



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

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 5040
Website:	www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz
Convenor:	Janice Price
Secretary:	Deb Beban HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor:	Suzanne Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS

- 09 Jul: Warwick Johnston – Lower Hutt's lost cemeteries & how we deal with them
16 Jul: Library Researching the CD and Scrapbook resources of the Hutt Branch NZSG at
Petone Library by Deborah Beban and Lois Bartlett
- 13 Aug: Gazettes and Government Publications - Dawn Chambers
20 Aug: To be advised
- 10 Sep: Jason Darwin – The New Zealand Electronic Text Centre
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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 begin about 10.30am (approx
1 hour). Please note the Library does not open until 10am.

PETONE MAYOR STUDY

At the February meeting the Hutt Branch committee agreed to start researching the genealogy of a former Petone Mayor and report our findings to members at the monthly meetings during the year. This way we could show new members how to research and give other branch members the chance to share their research skills and knowledge.

This month Alistair will tell us about what he has found out about Annie Huggan on the 'Papers Past' website.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Nobody can borrow from our resources without the new [blue](#) membership card which will be available for collection at our meeting. Membership cards must be shown to the Petone Library staff if members wish to borrow our own branch resources outside branch meeting hours!

Research can be undertaken 7 days a week at the Petone Library during their opening hours. Opening hours are 10:00am to 5:30pm. 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.

NOW YOU CAN ACCESS ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION FROM YOUR HOME!

As a member of Hutt City Libraries their databases give you free access to Ancestry Library on the internet.

To have free access to the Ancestry Library Edition, you need to be a Hutt City Libraries member and to have a Libraries PIN (Personal Identifier Number).

You already a member but do not have a PIN?

If you are a member but do not have a Libraries PIN, ask staff at any of the eight libraries, it only takes a couple of minutes to set up.

You are a Hutt City Resident but not a Hutt City Libraries member?

If you are not a member and you are Hutt City resident then you can [join online now](#) by selecting this hyperlink, accepting the conditions and completing your details including the PIN number.

You can also join online though the library website <http://library.huttcity.govt.nz/> click on 'go to catalogue', scroll down the menu on the left hand side, then click on 'join Online' and get a pin at the same time.

To gain access to Ancestry

You can select this link <http://library.huttcity.govt.nz:2048/login?url=http://ancestrylibrary.proquest.com> then number from your library card and your PIN.

You can also access this link from the Catalogue page select Websites and Databases and search for Ancestry – at the bottom of the returned entry under Holdings select the hyperlink Find census, birth, marriage death records and more – this will bring you to the Database login in page and login using number from your library card and your PIN.

GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Tutor: Lynne Blake, Educator, Family Research Centre NZSG

This class is designed to help both beginners, and those who have been researching their family history for many years. It is an introduction to (or a reminder of) research skills when researching your family history. Although many people now use the internet as their primary research tool it is still important to have an understanding of the development of these records and the different research methods, so you get the best out of your research time.

Information such as

- Where do you start to answer your questions?
- What are you looking for and why? (What are your questions?)
- Where might you find what you are looking for?
- How to record this information when you find it.
- Tips on where to file all this information.

We also explore using your computer

- What genealogical programmes are available?
- How to use them for recording?

Then we look at what to do when you have all that information.

- Share it on the net?
- Write you 'Family History' book?
- Organise a family reunion?
- Or just enjoy the hunt?

When: Sat, Sun 19 and 20 September 9am-5pm each day

Cost: \$40 for the 2 days

Where: Masonic Hall, 10 Tararua Street, Paraparaumu

Enquiries Kapiti@genealogy.org.nz

ALL WELCOME

NZSG, SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP OF GREATER WELLINGTON

Scottish Research at Thompson Block, St Orans College

550 High Street, Lower Hutt

Sunday 9th August 2009, 1-4 pm

Wee door charge \$5

We will have our own folder resources for Scottish family history research, with microfiche, some CDs and photocopier available.

Selection of resources from Auckland with emphasis on deaths, burials, cemeteries, and headstone inscriptions.

If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along. Do label with your name.

All welcome

Contact: Pen Brown penbrown@globe.net.nz



OUR NEWSPAPER HERITAGE - <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

The *New Zealand Gazette* was New Zealand's first newspaper. The *Gazette* was first published in London under the auspices of the New Zealand Company on 21 August 1839. A revised edition was issued a fortnight later. The second issue was published after the first colonists arrived, on 18 April 1840, in Wellington making it the first newspaper printed in New Zealand.

Newspapers were established in most places soon after settlement. By 1950 there had been about 650 newspapers published throughout New Zealand. Many lasted no longer than a few weeks or months. Some however are still going. Most of today's daily newspapers began publication in the 1860s or 70s.

