



**Palmerston North Branch NZSG
2A Birmingham Street
Palmerston North 4412**



Newsletter 441

March 2021

*Meetings are on the **fourth** Wednesday of the month, February to November.*

Branch News

Please NOTE: we no longer have a Post Box address. Committee names are on page eight

Gerald Twiss

“Mad, Sad, or Bad”

How I researched a relative who ended in Seacliff Asylum.

How I found information, using Police records, Asylum records, Statutory notes and Medical notes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 2021

\$30:00 Single, \$40:00 Joint

See your Subscription Form for details of how to pay online.

OR Treasurer, Shirley Mintey, will accept payments at the Branch meeting.

Please pay before the end of March.

If you have paid, please ignore this notice.

Next Meeting

**Wednesday
24th. March**

**Kilwinning Lodge
Church Street
opp. Ashley Street**

**Doors open 6:15 pm
Meeting starts 7.30 pm**

Tonight’s Speaker

Gerald Twiss

“Mad, Sad, Bad”

Don’t miss this meeting



Research Day – *Sharpening your Skills*

Saturday 17th April – 9.30am to 4.00pm

Kilwinning Lodge, Church St (opposite 'Farmers')

We're here to help you with your Family History and Genealogy research. There will be two talks, plus many experts and resources available. Please see the attached flyer.

Before 17th April:

Email any questions to us at palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz

- where do I start...
- how do I...
- where can I find...
- what is the best website for...
- is there a group for...

We can get our experts and resources organised and ready for you on the day. Our speaker on Australian research especially welcomes your questions.

On the day, 17th April:

There will be talks by Deborah Shuker, an expert on Australian research, and Gareth Winter, the Wairarapa Archive Historian.

Many experts and helpers will be on hand to answer your questions and to help you use our library and resources.

- Experts and specialised resources for English, Irish and Scottish research will be available.
- PN Branch resources will include the Library and many NZ and local resources such as BDM microfiche, Early Settlers Collection, School Records, Cemetery Records, Kiwi Index, Shipping Records, Military Rolls...

Bring:

- \$5 entry
- any more questions you have
- any background information you already have
- a list of books you want to look at in our library (search or browse the library catalogue that was recently emailed to you)
- your laptop, tablet or phone, if you have one
- a USB stick for any finds (we can copy information onto it), or we can email info to you
- your lunch (or money for lunch at a nearby café) tea & coffee available

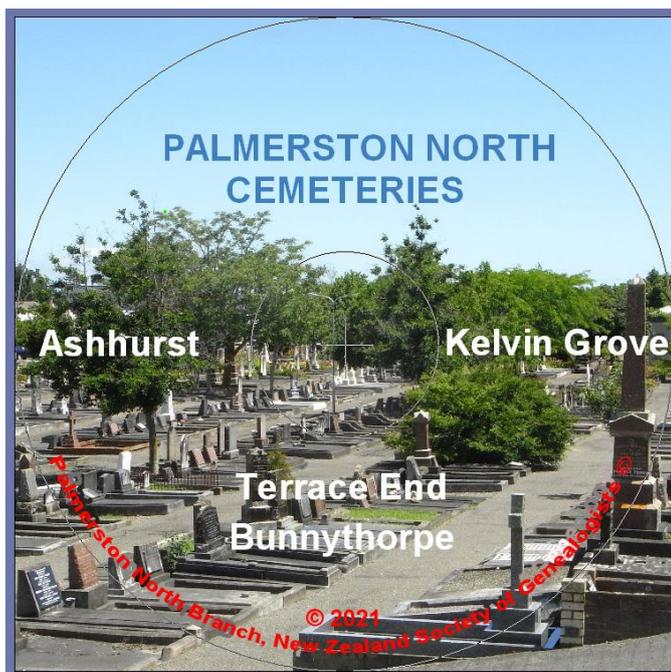
Internet access will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there, and answering your questions.

If you have any queries, please phone Rose – 359 1952

Cemeteries Month

In March, NZSG celebrates Cemeteries Month, so what could be more appropriate than to release a new update of Palmerston North Cemeteries Transcriptions, assembled by our Branch members over many years. Some of the older headstones have become illegible since we recorded them, so this is a significant contribution to the community's history. The work is available for consultation on computer at the City Library, level 2, and on our Branch computers or copies are available for purchase as indicated below.



