



WANGANUI GENEALOGY

(February – March 2011)

Newsletter of Wanganui Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists
c/o Wanganui District Library, Private Bag 3005, Wanganui Mail Centre, WANGANUI 4540

Wanganui Branch Subs (1 year subs are from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012)

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Meetings

All Wanganui branch NZSG meetings are held in the Heritage Room, Alexander Library, on second Monday of each month - February to November at 5-8pm (unless otherwise specified). The formal part of the evening is usually from 6.30pm with research undertaken before/after the formal session.

Meetings/Events

Monday 14 February 2011: Welcome/General Introduction + Beginners “Orientation” Night + research.

6pm WDC Cemeteries transcribers/checkers, please attend a special meeting (*plus see note on p2*)

“Bring/Buy” (trading table) will be operating, so you are welcome to bring along (donate) an item or several, such as: food/produce, veges, biscuits, preservatives (all those items should be put in a clear/sealed bag); family history magazines/books, etc no longer wanted. Our usual raffle will operate. All money raised will go towards branch funds.

Monday 14 March 2011: Research Evening.

Saturday 26 March 2011 Spotlight on England & Wales held Heritage Room, Wanganui 10am-3pm.

More details will be sent out via email &/or please check Heritage Room notice board for a flyer.

Editorial *by Bruce Isted*

Recapping the last event of 2010: The Christmas function held on Monday evening (6 Dec 2010) at Breakers (Grand Hotel) was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Plenty on the menu to choose from! Below are three photos of the occasion. More photos are in the Wanganui branch Scrapbook (contact Committee member Roz if you wish to see it).



Hope you find something of interest to you in this newsletter. A number of members may feel anxious about sending in articles, thinking that unless it is an eloquent masterpiece, then there is no point contributing. Wrong! All you have to provide is a couple of sentences and maybe a picture and I can do the rest. Come on members; give it a go. My current inbox of future contributions for 2011 newsletters is EMPTY!

NOTICES/NEWS (Branch & NZSG)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

***1. Wanganui District Council “Indexing of Burial and Cremation Records” * -**

We need a few more helpers and if you are willing please contact Judith Amer, ph 343-7172; email: judith.amer@xtra.co.nz Currently we only have 8 members + one WDC employee transcribing for the WDC burial database. This is a big project which will probably take a few years to complete. Many thanks to all those volunteers already helping with the organisation &/or transcribing of these records. (*NB. A short meeting for volunteers to discuss this project will take place at 6pm, 14 Feb, before the formal part of our usual monthly meeting.*)

2. Wanganui School Records: We need more people to help with inputting and checking of these important records. Contact: Frances Haddock, ph 347-9519; email: feh@xtra.co.nz

3. FreeCEN (Free Census) <http://www.freecen.org.uk/> - I am a county co-ordinator for this. Currently have a small group working on Gloucester 1841 Census. Always room for more transcribers, all done in Excel. Or for those not wanting to actually transcribe, I could do with a person or two to check a piece already transcribed. Scans of all pages available if needed. Contact: Chris Mahoney; email: cmahoney@orcon.net.nz or phone 3479273.

Below are three emails that have recently been passed on from NZSG Office Manager –

1. The following announcement was written by FamilySearch on 14 Dec 2010 – ‘Updated Site Now Available; More Improvements to Come <https://www.familysearch.org/> -

FamilySearch announced several changes today for its family history website, FamilySearch.org. Online patrons will find millions of new records and images, over 40,000 helpful articles, over 100 interactive courses of instruction, and a dynamic forum to ask personal genealogy questions. The changes have been in testing for some time. FamilySearch will continue to implement the new website in phases to ensure all critical elements are functioning as desired. Once complete, the website will be promoted more broadly. The new site offers the following free benefits to FamilySearch patrons:

- Millions more scanned, historical documents and indexes that are published more frequently.
- An improved search experience that looks through more content and gives more accurate results.
- A thriving online genealogical community where patrons can give and receive help.
- One user name and password for all FamilySearch products and services.
- Responsive, reliable, and scalable hardware and software that will allow the site to grow and improve.

FamilySearch has published a helpful document called “Adjusting to the New Version of www.familysearch.org” and a video tutorial that summarizes the changes to the new site. These new guides can be found under the “Changes at FamilySearch.org” link. The prior version of the site will still be available through the transition period.’

If you’ve tried the new “beta” version of the family search site but prefer the earlier version, you can still access it. There’s a link to the previous site at the bottom right hand corner of the new home page. When you go to “search records”, an advanced search on the earlier site gives access to 1880/1881 census records for Britain, Canada and the United States, where you can see who was living together in household groups. The advanced search also lets you search the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and other records.

{Last paragraph above is courtesy of Kapiti branch NZSG}

2. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has just announced that digitised images of entries from the copy will books covering the period 1858-1900 are now available online, allowing users to view the full content of a will. 93,388 will images are now available to view. More information is available at www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm

3. There has been an increase of some statutory fees for registration services in Scotland.

I should perhaps clarify that the increases also affect the ScotlandsPeople website and centre (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk). Furthermore, Registers of Scotland (www.ros.gov.uk) has increased its prices (from 10 January 2011) and is introducing a new search fee that did not exist before, which will affect those doing house history. Thanks to Chris Paton for this information (<http://scottishancestry.blogspot.com>).

