



WANGANUI GENEALOGY

(October-November 2011)

Newsletter of New Zealand Society of Genealogists – Wanganui Branch
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)

Single Subscription: \$15; **Double Subscription:** \$20; **Visitor/Casual:** door charge \$3 each.

NB. If paying by cheque, please make payable to “Wanganui Branch NZSG”.

If paying online, use Account Number: 030791 0547829-00; Account Name: *Wanganui Branch NZSG*;

+ use your name as a deposit reference. Also please remember to inform the Treasurer if you paid online.

Contents

Meetings/Events & Editorial.....	1
Notices/News (Branch & NZSG)	2-3
My Paternal Grandfather’s Heirlooms by Bruce Isted ...	4
Genealogy Pen Portrait by Jan Arnst	5
Genealogy Websites; Branch Directory	6

Meetings

All Wanganui branch 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 (*Only the October meeting will have the trading table and the raffle operating.*)

Monday 10 October 2011: Research Evening. Plenty of research material available (CDs, books, fiche...).

Monday 14 November 2011: Historical Walk by Geoff Potts. Meet 6pm at the Settlers Wharf where the *Wairua* is moored. There is good parking at nearby Moutua Gardens. We will walk to the Cobham bridge and back. After this you are invited to call at Wharf69 Restaurant and Bar (opposite the Warehouse) for a cuppa and/or snack if you wish (pay for your own). Of interest inside are several old 2 x 2 metre photos of Wanganui Town Wharf and nearby. These images are copies from Geoff’s photo collection.

Please note that the Heritage Room will be available, as usual, for those who do not want to do the walk.

Monday 12 December 2011: No meeting at Library; instead meet 6.30pm - **Pre Xmas Social get-together with dinner/drinks at The Brick House** (Guyton St – opposite the Opera House). We will be having drinks + meal in the Hatrick Room (front right room of the building as you enter). Spouses/partners are welcome.

Please give name(s) attending dinner to Committee Member Margaret Calman, ph 344-7443; email: calman@xtra.co.nz

New Research Times at Alexander & Heritage Library: 1-5pm 3rd Sat of each month: 15 Oct, 19 Nov, 17 Dec.

Editorial *by Bruce Isted*

Recapping the last two events:

August: Gillian Tasker (Heritage Services Leader, Wanganui District Library) spoke about the local event for family history month (see page 2 for a brief report and photos of the event). She then had a presentation (slide show) of family photos and spoke about them and her family history research. Her TASKER ancestors were from Yorkshire, but some other family lines were from Germany who emigrated to Australia then NZ.

September: Genealogy/Family History Quiz night. There were two sets of 10 questions with multi-choice answers which took about 15 minutes each to complete. Discussions were allowed between members.

Winner of 1st quiz was Jenny Heywood; 2nd quiz Chris Mahoney and there were three lucky spot prizes. A great fun night with everybody participating! As it was very popular, another quiz night may appear in 2012.

Thanks to a couple of members I’ve now been able to fill some of the space in this newsletter with contributions.

However I need more contributions for future newsletters (especially year 2012), so please give it a go. Why not make it a New Year resolution! I’m sure many of you can spare 10-30 minutes to submit something from your family history files and/or photos. You may hear from me in due course asking you to contribute something.

Please note that there will be another newsletter before the end of the year, due out late November/early December.

NOTICES/NEWS (Branch & NZSG)

Australia & New Zealand Family History Research Day 13th August 2011 reported by Gillian Tasker

Wanganui District Library staff and Wanganui branch NZSG members celebrated Family History Month helping researchers find their Australian and New Zealand relatives. Deborah Shuker, member of the NZSG Australian Special Interest Group, was on hand with extra resources and her research expertise to guide the 55 people who attended. Researchers from around New Zealand and even a few from overseas took advantage of the free access to the Ancestry Library Edition and Find My Past Australasian Edition databases, many using their own laptops to access the databases via the Library's free wireless internet service. Research was halted briefly in the morning for the launch of the Alexander Heritage & Research Library's first online photograph collection. The Wanganui Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society had generously allowed the Library to digitise and make available the Wanganui Portrait Collection of early Wanganui men and women online. Merle Higgie, Wanganui branch Founders patron officially launched the collection and found one of her relatives amongst the photographs. The collection can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wanganuilibrary/> and copies of the images are available to purchase from the Library. The Library plans to make all of its photograph collections available online, with another collection launch expected before the end of the year. Some photos were taken on the day by myself and Bruce Isted (more photos held in the Branch Scrapbook).



