

News & Views

November 2004; 22nd Year

Issue 218



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

Evening Meeting 7.30pm, 1st Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 9.30am, 3rd Thursday, February to November
Research Evening: 6.00pm, last Thursday each month. Library open
Venue: Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Co-ordinator: Sandra Greig
Secretary: Deb Beban
Treasurer: Janet Ketchell
Membership: Dianne Fitzgerald
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change and confirmation closer to the event)

04 Nov : Evening Meeting - Jonathan Hunt MP Speaker and then the AGM.
18 Nov : Morning Meeting - William Clark - How to do Research.
25 Nov : Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9:00pm for Members' Research.
02 Dec : Evening Meeting - Party Time!

EVENING MEETING - Thursday 4 November - Jonathan Hunt - 7:30pm start

The Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt MP and Speaker of the House, has been a member of the NZSG since its early days in West Auckland. He joined the NZSG in July 1968 and his membership number is 92!

His Topic is 'Reflections on Number 92'

AGM - Thursday 4 November - Immediately following our Speaker

Have your say on the current issues, analyse the contestants for the committee and cast your votes - (sorry, you can only vote if you are an NZSG member- them's the rules!)

However you don't have to be a member of anything to have supper afterwards - only a gold coin to drop into the tin.

MORNING MEETING - Thursday 18 November - William Clarke - How I do Research!

Be inspired! Be motivated! William's years of practical experience include New Zealand, English and a bit of Scottish research. William has developed 'a easy to fill in' 'easy to read' and 'many times photocopied' research sheet which others have found to be very useful.

SILVERSTREAM HOSPITAL MEDICAL BOOK

This very heavy book is now back in our library for a short time only for anyone to look at. It contains records dating from 1960 to about 1989. It has the names of the patients, religion, address, date of admin, date of discharge and comments. However, even though it says its a medical book on the front cover, the only medical condition it seems to mention is 'deceased'.

Lisa Bognuda is about one third of the way through indexing the book and will get the book back after the Christmas Party to continue her indexing over the Holiday period when she will have a bit more time on her hands. Once she has finished, she will hand the book and the index over to the Branch.

Horticulture - a great many family trees were started by grafting

FROM THE 2007 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Start thinking now about what you would like for the 2007 conference, even better write your ideas down as next year we will be asking for your ideas. At the February meeting we will give a short report on who is who and what is what. We have plenty of ideas but want you too to have your say as it is to be your conference!

WILLIAM'S TELEPHONE BOOK COLLECTION

William Clark has the complete set of Telecom's Wellington White Pages from 1982 to the latest. If you would like him to look up anyone for you, he would be happy to do it.

UPPER HUTT FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

The FHC closes Saturday 27th November 2004 and will not reopen again until 2nd February 2005. Orders for films will be accepted up to date of closing, however, as usual, no guarantee of when they will arrive. Enquiry's to FHC on 526 4259.

Mavis Pokia, the Director of Upper Hutt FHC and the librarians would like to wish all the patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike Guest

TIPS FOR PHOTOGRAPHING DIFFICULT HEADSTONES

When the lettering has disappeared, spray the area around the lettering with shaving foam . Then wipe over it with a squeegee . The lettering can be clearly photographed. The shaving cream washes off in the next shower of rain.

Gore June 2004

SLIP OF PAPER COULD HOLD THE KEY TO AN OLD MYSTERY - from the Tweed Daily News NSW Australia

<http://www.tweednews.com.au>

26/10/04 by Peter Caton

When Jaki Ruth decided to do a little volunteer work for the Uki and South Arm Historical Society, she had no idea the experience would open up a mystery dating back almost a century.

Society researcher Mary-Lee Connery discovered an old, folded slip of paper that was a 1950 copy of a marriage certificate bearing the name Cunningham, which had no obvious connection to Uki or the Tweed.

But Jaki, who had recently moved into the area, recognised the names, Norah and Reg Cunningham, who married in Devonport New Zealand in 1908, as her paternal grandparents.