Terrace End Cemetery updated to 2020
Kelvin Grove Burials and Cremations updated to 2015
Ashhurst Cemetery updated to 2019
Bunnythorpe Cemetery updated to 2016

Combined index of 62,000 names

Headstone Inscriptions, Burial Records, Maps of Plot Locations

Price: \$25, plus \$5 for packing and postage where applicable
Price \$5 only with return of a previous edition of this CD

Available on CD, or as .pdf files transferred to your USB stick

Other New Releases for Research Day:

School Records to 1926, previously to 1921, order copies for named pupils

Settlers Collection: Full content of database & associated papers available for browsing and copying on Branch Computers, previously index only.

Manawatu Standard Death Notices: Composite Index covering 2009-2016, order copies of notices to be emailed to you.

Funeral Service Sheets Series 1&2: Find names in index, order email copies

SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS



GENEALOGY RESEARCH DAY

Saturday 17th April
9.30am – 4.00pm

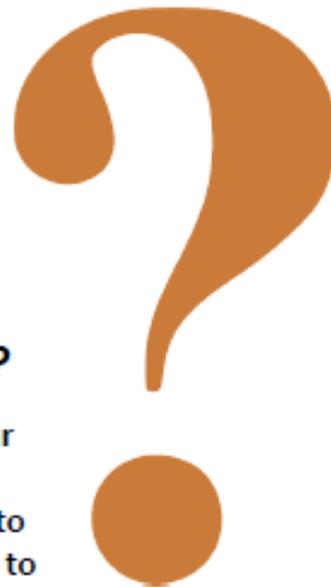
Kilwinning Lodge, Church St (opposite 'Farmers')
Palmerston North - Entry \$5

*How can we help with
your family history?*

What are you stuck on?

We aim to deliver answers to your questions e.g. How to use the District Keys for microfiche? How to build a tree on FamilySearch? How to use Legacy? Where to find a passenger list? How to set up a personal hotspot?

Send your questions to
palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz
so as we can get our experts
organized and you can sharpen your
research skills!



Experts/Helpers

From the PN Branch

Speakers

*Gareth Winter - Wairarapa
Archive Historian
Deborah Shuker - Australian
Research*

Stands

*English resources – Ann Ball
Irish resources – Jenny Martin
Scottish resources – Doug Miller*

Branch Resources

*School records, BDM microfiche,
Early Settlers Collection, Library,
Cemetery records, Kiwi Index,
Shipping, and more*

Organised by
Palmerston North Branch NZSG

More information; Rose ph 359 1952



P.N. Branch Programme 2021

April: Saturday, 17th Research Day, “Sharpening Your Skills”, at Kilwinning Lodge

April: Wednesday, 28th Regular meeting, Followups from Research Day; also Mary Skipworth: “Using Massey Library for Genealogy” & “A quick look at Family Search”.

May: Wednesday, 26th Philip Duke: “George Hoby: Bootmaker to the Royal Family”

June: Wednesday, 26th AGM, and members contributions on their pioneer families.

July: Wednesday, 28th Linley Robinson – Family’s experience of school days.

Welcome to two new members, Alex and Barbara Ferguson, who joined us in February this year.

Welcome to visitors: Leanne Warr, and Norma Tong.

Please ask members for help with searching for your wider family.

P.N. City Library Genealogy Volunteers

The volunteers are members of the Palmerston North Branch, NZSG, who are very willing to help you search for your ancestors on Ancestry, Papers Past and many more resources available at the Palmerston North Central Library.

They are on duty:

Fridays, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm.

Saturdays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

Floor 2, P.N. Central Library, The Square.



Sales Table

We welcome donations of your jams, sauces or garden produce. They contribute funds for special projects being undertaken by our Branch.

Free to a Good Home

We have a large supply of Arch Lever Files (A4 or foolscap) to give away. Soon to be disposed of if not wanted.



This month in the Branch Library



Please return all books and magazines borrowed February 2021. They are now due.

Library News

We have several copies of The Norfolk Ancestor on our shelves. They are filled with lots of family stories.

“The Tale of a 12 Place Tea Set” is delightful, p 39 June 2016.

If your ancestors came from Norfolk, you may enjoy these tales.

The latest ‘Irish Roots’ has arrived along with ‘Who Do You Think You Are? December 2020. This month the county of Northamptonshire is in the

spotlight, with helpful hints on places to search for your ancestors, p 73.

From: Pat Rowe, NZSG 25792, Librarian.