Jenny Heywood, Deborah Shuker, Frances Haddock, Lynley Fowler, Gillian Tasker, June Springer



Andy Brown on Heritage Library computer



The main research area in the Heritage Room



The microfiche/film research room'



Bruce Isted & Penny Stewart



Deborah Shuker & Judith Amer



Frances Haddock & Joan Egan helping public

Alexander Heritage & Research Library News

Responding to many requests for weekend access to the Alexander Heritage & Research Library, we are now opening for research on one Saturday each month. From October onwards you will be able to visit the Alexander on the third Saturday of the month from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Wanganui District Library staff will be joined by a member of the NZSG - Wanganui Branch and we look forward to welcoming you for an afternoon's research.

The remaining credits on Irish Family History Foundation database used during the Irish Family Research Day last year are about to run out. If you would like the chance to research your Irish ancestors please see one of the team at the Alexander Heritage & Research Library. We have five document views left and will do a special price for you - first in first served.

NOTICES/NEWS (Branch & NZSG)

Research Day, Palmerston North, 10 Sep 2011 *By June Springer*

Frances, Judith, Joan and I went to the above, and noted that research facilities were much the same as ours. However, the attraction for us was the talk on immigration to New Zealand given by Graham Langton of Archives NZ, Wellington, which was excellent. He spoke for over two hours so it was worth the trip.

Graham urged us to widen our research on this topic and in particular, to consider the reasons for leaving their homeland – usually UK or Europe in the 19th century. He spoke about the ‘Push’ factors, such as: the class system; Established Church; poor living conditions; lack of security; sense of adventure; lack of economic opportunity. The last was especially important: few people could own their own land at that time. ‘Pull’ factors were: land ownership; better living conditions; greater freedom and independence; adventure; publicity/propaganda about New Zealand.

Often there were incentives to emigrate from the homeland: assisted passages; offers of employment; seeking profit; possibility of marriage (for females – they were in the minority

until the 20th century); group migration; chain migration; health; religious freedom.

Archives NZ has many records for use by researchers. Some are indexed and online; work is continuing on others. Passengers lists may be held in more than one set of records, eg Social Security Dept and Labour Dept and it pays to consult both as there are differences. Passenger lists refer to ages when people *applied* for a passage, which might be several months before they actually sailed. Much depends on where the ships arrived in NZ. Auckland city libraries have passenger arrivals 1838-1886. Apart from Auckland, Wellington, Lyttelton, Dunedin, smaller ports such as New Plymouth, Napier, Nelson, Timaru also had ships arriving direct from overseas. And some immigrant ships called at several ports – so it is understandable that records can be held in many different places.

The people who made the long voyage to NZ were those of a more enterprising nature and became our family pioneers. We can be justly proud of them!

Irish Research and Education Day Saturday, 8th October, 10am to 4pm, Feilding

Excellent speakers on townlands in Ireland and how to get the best from the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Venue is at St Johns Anglican Church Hall, Camden Street, Feilding. Entry fee \$10. Any queries, etc please contact: Jenny Martin, Phone 04 478 7621, or email: jenmartin@paradise.net.nz

Postscript to Edmund Whitbread’s grave at Heads Road Cemetery, Wanganui *By Wendy Pettigrew*

I read with interest June Springer’s piece about Edmund Whitbread’s grave at Heads Road Cemetery in the June/July 2011 newsletter (page 3). Here are a few bits of information to add to this story.

First of all, the reason the grave and especially the headstone is in such “excellent condition” is that it is one that has been treated with “wet and forget” by the District Council guys on my instructions. Every now and then I choose a few headstones to get this treatment and Edmund’s sandstone cross responded very well. (“Wet and forget” usually works best on marble.)