"My jaw dropped for about three hours" she said. "I'm a Cunningham but we don't have any long-term relationship with this area."

She said Mrs Connery had been given the piece of paper some time ago with other material and was also at a loss as to its relevance to the Tweed.

Jaki said she had always understood her grandmother had, at the age of about 16, run off with her grandfather. But the certificate showed Norah was 18 when she married and the marriage was witnessed by her parents - possibly indicating Norah and Reg had 'come back' to marry.

The 1950 date on the copy certificate also fitted in with a family story about her grandfather having tossed the family history overboard from a boat on the way to New Zealand around that time.

But Jaki said her grandparents had always lived in either Sydney or New Zealand around and to her knowledge there were no family connections to Uki although some of her parents' brothers and sisters took on names such as Wall, Brooks, Sharman and Weatherall, which had been known around Uki.

submitted by Heather McLean

SPEAKERS REVIEW

Evening Meeting 7 October - Researching In Switzerland - Ian Fyfe

One of the joys of genealogy is researching a family line in an area you have never explored. Learning something about the history of the area suddenly becomes important as you try to unravel the mysteries of your family. As you learn more about the area, your interest is whetted and before long you are wishing to visit the area.

Ian Fyfe was the speaker at October's evening meeting. His wife, Jewel, is descended from the Viattes of Les Bois, Jura Canton, Switzerland. As they tried to unravel the mystery of Marie Elise Viatte's life, they had to research the history of Jura, Switzerland, and France.

Switzerland is a small country landlocked in the centre of Europe. It fits within a circle with a radius of 174 kilometres. To the north it borders Germany, to the south Italy, to the west France and to the east Liechtenstein and Austria. The Swiss do not have a language of their own, but speak the language of their neighbours. There are just over 7 million Swiss, with 4 ½ million German speaking, 1 ¼ million French-speakers, 700,000 Italian-speakers, 70,000 Romansh-speakers and 500,000 mixed category. Switzerland is a federation of 26 cantons, three of which are half cantons. Each canton is like a mini-country raising its own finances for its own police force, courts, education system etc. Within each canton are totally independent communities that make decisions about such things as their welfare systems, gas, electricity, water, local roads and even public holidays. Switzerland counts its official history as starting in 1291 when the future cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden joined together to form an independent alliance.

Jura, formerly the French speaking part of Berne canton, only became an independent canton as recently as 1978 when it voted to separate from the remainder of the mainly German speaking Bernese canton. The area known as Jura has had a distinctive history as Ian and Jewel's discovered. During the years of the Helvetia Republic [starting in 1798], Jura was annexed by France. It was also at this time the French introduced the French Revolutionary Calendar or Republican Calendar. It was in operation from 24th October 1793 to the 1st January 1806, when it was abolished by Napoleon. A year consisted of 365 or 366 days, divided into 12 months of 30 days each, followed by 5 or 6 additional days. The months were: Vendémiaire, Brumaire, Frimaire, Nivôse, Pluviôse, Ventôse, Germinal, Floréal, Prairial, Messidor, Thermidor and Fructidor. But the months were not divided into seven day weeks, but three blocks of ten. Part of the idea was to remove the notion of the Sabbath, but workers did not like having to work nine days before having a day off. The additional days tacked onto the end of Fructidor were called:

Fete de la vertu (Celebration of virtue)
Fete du genie (Celebration of genius)
Fete du travail (Celebration of labor)
Fete de l'opinion (Celebration of opinion)
Fete des recompenses (Celebration of rewards)
Jour de la revolution (Day of the revolution) (the leap day)

Jewel and Ian were forced not only to brush up on their school French, but also to come to terms with church records written in Latin. Even today, Switzerland has retained aspects of the Latin language. Cars are registered CH [Confoederatio Helvetica = Swiss Federation in Latin] so as not to promote one language over the others and their stamps bear the name Helvetia.

