



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

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| Evening Meeting | 7.30pm 2 nd Thursday, February to December |
| Day Meeting: | 9.30am, 3 rd Thursday, February to November |
| Venue: | Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street |
| Postal Address: | PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt |
| Website: | www.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsq/ |
| Convenor: | Janice Price |
| Secretary: | Deb Beban HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz |
| Editor: | Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz |

COMING EVENTS

- 12 Feb: Probate calendars – Linda Cocks
19 Feb: Hanning Street, Wellington Chinese Community – Lynette Shum
12 Mar: Heidi Kuglin – Archway, NZ Archives
19 Mar: Bus trip Archives NZ - 9am pickup Petone Wharf (limit of 30 people)
09 Apr: Ken Scadden - What do I do with all this stuff?
16 Apr: Member Sessions - Photographs
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Evening meeting doors open 7 pm notices begin 7.30 pm speakers begin about 8 pm (approx 1 hour)

Day meeting doors open 9.30 am notices begin 10 am speaker begin about 10.30 am (approx 1 hour)

12 Feb: Probate calendars – Linda Cocks

The National Probate Calendars are an annual list of wills proved and administrations granted in England and Wales from 1858 to the present day. If your ancestors had property in England or Wales I might be able to help you. (And you don't need to be rich to have your will probated or letters of administration granted. Some estates are so small you'd wonder it didn't cost more for the lawyers than the estate was worth.)

But there's more to them than meets the eye. Have you found someone in the death index who is right name right place right age but not sure they are yours? Or can't find a death for someone because they probably died overseas? All these questions and more MAY be answered by the National Probate Calendars.

But wait, there's more. Want to know someone's full name and all you can find are pesky initials? Come and hear about what buried treasures you can find in this marvellous resource. Be there 12 Feb! - Linda

19 Feb: Hanning Street, Wellington Chinese Community – Lynette Shum

Wellington's China town with both eyes open. Listen and learn about the early Chinese community of Hanning Street, Wellington.

Research can be undertaken 7 days a week at the Petone Library during their opening hours. The Petone library have plenty of long-term parking. The NZSG Hutt branch library books will only be able to be taken out by branch members.

Evening meetings are now on the second Thursday of the month

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Nobody can borrow from our resources without the membership card which will be available for collection at our meeting on Thursday. Membership cards must be shown to the Petone Library staff if members wish to borrow our own branch resources outside branch meeting hours!

2009 SPEAKERS PROGRAMME - WE WELCOME BRANCH MEMBERS IDEAS

Please let Lynly or your committee know if you or any members of the Hutt Branch would like to give a presentation and/or if anyone has a particular speaker they would like us to invite to talk at our branch meetings.

NEXT MONTH DAY EVENT - 19 March 2009

FULL DAY BUS TRIP TO ARCHIVES NZ WELLINGTON

The Bus will depart Petone Wharf 9am sharp arriving 9.30am at Archives NZ. The return bus trip will depart Archives NZ at 2pm sharp arriving back at Petone Wharf around 2.30pm

- When you arrive everyone is to place their bags in lockers
- A staff member perhaps Heidi Kuglin will give a short presentation about Archives NZ.
- Donal Raethel and his Staff will then organise two groups limited to 15 people per group and begin a tour of Archives NZ.
- For those who are not in the tour group you will have the opportunity to explore the exhibition at Archives NZ or do some research
- Some member may wish to visit to National Library of NZ as in March they will be celebrating "Family History month".
- Everyone is to make their own arrangement for lunch and/or refreshments.

NOTE: The charge of \$6 is to be paid in full before the trip so please make sure your name is on the list.

REMEMBER: The bus is limited to 40 people and the limit for the tours is 30 people

Look forward to seeing you all

MARCH 2009 IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

presented by NZSG Branches & National Library

In Wellington, Family History Month in March 2009 will be a month-long, every-day event. National Library and the four Wellington local NZSG Branches* - Hutt, Kilbirnie, Porirua and Wellington - are collaborating on a full programme based at National Library, with guest speakers, displays and information desks, meet the experts, plus tours of National Library, ArchivesNZ, National Film Archives, Wellington Central Library and Wellington City Archives.

