

News & Views

November 2005; 23rd Year
Issue 229



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)

03 Nov: AGM and Malcolm McGregor - Plimmers Ark & Early Wellington History
17 Nov: Margaret Hurst - National Turnbull Libraries and Photographic Collection
24 Nov: Research - The Library is open from 6.00pm until 8:30pm for Members' Research
1 Dec: Jan Gow - Computers & their use in Family Histories and then bring & share supper.

03 NOV - EVENING MEETING

- ✓ Annual General Meeting - The annual audited financial reports will be presented. Anyone wanting to go on the committee will need to fill in a form available from the secretary but you can only vote if you are an NZSG member!
- ✓ Malcolm McGregor - Plimmers Ark, Early Wellington History Malcolm spoke at the August morning meeting, and is back by popular demand, to speak to those who could not make it. [Unfortunately our advertised speaker is unable to make it].

17 NOV - MORNING MEETING

- ✓ Margaret Hurst - National Turnbull Libraries & Photographic Collection - Margaret works at the National Library and is in charge of the genealogy section. Part of her job is to help people with their family history.

1 DEC - EVENING MEETING

- ✓ Jan Gow - Computers and their use in family histories - Jan Gow will be down from Auckland to speak to us all. As well as having her own family history shop, she has her own genealogy section in the monthly Netguide where she answers readers' questions.
 - ✓ Supper and Raffle - Jan's talk will be followed by supper. Please bring a plate with food on it. There will also be a raffle. The prizes will be 2 book vouchers - \$50 and \$20. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and will be drawn on the night.
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

- ✓ Due after the AGM in November. They will be the same as they were last year with the discount for early payment if paid by 31 December 2005.
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ALL BRANCH LIBRARY BOOKS TO BE RETURNED BEFORE THE HOLIDAY BREAK PLEASE!

My hobby is genealogy.. I collect ascendants and descendants

CHAIRS REPORT HUTT NZSG 2005 - SANDRA GREIG JP

Hutt Valley Branch of the NZSG has run smoothly this year. A big thank you to the committee, because that is the reason we run so well. Behind the scenes the committee quietly does the hard work. We set up more informative new members packs, took on many new members and set up Jan Walker with a HELP desk. Thanks Jan. Big thanks to Secretary - Deb Beban, Treasurer - Janet Ketchell, Editor - Suzanne, Hall /Rooms - William Clark, Library liaison -Lynne Gentry, IT -Carol Ann, Membership - Dianne Fitzgerald, Speakers- Janice Price.

Speakers are not always easy to find due to the fact we hold 2 meetings a month which requires a total of 22 speakers for the year.

- ✓ Feb - Tales of Genealogy and Perils of Genealogy.
- ✓ Mar- Memories of No 92 i.e. Jonathan Hunt and Clareville Cemeteries
- ✓ Apr - Great Grandmas sisters & Queensland research
- ✓ May - Hutt History and Emily's Trunk
- ✓ Jun - Petone Settlers Museum & Taita Cemetery
- ✓ July - Adoption and Early American history
- ✓ Aug - Wainuiomata history and Plimmer's Ark
- ✓ Sep - Convicts ancestors and Writing your tree
- ✓ Oct - Early American History and My Family History (Rae Peiser)
- ✓ Nov - Recording on Video and National/Turnbull Photos
- ✓ Dec - Computers and their use in family history/party time

An impressive line up!

Noting also that during the committee meetings on the last Thursday of the month, we have the rooms open for research only - where our Librarian Pauline Innes and helper Sheila Clegg work have worked on in the library and helped members. A big THANK YOU to Pauline and Sheila Clegg, who have decided to stand down, for running the library over the last couple of years.

The committee are all prepared to do one more year with Janet taking leave of absence till the end of March. However, we need volunteers to man the library issue area and let the librarians get on with the stocktake and culling of the books.... No more CDs are to be purchased as we are unable to lend them out due to damage sustained with the current set. Micro fiche readers are on loan to members and returned when we needed them for our Hutt members only research day run brilliantly by Carol Ann and Jan with help from all their friends.

