



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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

10 May: National Monuments & War Graves – Margaret Marks and then the AGM
17 May: **9am** Visit to the Hutt Archives - meet at Unit 6, 487 Hutt Road, Lower Hutt
14 Jun: Making Requests from the Privacy and Official Information Acts – Anita & Alistair
21 Jun: Titanic - Caroline Aliaga-Kelly
12 Jul: Titanic - Caroline Aliaga-Kelly
19 Jul: Researching Military Records - Christine Edney
09 Aug: Researching Military Records - Christine Edney
16 Aug: Child Evacuees UK WW2 - Shonagh Downs

Evening meeting doors open 7 pm notices begin 7.30 pm speakers begin about 8 pm
(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 MONTH'S EVENTS

Evening Meeting

Margaret Marks is from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. She is in charge of looking after all the War graves of New Zealanders in New Zealand and overseas.

Annual General Meeting (see next page)

Morning Meeting

This is a reminder about our visit to Hutt Archives on the morning of Thursday 17 May. There will be 20 in the group and we will be divided into two groups of ten. The address is 487 Hutt Road (Birchwood Complex) Unit 6 (at the rear of the building)

The building is a short distance from the Western/Lower Hutt railway station, on the same side of the road. There should be some parking available within the grounds. Please make your own way to the archives but if transport is required, please let me know. As the Hutt Archives staff have a meeting at 11am, our visit will now be from 9am to 10:30am

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE EARLIER STARTING TIME OF 9AM

BRANCH AGM NOTICE

7.30pm 10 May 2012 Meeting Room Petone Library

Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of 2011 AGM
- Matters arising
- Correspondence
- Convenor's report
- Treasurer's report

Election of Officers

- Convenor
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee

General Business

CONVENOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2012

To Members of the Hutt Valley Branch New Zealand Society of Genealogists:

The Committee:

Convenor Alistair Hardy
Secretary Terry Stock
Treasurer Suzanne Sutton-Cummings
 Graeme Mc Verry
 Diane Stinson
 Anita West

The Committee has worked harmoniously throughout the year. There has been a high level of attendance at meetings during the year.

I again acknowledge the efforts of our Secretary, Terry Stock, who manages the high volume of Minutes, emails and correspondence which the position generates, as well as his attendance at various meetings on behalf of the Branch.

To Suzanne, our Treasurer, our thanks for another dedicated year with our finances. Our financial situation is both strong and well managed.

My thanks to Diane for her efforts in chairing the Thursday morning meetings and for organising the various rosters. Diane has also taken over the role of co-ordinating our speakers and visits to places of interest.

Graeme McVerry has managed our Library and, together with Diane, has maintained liaison with the Petone Library staff.

During the year we co-opted Anita West and Francis O'Leary to the Committee.

Unfortunately Francis was unable to continue his role due to ill health.

Membership

As at 3 April our membership was 179, including 3 life members. We were pleased to welcome 12 new members. Final numbers will be available soon; we hope a number of colleagues will renew their membership.

We propose that the Annual Subscription for the year 2013/14 remain unchanged from 2012/13.

Speakers Programme

I acknowledge the work of Lynly Yates in 2011 in organising the Speakers programme and the Members' Challenge. In the later part of the year she undertook to illustrate some of the various sources of information held on disk in our collection, using the Laptop.

Library Volunteers

I must thank our Library volunteers who staff the enquiry desk at the Petone Library on a regular basis. More volunteers are always welcome.

Communications

Our Editor, Suzanne, has produced 11 issues of "News and Views" covering a wide range of material. This is a fine effort on her part.

Carol Ann Mason has assisted the Committee by continuing in the role of Membership Secretary and webmaster, thereby providing members with advice as to events and issues.

Anita West began updating the Branch website recently.

Lower North Island Regional Group

We have attended most of the quarterly meetings held at Feilding where NZSG matters have been discussed; the constitutional proposals have been of particular interest.

Family History Month 2011

An ambitious programme of speakers, visits and an "Expo" were organised in August last to mark Family History Month. This year a more modest programme is being developed by the Wellington area branches.

Branch Open Day

I thank all who assisted at our Open day in late March. We have gained new members and we were able to assist most visitors, including our own members.

NZ Society of Genealogists

The Constitutional Review Committee is continuing its work to develop a new constitution, but progress will depend on the attitude of the incoming Council to be elected in June.

Members of the Committee made individual comments on the draft proposal.

Petone Heritage Centre

We thank the staff at the Petone Heritage Centre for their assistance during the year.

Summary

It has been a busy year and I thank all who have contributed to our branch activities.

Alistair Hardy

Convenor

Hutt valley Branch NZSG

VISITS TO TOTARA PARK FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

- 7-9pm Thursday 17 May 2012
- 28 Turon Crescent Totara Park

Mike Guest has arranged an evening visit for Thursday 17 May for a couple of hours from 7pm to 9pm.