Themes

Each week's programme will have a theme around which activities will be based:

2 – 7 March – Introduction to Family History - Getting started

9 – 14 March – New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific

16 – 21 March – UK, Ireland, and other

23 – 28 March – Getting it all together, and special topics (Military, Adoptions, Shipping etc)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Every Wednesday evening in March in the National Library Auditorium (Lower Ground Floor, enter from Aitken St)

5:30pm Drinks & Nibbles

6 – 7pm Speakers

4th Jan Gow - Introduction to Family History. Jan is a leading NZ genealogist and writer for NetGuide

11th Jock Phillips- History v. Genealogy. Jock is a writer, historian and Editor of the Te Ara NZ Encyclopedia

18th Panel - Doing overseas research from NZ. Maureen West, Pen Brown, Deb Beban, Allan Penney. Panellists are members of NZSG, known for their experience in researching and recording their family histories.

25th John MacGibbon - Writing & Publishing your Family History. John is a family historian, writer and publisher.

DISPLAYS AND HELP:

Every Monday 12:10pm-2pm, repeated the following Saturday 10am – 12pm

In the National Library Conference Room (Lower Ground Floor, next to the Cafeteria)

2nd Getting started

9th New Zealand, Australia, Pacific

16th UK, Ireland Europe, other

23rd Topics – Military, Adoptions, Shipping, Publishing

TOURS OF NATIONAL LIBRARY

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am and **Wednesdays** at 1:30pm. Week One: Introductory tours of National Library Reference section including Family History resources, Alexander Turnbull Library, Manuscripts and the Newspaper room.

In the following weeks, tours of the Family History Section related to the theme of the week.

FRIDAY TOURS

Tours to other Wellington Repositories:

6th 10am at ArchivesNZ - 10 Mulgrave St

13th 10am at National Film Archives - 84 Taranaki St

20th 10am at Wellington City Council Archives - 28 Barker St

27th 10am at Wellington Central Library - 65 Victoria St

Meet the Experts

As well as all the above, from 10am – 4pm every day part of the National Library Family History Section will be set aside so you can come and chat to one of a team of experienced family historians. They will be available to help you with that brickwall, find you someone with your own special interest to talk to, discuss how you set up and organise your files, and help you track through your problems.

And of course the NZSG/FamilySearch Microfilm Service at National Library will continue to be in full operation all that month to help you pin down that elusive relative by ordering in a FamilySearch microfilm!

LEVIN BRANCH NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS Cordially invites you to:

RESEARCH DAY

Saturday, 14 March 2009, 10am to 4pm

St John's Methodist Church Hall Kent Street, Levin

Entry is \$5. Tea & Coffee provided Bring your own lunch.

There will be a raffle and sales Table.

- ✓ [Jenny Martin](#), Lower North Island Irish Interest Group Is coming!!
- ✓ [Pen Brown](#), Wellington Scottish Interest Group will be here!!
- ✓ [Peter Nash](#), NZSG Executive Officer will be bringing the NZ Gazette searchable index. This fantastic resource has the official Government newspapers 1840-2004 on laptop which is fully searchable by surname and /or place(s).
- ✓ [Dawn Chambers](#) will be on hand to help you with Pandora's Box.

Levin Branch resources include:

- ◆ Microfiche - NZ BDMs - NZ Electoral Rolls - Overseas
- ◆ CDs - NZSG Index v5 Library Edition - NZSG Marriage Index 1836 - 1956
- ◆ Newspapers - Levin Chronicle Index to 1939
- ◆ Local Cemeteries - Headstone and Burial Records
- ◆ 2nd NZEF Nominal Rolls 1940 - 1948
- ◆ Wairarapa Times Age Card Index
- ◆ Reference books

(Too numerous to mention all)

Help with your research enquiries will be available. Beginners are very welcome. Share a day with other enthusiasts and you might even find your elusive ancestor.

For further information:

Levin@genealogy.org.nz

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzllbsg/>

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

From 25 January 2009 the BDM Indexes will no longer be sold or maintained by the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, Department of Internal Affairs. Sales of the Indexes have now ceased.