Several members are doing work for the NZSG and a big thanks to these people. Betty Pyne needs to be acknowledged for her help with all the fiche and scrapbooks, THANKS Betty.

Carol Ann Mason and Suzanne Sutton-Cummings are on both the 2007 Hutt/Wellington conference committee and the HVNZSG committee so we liaison well with them and the ever efficient Lynly Yates who heads the conference committee.

All in all Hutt are doing very well and will battle on with insurance coverage via Headquarters in Auckland And the Bridge club rent review. Membership stands at 196 with 4 newbies arriving last month. A GOOD YEAR. Roll on 2006!

SPEAKER'S REVIEWS: RAE PEISER - MY FAMILY HISTORY

Rae is the great granddaughter of the very first mayor of Petone. In fact Rae spoke about her family history and since each and everyone of us lives here in the Hutt today we all were nodding wisely as she told us of 9 Udy Street, of Te Puni St, the entrance to the beach, of trips to Wellington in the train and of Te Aro reclamation.

Her greats owned a store just down from the petrol station near the today's Korokoro overbridge. The photo showed the awning hanging over the veranda and the family standing smiling for the camera as they did a hundred of more years ago. Lucky someone hung on to the photo! Rae read to us the wonderful biographies which she has of her grandfather and her great grandfather written by themselves of how they saw life at the time. Great came out on the Clifton and the room nodded as several of us had someone on that early ship, another sailed on the Stormbird of which I smiled as mine was the captain and another's was the mechanical seaman.

Photos of all the people in Rae's tree made it easy for us to identify the subjects and the wedding to the pretty grandmother, and all the 6 foot tall relations.

Rae told us that she still owns the black taffeta cloak that her greats left and how she wore it to the Taita 150th reunion which the branch supported a year back.

Rae left us all needing to go home and type our own autobiography, to also note where we worked, what we did on our life's trails and to remember we are all a long time dead.

Sandra Greig JP

MY FAMILY HISTORY BY RAE PEISER

I was very lucky as in 2002 my young cousin, Paul and I were able to do a book on all the family history that my mother had kept and we were able to add other parts of the history of Wellington and the Valley and how it grew, collected by looking up things in the National Library. Several of our forefathers had had biographies done - Samuel Raymond Johnson, first mayor of Petone and his Son Herbert Raymond Johnson.

I wrote about my Mother's life, Evelyn Lilian Johnson and my cousin Colin, Paul's father was able to do a biography on my uncle Harold William Johnson. This is a great thing if one can do this with ones own family. There are also photos to add to the family history.

My first great, great arrived in NZ on the Ship 'Clifton' in February 1842 John Johnson & Elizabeth Merritt, who were born in 1811, arrived with 4 children. One of the children was William Henry who married Louisa Bolton and his sister Elizabeth Sarah married George Bolton.

In the year of 1876 William Henry passed away leaving a wife and 5 children and then in 1877 Louisa and the children died in a fire as they were living at the 'Princess Hotel' on the corner of Molesworth and Murphy Streets. They were all buried at the Bolton Street Cemetery. There is quite a write up about the fire in the book called "Unquiet Earth" by Margaret Alington.

My great is Samuel Raymond Johnson who married Elizabeth Riddler. In 1873 there were 10 in her family and they owned land in Riddler Crescent in Petone. When he was courting Elizabeth he would walk from the Patent Slip out to Petone and back again on a Sunday to see her.

After that, in 1876, he built the first general store and they lived at 41 Hutt Road near Riddlers Crescent near the turn off to the overhead bridge to Koro Koro.

They also delivered the Evening Post as far as the old Taita Church. This is where quite a few of the Riddler Family are buried, also the Death Family, and the Hurst Family as they married into the Riddler Family. Samuel Raymond Johnson was William Henry's brother.

The Johnson Family, also the Riddler Family were very active to do with the Railways as at that time the steam train only came to Waterloo, Lower Hutt, and Johnsonville. They bought land and had the sheds moved from Lambton Quay to Petone then later to Woburn workshops where they employed many people. Like a lot of the families, they had to do many different types of work to be able to support their families.

