



⇐ **BRANCH LINES** ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. **88** – Dec 2020/Jan2021



Branch Meeting Topics and Special events: 2021

Meetings are provisional on the current Covid-19 status and may change.

Meetings will commence at **4:45 pm** with a cup of tea and snack.

February 17	Branch meeting: Organising Your Research – Digital and Paper
March 5 & 6	‘Drop In Clinic’ at Resource Room 10am - 2pm
March 12 & 13	‘Drop In Clinic’ at Resource Room 10am - 2pm
March 17	Branch meeting: Family Search: Making the most of the site
March 19 & 20	‘Drop In Clinic’ at Resource Room 10am - 2pm
March 26 & 27	‘Drop In Clinic’ at Resource Room 10am - 2pm



About Branch Lines

Branch Lines is a periodic magazine, issued for the members of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The views expressed are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Branch of the Society.

It is intended to be produced bimonthly to keep you up to date with events. Wendy Shaw is currently filling the position of Editor.

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New Zealand News

Port Otago has taken over ownership of, and responsibility for, the heritage-listed Port Chalmers Maritime Museum for the next 35 years. The museum will continue to display the unique history of the port with planned improvements to ensure this treasure trove remains available for research and local history. If you haven't been there, do make an effort to visit.

Overseas News



LEGACY USERS: Sunset Notice for the Backup Service (Legacy Cloud)

Legacy Cloud is a free offsite backup service for users of Legacy Family Tree 9 software. We are now announcing that **this backup service will be retired on January 1, 2021.**

Due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements, we need to discontinue the backup service. The Legacy Cloud backup tool will continue to function until midnight of December 31, 2020 and will then be turned off and all backup files will be permanently deleted to ensure privacy. Any user of the backup service who would like a copy of their backup from Legacy Cloud is encouraged to download their backup from the service before January 1, 2021. To do so, we recommend first creating a new family file, then go to File > Restore File > Restore from Legacy Cloud. This will prevent an old backup from overriding a newer version of the tree.

Legacy Backup tool will still be available

Backing up your Legacy family file will continue to be available. It allows the user to back up their family file to any desired location (like to a USB drive, to an external hard drive and elsewhere). Backups are a best practice and are strongly recommended.

Other backup services

Services such as Backblaze, Carbonite, IDrive, or even Dropbox offer automated, offsite backup tools. The advantage of using a service like this compared to the Legacy Cloud service, is that any time you make a change to your Legacy family file, the service can be set to automatically back it up to its remote servers. With Legacy Cloud, you had to manually initiate the backup process. Another advantage of one of these other services is that they can back up more than just your Legacy family file – they can backup any file on your computer such as photos, documents, emails and much more.

Roots Tech Conference 2021

This conference, usually held in Utah, is going virtual with FREE access.

Planned dates are 25-27 February 2021. Multiple speakers on multiple subjects (you don't have to be a computer nerd!). Register at RootsTech.org.

Family Search additions:

- 1891 Census for Norway
- New York, Index to Passengers Lists of Vessels, 1897-1902
- Sweden: Vasterbotten Church Records 1619-1896; Index 1688-1860

England:

Probates 1958 to present and Soldiers Wills. View and order at this website.

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Wales:

Welsh Anglican parish records previously only found on Find My Past are now available on Ancestry and The Genealogist websites. Visit <https://www.lostcousins.com/> for further details.

Scotland:

Scotland Memorial Inscriptions:

Find my Past have added over 600,000 records covering 800+ burial grounds across the country. This has been created in conjunction with the following family history groups.

- Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS
- Caithness FHS
- Dumfries & Galloway FHS
- East Ayrshire FHS
- Highland FHS
- Lanarkshire FHS
- Moray Burial Ground Research Group
- Scottish Genealogy Society
- Tay Valley FHS
- Troon@Ayrshire FHS

Indexes for Burials at Sea can be found on Ancestry and Find a Grave websites – worth checking out if you cannot locate your missing person.

