



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Evening Meeting	7.30pm 2 nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting:	10.00am 3 rd 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)

- 09 Dec: Antique Road Show & then Christmas Party
10 Feb: Have You Heard of Mullaghbawn?
The Start of my Irish Family History Search - Graeme McVerry
17 Feb: Ireland (title to be confirmed) - Jenny Martin
10 Mar: Evening meeting - The Life of James Fraser Craig - June Stratton
17 Mar: Heritage Centre Petone - Clark Stiles
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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 MONTHS EVENTS

EVENING MEETING Antique road show and Christmas party

Some of you may have inherited and/or been gifted a family heirloom with a story to match. Come and share your story and heirloom with other branch members. Sorry but we will not have any experts to value and sell your family heirloom this evening.

As we all know genealogists would never part with a family treasure but they are always happy to share a family story.

The Christmas party supper will be provided by the committee. PLEASE do NOT bring a plate.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR?

- Research Day - late March or early April - Getting Started on Family History Research
 - Archives New Zealand resources
 - A look at our branch library resources on CDs
 - Organising your family research
 - Regional research resources in New Zealand
 - Legacy - a computer genealogy programme
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2010 MONTHLY CHALLENGE TO MEMBERS OF THE HUTT BRANCH OF THE NZSG

To leave memories and stories about your life with family and descendants.

At the beginning of the year we invited members to talk about their memories and/or write an article to publish in the branch magazine. We hope that many of you have written stories for your family or perhaps completed writing your early memories. What a special Christmas gift this would make for your family.

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AT PETONE LIBRARY

Library help will resume again in February but feel free to do your own research at the Petone Library.

RAE PEISER nee WILLIS 1930-2010

Sadly we have lost one of our members. Her good friend and long time neighbour, Pat Long, described as a very busy person. She was a member of our group for eight years and made sure our tea roster ran smoothly. Her genealogy research started after her husband retired from the army. Over the years they made three trips overseas researching in the UK and Europe. She was a descendant of Samuel Raymond Johnson a former mayor of Petone.

HUGH & MINA – by Terry Stock

At our November meetings we displayed two photos of “Hugh and Mina”. We had received an inquiry from Camilla Rockwood of Edinburgh and she was seeking help to identify these people in a collection of family photos.



Hugh after doing a spot of digging on a very hot day. He is on his own ground & we overlook Petone Bay from here.

1948



Jack & I at Front Door 1952

No one at our meetings recognised Hugh or Mina but there was a consensus that based on the photo's description, slope and distant hills, the Hugh photo was probably taken at Korokoro or Normandale.

Hugh and Mina have been identified by using the resources at the Petone Heritage Centre, supplemented by the NZSG CD-ROM index version 5 and online cremation and death records. Scotland's People was also checked.

The first search was of the streets section of the Wisers Postal Guides of 1950 and 1955. Residents with a forename of Hugh or initial H residing in Korokoro streets of Petone borough and Normandale streets of Lower Hutt were identified. Then these names were examined in the local electoral rolls for 1954. Among the 1955 Wise entries for Poto Road was H H Stirrat. The 1954 electoral roll names included Hugh Craig Stirrat, Miro Miro Road, Normandale, clerk. Wilhelmina Stirrat, widow, was at the same address. They were later traced in the 1957, 1960 and 1963 rolls to addresses in Upper Hutt.

The NZSG CD-ROM index probates pointed to the death of Hugh Craig Stirrat of Upper Hutt about 1964 and Wilhelmina Scrimgeour Stirrat of Titahi Bay about 1972. The Wellington City Council cremation records and Births Deaths and Marriages Online provided dates of their deaths and Hugh's age and Wilhelmina's birthday. The Petone Heritage Centre *Evening Post* collection provided a death notice for Hugh that confirmed he was the son of Wilhelmina and another Hugh, late of Glasgow. The NZSG probate index was the only Scrimgeour reference in any of these New Zealand records.

Scotland's People located the 1888 birth of Wilhelmina Scrymgeour in Edinburgh City, her marriage to Hugh Stirrat at Rutherglen and the 1923 birth of Hugh Craig Stirrat in Paisley.

Camilla Rockwood has advised that Scrimgeour/Scrymgeour is one of the family names being researched by her and this all fits in with them. The question from Camilla was a long shot, but with our members' geographic insight, some research, and a bit of luck, she took a chance and got her result.

COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILE – TERRY STOCK

I am Terry Stock. But I have the formal name of Terence Stock. Will a future family historian ever find Terry Stock? They might only find records for Terence Stock.