Newspaper publication is considered to have peaked in 1910 when there were 67 daily newspapers; compared with 23 today. Competition from broadcast media has been the main reason for their decline. The future of the daily newspapers is now under threat from the Internet. Signs are that daily newspaper will decline. However as daily papers have declined there has been a rise in local or community newspapers. There are currently about 170 of these.

See also AFFHO congress proceedings 2009, Papers Past Delivering New Zealand's Newspapers by Clark Stiles (in our library)

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

These can be the bane of every genealogist's life. We all have boxes of yellow curling clippings which document important events in the lives of our families. So what to do with them?

Ask yourself what is the most important thing about the newspaper clippings? Is it the medium which holds the information or the information itself? I hope your answer is the information!

These days information can be stored in so many different ways: on paper, on microfilm, on microfiche, in a photograph or more recently digitally on a disc, CD-Rom, DVD or computer hard drive. I should emphasise that the last four digital storage media are less stable than the first four types, under ideal storage conditions.

Going back to the beginning, please remember when taking clippings, do yourself and future generations a favour and make sure you put references on them as to where they come from. There is nothing worse than finding a clipping with no references on them. In such cases, some clues can sometimes be gathered from surrounding articles or the typeface of the articles as to the date and source of the clipping.

In a former incarnation as an archivist/curator in the Wellington Maritime Museum, I used to despair of the boxes of clippings received which were not sourced and dated – in many cases they were in fact next to useless.

It must be remembered that unless it is a very rare or unique newspaper there are most likely to be hard copies and microfilm copies of the newspaper held in the National Library in Wellington or in a regional museum, library or newspaper office.

Currently newspapers (and going back to about the 1880s) are printed on ground wood fibre paper and thus carry within them seeds of their own destruction in that the process of creating the paper means that the paper is very acidic and will eventually deteriorate. Ironically, many of the nineteenth century newspapers were made of rag paper and this tends to last much longer. You only have to leave yesterday's paper out in the sun for a few hours to see the result.

Therefore it is OK to take photographs of newspaper clippings (all right, you can keep them if they are very special, but they will eventually deteriorate) or destroy the original – making sure that you have written the reference on the photocopy and if it turns yellow or starts to deteriorate in some other way, photocopy it again and it will be good for many more years! It is possible to buy acid-free paper onto which to photocopy your clippings, but the difference made in protecting the information is probably negligible!

One thing to be aware of when using newspapers as a source of information. Newspapers are not always accurate in terms of names and dates. I have been constantly surprised during my career in archives and museums by people quoting from a newspaper as if it was Gospel. When asked, do you believe every thing you read in the newspapers today, the answer is invariably no! Well then, why would you believe it just because it was written 50 or 100 years ago? Reporters are only human (though some would say not even human) and they get things wrong. So of course do government officials, but on a less regular basis. If it comes to a choice in believing a newspaper or the public record i.e. Births, deaths and marriage records, etc. I'd go with the official record every time!

See also AFFHO congress proceedings 2009 (in our library)

READING THE PAPERS – from Ancestors Magazine April 09 – by Chris Pomery

Genealogists documenting their family trees usually focus first on key events such as births, marriages and deaths. But these records are just the tip of the family history iceberg. Hidden under the waterline in the mass of historical documents, which you can use to identify and understand your ancestors are millions of newspaper records

Most existing national newspapers of note now have a searchable online archive, and for some this includes everything from their earliest issues to yesterday's paper. There is also a range of online aggregators pooling historical newspaper content and making it available online: major projects complimented by individuals and groups painstakingly transcribing content page by page.

Some of these historical transcriptions are complete, but many are not. And although a great deal of this content is free, a significant amount requires you to subscribe or to use a university library.

The best place to start is the national library. The British Library (BL) maintains the British Newspaper Library in North London which has copies of almost all newspapers, journals and magazines published in the UK and Ireland from the 17th century to the present day. There are 920,000 journal and newspaper titles: an increasing number of which are being digitalised.

A number of online giants are actively adding database records through its News Archive Partner Program. Part of Google's strategy is to acquire existing sites and most recently PaperofRecord.com – a pioneering Canadian site which digitised records of the *Toronto Star*. Google News searches multiple databases of newspapers and periodicals, and is particularly useful for mid-20th century sources, but covers some 19th century newspapers.

The traditional genealogy portals host huge numbers of transcribed newspaper records within their paid subscriptions

Ancestry claims more than 16 million papers from over 1,000 different newspapers across the USA, the UK and Canada dating back to the 1700s. It has a total of 1,278 titles listed, the largest of which has 44 million records and the smallest just 60. The majority of these titles are non-UK; only 24 are in Europe, including 4 million records from the Times (1788-1833) , plus several Scottish papers.

The Irish Newspaper Archive covers many of Ireland's leading national, regional and out of print titles, from the 1700s to present.