Jewish Records (Per GENUKI):

- The [Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain](#).
- [Jewish Communities and Records](#) contains details of more than 1,200 congregations, past and present.
- The [Jewish Museum](#), London
- The [Jewish Chronicle](#) is a useful source of information to track Jewish people and events back to 1841.
- [JewishGen](#) has a number of online databases.
- Eugene Harfield. [*A Commercial Directory of the Jews of the United Kingdom*](#). London: Hewlett & Pierce (1894) 280pp



Wanting to get your family Coat of Arms for Christmas??

In many shopping malls, even sometimes at family history events, you will see vendors selling reproductions of coats of arms, claiming to be the “proud history and heritage of your family name” or similar words. These merchants sell coats of arms on parchment paper, suitable for framing. They also may sell coats of arms on t-shirts, sweatshirts, golf jerseys, stationery, coffee mugs or even key chains.

The College of Arms in England (the heralds for English, Welsh, Northern Irish, and Commonwealth families) says (at <http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/resources/faqs>):

“There is no such thing as a ‘coat of arms for a surname. Many people of the same surname will often be entitled to completely different coats of arms, and many of that surname will be entitled to no coat of arms. Coats of arms belong to individuals. For any person to have a right to a coat of arms they must either have had it granted to them or be descended in the legitimate male line from a person to whom arms were granted or confirmed in the past.”



The next time someone offers a copy of your “family’s coat of arms,” ask them for the documentation. They won’t have any. If a friend of yours is displaying a coat of arms on his stationery or on his fireplace mantel, I suggest you simply walk away smiling. There’s no sense in upsetting a good friendship. But don’t be as gullible as your friend. And please, please do not display your “family’s coat of arms” on your genealogy Web site unless you have been confirmed by the heralds, Okay?

(An excerpt taken from Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter 14 June 2016)

Smocked tops and Shirts

Traditional outer garments worn by a variety of smocked tops have been around from the early 1700s although there are few examples of these early garments. There are references to them in early writings but they did not come into common usage until the early/mid 1800s.

- Who wore the smock tops/shirts? Children wore them to protect their everyday clothes – e.g. in 1755 children at the Foundling Hospital in London were known to have worn them. However, smocking on children’s garments didn’t really become fashionable until an illustration in a children’s book around 1880 depicted what we now days recognise the multicoloured stitching on the front yoke and/or sleeves of little girls. Men and boys wore the smocks – initially labourers in agriculture and industry e.g. butchers and grocers through until the early 1900s. There were ‘work’ smocks and ‘best’ smocks – the former to reduce the wear and tear on everyday clothing, the latter worn with pride and worn on special occasions e.g. funerals and civil ceremonies.
- What were they made of? Work smocks were usually made of heavy, coarse linen. Later more delicate fabrics were used in decorated undergarments such as chemises and nightwear for women.



- All pieces of the smock were made from either square or rectangles of fabric with the shape being made by the actual smocking. There were two main designs – either a round frock with front and back pieces the same and had an opening at the back. The second style was the coat type which had a front opening – sometimes open down to the hem
- Decorated panels were found at the collar, shoulders and cuffs.
- Smocks made in finer linen were made for special occasions and often white smocks were worn at funerals and weddings. Green smocks were sometimes impregnated with linseed to make it waterproof – handy if worn when out at shooting parties. Butchers in some areas of England wore blue coloured smocks.
- Often a seamstress made smocks for everyone in the village and used standard smock patterns as well as stitching patterns. There were some clothing manufacturers who made them in bulk, contracting out pieces to be stitched then assembled back in the main factory – similar to outworkers in the shoemaking trade.
- Smocks and smocking has periods of revival where there is renewed interest in taking up traditional skills and handcrafts.



