

Riccarton
Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

NEWSLETTER



March 2019
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NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March 2019

This month's meeting will be a

LIBRARY & PROJECTS EVENING

This will be an opportunity to make full use of our branch library's holdings so please come prepared with your notebooks. Peter Hentschel will have the Members' Interests database on a laptop computer so that lookups can be made. If you have not yet contributed your surnames then bring these along too.

Bill Schoch and Alan Tunnicliffe will speak briefly about our ongoing projects.

FUTURE MEETINGS

As mentioned last month, some daytime visits are being planned to the following: Canterbury Branch's rooms which includes an LDS Affiliate FH Library (weekday and/or weekend), Catholic Archives and the University's Macmillan Brown Library. If you are interested in any of these, then please let the Programme Organiser know [Alan Tunnicliffe].

Meetings: 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month (Feb to Nov) at the Upper Riccarton Library, 71 Main South Road. Visitors are welcome.

Postal Address: Riccarton Branch NZSG Secretary, 32 Townshend Crescent, Halswell, Christchurch 8025.
E-mail: riccartongenealogy@hotmail.com

Riccarton Branch Committee:

Convenor: Lance Kenyon 027 848 3112

Treasurer: Anne Davison 321 7338

Committee: Jean Sharfe 349 8366

Win Loach 338 4316

Kathy Hill 322 6183

David Lees 3499 431

Peter Hentschel 351 5638

Alan Tunnicliffe 358 4838

Barrie Greenwood 341 2122

Kate Trotter 343 4501

Bill Schoch 347 4202

Secretary: Judith Pay 322 6367

Magazine Circulation: Win Loach 338 4316

Librarian: Kathy Hill: 322 6183

www.librarything.com/catalog/riccartonnzsg

Financial Reviewer: Keith Sharp

Archivist: Jan Sharp 351 5951

Editor: Alan Tunnicliffe alant@snap.net.nz

Members Interests: Peter Hentschel

Projects Officer: Bill Schoch

Programme Organiser: Alan Tunnicliffe

Research Advisor: Alan Tunnicliffe

FROM THE CONVENOR'S DESK

Library evening this month with an opportunity to do some research and grab a couple of the resources. Peter is going to have the member's interest list as well and if you want to update it or research some family links please take the time to chat with him. I would also recommend you read the *New Zealand Genealogist* (if a member) as there is a wealth of information, including research assistance (outside AKL), links and stories. One particular article "Getting It Right" is about a new series of videos about genealogy and how to research. There may be a useful tidbit for your own family, even if you are one of our experts. This month of March is a special date for those genealogists who have Scottish ancestors who settled in Dunedin. The *John Wickliffe* anchored in Port Chalmers on 23 March 1848 with the first 97 settlers from the United Kingdom. The region has a lot of genealogical information, such as the Hocken Library which has a lot of early books, maps and documents. It's one of my genealogical bucket lists to visit at some stage. Good hunting on your genealogical search and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Lance

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

Very few additions to this website have been made recently but on 11 February the following was uploaded:

- London Poor Law Hospital Admissions & Discharges 1842-1918

Images of the registers are available which give information such as occupation, creed and nearest relation.

FINDMYPAST NEWS

On 22 February two new additions were made:

- Yorkshire Baptisms, Marriages, Banns & Burials from many parishes
 - Scotland Ante-nuptial Relationship Index 1661-1780
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ENGLAND & WALES GRO BIRTHS & DEATHS

Images [as pdfs] of birth certificates (1837-1918) and death certificates [1837-1957] are now permanently available, since 16 February, following several trials over the past two years. The cost for these is now £7 (a rise of £1) but that is £4 cheaper than buying a paper certificate (which was £9.25) for £11 (which you still have to do for marriages).

A reminder that you can use the website www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/Login.asp to search for births using the mother's maiden surname (if known) or can discover her surname if not known. In other indexes (for example at freebmd.org.uk) the mother's maiden name is not given until 1911, but using the GRO website her name appears from 1837 onwards. You can also use the variant spelling option which often finds slight errors in the original registration or misinterpretations of hard to read handwriting.