Genealogy Snippets *from various sources*

Update from the Original Record (see website: www.theoriginalrecord.com). There are now over 10 million entries directly available online. Free unlimited search. All records hand-indexed (no OCR). Purchase sets of scans, or buy open access to the surname(s) of your choice, including variants. **Added late last year:**

1853 The Medical Directory

The British Medical Directory for England, Scotland, and Wales of 1853 lists doctors, physicians, surgeons and other medical men. Each entry gives full name, surname first; address; qualifications; public appointments; and (where appropriate) a list of books and of works published in medical journals.

1865 Dublin Electors

This alphabetical list of electors for the City of Dublin for 1865 is annotated with details of the votes cast in the election of 15 July 1865 for a member of Parliament. The candidates were John Vance, Esq., D. L. (V), Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq., D. L., LL. D. (G), and Jonathan Pim, Esq. (P). The first column gives, in bold, the initial of the ward in which lay the property that was the elector's qualification. The second column gives the elector's sequential number (alphabetically) within that ward. Then the elector's full name is given, surname first, and address, usually including house number. The votes cast are shown on the right: where these columns are blank, the elector did not vote. The key to the ward names is: A, South Dock; B, Donnybrook; C, Rathdown; D, Trinity; E, South City; F, Royal Exchange; G, Mansion House; H, Fitzwilliam; I, Wood Quay; K, Merchants' Quay; L, Usher's Quay; M, Arran Quay; N, Inns' Quay; O, North City; P, Rotundo; Q, Mountjoy; R, North Dock. S indicates the register of freemen.

1901 Naturalizations

The Home Office issued monthly lists of aliens to whom Certificates of Naturalization or Readmission to British Nationality had been granted by the Secretary of State under the provisions of 33 Vic. cap. 14 and been registered in the Home Office pursuant to the act during each previous month. These notices, from January to December 1901, refer to naturalizations from December 1900 to November 1901.

1905-1906 Students attending Birmingham University

The Calendar of the University of Birmingham includes this list of all students attending classes during the session 1905-1906. The names are arranged alphabetically by surname in the three departments (Science, Arts and Commerce; Medicine; and Training Colleges). Names are given in full, except in the case of married women, whose married surnames are given, together with their husband's name or initials.

1920 Associates and Old Students of the Royal School of Mines

The Royal School of Mines (Old Students') Association produced this alphabetical register of Associates and Old Students. So far as possible, the compilers gave these details: full name (surname first); dates at the school; record as a mining engineer; military service in the Great War; and current address. In some cases, the entry is transcribed from a previous register, of 1896, no further information having been obtained - such entries are marked with a dagger. * signifies 'Deceased'.

1948 Imperial Service Medal

The Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood at St James's Palace announced these awards by King George VI of the Imperial Service Medal to members of the Home Civil Service. The names are arranged alphabetically by surname (in capitals) and Christian names, with office or rank in the service.

As the centenary of **World War 1** approaches, Naval-History.Net is concentrating on this important period in world history - from the 1914-1920 editions of the *London Gazette* - [Royal Navy and British Army despatches](#), and [Royal Navy Honours and Gallantry Awards](#) from Albert Medal to Victoria Cross, via Order of the Bath, DSO, DSC, MC, CGM, DCM, DSM, MM, Mentions, etc. {click on blue links to access}

Old Weather update - This University of Oxford/Citizen's Science Alliance project is collecting weather and naval information from the logbooks of 280 British warships around World War 1. It will be used to help climate modellers, as well as naval and family historians. 39 percent of the logbooks have now been transcribed, a total of 304, 772 pages. Anyone can take part by visiting OldWeather.org. Various of the logs cover the Pacific Ocean.

More Genealogy Snippets *from various sources*

Editor's Nightmare?

Getting out a paper is no picnic. If the editor prints jokes, folks will say I'm silly; if I don't they say I have no sense of humour. If I publish original material they say I lack variety; if I republish things from other papers they say I'm lazy. What in thunderation is a poor editor to do, anyhow? Like as not someone will say that I copied this from another paper. I did!

Do You Just Belong?

*Are you an Active Member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meeting
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you sit at home
And criticise and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied
To only just belong?
Do you do the part
With the hand upon the stick,
Or do you leave the work to others,
And talk about the clique?
This is over, Member.*

(NB. Above contribution by member, Andy Brown, originally from South Canterbury branch NZSG.)

COMMON SENSE (The following was forwarded to Bruce Isted in a recent email from a family history contact. It is an Obituary printed in the *London Times* {date unknown} - interesting and sadly rather true).

'Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.'

Genealogy Pen Portrait

by Peter Johnston

I like to tell people I was born in a Backpackers. Of course this is not true but the building now used as such was once the Cairnbrae Nursing Home at 24 Somme Parade and is one of the few buildings still standing with which I was associated in my young days. The great event occurred on 2 February 1936. The first few years of my life were spent in Wanganui, until in 1940 my father took on a farming job in the Waitete Valley not far from Te Kuiti. We were there for a couple of years and it was at Te Kuiti that I started school (now demolished).