The removal of indexes from sale is a requirement of the Birth, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 1995 (the Act), which came into force on 25 January 2009.

The Act also provides that "historical information" (as defined by section 78G of the ACT) may be made available by the Registrar-General via the Internet. www.dia.govt.nz It is proposed that this service will be made available as close to 25 January 2009 as possible. This service will offer enhanced information that is not currently available on the indexes.

While the indexes are being removed from sale, individuals and organisations who currently hold index information will be able to continue using that information – subject, of course, to the Crown copyright and New Zealand Privacy Act restrictions that currently apply.

However, it is now an offence for any person to publish index information unless the information relates to the person publishing it, or if the person to whom it relates has given permission for it to be published, or the information is “historical information” (as defined below) or could not reasonably be expected to identify any particular person due to its form.

These restrictions also apply to any information published on “member-only” websites or internal “intranet” sites. Index information that is currently published on the Internet, and that does not comply with the requirements above, must be removed within 14 days of the Act coming into force – i.e. Sunday February 7th 2009.

Any breach of these new legislative requirements is punishable, upon summary conviction, by a fine of up to \$50,000 (which could make your family history research very expensive indeed!)

HISTORICAL BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES INFORMATION as defined by Section 78G of the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Act 1995

Historical information is:

- Births that occurred at least 100 years ago
- Still-births that occurred at least 50 years ago
- Marriages and Civil Unions that occurred at least 80 years ago
- Changes of name for overseas born people – if they were born at least 100 years ago
- Deaths of people who died at least 50 years ago or who were born at least 80 year ago

AFFHO Congress 2009 – review – by Graeme McVerry

The AFFHO Congress in Auckland was a brilliant start to genealogy for the year for a number of Hutt Valley Branch members. The 4 days each offered 2 plenary sessions (keynote speakers) followed by the choice of 8 parallel streams, half lectures and half workshops, providing plenty of interest for all.

There's a lot new coming from Family Search and the Family History Library. As well as a rapid expansion of online indexing, digital copies of original documents are becoming available for online viewing. There is also an analogue to Wikipedia, the FamilySearch Wiki, providing a myriad of information of interest to genealogists.

Elaine Collins, project manager for the 1911 UK census that had just been released on-line the week leading into the congress, gave her presentation by video link. It is a pay-per-record site, www.1911census.co.uk A new feature is that you can see a scan of the household schedules filled in by your relatives, rather than as recorded by an enumerator. A few counties in the north and Wales are not yet complete, but are not far off. Some of the features are not yet activated, but you can return to records you have paid for at no extra charge when they become available.

There was a strong stream on Irish genealogy. John Grenham presented a keynote address on Irish placenames and surnames, as well as two other addresses on Census substitutes and Irish Loan Fund records. Added to that was a packed out workshop on online sources for Irish genealogy, including the website www.irishtimes.com/ancestor that he is closely involved with. And then he was one of the experts for two evenings of speed genealogy, each two hours worth of 10 minute consultations. Another Irish workshop was given by Sherry Irvine, entitled *Irish Church Records: Guaranteeing a complete search*, but as she pointed out the strategy can be applied to any region. The theme was to first search what records are available for an area, through the Family History Library Catalogue, National Archives, GENUKI, National Libraries, Google Books, WorldCat, etc., as well as specific regional sites, such as PRONI, FIANNA and the Irish Family History Library. Geraldene O'Reilly gave an interesting New Zealand case study, for the family of Peter Grace who arrived in Auckland around 1841. Jennifer Harrison from Australia talked on *More than maps: the Ordnance*

Survey in Ireland. As well as the Ordnance Survey Memoirs series, she highly recommended the less well-known Ordnance Survey Letters.

Other sessions that I attended included: Graham Langton on records of immigration to NZ, excellent as usual; Clark Stiles on Papers Past, an interesting insight to the ongoing process; David Hey on English apprenticeship records; Herb Farrant on the first NZEF in France and Belgium; and Chris Watts on UK Great War records.

The comprehensive conference proceedings (over 400 pages) have been purchased by the branch.

