take can take place while the library is closed over the Christmas period.

The LDS Upper Hutt Family History Centre's Christmas shut down days (as advised by Mike Guest) are:

- The centre will close for the year on 13 December, and re-open on 25 January.
- Film orders will be accepted until then, but films will **not** be available until in the New Year.

SOME IDEAS OF WHAT TO DO OVER THE SUMMER BREAK

If you are stuck for things to do over the summer holidays, or just have plenty of spare time (lucky you!), then here are some things you may like to consider doing:

Library, Archive and FHC Sitings

I have noticed that libraries are fairly crowded on a miserable day especially in the week end. Wellington will, no doubt, have a fair number of genealogy visitors who will unwittingly take that seat that yours truly has been sitting in for the last five years. If those out of towners annoy you too much, you could find out where they come from and go and occupy their seat. The Canterbury Library and the Archives in Christchurch, for example, have excellent church records and probates for that area.

A Paper War

With the excellent talks this year on sorting and storing our screeds of genealogy information, we have no excuse for not putting it all into some sort of order.

Writing Marathon

How many times have we been told that we should put all that interesting information in writing and write that book on the family that everyone has been waiting for?

Family and Relative Visitations

This is the time of the year when people are more relaxed and ready and able to answer those questions you have always been wanting answered. If you are the more knowledgeable one, this should be a good time of the year to get your best audience.

Surfing

If you don't like getting wet, I would suggest just surfing the net. Over the last year we have been given plenty of recommended websites.

Cemetery Crawls

Having lived in the Wellington region for 17 years, I was amazed to discover, only recently, what I think is the most interesting cemetery in Wellington - The Bolton Street Memorial Park (Also formerly known as the Sydney Street Cemetery). The replica chapel near Mowbray Street has a book of who is buried there and a map of where to find their grave and/or gravestone. The Bolton Street Memorial Park has fairly steep paths but it is a great place for a picnic. (It is now looked after by the staff of the Botanic Gardens)

Over the years I have checked out other cemeteries where my ancestors are buried. More recent burial records are often listed with the local councils as I discovered when trying to locate a War Veteran's plaque in Paraparaumu. If possible, it is also good idea to get on a guided tour of the cemetery of interest.

Heritage Walk or Drive Along Memory Lane

Whenever my grandmother comes to visit me, we do the nostalgia tour. We drive around her old haunts, and have yet another look at the houses where she used to live. I also hear again her family history and ask a few more questions. I am also able to show her a few more historical places of interest that she did not know about. Next visit she will see the grave stones of her NZ ancestors who were buried in the Sydney Street Cemetery.

A COUPLE OF USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://marvin.otago.ac.nz/marriages/>

This web site has marriage matches from the NZ index. If you know the year and folio number of one spouse, you can find the page which has the matching spouse on it.

<http://www.1837online.com>

On this site you will find an exact replica of the indexes of Births, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to 2001. These images are available to search, view (including zooming in on those awkward-to-read names), save to disk and print for a modest charge. This site will be most useful to you if you are already familiar with these indexes and wish to have the opportunity to search them in your own time, without having to physically visit a library or a register office.

BIRTH AND DEATH NOTICES AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY - CARDEX

Recently my cousins decided to have a plaque made for my Great Aunt and Uncle. We all knew the birth and death dates of our Aunt but the age gap and birth date of our Uncle was kept a closely guarded secret by our Aunt who out lived her husband by 28 years. Upon finding his passport, we had his birth as 10.10.1899 but it was not until I remembered the cardex system in the National Library (on the left hand side as you walk in the door) that we were able to get his exact death date. The cards have all the birth , in memoriam wedding anniversaries and death notices that have been published in the Wellington papers since about 1973. They have all been cut out and pasted onto the cards and sorted into alphabetical order!