Marie Elise Viatte was born in 1862 in the village of Porrentruy, part of the clock-making region of Switzerland. How she came to be chosen is still a mystery, but as a twenty year old, she was working as under nurse to the family of Francis and Emily Alston in Marylebone London. She features in the 1881 census as part of the household of 69 Eccleston Square. She is not the only Swiss national in the house. The lady's maid, Carolina Gegax, came from Argan and the nurse, Celestine Pury, came from Fribourg. The best clue to the reason for three Swiss nationals in the house lies with the owner's occupation, Francis Alston was a Foreign Office Chief Clerk. Marie was not to remain in London for long. In 1883 she boarded the ship *Wild Deer* in Glasgow and headed for Dunedin. When as a 28year old she married, the Intent to Marry record her as living at Whangarei Heads, at the opposite end of the country from Dunedin.

Once establishing Marie's place of birth, Jewel and Ian were able to search further back into her ancestry. It was here they needed to know more of Jura's special history. They were able to borrow films through the Latter Day Saints' site, Family Search. Some films were written in Latin because they were church documents, others were in French as they were civil documents, the complications came with the changed dating caused by the use of the French Revolutionary Calendar. Though it took time, they were able to locate marriage and birth records on both Marie's mother's and father's side, even uncovering a land transfer transaction back in 1793. Marie's father and older siblings were born in Les Bois, Jura.

Finally Jewel and Ian were able to put their research into a total picture by going to Switzerland and visiting Les Bois and finding the region where for centuries Jewel's ancestors had lived. Switzerland is an excellent country to visit. It is picturesque, clean and friendly. Jewel and Ian were particularly fortunate in finding a Bed and Breakfast with an English couple in La Chaux de Fonds. They made good use of the train service which is very efficient and cost effective. By using the trains, they were able to explore the Jura - Berne cantons. Finally they travelled to Paris from Switzerland via Geneva, seeing even more of the country.

Using parish, civil, notary and census records the Fyfes have been able to unravel, Marie Elise Viatte's past and find a whole exciting history in the canton of Jura. Using a variety of sources including the internet, they have built up a picture of Marie's village, but best of all they have had the pleasure of walking in the very valley Marie and Jewel's ancestors have lived for centuries.

Bobbie Amyes

Reference: Xenophobe's guide to the Swiss by Paul Bilton, Ravette Publishing 1997

<http://webexhibits.org/calendars/calendar-french.html>

<http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/CH/history.html>

<http://www.multimap.com/>

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/frameset_search.asp

SPEAKERS REVIEW

Morning Meeting 21 October - Bart Russell - World War II

I would like to say how very much I enjoyed the talk the Gentleman gave this morning, about his War Services, as my Father was a First & Second War Man, also my Husband served 26 years in The New Zealand Army. It was great to hear of the places he had spent time in as I have also visited quite a few of these places, but I think it would be quite different in War time. I could have listened to him for another hour, his mind is still very good. I only hope that some of this has been recorded.

Thanking you once again for a very enjoyable morning Yours sincerely Rae Peiser.

From Bart's Notes

Bart was born in Richmond, Yorkshire in May 1920. Richmond comes from 'Riche Mont' which in French means 'Strong Place'. After his mother died, when he was 11 years old, he was packaged off to the South of England to an orphanage in Bisley, Surrey where he acquired the nick-name 'Jock' because of his Scottish sounding accent. This orphanage was set up by the Earl of Shaftbury who was inspired by Dickens' books to set up homes for homeless children. Bart enjoyed his time there and was the envy of his three younger brothers who had to stay with their father and/or were farmed out to various relatives.

In July 1935 at the age of 15 (not 16 as previously stated) he joined the British Army as a band boy in the 2nd btn, the Devonshire Regiment in Kent at Connaugh Barracks. At age 18 his pay doubled to 2 shillings a day (man-service pay).