In early 1942 Dad, or was it Mum, decided that farming was not to their liking so it was back to Wanganui where Dad, starting where he left off, resumed his trade of painting and paperhanging with Tingveys. And I trundled off to Queens Park School (demolished). We lived for a while in part of a two-storied house on the corner of Ingestre and Nelson (now Cooks) Streets.

Sometime during 1942 we moved out to No 6 Smithfield Road (still standing) and I enrolled at the Gonville School. This was to be the family home for 43 years, in a wonderfully settled and friendly neighbourhood. Carlton Avenue finished just beyond our place and a sandy track, often overgrown with lupins, connected to Purnell Street/London Street intersection. All the land from the Tech College Hostel to the back of the houses in Smithfield Road was our playground. We lived next door to the Gudsells, a well known family in farming circles. Mr Gudsell and some of his youngest sons used to milk a few cows and supplied the immediate neighbourhood with fresh milk, poured into a billy. On the north side of the track, where Murch Place is now, was the old rubbish tip of Wanganui and in among the lupins we discovered two old artillery guns which had been placed there during the war. We used to spend a lot of time playing on these, and riding some of Mr Arthur Gudsell's horses. Wonderful memories - I could go on for hours.

Gonville School (old buildings demolished), was where I and four of my sisters received our primary education. I finished in 1949 and went to Tech the following year. I wanted to be a motor mechanic but Father had other ideas. Having been through the Depression and experiencing unemployment he felt that a government job was more secure in uncertain times. So I started delivering telegrams at the tender age of 15. I was to spend my whole working life with the Post Office, later Telecom, and travel the country.

After marriage in 1960 we moved to New Plymouth in '62, to Invercargill in '64 and Christchurch in '67. We were there for 15 years, where our children grew up, were educated and got married. It was about this time that I started taking a close interest in my family heritage. And working from a building some of you may remember seeing on TV during the earthquake coverage, St Elmo Court, on the corner of Hereford and Montreal Streets, I was almost next door to the old Christchurch Library. Their heritage room, under the direction of Mr RC Lamb, was a wonderful source of information. I was able to do a lot of research and gather a lot of history about some of my ancestors. My father's father was a lad of 21 when he arrived with his siblings and parents in Nelson in 1874 from the Shetland Isles. They were destined for the Special Settlement of Karamea on the West Coast and their story of hardship and privation made for fascinating reading. One article was published by the *Christchurch Press*, such was the interest.

What really started me off on family history and genealogy was that our parents were loath to talk about the past, probably because of the difficult times they went through, and did not wish to recall many bad memories. Also they did not want to uncover the 'skeletons in the cupboard' that all families are wanting to forget. So I started to find these 'skeletons' and learnt to tread very carefully when asking questions.

I have for some time now completed the family trees of the four main families involved. The Johnsons (note the spelling, but that is another story) from the Shetlands, the Scallys from County Antrim, the Roberts (was McRoberts) from Mullybrach, County Armagh, and the Kindbergs from Sweden. In addition I have been able to compile a family biography around many of the people, write war histories on the seven Kindberg brothers who went to the Great War, and other stories. At present I am working on the Wanganui and District involvement in the Great War - a large task which I hope to complete by 2014, the centenary.

There is such a wealth of information available, that one will not be able to do all the projects one has in mind. It is only in recent times that I became a member of the Genealogy Society here in Wanganui as I felt that I had been 'flogging' information for so long that I should really start to pay for it.

Genealogy Websites *Reprinted from various sources*

www.genealogylinks.net/uk/england/cheshire/index.html Cheshire links.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engdor/ Interesting information for Dorset.

<http://website.lineone.net/~hantshistory/> Lots of information here for Hampshire.

www.genealogylinks.net/uk/england/kent/index.html Good Kent links.

www.genealogylinks.net/uk/england/nottinghamshire/index.html Lots of links for Nottinghamshire.

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ian.sage/> Good resource for Somerset parish transcripts.

www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/SHC/Intro.htm The new Somerset Heritage Centre opened 27 Sep 2010.

www.wiltshire-opc.org.uk/ Wiltshire online parish clerk project.

www.genealogylinks.net/uk/ireland/cork/ Good links for County Cork research.

www.genealogylinks.net/uk/ireland/tipperary/index.html - Tipperary links.

(NB. Many of the above websites copied from Ashburton Genealogy newsletter Dec 2009-Jan 2010.)

Wanganui Genealogy Branch Directory

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LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE WANGANUI

4 Arundel Place, Springvale, Wanganui

Anybody wishing to use the LDS Family History Centre may have access by contacting the following person and make an appointment: Anita: (06) 344-1317; Mobile: 027-3701555; email: micklesbeanie@yahoo.com

Usual Hours Open: Tues: 9.30am-12.00pm; 6.30pm-8.30pm; Thurs: 9.30am-12.00pm; Sat: 1pm-4pm

Hours are subject to change especially Saturday so please confirm day & time when making an appointment.

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