PLEASE NOTE THE LATER TIME OF 7PM

SATURDAY AFTERNOON VISIT (Date to be arranged)

A further visit on a Saturday afternoon will be in three or four weeks' time.

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

- ✓ 10am -12pm
- ✓ Wednesdays – 23 May, 6 & 27 June, 4 & 25 July
- ✓ Saturdays – 9 June, 7 July

If there is anyone else interested in helping please contact Marie.

If you are new to genealogy or stuck on something, our team might be able to help you!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz

Anita is continuing on from Carol Ann with the website maintenance. Check it for upcoming events and other interesting information.

If you have any suggestions on what we could put on the site, do let Anita know.
huttvalley@genealogy.org.nz

WE NEED YOU AT NATIONAL LIBRARY

Branch and Interest Group members work a roster at National Library to operate the desk where people may order and read films borrowed from the LDS. This is a rewarding and satisfying volunteer commitment as you are helping other genealogists as well as having time to do your own research using Find My Past, Ancestry.com and many other databases as well as all the other resources available at National Library.

Volunteers choose the time slots they work – usually two three hour sessions per month. Choose between Monday to Friday 10am – 1pm and 1-4pm. Saturdays 9am-12.30pm. Full training is provided before you are asked to take over the desk.

National Library will soon be moving back to the Molesworth Street building with extended hours. We will then need to have two volunteer sessions on Saturdays. This means we will need volunteers on duty for approximately 50 three hour sessions per month. People are often unavailable for duty for various reasons eg sickness, hospital appointments, commitments to look after grandchildren, going on holiday etc. so the need is even greater than these statistics would indicate.

Everyone is trained by Marlene or Beverley to know the system, there actually isn't a lot to do, but the desk needs to be staffed, mostly just film orders and reader bookings taken – so think of the perfect excuse to have three lovely hours just pottering on websites with the chance to actually do your own research!

Have we any willing volunteers prepared to do duty time at the National Library? We already have a lot of volunteers but we do need more or can any of the already listed volunteers do more sessions.

THE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE ON THE NZSG VOLCANIC TAUPO – STEAMING AHEAD

This year's conference will be held in Taupo at the Wairakei Resort during Queens Birthday Weekend 1-4 June.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Nick Barrett – British author, broadcaster, historian and professional genealogist, well known for his work on the "Who do you think you are?" BBC television series.

Registration forms are available in the January/February issue of the New Zealand Genealogist or on the website - www.genealogy.org.nz

FIND MY PAST AT WELLINGTON LIBRARIES

This is to announce that Wellington City Libraries have taken out a library subscription to Find My Past to complement our subscription to www.Ancestry.com

Find my Past is split into region-based databases. The three we have subscribed to are...

- FindMyPast Australasia
- FindMyPast United Kingdom
- FindMyPast Ireland

The Find my Past subscription is similar to our Ancestry one in that you will need to be on a "free internet" computer within a public library (either the central Library or any branch

library) to gain access. It is slightly more restrictive than Ancestry in that where as that allows an unlimited number of users across the library network, Find my Past allows a maximum of five users for each of the three databases across all branches. Though this may seem to be a small number, looking at the data we have for Ancestry.com usage, we believe this should be enough for most of the time (though there may be an initial "spike" to begin with).

Like Ancestry, Find My Past can be accessed through the drop-down menu at the top of our MyGateway page (under "F"). A link on our genealogy page will follow soon.

<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/mygateway/>

Regards,
Gábor Tóth
Local & NZ History Specialist
Wellington City Libraries
65 Victoria Street
P.O. Box 1992
Wellington 6140
Ph: 04 - 803 8572

NATIONAL LIBRARY CHANGES

We have been provided with the following advice about the National Library in the lead up to the reopening:

- Friday 25 May 2012 Alexander Turnbull Library reading room closes at Archives New Zealand and reopens on 6 August in Molesworth Street.
 - Wednesday 25 July 2012 - Reading Room at 77 Thorndon Quay closes.
 - Monday 6 August 2012 - New Molesworth Street Reading Rooms will be open and all collections will be available.
 - From 6 August the opening hours at Molesworth Street will be 10am - 5pm Monday to Saturday (including Saturday afternoons!)
 - The full self help newspaper collection won't be available until the end of the year.
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FAMILY HISTORY MONTH 2012

- There will be guided tours of various repositories in and around Wellington and the Hutt Valley throughout the month.
 - There will be three speakers, 11 August 1-5pm, Connolly Hall, Guilford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington
 - Dame Kate Harcourt is the subject of Kapiti's YURU this year, with three shows, Thursday August 23, Southwards, Paraparaumu
 - Interest Group Day, 25 August 10am-4pm, Porirua's Branch's room at Pataka
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MEMBER'S INTEREST – Pat Maxwell

Hi, my name is Pat (Patricia) Maxwell. The following are Surnames and locations I'm researching. I have information (records and a few photographs) to share with anyone who might be associated, and would be more than grateful to have contact with anyone who has any information they would be willing to share.