16/7/1838 - 29/3/1943 arrived at Malta and served there throughout the siege of Malta - 4 years. All bandsmen became stretcher-bearers and were trained in basic first aid. Working in groups of four, they also had to run very fast or get killed. Malta was the most heavily bombed place during WW2.

30/3/1943 to 28/8/1943 (152 days) Sicily (promoted to lance corporal) and Italy Participated in the Invasion and campaigns of Sicily and Italy (promoted to corporal). Left stretcher bearing to become section leader 10 soldiers.

29/8/1943 - 5/11/1943 North Africa (69 days)

6/11/1943 - 30/5/1944 Returned to the UK. Training for the second front (206 days)

31/5/1944 - 11/6/1944 (12 days) Normandy Campaign

Returned to the UK and Hospital (Leeds) with a severe dose of Malaria from Sicily (very nasty). Convalescent Camp. Regraded to B.1. Category. Joined 5th battalion. The Kings regiment in France. Lines of communication Unit. In 'D' Company attached to a French Training unit (recruits) at Bernay. (These were the men who practised their weapons training by clearing out the forest of German deserters and anyone else who happened to be in there). On completion moved to Biggenhaut in Belgium in November 1944. Settled into billets until moved back into action in December 16th

Dec 16 1944 Dunkirk German surprise attack through the Ardennes into France against the USA. The kings regiment (D Coy) moved from billets in Belgium to Dunkirk on the French coast and attached to the Czech. Armoured Brigade for duties on the perimeter enclosing the German held sea port of Dunkirk. Back to the shooting war as Dunkirk was held by 10,000 Germans supplied by air and sea. A dodgy do, alert at night when enemy patrols were active and occasionally aggressive . Did a 3 week stint before being relieved and to their delight, went back to their cosy billets in Biggenhaut where they were spoilt rotten by their Flemish families until the time come to move back to where the action was.

March 1945 to April 1945. In Holland they prepared for the final push across the Rhine and into Germany. Followed the successful Airborne assault. Made steady progress against the stubborn opposition. Stopped at Bassum in preparation for attack on Bremen but massive air-attack on that coastal city made the attack unnecessary.

After the War Bart stayed on in Germany in the Kings Regiment and looked after German prisoners etc. Then applied for transfer to his old regiment, Devons, and back to regimental headquarters in Exeter.

Applied to go to NZ to work and left the Army on his 27th Birthday after 12 years service.

In New Zealand did coal mining in Reefton for 2 years, then deer culling for the government and then IHC, met and married Muriel Compton who was a nurse and they had 3 children. He finally became a primary school (special education) teacher until retirement and now lives in Nelson.

KARORI LUNATIC ASYLUM - by Sandra Greig JP

My great x grandfather William Hendle was the keeper of the Karori Lunatic Asylum, so states his 1856 wedding intention and his 1856 wedding certificate. Also his obituary reiterates this occupation for several years in the 1850s.

I read that the Karori Lunatic Asylum i.e. KLA was established in the early 1850's, that the first person came into the asylum in 1854 and the records stated the 2nd came in 1858. The asylum was built where today's Karori Normal school is built answering questions of old pupils as to why there used to be huge concrete steps to no where. The asylum served till 1875, then was moved to Mt View (today's Government House Newtown), then to Porirua.

In trying to find my Hendle family history via KLA, the most I could find was his son William James Hendle was born there at the KLA in 1857. In correspondence with Keeper McKelvey family I discovered my mother (nee Hendle tree) best friend all through school was Phyllis McKelvey - their great grandfathers had been keepers of the Karori Lunatic asylum all those 80 years before. Neither women knew this part of their family trees.

Here is a diary of findings as I have traced the KLA including the records at the National Archives, Karori library, the NZ Gazettes and other peoples genealogy.

Diary

1853 James Hales died 23 June 1853 at Wellington Asylum

1854

1855 Keeper William McKelvey from his family records Patient Charles Bruce died 2 April 1855 at KLA Patient James Conigan died 5 Oct 1855 at KLA both men buried in Old St Paul's records. Patient Rebecca Parnell resides.