A MUCH MARRIED ANCESTOR from geneologue.com

Wilanne Stangel spotted an Ancestry.com message board posting about her dad, William J. Stangel.

"It was about a 3-year-old listing. It was a man who was looking for information about his father, William James Stangel."

Her response to Rolf "K.C." Stangel led to the realization that William Stangel had fathered them by different mothers. In the more than four years since the discovery, the Stangels have located two more half-siblings they hadn't known about and found records of at least 10 marriages involving their father, who died in 1974.

MARITAL PROPERTY from geneologue.com

Betsy Greer's husband was also her slave. Greer composed her will in 1851. Less than a year later she died and her husband passed through probate to her heirs.

"In the name of God, Amen, I, Betsy Greer, a free Negro woman of Greenville District, do make and publish this my last will and testament," the preamble reads. "In the first place, I give and bequeath my husband Abram whom I bought from Col. J.W. Duckett of Newberry District to our son George for and during his life and after his death to such of his sons as the said Abram may choose..."

"I wish him my slave as he is but at the same time the natural and proper head of the family to have the management and control" of the property, Greer's will states, "as long as he may live."

Such arrangements could lead to awkward situations. Dilsey Pope of Columbus, Georgia, a free woman of color, owned her husband. After they quarreled, she sold him to a white slaveowner; he refused to sell him back once the couple had reconciled.

EXTRACTED FROM QUAIN EPITAPHS by Susan Darling Safford

Beneath this stone our baby lays
He neither crys or hollers.
He lived just one and twenty days,
And cost us forty dollars.

Here lie two grandsons of
John Hancock, first signer of the
Declaration of Independence.
(Their names are respectively Geo. M.
and John H. Hancock)
and their eminence hangs on
their having had a grandfather.

Here lies my wife a sad slatterned shrew
If I said I regretted her I should lie too.

Here lies the body of Sarah Sexton
She was a wife that never vexed one.
But I can't say as much for the one at the next stone.

Here lies John Higley whose father and mother were drowned in their passage from
America. Had they both lived they would have been buried here.

A man had cremated four wives, and the ashes, kept in four urns, being overturned and
fallen together, were buried at last and had this droll inscription:

Stranger pause and shed a tear,
For Mary Jane lies buried here.
Mingled in a most surprising manner
With Susan, Marie and portions of Hannah.

ON THE INTERNET

- www.cuil.com is the search engine developed by the original people who built google
 - The Irish Civil Registration Indexes up to 1958 are now available on FamilySearch. This includes non-Catholic marriages from 1845 and full birth, marriage and death indexes from 1864. There was "one Ireland" up to the end of 1921 and then separate GROs in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland. For the post-1922 period only the index entries for the Republic are available.
<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/#p=2;t=searchable;c=1408347>
 - www.dia.govt.nz - New Zealand Births Deaths and Marriages – go to 'Forms' for application forms for certificates and proof of identity etc.
 - <http://www.newplymouthnz.com/AtoZOfCouncilServices/CemeteriesAndCrematorium/CemeterySearch.htm> - for Taranaki Cemetery and Crematorium records
 - <http://maps.google.co.nz/streetview> – drive past your old house (or your new one) without getting into the car!
 - <http://ndpbeta.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home> Aussie Newspaper site. This website is in its early stages but is worth a look – Jan
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BEGINNER GENEALOGY – and reminders for the ADVANCED GENEALOGISTS

GENEALOGY – each of us belongs to and is part of the history of our country. Where do you fit into the historical sceme of things?

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE is a good way to find out just that – The thrill of the chase!

YOUR ANCESTORS

- Why did they leave their homeland?
- Where did they come from?
- When did they arrive?
- Who did they leave behind?
- What did they do when they got here?

HAVE YOU ASKED?

- What was your grandmother's maiden name?

- How many brothers and sisters did she have? Names?
 - When did she marry your grandfather?
 - Where did they live (address) when your partent was born?
 - How old was your grandfather when you were born?
 - Have (or did) you ask your grandparents to tell you about their parents and their relatives?
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HAPPY NEW YEAR