

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS**NEWSLETTER** Volume 14, Issue 11, December 2009MEETINGS are held at Marlborough Park Hall, Chartwell Ave. Glenfield.Day Meetings: 1pm – 3-30pm: First Monday of the month, February to DecemberNight Meetings: 7-30pm– 9.30pm: Third Tuesday of the month February to November**COMMITTEE****Convenor**

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North Shore Branch Resource Room at Marlborough Park Hall is open on Wednesday and Friday from 1pm – 3pm.**On Monday meeting days** it will open at 12-30pm:**On Tuesday meeting nights** it will open at 6-45pm

Hello to all

Well, the final newsletter of 2009, and with it not good news. Our branch had 2 losses in November. The first was Lindsay Marshall, husband to our own Lucy Marshall (#1 of NZSG) and also a genealogist. The second, a huge shock, was the sudden death of Karen Kalapoulu – a senior genealogist, speaker and someone whose idea it was to have the 12hr LOCK-IN at Auckland City Library. Karen has spoken at our meetings. Another great loss to genealogy and all genealogists – it was bad enough when Anne Brommell died and Peter Nash went off the horizon but here is another brilliant genealogist gone before her time.

There has been a lot of chat on the list about the Council and numbers etc – I look forward to the next AGM and if you are not going to attend please don't forget to send in your forms that will be in the next New Zealand Genealogist magazine.

Do not forget your housekeeping (concerning your genealogy) during the holiday period and if you have time you can do mine as well.

Well, with not so good news to start with and not much in the middle, I would like to finish up with a big thank you to all those who deserve it - and who helped our branch operate to the best of its ability. Those in the library, those who pasted and cut up, those who set up the hall, those who stood at the door whether it be raffles or door, those who fed and watered us, those who sent emails or wrote newsletters and lastly the committee for its perseverance and commitment to help you and lastly to those I have forgotten to mention

Enjoy our shared afternoon tea for our branch Christmas breakup – the library will be closed from our final meeting until our first meeting in February 2010

"Cats like milk, and dogs like broo, lads like lasses weel, and lasses lads too."
 "Gude'en to you, Kimmer"

Leone - Convenor

"Merry Christmas to all – see you in 2010"

SPEAKERS CALENDER



7th December 2009 – Day Meeting

FINAL DAY GET-TOGETHER

Afternoon tea with.....?????

Please bring a plate

8th February 2010 – Day Meeting

Speaker – Carol Redgrove

Subject – Genealogy – Footprints to the Past

16th February 2010 – Night Meeting

Speaker – Jan Gow

Subject – Saint Serendipity on Duty

FROM THE LIBRARY

NEW TO THE LIBRARY



The Story of Birkenhead by Margaret McClure

Rangitikei – by S. Laurensen

Fight the Good Fight – Salvation Army in N.Z.

Ships of the New Zealand Shipping Company

CD: Ancient West Country Families Volume 1

CD: Australian Dictionary of Dates & Men of the Time

We have a number of overseas stamps for sale. Prices are as follows -

Australian stamps – equivalent of face value of stamps

USA – double face value of stamps

United Kingdom – treble face value of stamps

The Resource Room will close on Monday 7th December and reopen Monday 8th February 2010. Please return all books before Monday 7th December 2009.

REMINDER ABOUT BORROWING BOOKS FROM RESOURCE ROOM.

Books are to be signed out and in by Librarian, volunteer librarian or another committee member.

Please note the loose leaf folders are for reference only and not to be removed from the library.

DUNEDIN FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**November 2009**

Genealogical Happenings world-wide page 2
 Privacy and the Genealogist – page 5
 Corstorphine House – page 11
 Matura Island – page 12
 What was happening in 1900 – page 15
 Sailing Ship Routes to N.Z. – page 16

PRACTICAL FAMILY HISTORY**November 2009**

A Woman's work in wartime Britain page 12
 Trace your forebears in Berkshire – page 32
 Decipher old handwriting – page 38
 A new place called home – page 50
 Gold Fever – page 68
 The Militia part 2 – page 82

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE**Autumn 2009**

Remarkable roles for the Wrens – page 14
 Relatives in the Netherlands – page 18
 Dissenters in the family – page 26
 Traditions & Customs – page 32
 Buried treasure in the archives – page 44
 Caernarfonshire links – page 48
 Huntingdomshire – page 50

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE**November 2009**

The ATS in action – page 13
 Talbot House – page 22
 Relatives in Canada – page 26
 Scottish Regiments – page 30
 Lancashire links – page 48
 Ancestors at Agincourt – page 54
 Animals in war – page 76

NEWS & VIEWS HUTT VALLEY**November 2009**

Records of District Court – page 3
 Christchurch City Archives – page 5
 Intentions to marry – page 6
 On the Internet – page 7

DUNEDIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER**November/December**

There are 16 pages of miscellaneous information here, too much to mention but well worth a look.