My grandfather, Herbert Raymond Johnson, was the first to be able to go back to England and that was where he met my grandmother, Jessie Lilian (Orviss) who was a Jersey lady. She came to New Zealand in 1898 when they were married and lived at 7 Udy Street and then 9 Udy Street where my mother and her brothers were born. Two of Jessie's brothers came to New Zealand later and Uncle Ted married Herbert's sister Edith.

My Mother was Evelyn Lilian Johnson who was born 1902 and married my father, Sydney Beresford Willis, born 1897, in Wellington (and went to Brooklyn School).

They were married at St James Church in 1927 it was at that time he built the house next door to the old General store then they moved to Waterloo 1930 where I was born. We were the 4th house in the street as it was all farmland at that time - no shops and the only school was Epuni until Waterloo School was built in 1938 and after that the houses started to be built.

It was a great life that we were had, with a lot of family get togethers at different times. We were able to ride our bicycle anywhere, as one of dad's brothers lived in Penrose Street and the other one lived in Hautana Street and Mum's brother lived in Mahoe Street. We were a very close knit family.

SPEAKERS' REVIEW – EVENING MEETING - DAVID LEE EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

A most enjoyable evening talk from David who gave a talk on early American history. Some highlights were:

New Orleans - that city under water - was the 4th largest port in the world, and because of that, New Orleans must be rebuilt and fortified with dykes against future floods - and it will cost trillions!

In 1803 it was a French city. Napoleon, somewhat short of money, sold Louisiana to the then US President Jefferson. It was done in total secret - something which would not happen today. At the time, Louisiana had a population of 4 million, 96% of whom were farmers. The 1790 census shows 20% of the 4 million were black slaves. In some areas they out-numbered the whites by 12:1. So what did President Jefferson buy? It was an unknown territory at the time, and a 7 year journey was made by men who wrote reports that it was full of resources to exploit.

There were 13 original settlements in what is now the United States.

New York (originally New Amsterdam), founded by the Dutch but taken from them in 1664. In 1790 2.5% of the population was Dutch.

Philadelphia in 1776 was the largest 'US' city at the time. Founded by William Penn whose father was a royalist, it was a settlement based on religious freedom. In England people had to go to the Anglican church and pay tithes.

Maryland has Catholic foundations, but the protestants eventually out-numbered them and outlawed Catholicism. Georgia was a penal colony.

Texas was a province of Mexico until the battle of Alamo when it became an independent country. California was also a province of Mexico with a population of 20,000. But then gold was discovered so within 2 years 100,000 people had moved into California and a revolution made it independent.

Washington and Oregon states were acquired from Britain by agreement as the US had the most English speaking people -after moving people in to make the population quotas favourable to the US.

Hawaii - the Polynesians were under control of the planters. Alaska - a million square miles bought from the Russians, and everyone thought the Americans were mad! They paid about two cents an acre.

All these transactions were done over the heads of the indigenous peoples.

The [1861-1865] Civil War was not about slavery - it was really about the rights of independent states, and economics. When the US began as 13 different independent states, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Georgia etc, each state had its own government. Over the years, Washington worked against the South so 11 states decided to leave the Union and set up a Confederacy. So the North went to war to preserve the Union and the South to keep out of it.

The South was punished severely after the war. This wasn't what President Lincoln wanted, but he was assassinated at the end of the war. The South were silly to go to war as they were mostly an agricultural economy so lacked the industry and resources the North had. The only reason the war took 4 years was because of the incompetence of the Northern army. During the Civil War, the North spitefully used the Confederate commander, General Robert E. Lee's Virginia Arlington estates to bury the Federal war dead - now the Arlington War Cemetery. General Lee never went back to his estate after the war ended.

In some areas, it took 100 years to recover from the devastation the North caused by their invasion and even though it was not the blacks' fault they are blamed for it. Even today there is still much bitterness in the South towards the northern Yankees.