My Dad, Neil Frank was known as Frank. Mum, Isobel Joan was known as Joan. My mother in law, Margaret Edna, was known as Edna. When Dad received a letter to Dear Neil, there was instant recognition that this letter was from someone who didn't know him.

I am married to Marie, nee Kerridge, and we live in Kelson. We have three adult children who have joined the great migration to Australia. We have a big toy, a 1939 Buick car which has been a great joy (trips out and weekends away with car club friends) and frustration (old cars need fixing from time to time). I worked with Railways in its various guises from leaving school until 2002 when I declined an offer of a move to Tranz Rail's new head office on the North Shore in Auckland.

This serves as some kind of introduction to me and genealogy, or, my preference, "family history". While we can get names and relationships from lists and certificates, we can also get more from other sources. These have included elderly relatives who have since died. But with close access to Wellington, we are blessed with those wonderful resources at the National Library and Archives New Zealand. It was Lynly Yates who introduced me to the Nelson Provincial Government records at Archives New Zealand. I worked at the Wellington railway station and in a quick lunch break trip to Archives NZ I held in my own hands, 1860 letters from my great great grandfather to the Nelson Trust Funds seeking a loan. This was to construct the first steam ship built in Nelson, the *Undine*; and then his later letters asking for the Trust's patience for repayment of the loan.

Then there is the wonderful newspaper collection at the National Library. It allowed me to know a little of the life and times of my Nelson and West Coast ancestors. Yes, it was the wild West Coast at times with guns being fired at another great great grandfather in a property dispute on the outskirts of Reefton. This was in the days before *Papers Past*, and I would often browse a newspaper with one item in mind only to be surprised with another story about someone else. It was in Reefton's *Inangahua Times* that I learned about the 1894 fire at the nearly built Central School in Nelson. Sons of another great great grandfather built the school and there were suggestions that the fire was started to get the insurance money – another person was eventually convicted of arson and the Baker Brothers went on to complete the job.

My aim at the start of this potentially endless chase, was to trace the first settlers of my and Marie's families in New Zealand. While our families included mostly distinctive surnames, the last one I was able to identify was a Robert Smith from "Cornwall". There are still some mysteries. Who was John Baker's first wife and what became of her? What was the surname of some other women only known by their first names. Where did John Simpson Graham come from? What became of the two daughters Mary Williams left behind in Australia?

After the completion of the initial objective, I sought to understand the origins of those first New Zealand families. This led to an appreciation of the microfilmed church registers available at the LDS church. Knowing the names of some of family villages in England, Scotland, Ireland and Denmark provided the basis for a wonderful holiday itinerary.

Most basic research is now complete for my New Zealand families and I have probably delved as far as I need to in their countries of origin. I am slowly making headway in compiling a narrative about these families. This is proving to be another exercise in identifying some more "what happened to ..." questions.

While the births, deaths and marriages microfiche indexes are invaluable, the cemetery transcriptions and CD-ROM compilations done by hundreds of volunteers, and published by NZSG, are also fundamental building blocks for family history. As a kind of "thank you" I offered myself as secretary of this branch and I am currently involved in electoral roll transcriptions.

The main New Zealand names in our family trees: Baker, Bogle, Devanny, Graham, Shallcrass, Stock, Taylor, (all Nelson); Blackadder, Hogan, Williams (all Inangahua); Kerridge (Christchurch); Mikkelsen, McGlone (West Coast & Manawatu); and Robert Smith (West Coast).

SPEAKERS NOTES – A look at the marriage legislation of New Zealand from 1840 to the present day – Linda Cocks

As genealogists it can sometimes be useful to study the legislation which governed our ancestors' lives, especially if that legislation produced records we can access.

The basic unit of society was the family, and most families began with a marriage

Marriage is in essence a contract, though it differs from all other contracts in that it changes the status of the parties and gives rise to certain very special rights and duties. As in the case of all other contracts, the parties to a marriage must be in essential agreement, and they must have the requisite capacity.

Acts, both in this country and elsewhere, were not passed with the object of running our lives. They were intended to prevent hasty and clandestine marriages by persons under age, without the consent of their parents or guardians. They did this by insisting that marriages be held with open doors, at certain times, in the presence of an Officiating Minister and two or more witnesses, and only after the requisite formalities.

From deceased wife's sister to Civil union, the marriage laws of this country have attracted their share of controversy.

Jilted bride or deserted wife? - the answer to last month's question

At what point in the ceremony are you married? What happens if one of you drops dead at the altar, or changes your mind, and runs out? Are you a jilted bride, or a deserted wife? You might not think that is very important, but try claiming a widow's pension if you are not a widow, or marrying again when you're not sure of your status. So, at what point are you married?