From A Settler's Wife (Auckland, 1850-52)

By Frances Southwell [Shal{le George}], from Dickens, Charles (ed.), Household Words, London, 6 March 1852.

Conclusion – continued from last month

The climate is beautiful. I dress every morning with the door open (it is an outer door). Such are among the things we do with impunity. I am become robust and strong. My hair, from being weak and thin, is now so thick that I can scarcely bear its weight. Standing upon Mount Eden, as you look down upon the city and the sea, you can discern no smoke or impurity hanging over it, as over our English towns. The atmosphere is pure and balmy. Poverty hides not here in crowded and filthy dwellings. The children are chubby and clean; the women generally well-dressed and healthy.

At a distance from the town, on the road to Mount Eden, lie the cemeteries - one for every religious denomination. A large cross marks the Roman Catholic burial ground. Each grave is railed in, and flowers and shrubs are coming up around. Slaughter-houses are not suffered to pollute our air. No meat of any description is allowed to be killed within three miles of the town. My husband walks from our suburban residence into town every day. Auckland being built upon hills, has scarcely a level street. Most of the houses are detached; sometimes unappropriated allotments lie between them. There are no pavements; and grass grows in the middle of the many of the streets. Nevertheless, everything has a thriving look. New houses are being constantly erected; new shops daily opened; everything advances.

From Freeman's Bay, passing by the Roman Catholic Chapel- a handsome stone edifice, with a large floriated cross - you descend West Queen Street into Queen Street, which is long and level, abutting on Commercial Bay, the business quarter of the young metropolis. Here commence the great fuse. Here are the principal merchants' stores, and here sit the native Maoris, under little tents of white calico, their goods spread out in kits on the ground round them. In this street also stands the prison; the resident magistrate's court (similar to the English County Court), held every day, and in which much business is done; and the Supreme Court of Judicature. The last criminal sittings in this were held on the first of this month: there were six cases for trial: one, that of a Maori for the murder of a fellow-native; he was only convicted of manslaughter. Leaving this, and parallel to West Queen Street, you ascend Shortland Street, in which is the principal inn, called the Exchange Hotel, and several shops, which would not disgrace any European town. On a line with this is the Crescent, at the top of which is the church, neatly built of white stone, in the early English style of architecture. The arrangements of the inside are very admirable, since most of the seats are free. Two lecterns supply the place of the pompous reading-desk and pulpit of our English churches; and two clergymen of capability assist the bishop.

Below the church is Cooper's Bay, then Mechanics' Bay, and, last of all, Official Bay where are the residences of the Judge and the Colonial Secretary. Beyond the church is the "west end" of the town and the road leading to Epsom. The officers live here, and the men under Government. Here are the barracks and the gardens of old Government House, burned down some time since, and not yet restored. The present residence of his Excellency is a place of the most unpretending character, distinguished only by the soldiers on guard. It is situated at a little distance from the town, on the road to Mount Eden.

Two newspapers are published, each twice a week, in Auckland - the "New Zealander", and the "Southern Cross"; the former the Government, the latter the opposition paper. Sales at auction-marts take place every day in the week, Sundays excepted, at which every variety of goods are to be purchased at cheap rates; and the auctioneer appears to do a thriving business here.

There are daily schools for children, one for every sect. The Protestant, the Roman Catholic, the Scotch churches, each have their own, and the Wesleyans possess a large college. At the Roman Catholic school, which is conducted by a Sister of Mercy, a number of Maori children attended very regularly.

The country round Auckland is undulating; hill and dale, with small mountains interspersed. There are three different kinds of soil - scoriae land, fern land, and "tea-tree" land. The last is always poor: the other two are good; but the scoriae by far the best, although it involved great labour and expense in clearing. The roads are in general barren, and the scenery of a gloomy and solitary grandeur; but on one highway, which I traversed the other day, hedge-rows, as in England, extended for miles; singing-birds cheered us, and charming cottages, embowered in trees, stood on the hill brows, or dotted the fertile plain.