The British tended to send their women to the colonies whereas the French and Spanish tended to marry into the population.

The Indians got moved on, beaten back and were slaughtered when they tried to fight back and as a result most live now in poverty on desert land. The Cherokee were moved into Arizona but fortunately were sitting on oil. When they tried to move them on again, they fought the move in court and won the oil rights and as a result spent the proceeds on educating and looking after their people.

BOOK REVIEW - PROFESSOR BRYAN SYKES submitted by Suzanne Sutton-Cummings

Sykes is a Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Oxford. His findings are said to have demolished any scientific basis for racism. He has analysed the DNA of the Iceman found in the Italian Alps, Cheddar man, the remains of the Russian Royal Family and the DNA of Russian Royal impostors.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA): In his book *The Seven Daughters of Eve*, he talks about the Mitochondrial DNA which men as well as women inherit, but it is only the women's Mitochondrial DNA which is passed onto the next generation. He found that it is possible to find out which 'clan' a woman is from by looking at this sequence of our DNA.

Polynesians: His first real success was when he proved that the Polynesians were Asians, migrating from either coastal China or Taiwan, not America as Thor Heyerdahl had successfully convinced most of the world by his 'Kon-Tiki' expedition.

Europeans: After tackling the relatively easy Polynesian clan, he decided to tackle the European clans of women and came up with 7 'clans'.

- Ursula - (Latin for she-bear) About 11% of modern Europeans are the direct maternal descendants of Ursula. They come from all parts of Europe, but the clan is particularly well represented in western Britain and Scandinavia
- Xenia - (Greek for hospitable) Around 7% of native Europeans are in the clan of Xenia. Within the clan, 3 distinct branches fan out over Europe. One is still largely confined to Eastern Europe while the other 2 have spread further to the West into central Europe and as far as France and Britain. About 1% of Native Americans are also in the clan of Xenia.
- Helena - (Greek for light) is by far the largest and most successful of the 7 native clans with 41% of Europeans belonging to one of its many branches. The clan is widespread throughout all parts of Europe, but reaches its highest frequency among the Basque people of northern Spain and southern France.
- Velda - (Scandinavian for ruler) Containing only about 4% of native Europeans, found nowadays mainly in western and northern Europe and are surprisingly frequent among the Saami people of Finland and Northern Norway.
- Tara - (Gaelic for rocky hill) includes slightly fewer than 10% of modern Europeans. Its many branches are widely distributed throughout southern and western Europe with particularly high concentrations in Ireland and the west of Britain.
- Katrine - (Greek for pure) with 10% of Europeans among its membership. Her descendants appear to have begun in northeast Italy and have spread throughout central and northern Europe.
- Jasmine - (Persian for flower) the only one to have its origins outside Europe. Jasmine and her descendants, who now make up 12% of Europeans, were from the Middle East.
- Ulrike - (German for Mistress of All) is not among the original "Seven Daughters of Eve" clans, but with just under 2% of Europeans among its members, it has a claim to being included among the numerically important clans. The clan is found today mainly in the east and north of Europe with particularly high concentrations in Scandinavia and the Baltic states.

Other World Clans: All up, 36 maternal clans have been identified so far. Among Native Americans there were 4 clans and among Japanese people there were 9 clans!

Practical Results: Professor Sykes also does DNA testing to order and cites a case of an Edinburgh woman who knew her family history well, going back 200 years and was very surprised to find that her clan was Polynesian! – a British sailor bringing back a Tahitian wife perhaps? A Jamaican woman found that it was impossible to do her family tree as her slave ancestors' original identities were completely obliterated. She was thrilled to be told that her mtDNA matched that of a modern day Kenyan Kikuyu.

Professor Bryan Sykes concludes by saying that it would have been a better system genetically if men and women each had their own personal surname with daughters inheriting their mother's surname and sons inherited their father's surname. That would make family history so much easier!