Finally, if you want to find out what's being published right now, you can use Google Alerts. This is not a searchable index but an automatic daily scan of contemporary online newspapers for any keyword, for example your surname, you provide. Any hits are sent to you by email making this an essential biographical indexing tool.

DIRECTORY

British Library – www.bl.uk

Gazettes Online – www.gazettes-online.co.uk

National Library of Wales – www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=241

National Library of Ireland – www.nli.ie/en/intro/what-we-have.aspx

NCSE – www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html

ILEJ – www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej

Richard Heaton – <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilleul/ZOtherPapers/Index.html>

Newspaper Abstracts – www.newspaperabstracts.com

West Briton – <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wbritonad>

Old Mersey times – www.old-merseytimes.co.uk

The Cambrian – www.swansea.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=5673
NewsUK – www.newsuk.co.uk/about/content_list.jsp
Google: News Archive Partner Program – <http://news.google.com/archivesearch>
Google Books – <http://books.google.co.uk>
National Library of Australia – www.nla.gov.au/npapers
The British Colonist – <http://britishcolonist.ca>
Ireland Old News – www.irelandoldnews.com
Ancestry: Newspaper Collection – <http://search.ancestry.com/search/CardCatalogue.aspx?cat=38>
World Vital Records – www.worldvitalrecords.com/contentlisting.aspx?cat=newsarch
Footnote – www.footnote.com/documents
Genealogy Bank – www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/newspapers/sourcelist
Accessible Archives – www.accessible.com/accessible/archives.jsp
Newspaper Archive – www.newspaperarchive.com/Genealogists.aspx
The [Manchester] guardian (and Observer) – <http://archive.guardian.co.uk>
The Scotsman – <http://archive.scotsman.com>
The Times (and Sunday Times) – <http://archive.timesonline.co.uk>
Daily Express and Daily Mirror – www.ukpressonline.co.uk
Irish News Archive – www.irishnewsarchive.com
The Scotsman – <http://archive.scotsman.com/pricing.cfm>
Gale – www.gale.cengage.com/DigitalCollections/products/ukperiodicals/
Google Alerts - www.google.com/alerts?hl=en

MORE ON THE INTERNET

- LATEST RELEASE OF PAPERS PAST IS LIVE!

The latest release of Papers Past has been launched. The site has achieved one of its biggest milestones to date: all newspapers are now fully searchable.

More newspaper titles from across the country are also available, including increased coverage of the Canterbury region with the *Ashburton Guardian*, *Ellesmere Guardian* and the *Oxford Observer* and *Canterbury Democrat*.

Other additions include the *NZ Truth*, *Otautau Standard* and *Wallace County Chronicle*, *Victoria Times*, and *Kai Tiaki*, the journal of the NZ Nurses' Organisation. The date range for the *Poverty Bay Herald* has also been expanded to cover 1879 to 1920.

The overall date range for newspapers in Papers Past has increased too and now covers 1839 to 1932. <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

- THE AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPERS DIGITISATION PROGRAM

The Australian Periodical Publications 1840-45. It says 1840-45, but for some publications there are more years to be found.

<http://www.nla.gov.au/ferg/browselist.html>

- VICTORIA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE ONLINE ARCHIVE

Historic Gazettes (1836 to 1997)

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>

This online archive of historic government gazettes provides access to over 160 years of official information published in and about Victoria. It contains images of every relevant page in the *Victoria Government Gazette* produced since 1836, as well as searchable indexes for each publication.

First published in the earliest days of the colony, the *Victoria Government Gazette (1836 to 1997)* documents the official notifications of government decisions and legal actions to other governments, government agencies and the general public.

What gazettes are on this site?

New South Wales Government Gazette (1836-1851)

Port Phillip Government Gazette (1843-1851)

Victoria Government Gazette (1851-1997)

What's in the Gazette?

You can find information about land transactions, court notices, government appointments, bankruptcies, proclamation of acts, deregistration of medical practitioners, statistics, tenders, unclaimed letters and monies, reward notices, and more.

Submitted by Carol Ann Mason

- FAMILYSEARCH EXPANDS CANADIAN CENSUS COLLECTION

The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

Four pre-1900 censuses available for free online

TORONTO—FamilySearch, in partnership with Ancestry.ca and the Libraries and Archives Canada (LAC), announced today the addition of the 1851, 1861, and 1871 Canada Census indexes to its online collection. The new indexes can be searched for free at www.FamilySearch.org (click Search Records, and then click Record Search pilot).

FamilySearch published the 1881 Canada Census previously online and plans to add the 1891 Canada Census shortly.

- ASHBURTON DISTRICT FAMILY HISTORY GROUP WEBSITE

Ashburton have finally got the website up and running.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlasfhg/Index.htm>