1856 Keeper William Hendle married Jane White Tender by Thomas Shepherd for building JPs were appointed by His Honour the superintendent for checking the KLA William Fox esquire JP John Johns esquire JP Charles Dudley esquire JP Robert Ward esquire JP (NZ Gazette)

Expenditure to KLA now £108 12s 11d

Note that the Karori road was being widened at £40

1857 Baby W J Hendle born 26 October to Keeper Hendle Patient Rebecca Parnell gives birth to baby named Joseph Rickman/Parnell born 17 February 1857 mother confined in the Karori Lunatic Asylum (family records)

Patient Partridge died 4 new JPs appointed for KLA. (NZ Gazette) Keeper William McKelvey still employed.

1858 Medical officer of KLA Fred Knox (NZ Gazette) Patient William Forrest died age 64 on 4 January. Patient Lewin Castle died 15 April 1858 Both buried Old St Paul records.

1859

1860 Petition presented to Fitzherbert about KLA. Tender by W Spinks for food/oil/wicks. Costs for the surgeon (Wellington Gazette)

1861 Nine and half patients (assume the baby is half) Attendant and surgeon salary - £32 pa. Charles France esquire, MRCS-medical officer Vice medical officer A Johnson resigned.

1862-4 Rations £15 - £17 per year Bed and clothes £4 - £5 per year Lights 6s 5d per year Sundry £2 8s 5d Annual per year £53-£58.

1865 Keepers L Sutherland and H Rolfe 22 June clothes, pillows, blankets/ food purchased under tender to J R Cleland

1866 Patient Mattias Goodman died 6 January 1866 Rations (per person per week or whole KLA??) 3/4lb beef/mutton, 1lb bread, 1lb potatoes 6 ox rice/ 1/2 of tea, one and 3/4 oz sugar one gill milk and 1/3ozsalt

1867

1868 Thomas Alphones Bowden inspector of KLA also a JP 1868-73

1869-70

1871 Surgeon C France

1872 Keeper W Sutherland

1873 Keeper Stewart fathered baby of Patient Rebecca Parnell aka Rickman (family records)

1874-80 -

1881 Inspector J Andrews at Karori Lunatic Asylum

END

If there is anyone with more information I would enjoy filling in the diary further. Sandra Greig JP.

WEBSITE

Click on this and put in the UK county your relations went to school - <http://ukschoolshistory.org.uk/>

I trace my family history so I will know who to blame

MORE FROM GERRY EADY'S NOTES - Eight National Sets of Records

England - (National Archives) Public Records Office, Kew, Surrey Family Records Centre, Myddleton Place, Islington, North London

href="C: ocuments and Settings erry A Eady esktop enealogical Talks ww.pro.gov.uk"

MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.pro.gov.uk

Republic of Ireland (Eire) - General Register House, Dublin National Archives:

href="http://www.nationalarchives.ie/" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.nationalarchives.ie

Northern Ireland (Ulster) - Public Records Office of Northern Ireland

href="http://www.proni.nics.gov.uk/" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.proni.nics.gov.uk

Scotland - General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh

href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.gro-

scotland.gov.uk

Wales - National Library of Wales, Aberystwith.

href="http://www.llgc.org.uk/" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.llgc.org.uk