Why did I choose Whitbread? It was not just because it was an interesting headstone with its original iron surround but also because I knew a bit about his story and some of the consequences. Because he was not a serving soldier at the time of his death, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage

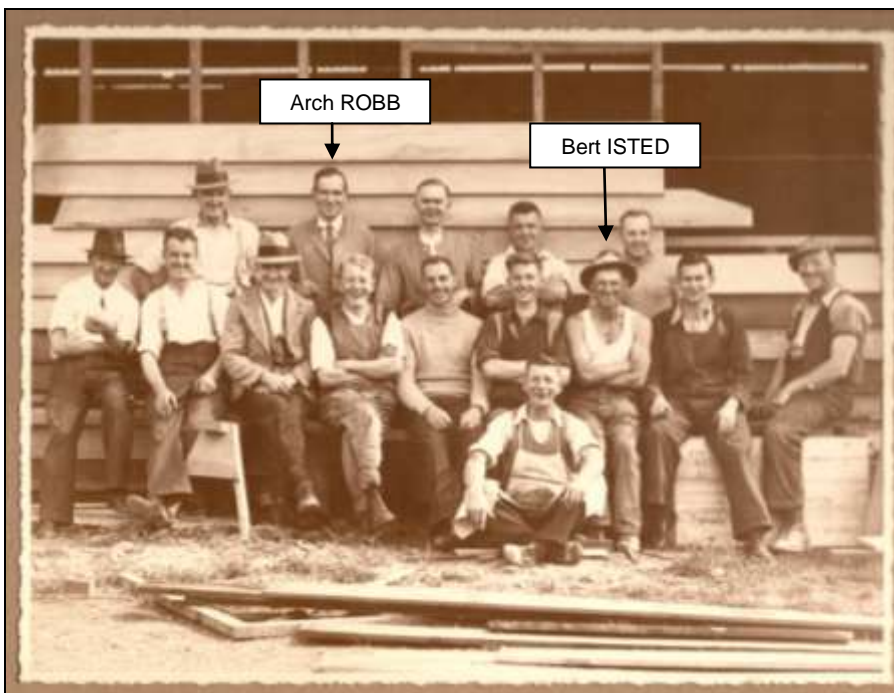
does not care for his grave, although I pointed it out to Margaret Marks from the Ministry on her last inspection tour earlier this year. Edmund’s wife, who he married in NZ in 1863, was Adelaide Thornton and she remained a widow for the rest of her life, dying in Bexhill on Sea in England in 1917 with her probate granted in Wanganui.

Why did an English woman have her estate probated in Wanganui? Because she owned property here. From 1888 she owned a section in the bridge block of Victoria Avenue where, in 1902, she commissioned Christchurch architects, Collins & Harman, to design a new shop for a jeweller named Forbes. This shop is still there – it is George’s Fisheries. I rather suspect that it was Adelaide who got her husband’s headstone and iron railing put in place; she may have had some money in her own right. Perhaps I should look up her will sometime to see how much she left!

My Paternal Grandfather's Heirlooms *by Bruce Isted*

My paternal grandfather was Egbert Thomas ISTED (1903-1996), commonly known as Bert. He had several occupations, they were: Butcher 1920s, Labourer and Plumber (for Bristols) c1930, Lorry Driver 1930s, Tramways Worker (Linesman) c1940s-50s, Durie Hill Lift Operator late 1950s and a Painter on the City Council in the 1960s until his retirement in 1968. Bert's main interests were centered around hunting, shooting and fishing. He also took an interest in Lodge activities. He belonged to the Wanganui Hylton Lodge number 135 IOOF (Independent Order of Odd Fellows). The photo below is owned by Wanganui Branch member Joy DRUMMOND who kindly let me have a copy in June 2011. I did not know of its existence before! Joy's uncle is Arch ROBB; both men appear in the photo below.

I am fortunate to have in my possession Bert's Lodge Medal which has an engraved bar that was presented to 'Bro E T ISTED for services rendered, 11 April 1939'; also several other heirloom items that belonged to him. Some of these are: Bronze miniature telescopes, small brown suitcase, a silver cigarette cases (one engraved with "ETI" on the front), two mouth organs, a Mandolin, his Wanganui Tramways Hat + two badges, metal wrist bands, a ring, several small books, his Post Office Savings Book, and a few other miscellaneous items. A few are pictured in the bottom photo below. Of course these heirloom items now feature in my written ISTED Family History!