The greatest, in fact the only, drawback of the country around Auckland, is the almost total absence of trees, except such as are planted by the settlers; yet within eight miles of Auckland the vast forests begin. Firewood is, consequently, six shillings a ton in the place where I had fondly hoped to eat strawberries of my own planting under Rawri trees five hundred feet high.

There is but one decent macadamised road in the whole district, the road to Epsom. This is a good firm road, in the worst weather, for upwards of ten miles. The Eden, Tamaka, and Onehunga roads scarcely deserve the name; in the winter the mud upon them is up to the axle-trees of carts. At the village of Onehunga is situated the Pensioners' Settlement; it is a flourishing and populous little place, on the opposite side of the island. An omnibus runs to and fro, between it and Auckland, every Sunday during the summer.

The prices of provisions here differ greatly from those of the mother country. Bread, when we first landed, was fourpence-halfpenny the two-pound loaf; it has now gradually increased to sixpence; but it is hoped that the approaching harvest will again reduce it. Tea, both black and green, can be procured of excellent quality for eighteen-pence per pound. By taking a quarter chest, you can get it at fifteenpence. Coffee, when there is a good supply in the market, is eight-pence a pound; when scarce, it rises as high as eighteen-pence. Butter, when we came, was a shilling; it is now fifteen-pence. The prime cuts of beef and mutton are sixpence a pound; of pork, fourpence. You can buy, for sixpence, as much delicious fish as will serve an ordinary family for two days' dinner. The kinds of fish most commonly brought about here, are the snapper, the mullet, and a fish like our sole in look and taste, but rather smaller. Oysters are sixpence a kit. A kit is a native basket, made of the platted flax of the country; one may contain from four hundred to five hundred oysters. Cockles, called here pipies [*pippies*], fetch about the same price. Potatoes (colonially speaking, "spuds") are bought at from a shilling up to three shillings the hundred-weight. Peaches and melons are plentiful and very fine. Oranges and coconuts we get fresh from Tahiti.

One may live well here on a small income. The lowest rate of interest for money lent is ten per cent. Twelve and fifteen per cent are commonly asked and given; so

that a person coming here with a thousand pounds, might really live very comfortably on the interest of the money; for a hundred pounds here will go as far as two hundred pounds in England.

To the tenant farmers of England, New Zealand offers a tempting home. No taxes, no tithes, no rent! There is good land for their seeds, and a good market for their produce. The farmer's wife may sell her cheese at one shilling a pound, her butter often at two shillings a pound, while cattle and stock of every description are cheap. The emigrant most welcome in New Zealand is either the capitalist or the poor labourer. The fern and stone-encumbered lands require the harrow and the plough. The land wants men; used to working with their hands.

Let me put in a good word for my own colony to anyone who thinks of emigration. If you are not "doing well" in the old country, and you feel it; if you can discern no sunshine in the darkness around you; above all, if you are industrious, and enduring, then emigrate. And though it may be only because I myself have emigrated thither, and am happy, that I would recommend for the field of your emigration New Zealand; yet I think that its own natural advantages speak for the place. Its climate is one of the healthiest in the world, far before that of Australia, or Van Diemen's land. There is not a single venomous, scarcely a destructive, animal in it. The natives are superior to the aborigines of any other colony. The colony is yet in its first infancy, and therefore offers you, perhaps, the greater chance of making yourself rich with a small capital; at the same time, it bids fair eventually to equal any colony in commerce, as it already does in natural advantages. I would not willingly deceive anyone. I conscientiously believe what I write, and I have written nothing which I have not either seen with my own eyes, heard with my own ears, or received from the most undoubted authority. But what I have said can hold good only with respect to Auckland, although the seat of Government, the least known and the most abused of all the settlements belonging to New Zealand. It was in vain we searched every book upon the subject for some small account of this place; one meagre paragraph was all we found. From report I am led to believe that New Plymouth must be a most lovely and fertile place, retarded, however, greatly by its want of harbour, for it has nothing but an open roadstead. The prices of almost every kind of provision are dearer at New Plymouth than at Auckland, while land is cheaper. It is now in a very unsettled state respecting the land titles. The repeated volcanic shocks experienced at Wellington must always prevent that settlement (although a much older and wealthier) from being able to compete with the capital. The climate of Nelson is superb, but then the place is miserably poor, almost all traffic being carried on by way of barter. Sooner or later, justice will be done to Auckland, which I am sure is equal to the best of the New Zealand settlements.