WHAT OUR DNA TELLS US

The Y Chromosome: In the second book, *Adam's Curse*, Bryan Sykes starts off telling about how he kept being asked if he was related to Sir Richard Sykes, a well known scientist. At first he said that could not possibly be so as he was from London, his grandfather from the south of England and this man was from Yorkshire and the accents proved it!. However it suddenly occurred to him that if he got this man's DNA, he could test the Y chromosome and dispel all doubts!

As it so happens this man is related as the DNA matched and this got him interested in his family history. He found that 'Sykes' was from a Yorkshire word meaning 'a very small (trickle of a) stream', which was often a boundary. He found that the name was most common in Yorkshire and so he wrote to a random number of Sykes men in the Yorkshire, Cheshire and Lancashire area asking for samples of their DNA. He was surprised to find that half of them were definitely related. The other half did not appear to have any connection, even with each other which means there was probably only one original Mr Sykes. A historian in the area showed him the area his ancestors had lived and found a reference to a court record of a certain Henri del Sike who was involved in a tenancy dispute in 1286 in the village of Flockton, Yorkshire.

Bryan has not yet managed to prove via available written records that he is related to Sir Richard, as the connection may be before parish records began but definitely after surnames originated in Britain over 700 years ago. He has also done studies of the DNA in Scottish clans, Vikings and Celts.

Adam's Curse: On the front cover of this book, Bryan has a drawing of an ape evolving into a man but the man then evolves into a woman. His studies have shown that the Y chromosome mutates faster than mtDNA and man's disregard for the environment and production of toxic wastes etc is wrecking havoc on his DNA!

Visit the Website: For those who are interested, you can visit this Website and pay to have your maternal clan identified, men, have your paternal line analysed and/or Y chromosome compared to your surname on a surname database. Also you can buy the books, the maps or a 'clan mother-stone'. <http://www.oxfordancestors.com/>

MEN ONLY

I have been excited to read of a DNA project working on the 'Y' chromosome and being followed by some of the Scottish Clans. In particular the Clan Donnachaidh and the Elliot Clan. Here is an extract from the Clan Donnachaidh Annual 2004. The Clan Donnachaidh DNA project. *Bingo!*

When Bill Robertson introduced the Clan DNA Project to the Northeast Branch, I thought that this could, at last, take me over the brick wall I had run into in tracing my Scottish roots through traditional genealogical methods... My great, great grandfather, Robert Duncan, my ancestor who immigrated from Scotland, settled in Kings Country, Belle Isle, New Brunswick around 1810 to 1815. His son, James, my great grandfather, was born in New Brunswick in 1825 and, on reaching adulthood, he emigrated to the United States, married, had children, and died at the age of 48 in Boston from pneumonia.

But, beyond this, we have no information connecting us back to Scotland... However the DNA project that Bill described sounded like it might truly be the answer to connecting us with our Scottish roots. So, I requested a DNA sample kit on-line, paid the \$172 by credit card, and tried to be patient until my kit arrived which surprisingly, it did later that week.

Taking the DNA sample was easy, painless, and non-invasive. FamilytreeDNA provides two plastic scrapers, two vials containing a liquid preservative, and a release form that, when signed, allows the company to share the results of the DNA test with potential matches within the group. In reality, FamilytreeDNA, organises and conducts Clan Donnachaidh's project as well as those of many other family groups. The actual DNA testing and grouping is performed using the strictest scientific methods at the University of Arizona, and the sample is maintained there in a secure repository for 25 years. The database is maintained and updated by FamilytreeDNA. If a match is found, now or in the future, within the Clan Donnachaidh or any

of the other family groups, the participant will be notified. To allay any concerns, the DNA sample is only tested and compared using the Y-chromosome for genealogical matching through the male line. As of February, 2004, some 50 participants have joined the Clan Donnachaidh DNA Project.

...The suspense was maddening! Then, I received the following email:

Dear Mr. Duncan,

An exact match has been found between you and another person in the FamilyTreeDNA database. You and the other person have matched in all loci; which means there is a 99.9% likelihood that you have a common ancestor. There is a 50% likelihood that the common ancestor is within the last 48 generations. If you and your match share a common "item" of knowledge, such as a common surname, then a recent (within 14.5 generations) common ancestor is fairly likely. If not, then the common ancestor is probably closer to the 48 generations. It then gave me the instructions how to access my password-protected personal page at their Website and see, at last, with whom I have been genetically matched. The moment of truth!