Hylton Lodge No.135 – transforming an old building into a fine lodge room on Somme Parade, Aramoho, Wanganui by volunteer members of the lodge during the year 1938. (Lodge room completed & opened end Oct 1938 by the Grand Master George RUDKIN with A L ROBB who was DD Grand Marshall.)
 Back Row: Don TAYLOR (builder), Arch L ROBB (Secretary & Organiser), Olaf M LASSEN, Reg ROCHE, Ted OE PERSSON.
 Front Row: Syd MACBETH (painter),?....., George TODMAN, Jack VOGHT (electrician), Alex CHRISTIE, Les BURKLY (plumber), Bert ISTED, Fred BANKS (ironwork), Charlie JOHNSON, and seated in front Cliff DAVIS (carpenter).



Heirlooms of Bert ISTED (except writing slope which belonged to my maternal grandfather)

Genealogy Pen Portrait *By Jan Arnst*

Hi, I am Jan Arnst (nee Macdonald). My journey down the genealogy path has shown me that genealogy and family history are so closely entwined that one is nearly inseparable from the other. I am a relative newbie to Genealogy only recently starting to commit some serious time to my research.

My Dad always told me I was an Australian as that was my place of conception, but my birthplace was Tauranga, NZ. My parents emigrated to NZ when my mother was 5½ months pregnant with me and my parents had three other older children. This was no small mission as my older brother was only 12 months older than me and my eldest sister was struggling with the effects of polio. My Dad had a gipsy nature and we were always on the move so I did not know any of my grandparents or other relatives. One of my mother's sisters corresponded on a weekly basis with Mum and kept her informed of births, marriages and deaths in their hometown in Victoria, Australia.

My initial interest in genealogy began when I had to do a Form 1 (now Year 7) school project. I wrote to my Auntie in Australia and she gave me a brief genealogy sheet on my mother's family (Walker/Singleton & Scott/Hill). This was then shelved and resurfaced at different times when both parents were diagnosed with cancer. While nursing my Dad during 2004-2007 I gathered lots of bits of family history details from him and jotted copious notes. Subsequent to his death in 2007 my interest in genealogy took off but I was very much a raw novice and thought it would be easy to do ☺ Can anybody else relate to that?? So I started searching Donald Macdonald/McDonald/MacDonald.

A fascinating and sometimes frustrating name, but with five generations of Donald's I had to keep going to try to sort out who was who. At one point I got all excited thinking I had made a breakthrough, ordered certificates then found it to be the wrong family tree (name of the couples were right but that was all). I'm so glad none of you have experienced this. ☺

In 2009 I decided to go and meet my mother's family and spent some time retracing my mother's steps finding the home she was born in and homes she lived in before leaving Australia. This was very special as I took some of my mother's ashes back to her birth home. How exciting to meet my 91 year old auntie, her 79 yr old brother and some of my cousins for the very first time and with my cousin and auntie we ate lunch in an old bank building where my grandparents lived in 1916. I also visited the house that my Dad built when my parents were first married. This is all very recent in terms of family history, but incredibly emotional for me who had never before seen or touched any tangible links to my parents' past. While there I looked at a copy of the Hill/Vickery family book which traces my mother's maternal genealogy back to 1794 in

Wiveliscombe Somerset England. I came home very enthused with lots of notes and photos.

Due to a family wedding, my Aunties age, and with her now suffering memory loss, I returned to Victoria in May this year. I visited the AIGS at Blackburn, Victoria where NZSG has a reciprocal agreement and here I was able to bury myself in LOTS of records. I discovered that my mother's paternal grandparents both died of chronic alcoholism at ages 44 and 38 and this left my grandfather and his siblings to be fostered out to different homes. However the main genealogy focus on this trip was trying to trace my father's family journey from Scotland to Melbourne, so I rented a car, was given a soggy Melbourne map book and off I set. At the Springvale cemetery I located my grandparents' and great-grandmother's graves and was able to talk to them for the first time.....

Next journey was to Heathcote north of Melbourne searching for links to my paternal gt-gt-grandparents. James and Catherine emigrated from Argyllshire, Scotland between 1853 and 1857, married in 1860 at Emerald Hill in Melbourne, then moved to Heathcote where Catherine bore six children and by 1870 at age 35 she died! At Heathcote, I went to the visitor information centre and mentioned the name of the local Historical Society president and they said they had never heard of her! Over to the Post Office I went and they rang her for me, just a bit of local knowledge helps sometimes in a population of 3000 people. ☺ We met and I soon learnt a lot of local history that would have taken me ages to research. I was able to get copies of school, rates and cemetery records and I discovered lots of other historical relatives that I had not known about. Off to the cemetery where I located James and Catherine's grave (see photo below).