FUNERAL SERVICE SHEETS

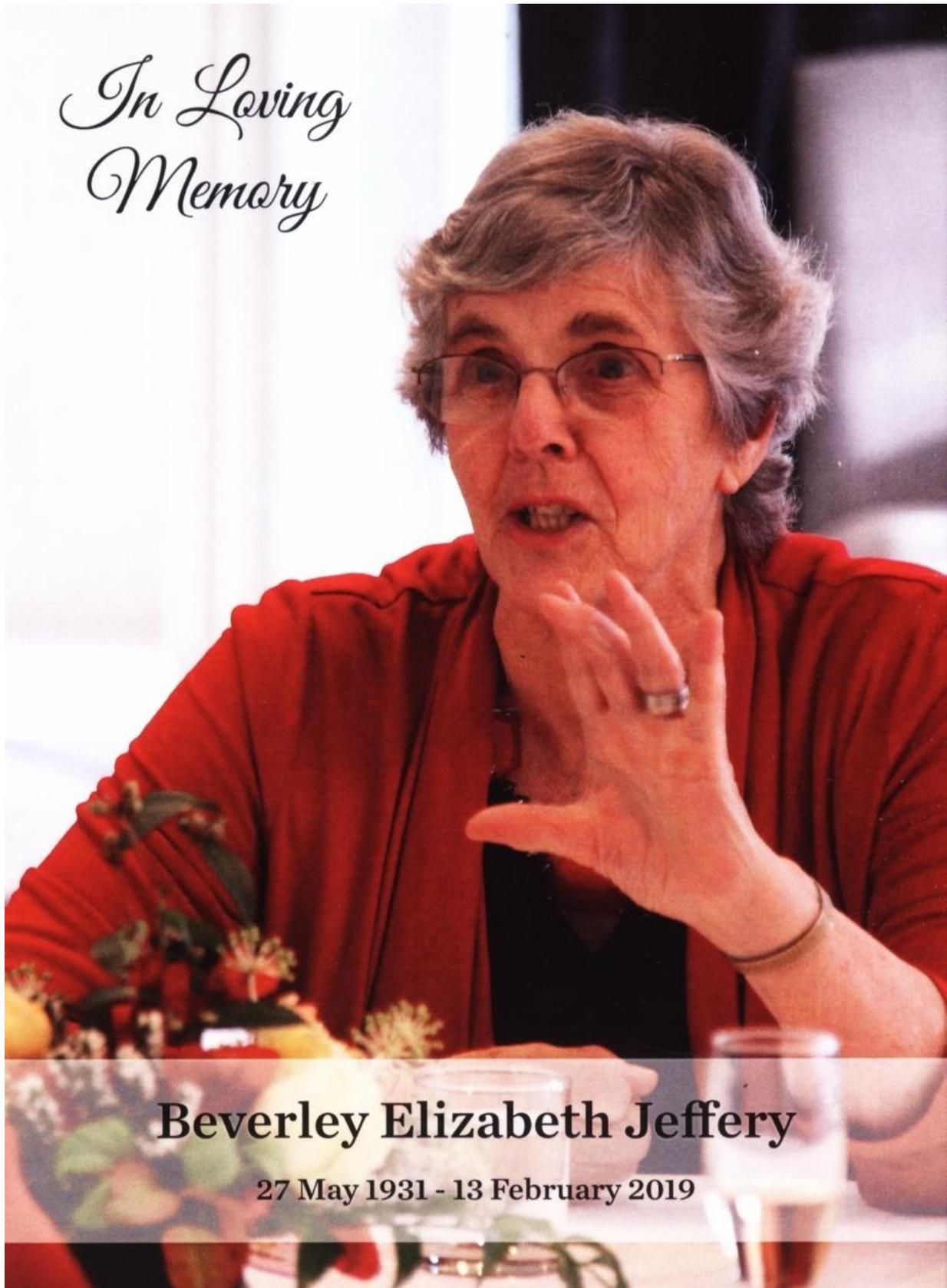
These continue to come in but I am sure a lot of you have many stored away that you do not need to keep, so please hand them to me at any meeting.

Many thanks, Alan Tunnicliffe

LIBRARYTHING APP

Our Librarian Kathy Hill advises that the online catalogue we use for our holdings has released the first major update to its app. Although aimed at smartphone users I am sure the app can be used on laptops and desktop computers. For details see librarything.com/topic/302878

*In Loving
Memory*



Beverley Elizabeth Jeffery

27 May 1931 - 13 February 2019

We regret to have to report the death of another of our Life Members, Beverley Jeffery who passed away on 13 February at the age of 87. Our sympathy goes to Beverley's husband, fellow Life Member Garry Jeffery and their family of Glynis, Mark and Stephen. Several branch members were among the large number of mourners at her funeral service. On display were two examples of family-trees created by Beverley (tapestry and calligraphic), several family-history books published by her about her ancestral families, in addition to examples of her paintings and craft work. Beverley served on our branch committee for two years in the late 1990s, including being our Librarian. She was also co-Editor with Garry of the newsletter briefly in 2007.

WORLD WAR TWO ANNIVERSARY: PART ONE

by Alan Tunncliffe



To kick off this new series of articles which we will be publishing during this year and next year, I will tell the story of the uncle I never knew, Edward Lee WARD (known as Ted). He was born in Invercargill on 22 August 1913, the son of Edward Ward and Susanna nee LEE. His parents lived in Winton where his father was a hairdresser. Ted married my father's oldest sister, Marjorie Isabel TUNNICLIFFE, in 1935. He was a linotype operator by trade but when he volunteered to serve on 15 September 1939 he was working as a labourer for the Invercargill City Council and was the father of two young children, a daughter aged two and a son aged one. However, in September 1939 my aunt was one month pregnant and another daughter was duly born in May 1940.

Ted had earlier served for 2 years in the Territorials. His medical examination reveals his height as 5'8½" and weight as 10st 7lb. He had brown hair and blue eyes. He had false teeth and had to sign that they would not be repaired at Government expense unless damaged when he was on duty.

On 5 October 1939 he began his service as Private No. 8291 in the 20th Infantry Battalion, part of the 4th NZ Infantry Brigade. He signed his attestation form on 11 November 1939 at Burnham Military Camp.

Ted stayed in New Zealand for the next 3 months until sailing with the 1st Echelon on 5 January 1940 to Egypt, arriving 40 days later. He served in Egypt throughout 1940 but in 1941 he was sent to Greece, specifically to Crete, where along with many other New Zealand soldiers he was destined to lose his life.

He was killed at Larissa on 18 April 1941, aged 27. He never knew his younger daughter (nor she him) but my aunt would have sent him photos of her. She was not quite one year old when he died. He was awarded 4 medals: the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the War Medal 1939-45 and the NZ War Service Medal, which were issued to his widow in 1950. He is buried in the Phaleron War Cemetery in Athens in grave 8.E.17. His name is also on the Invercargill Cenotaph and in the Hall of Memories in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The citizens of Winton presented a coloured memorial scroll to my aunt to commemorate her husband's supreme sacrifice.