Book Review

I recently stumbled across John A. Lee’s book Roughnecks, Rolling Stones & Rouseabouts on the library shelves. I remembered John A. Lee as an MP and his book Children of the Poor. I also recalled, from my childhood, men referred to as tramps or swaggers visiting our farm asking for food and drink so thought the book might be an interesting read. It was. It is a collection of stories about men who roamed the country, carrying their scant belongings and asking for food and drink to sustain them. Many were forced onto the road during hard times; some chose the lifestyle. Lee himself spent time ‘on the road’ so understood the plight of these men and the lives they lived. He asked for stories about them on a radio programme he ran in the late 1930s and received many which have been woven into the book.

Illustrations of some of the men are included. The stories are an important record of a time past and well worth reading.

It can be found on shelf 1 at 301 LEE

From: Linda Leach, NZSG 22813.

Using Fiche for Research Sessions will again be held on the first Tuesday of each month beginning with 2nd. March 2021, at 2A Birmingham Street, 10:00 and onwards. See you there.

HELP! Another person is urgently required to help KATHLEEN PORTCH, with the catering on our meeting nights. There are only ten meetings in a year. It’s very easy and friendly, and is a good way to meet people. If you would like to help, contact Rose Rohde: ph. 359 9152.

Palmerston North Hospital's Garden of Tranquility

Palmerston North Hospital's garden of tranquillity turns 15 this month. The garden is deeply personal to founder Barbara Johnson as it was inspired by the tragic death of her son, Greg, in 2000. Greg, 38, died suddenly in the grounds of the hospital. He had been diagnosed with schizophrenia 15 years earlier and was a



patient of the hospital's subacute unit at the time of his death. Barbara says Greg was an intelligent, sensitive and courageous man.

In winter 2000, Barbara had a vision of a garden of contemplation and tranquillity for people to take time out and reflect. The garden was officially opened on March 6, 2006. Barbara has tended the garden near the hospital chapel since with a group of fellow volunteers. She is keen for more helping hands to join them. "We are three down now and it would be really good if we got a few more." Barbara says the garden is of huge value to the hospital and she wishes every hospital had such a space. Women's health overlooks the garden and in 2013 Barbara received an email from a woman in Belgium who had been visiting her daughter. "It is a place where you can reflect on life and death and the sense of life and love," the woman wrote.

Greg was educated at Palmerston North Boys' High School and had been a cadet with the electricity department, receiving training in all forms of engineering. As he got sicker he was unable to work. "It's a terrible thing to end up with, a mental illness, because it robs people of everything," Barbara says. "He never, ever, voluntarily sought help in a place like this so he always ended up having to be committed. I hate that word." Greg used to work in Barbara's own garden. "He was my eldest son and he was dearly loved

Barbara says therapeutic gardens are more common in Australia; she was once invited to present at a therapeutic gardens conference in Melbourne. Her dream is for all hospitals to have a place of peace and tranquillity. "Some might have but many don't." In the garden there's a plaque with the words that came to Barbara when she was thinking about what the garden would do. "Plant me a garden to heal the soul, a garden of peace and tranquillity." She has written about Greg's life and the history of the sensory garden - the leaflet is available to garden visitors.

To be a garden volunteer ring Glenda Houston on 350 8850 or email: Glenda.Houston@midcentralthb.govt.nz.

Guest Editorial

With a research day looming, I want to urge you to focus your thinking. Ask yourself, what is the next question I want to answer to advance the story of this particular family. Where could that information be found?

If you can't answer that "Where" question, talk to the people around you. They might suggest some wild ideas you would never have thought of. And in the meantime just keep gathering as many other references as possible to that person. You just might stumble on an answer to your "Where" question.

For example, I found a marriage date and place mentioned in the groom's probate papers. I had been looking in the wrong country! And once I found the wife's parents named in an emigration shipping list, as next of kin in case of disaster I suppose. Having a common name as they did, I would never have got further back with that family without that shipping list.

But let's assume you have an answer to the "Where" question, namely, a set of records has been suggested for you to search. Now you have a slightly different question – the "How" question. How can I access those records. The answer used to be, wait for a chance to visit the repository. Now there is quite likely to be an indexed transcription, maybe even several independent transcriptions of the same records. You need to talk to an experienced genealogist about what the options are for access.

Mary Skipworth

Contact Details Branch, Committee Members & Helpers

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Palmerston North Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.