This was a surprisingly emotional find and a wonderful finale to my rewarding journey. I am SO glad we don't have to pay for rolls of film to be developed.



My goal is now to locate James and Catherine's births, siblings and parents etc in Scotland and then finally make the journey to Scotland.

So my present research is:

- WALKER James Henry born abt 1812 Yorkshire England, sp WOODHEAD Maria;
- SINGLETON John born 1822 Christchurch England, sp PORTER Matilda born c1821 Middlesex, Islington England;
- MCDONALD/ MACDONALD James born abt 1830 Iona Argyllshire Scotland, sp MCDONALD Catherine born abt 1835 Iona Argyllshire Scotland;
- MCDONALD Donald (James father), sp Macfarlane Ann.

Genealogy Websites *Reprinted from various sources*

www.archivescentral.org.nz **Archives Central Website** is a joint database for the historic archives of seven of the local authorities in the Horizons Region: Wanganui District Council, Rangitikei District Council, Manawatu District Council, Palmerston North City Council, Tararua District Council, Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council. You can find listings of the archives of the former local authorities of the Horizons Region. These include many of the former borough councils, county councils, catchment boards, drainage boards and rabbit boards that once operated within the current regional boundaries.

<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/resources/History/FamilyHistory/NewZealand/ShippingLists/index.asp>
Good coverage of **Canterbury & national information**; this home page has several useful shipping links.

www.gravestonephotos.com **Gravestone Photos**. Set up by Mr Charles Sale, it aims to photograph all gravestones in the UK (and other places) that are still legible, and make the information on them free for anyone who wants them.

www.thegenealogist.co.uk **The Genealogist.co.uk website has added a major new collection of Australian convict records**. Included are both male and female convicts, with details of their sentences and pardons (if any). The records primarily cover New South Wales (1788-1834) and Tasmania (1808-1849). Also included in this collection are general muster lists, the New South Wales 1828 census, and ledger returns for Tasmania (1846 and 1849). Access is by subscription.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin_Relationships **Relationships**. Online encyclopaedia Wikipedia, gives details/examples.

www.Mocavo.com **A new genealogy search engine has launched**. It claims to be the first large-scale, free search engine for family history research, indexing only sites related to genealogy. The site has already indexed billions of names, dates and places with results available in a fraction of a second.

NZSG - Wanganui Branch Directory

Officers:

Convenor Frances Haddock, ph 347-9519; email: feh@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #19762)
Secretary Jenny Heywood, ph 345-7553; email: jennya_heywood@hotmail.com (NZSG #8519)
Treasurer Chris Mahoney, ph 347-9273; PO Box 958; email: cmahoney@orcon.net.nz (NZSG #14983)

Committee:

Editor Bruce Isted, ph 347-7358; email: bruce.isted@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #3332)
Librarian Penny Stewart, ph 348-8337; email: malidog09@gmail.com (NZSG #24906)
Scrapbook Roz Nieuwenhuis, ph 343-7393; email: mehr@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #23152)
School Records Grace Phillips, ph 344-5247; email: gracie_W07@hotmail.com (NZSG #9370)
June Thompson, ph 348-8126; email: junet@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #10313)
Colin Wright, ph 345-5758 (NZSG #21229)
Margaret Calman, ph 344-7443; email: calman@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #20811)

Ex-Officio to the Committee:

Research Officers: June Springer, ph 345-0488; email: rspringer@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #191)
Joan Egan, ph 345-5789; email: joanegan@xtra.co.nz (NZSG #11706)

WDC Cemeteries Index Co-ordinator: Judith Amer, ph 343-7172; email: judith.amer@xtra.co.nz

Genealogy Help Desk at Heritage Room: email: Wanganui@genealogy.org.nz

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@gmail.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.

**Newsletter either Photocopied & Collated by Quay Copy Centre, PO Box 585, Wanganui;
or sent by Email by editor of NZSG - Wanganui Branch**



We gratefully acknowledge support from:

Wanganui District Library, Wanganui District Council,
Powerco Wanganui Trust, New Zealand Community Trust



(NB. Although the above organisations provide support for the NZSG - Wanganui Branch, they are not responsible for the newsletter or statements by them.)