- Signing the register? (Formality)
- Pronouncing man and wife?
- Exchanging rings? (Ceremony)
- Saying I do? (Consent)

This point has never been tested in New Zealand, but if it did, the Courts would follow the precedent set by this case:

Quick v Quick, Supreme Court of Victoria 1952 – VLR [1953] 224

Here, two workmates, after a couple of drinks, decided to get married. They went to the clergyman's house that same day, but as he was putting the ring on her finger, she changed her mind and ran out of the house. Four years later the husband is petitioning the court for a clarification of his status – am I married or not, and if I am, can I have a divorce?

The case was referred to the Supreme Court, and the three judges, in a 2-1 decision, decided he was married, and granted the divorce on the grounds of desertion.

Acts from the beginning have stipulated the form of marriage. Sec 22 of the 1847 Act states, in part, after allowing the parties to solemnize the marriage according to such form and ceremony as they may see fit to adopt.

- provided also, that in some part of the ceremony, and in the presence of the officiating minister, and witnesses as aforesaid, each of the parties shall declare — I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I (A. B.) may not be joined in matrimony to (C. D.)
- and each of the parties shall say to each other — I call upon these persons here present to witness, that I (A. B.) do take thee (C. D.) to be my lawful wedded wife (or husband)

This is the vitally important part of the ceremony – the contract of marriage required by common law. Once both of you have said those words, you are married. Please don't ask me what happens if you die before you've *finished* saying them.

Sec 23 dealt with marriages before a Registrar, and required the same declaration and form of words. But subsequent Acts backed off a bit, by only requiring these specific words to be spoken in marriages solemnized by a Registrar. It was not until 1976 that marriage celebrants were required to include the words, or words of similar effect. This was no doubt because civil marriage celebrants came into being with this same Act

Websites

For historical Acts:

- www.nzlii.org
- click "New Zealand Acts as enacted"
- or google "acts as enacted"

For current version of Acts still in force:

- www.legislation.govt.nz

For UK acts:

- www.england-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm
- or google "acts as enacted"

RESOURCES AT THE UPPER HUTT FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

28 Turon Crescent Totara Park. Phone 526-4259

Opening hours

- 1st and 3rd Saturday in the month 8.30am-12.30pm
- Wednesday day 10am-2.30 pm and Wednesday evening 6-9pm.

The FHC will be closing at 12.30pm Wednesday 13th December for the Christmas break.
The centre will re-open on Wednesday 10am 2nd February 2011

Here are this month's holdings for Great Britain that can be seen at U/H FHC – Mike Guest

KENT

County of Kent. Wills (1713-1858) G Bangerter, 1989, **3 Microfiche : 6035797**

- An alphabetical surname list for registered wills in the Archdeaconry Court of Canterbury. J–Y only.

The Parish Registers of St Leonard, Deal (15784837). Kent FHS Record Publ. No 62, 1985. **17 Microfiche**

- Transcripts of the parish register for baptisms only, but includes an index.

The Parish Registers of Hunton (1585-1812). Kent FHS Record Publ. No 102, 1985.

3 Microfiche

- Transcripts of the parish register, includes baptisms, marriages and burials. It has an index.

The Parish Registers of Leybourne (1560-1812). Kent FHS Record Publ. No 110, 1985.

2 Microfiche

- Transcripts of the parish register, includes baptisms, marriages and burials. It has an index.

The Parish Registers of Swanscombe (1559-1812). Kent FHS Record Publication No 147, 1985. **6 Microfiche**

- Transcripts of the parish register, includes baptisms, marriages and burials. It has an index.

1851 Census Index for North West Kent. North West Kent FHS, 1990.

Book 02784279 & 0345-0346

- Surname index for Kent. The family only has the north-western part of the County — the following districts:
- Volume I. Bromley Registration District
- Volume III. Deptford St Paul & St Nicholas
- Volume IV. Lewisham Registration District
- Volume V. Dartford Registration District.

Bromley Settlement Papers 1747-87; 1816-31. NW Kent FHS. **1 Microfiche**

- This index covers a number of parishes in the Bromley area.

Charlton-next-Woolwich, St Lukes, Marriages (1562-1837) **Microfiche : 6906400**

- Computer printout of marriages for those years. Alphabetically arranged and taken from Bishop's Transcripts.

Sheerness, Spears family **Microfiche : 6091363**

- A list of 3 documents related to the Spears family. Only a brief description is provided.