OCCUPATIONS

I found an interesting list of old occupations while surfing the internet a couple of years ago. This is an extract - a few of the A, B and Cs - of a list of about 1,700 occupations. It is by no means complete as Sandra's 'Thelda' is not on it. However Linda Cock's 'Pure Finder' is listed as a 'Pure Gatherer' or 'Pure Picker'. (see October issue of newsletter). Anyone who would like the complete list can obtain one by contacting the editor.

ACCOMPTANT - An accountant.

ACREMAN - A ploughman or oxherder.

ALL SPICE - A nickname for a grocer.

AMBLER - An officer of the Royal Stable who broke in horses.

AMEN MAN - A parish clerk.

ANKLE BEATER - A young person who helped to drive the cattle to market.

APRONEER - A slang term used in London for a shopkeeper.

APRONMAN - A mechanic.

BACK WASHER - A person employed to clean the wool in the worsted manufacturing industry.

BACKSTER - A baker.

BANG BEGGAR - An officer of the parish who controlled the length of stay of any stranger to the parish.

BANKER - A person who dug trenches and ditches to allow drainage of the land, placing the surplus earth in banks around the edge.

BATMAN - An officers servant in the army.

BEAVER - A person who made felt used in hat making.

BEDMAN - A sexton.

BIDDY - A female servant usually of Irish stock.

BIRD BOY - A person employed to scare away birds from crops.

BIRDS NEST SELLER - A person who sold birds nest collected from the wild complete with eggs, these were then hatched by domestic birds and sold as pets.

BLEMMERE - A plumber

BLOODLETTER - A person who used leeches for letting blood. This was thought to be a cure for many ailments.

BONIFACE - An Innkeeper.

BOOKMAN - A student.

BRATMAN - A rough garment maker.

BREAKMAN - A bricklayer.

BREWSTER - A female brewer. Later, the term became non gender specific.

BUMMER - An army deserter.

BUSKER - A hair dresser.

CAD - A person employed to feed and water horses at coach stops.

CAFENDER - A carpenter.

CARNIFEX - A butcher.

CHIP - A shipwright or carpenter.

CHOWDER - A fish monger.

CLAPMAN - A man who took a person to prison.

CLOD HOPPER - A ploughman.

COCUS - A cook.

COLONUS - Latin for farmer or husbandman.

CONEY CATCHER - A rabbit catcher.

COW LEECH - An animal doctor.

CROWNER - A Coroner.

TO THE FARTHERMOST END OF THE EARTH

I once heard the story of a man in England who had a mother who was a very fanatical Christian. She so wanted her unbelieving son to be converted that she was forever quoting Bible verses at him. It reached the point where he got so sick of it, he decided he would get as far away from her as he possibly could. He saved all his pennies until the day finally came when he said good bye to his mother for the last time. As he was walking with a sigh of relief up the gangway onto the ship his mother quoted him one last verse. "And remember son" she said "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you!"

Upon arriving in New Zealand, the first person he met was an avid Christian quoting Bible verses randomly to passengers as they came of the boat. He suddenly dropped his bags in absolute disbelief because - yes, you guessed it - his first greeting in New Zealand was; "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you!"

A NOTE FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Greetings. This is my first newsletter; I hope you find it useful and informative.

I would welcome any comments, recommendations and requests on layout and contents from members for future newsletters. Written contributions would be even more welcome, preferably by email. I would like to decide in advance on a theme for the newsletter and collect information on the subject with any contributions by members who are knowledgeable in that particular area.

For the February newsletter, I am thinking of the morbid subject of causes of death and cemeteries. For March, dairies. For April, War records, letters from the front and other related information. This does not mean, of course, that the newsletter will be restricted to the theme of the month.

Have a great Christmas everyone. See you all next year!

Following is a poem given to me by a distant cousin:

ANCESTORS

If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row,
Would you be proud of them or not,
or don't you really know?

Some strange discoveries are made
in climbing family trees,
And some of them, you know
do not particularly please.

If you could see your ancestors
all standing in a row,
There might be some of them perhaps
you wouldn't care to know

But there's a different question
which requires a different view,
If you could see your ancestors,
Would they be proud of you??

(anon)