Isle of Man - tele 01624-687039; fax 01624-687003; Isle of Man Public Record Office, Douglas

href="http://www.gov.im/registries/publicrecords" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor

www.gov.im/registries/publicrecords

Jersey, Alderney, Herm, Jehou, Sark - Judicial Greffe, St. Helier

href="http://www.jersey.gov.uk/" MACROBUTTON HtmlResAnchor www.jersey.gov.uk

href="http://www.pro.uk/research/easysearch/channel_islands.htm" MACROBUTTON

HtmlResAnchor www.pro.uk/research/easysearch/channel_islands.htm

Guernsey - tele 01481-724512 -Guernsey Island Archives Service, St. Peter Port

href="http://www.pro.uk/research/easysearch/channel_islands.htm" MACROBUTTON

HtmlResAnchor www.pro.uk/research/easysearch/channel_islands.htm

ORDERING BRITISH CERTIFICATES ON-LINE

Ordering certificates on-line from England can be very exciting especially when the certificate arrives in the post from Southport in England less than two weeks later. However I found it can also be infuriating especially when you find you have made a mistake! I went into the National Library and found the right year, quarter, volume and reference number and logged on to <http://www.GRO.GOV.UK> and made my order. By spending the extra time looking up folio numbers and the right quarter etc, it only cost £7.00 whereas if I had only entered the date and place of the birth, marriage or death it would have cost me £11.50. This of course was a credit card transaction. I was able to check the GRO index references through the website <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/> and quickly find others on this site that would have taken me hours to find on microfiche.

The 1837 index on-line has the advantage of showing you who else is on the same page. This is great if one has the bride's given name but not her maiden name. If one is lucky, there will be only one woman with that name on that page - or even better still, only two names on that page! Work is still being done on these 'Free BDMs' as not everyone is on the site yet, but it is a lot quicker and easier than looking up year after year, quarter after quarter of microfiche and straining one's eyes trying to decipher the writing and then getting it wrong.

However when applying for these certificates on-line, if you have one reference number wrong or the wrong quarter there is nothing you can do to change it. I put in the wrong quarter for one certificate I applied for, emailed them almost straight away and got back an automatic response. It said that if I wanted to get someone to answer me, I had to prefix my email heading with GQ. This was answered by an even longer 'copy and paste' 'personal' response explaining the ins and outs of their ordering system and why my mistake could not be rectified. I duly was informed of my mistake because someone else had looked in that quarter and it was not there! I replied that I was trying to tell them that and got another automated response!

They did, however, kindly refund £4 of my £7 which I though was jolly good of them. I did eventually get my certificate which all up, cost me £10. This was still less than the £15 I paid for my

grandfather's birth certificate in 1989 when my cousin went to the trouble of going into St Catherine's house and getting it for me.

Genetic engineering - heir styling

FINAL NOTE

Any contributions to the newsletters for December need to be received by the editor by the next committee meeting/research evening, the last Thursday of the month, the 25th of November.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this year. You have made my job so much easier. There are a few contributions still to be published which will appear in due course.

Special thanks to Bobbie who has put a lot of time and effort into the evening meetings' speaker's review and to the speakers who have given us their notes! Also thank you Sandra for the many bits and pieces for the newsletter.

Suzanne

CENSUS NIGHT MANY A YEAR AGO

Census Taker

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;
The pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.
He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;
His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.
A long winding ride down a road barely there;
Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting up through the air.
The woman was tired, with lines on her face;
And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.
She gave him some water ... as they sat at the table;
And she answered his questions ... the best she was able.
He asked of her children ... Yes, she had quite a few;
The oldest was twenty, the youngest not quite two.
She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;
his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
She noted each person who lived there with pride;
And she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.
He noted the sex, the colour, the age ..
The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.
At the number of children, she nodded her head;
And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.
The places of birth she "never forgot";
Was it Kansas? or Utah? Or Oregon ... or not?
They came from Scotland, of that she was clear;
But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.
They spoke of employment, of schooling and such;
They could read some and write some ... though really not much.
When the questions were answered, his job there was done;
So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.
We can imagine his voice loud and clear;
"May God Bless you all for another ten years."
Now picture a time warp ... it's now you and me;
As we search for the people on our family tree.
We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;
As we search for that entry from long, long ago.
Could they only imagine on that long ago day;
That the entries they made would effect us this way?
If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we feel;
And the searching that makes them so increasingly real.
We can hear if we listen the words they impart;
Through their blood in our veins and their voices in our heart.

Author Unknown