Stephen Rouse Diaries (1767-1814) **Microfiche : 6091489**

- Stephen Rouse was the parish clerk of Sheppey, Kent over the above years. This fiche gives a brief overview of the diaries and associated volumes.

Sheerness, The White Chapel. Wesleyan, Births or Christenings. (1798-1837)

1 Microfiche

Rochester, St Nicholas, Marriages (1624-1876)

Rochester St Nicholas, Births or Christenings (1624-1875)

Greenwich St Alphage, Marriages (1615-1659-1801-1837)

Greenwich St Alphage, Births or Christenings (1615-1660-1801-1966)

LANCASHIRE

Hindley, Births or Christenings (1698-1859)

Microfiche : 6904183

- Computer printout of births or christenings for those years. Alphabetically arranged.

Warrington

6 Microfiche : 6909446 and 4 Microfiche 6909447

Trade Directory Reprints 1818-1888. AA Todd (compiler)

Book 0123

- Includes the towns of Ramsbottom, Edenfield Holcombe, Tottington, Walmersley and Shuttleworth only.

1851 Surname Index. Manchester & Lancashire FHS, 1984-1988. 11 volumes.

- Surname indexes for Manchester. Note that the Centre does not have Volumes 1 & 8

Books 0260-0268

- Vol 2. Market Street Sub-District

Book 0260

- Vol 3. London Road Sub-District

Book 0261

- Vol 4. St Georges Sub-District

Book 0262

- Vol 5. Ancoats Sub-District

Book 0263

- Vol 6. Deansgate Sub-District

Book 0264

- Vol 7. Cheetham & Fallsworth Sub-District

Book 0265

- Vol 9. Dudsbury & Ardwick Sub-District

Book 0266

- Vol 10. Chorlton upon Medlock Sub-District

Book 0267

- Salford

Book 0268

- London Rd

4 Microfiche

Liverpool Roman Catholic Cemeteries, burials (1859-1989). Liverpool RC Cemeteries Board, 1990.

- Fiche are divided into two sets, indexed by surname (set 1) and cemetery (set, 2).
- Set 1 - Alphabetical surname index to burials in Roman Catholic Cemeteries in Liverpool, including cemetery, plot location and date. **28 Microfiche 6085339**
- Set 2 - Index to burials in Roman Catholic Cemeteries in Liverpool, arranged by cemetery then plot number. Best used in conjunction with the set 1. Transcript details of tombstones are included. **58 Microfiche 6085340-41**

Marriage Bonds, Deaneries of Lonsdale, Kendal, Furness & Copeland. (Archdeaconry of Richmond)

- Marriage Bonds (1648-1722)

Microfiche : 6072980-81

- Marriage Bonds (1723-1734)

Microfiche : 6072986-87

- Marriage Bonds (1734-1738)

Microfiche : 6072989

- Marriage Bonds (1739-1745)

Microfiche : 6073006

Newchurch in Rossendale, Births or Christenings (1653-1853) **2 Microfiche : 6904271**

Newchurch in Rossendale, Marriages (1654-1845) **2 Microfiche : 6904272**

Lincoln Spalding, Marriages Index A-Z. **2 Microfiche : 6907956**

Blackburn Grammar School, Cheltham Society, New series 1909

- Vol. 66

2 Microfiche : 6072771

- Vol. 67

2 Microfiche : 6072772

- Vol. 68

2 Microfiche : 6072773

LINCOLNSHIRE

Bourne, Wesleyan Methodist, Births or Christenings A-Z (1814-1837)

1 Microfiche: 6908182

Holbeach, Bishops Transcripts, Births or Christenings (1561-1847)

3 Microfiche : 6907377

Holbeach, Bishops Transcripts, Marriages (1561-1847)

2 Microfiche : 6907378

Long Sutton, Bishops Transcripts, Births or Marriages (1561-1859)

3 Microfiche : 6907884

Wyberton Index, Births or Christenings (1561-1856)

1 Microfiche : 6903515

Market Deeping, Bishops Transcripts (100%) (1562-1836)

2 Microfiche : 6907802

Deeping St James, Bishops Transcripts (100%)(1562-1860)

2 Microfiche : 6907684

Frampton, Births or Marriages(1558-1875)

2 Microfiche : 6907368

Kirton in Holland, Births or Marriages (1561-1875)

Microfiche : 6907369

Cowbit, Bishops Transcripts (100%), Births or Marriages (1561-1846)

1 Microfiche : 6907578



**SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS
FROM THE COMMITTEE**