Wigtownshire, Scotland. MAXWELL. BOYD. McDOWALL. DICKSON. CUBBIN or McCUBBIN. BLACK. WHIRK or McWHIRK. McCAIG. McTAGGERT.

Glasgow, Scotland. JONES. CUSICK.

Belfast, Northern Ireland. MAXWELL. CROWE. KERR. BOYD. DEVAN. HAINEY.

Co. Donegal, Ireland. JONES. McGLINCHY. DEVINE.

Austria. CROWE.

Lincolnshire, England. WISEMAN. BENTON. HEMMANT.

Norfolk, Suffolk, England. WISEMAN. ENEFER. MILES. BLAKE. LEEDER. MOUNTAIN. BROOK. BULLOCK. GOOCH. PAGE.

Northumberland and Westmorland, England. ANDERSON. AMORY. HOGARTH. WHARTON. BIRKETT. BEETHOM. DOCKRAY. CREYTON or CREIGHTON. AIREY. BATEMAN. BOWNESS. BULFIELD. DALLY.

TEN EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING A FAMILY TREE

1. Understand the size of your tree

The further back you go, the more ancestors you have to find. However, when you pick up their descendants coming forward, you could find thousands and thousands of family members. Early colonist couples who arrived in New Zealand in the 1840s might have three to four thousand descendants (incl spouses).

2. Focus your research effort

A popular approach is to take one branch of the family tree and follow it back as far as possible. You can also go sideways and try and record all the known branches of the family tree that are alive today – aunts uncles cousins etc.

3. Older records require more effort

As a general rule, go for the branches where it is easier, faster and cheaper to get the information you need. If you are new to genealogy, practice on the easier research first. The further back you go, the more the effort and skill required.

4. Talk to your relatives

Interview living relatives while you still have them! This includes distant relatives for example fourth and fifth cousins who, may be descendants of ancestors who came out to NZ in the 1840s.

5. See if someone has already done your family tree

The National Library has a collection of family histories worth searching through. Also ask family members and distant cousins. The internet is also a good place to look for someone who may have done a branch of your family tree.

6. Use libraries for internet search

Most of us can't afford a full subscription to Ancestry and FindmyPast but libraries are subscribing to these paid sites. Keep going back to these sites as more and more information is being added all the time.

7. Question all sources

Not all sources are created equal, and many sources (especially on the internet) are either questionable, downright wrong or a complete fabrication of someone's imagination. Don't assume everyone uses care and diligence when collecting genealogical information.

8. Keep good records

Unless you have a perfect memory, you will forget some of the finer details of some of your research. Therefore make sure you keep careful notes. Document all your sources and all of your work. Keeping a journal can be a simple and useful way to get started. It can also be quite infuriating getting a copy of a newspaper article or something and it has is no clue as to its source!

9. Be prepared for conflicts

It is common to come across conflicting information on the same individual e.g. A date of birth. Keeping careful records and questioning all sources will help sort out conflicting facts.

10. Have fun!

In summary, successful genealogists are the ones who go slow, focus their efforts, don't expect to find everything conveniently packaged for them on the internet, question all their sources and keep good records.

See also for more detail:

http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/ten_effective_strategies_for_building_a_family_tree_page1.html



A small part of an aerial photo taken in 1951 held by the Hutt Archives showing Normandale around about where Christina Grove is now. Normandale Road is on the bottom right hand corner of the photo and Pekanga Road is along the top right and curls around along the top of the photo.

THE INTERNET

- Baby Names - most popular male and female first names from 2004 to 2011. A link to Statistics New Zealand for names going back to 1999. Some names come in and out of fashion. A person called 'Muriel', for example, is likely to have been born sometime between about 1900 and 1930. The same still applies with modern names like 'Aaron' and 'Jack'. Figuring out when a given name was in fashion may help to pinpoint when and even where, that person was born. http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Services-Births-Deaths-and-Marriages-Most-Popular-Male-and-Female-First-Names?OpenDocument
 - Hitler's master race haunted by their past – This is an interesting but very sad story of Hitler's master race (blond hair, blue eyes etc) – an estimated 19,000 children born in occupied Norway and in Germany between 1935 and 1945, illegitimate, brought up in foster homes and 'lebensborn' homes, most of whom faced pitiless discrimination and were harassed, beaten and called 'Nazi swine' after WW2. When 40 survivors met in November 2006 in Wernigerode, Germany, they showed little aura of the supermen and women they were created to be. They were racked with the ordinary ailments of aging, some stooped, some portly, many dark-haired, plenty with poor vision and hearing impairments' <http://creation.com/hitlers-master-race-children-haunted-by-their-past>
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