...I was astonished to discover that my exact match - all twelve points - was not with a Duncan at all but with a Robertson! My second match, off by only one mutant gene, was also a Robertson! ...A significant factor is FamilytreeDNA's statement that if the surnames of the matching 'cousins' are different, there's a 99.9% likelihood that the common ancestor may go back as many as 48 generations. Assuming the genealogical definition of a generation to be roughly 20 years, that would take us back nearly 1,000 years, a time span that would include both Duncan I in the 11th century and Stout Duncan, the first Chief of Clan Donnachaidh in the 14th century! Whooaaa. Now I really got excited.

'It's possible,' said Bill, 'but there's a lot more work to be done before we can even think about direct relationships like that. An important step will be to find a clansman with a proven, genealogical link back to Duncan and we need to encourage as many Clan members as possible, with all the Clan names, to participate in the DNA project and work out our mutual connections.'...

A complete explanation is available at the company's web site: www.familytreedna.com ...

by Dave Duncan, FSA Scot'

Alongside this article was another with this extract from Stephanie Robertson:

'...It is obvious that the ancestors concerned lived many generations ago. However, as more people take part and different lineages emerge, we can all hope to establish links and perhaps a family of origin even if a precise identification of the common ancestor is not possible. A clan study will take in many families from a variety of origins. In some cases the name will have passed through female descent, or perhaps several different Roberts were the progenitors of several different families, or perhaps a family adopted the name to establish an association with the clan. The results will certainly provide some fascinating insights into early clan and family history and some participants will be able to identify distant cousins and, with luck, ancestors...'

This whole project sounds exciting to me. It is unfortunate that I am not aware of any such project linked with my own surname. It only works through the male line that has no breaks. It should be of interest to those with a Scottish name.

submitted by Stafford Cull

MORE ON DNA AND DNA PROJECTS

- [*Family History Monthly*](#) January 2005 pp27-29, for diagrams, maps & various other DNA projects
 - [*Ancestors*](#) December 2004, pp25-28, Reading your Genetic Signature by Chris Pomery,
 - www.dnaandfamilyhistory.com - Chris Pomery's DNA projects
 - www.smgf.org - Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation
 - www.dnaheritage.com – UK based DNA testing company
 - www.familytreenz.com – USA based DNA testing company
 - www.geogene.com – USA based DNA testing company
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A FAMILY HISTORIAN'S LAMENT

I've been doing family history for nearly 30 years,
Diligently tracing my illustrious forebears,
From Pigeon Lake to Peterborough, Penrith to Penzance,
My merry band of ancestors has led me on quite a dance.

There's cooks from Kent, guards from Gwent, and chimney sweeps from Chester.
There's even one daft fisherman who lived all his life in Leicester,
There's no-one rich or famous, no not even well-to-do,
Though a second cousin played in gaol for Crewe.

I've haunted record offices from Gillingham to Jarrow,
The grey cells of my mind would humble Hercule Poirot.
I've deciphered bad handwriting that would shame a three-year old
And brought the black sheep of the family back into the fold.

My Bride of just three minutes, I left sanding in the church
As I nipped into the graveyard for a spot of quick research.
Eventually I found an uncle, sixty years deceased,
That was more satisfying than a silly wedding feast.

After three weeks of wedded bliss, my wife became despondent
She named the Public Records as co-respondent.
I didn't even notice when she packed her bags and went
I was looking for a great granddad's will who'd died in Stoke-on-Trent.

But now my 30 year obsession's lying in the bin
Last Tuesday week, I heard some news that made me pack it in.
'Twas then my darling mother, who is not long for this earth,
Casually informed me they'd adopted me at birth!_

- Author unknown (from NZSG Dunedin issue 110 - 2005)

Genealogists never lose their job..they just move to another branch