Further Reading:

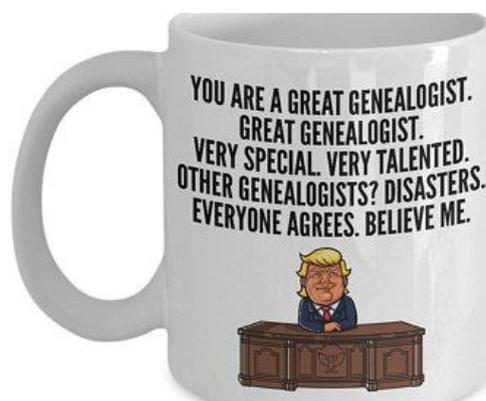
Smocks by Maggie Hall. Shire album No 46. Buckinghamshire, England.1979. ISBN: 0-85263-477-3.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smock-frock>

<https://merl.reading.ac.uk/explore/online-exhibitions/smocks/>

<https://www.otagomuseum.nz/blog/smock-shock/>

<https://charlottesydimby.com/blogs/news/the-history-of-smocks>



And to finish off a memorable year.....

Southland History Spot:

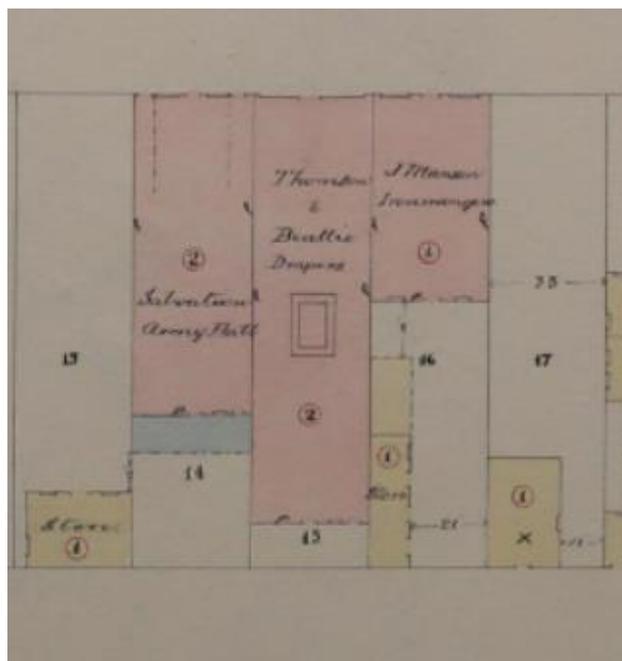
Section 14, Block LXXV (75). Tay Street.



This section was purchased by John Ramsay in 1875. By early 1877 Ramsay began what was to become the well known Ramsay's Hall – a venue for exhibitions and art displays as well as visiting speakers from around the world. The main hall was expected to seat 500 people with shops on the Tay street frontage and a dining room upstairs. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, famed Baptist preacher spoke there in 1878 on his NZ tour.

By early 1885 Ramsay leased out the hall to the Salvation Army for its barracks and social services for approximately 2 years before Thomson & Beattie, drapers, who occupied the western portion of the building took over this eastern half of the building as well and expanded its business to become the their much photographed emporium. This business lasted on site until 1960's with many Southland residents recalling many memories of either working there or having purchased items there.

H & J Smiths then occupied part of the building and retailed outdoor camping equipment and guns before the Richardson Group renovated and restored much of the building to become what is now Motorcycle Mecca.



Part of Block LXXV Plans of Invercargill Buildings Burwell 1886 - Invercargill Archives

Current Branch Projects

Obituaries from the Southland Times of local people (and many national figures) are being collected. These are then indexed before placing the books in the Resource Room. Index is on Resource Room laptop.

Lone Graves in Southland and Stewart Is - Mary Stuart and Yvonne Service continue collecting data on these graves – found in isolated places e.g. on farms, in isolated bush, disused dwellings, abandoned mining camps. An earlier edition was submitted to and is on the Kiwi Index 2.0 but there is more to be added.

Other Projects may be commenced 2021 – watch this space

Directory

**Southland Branch,
NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.**

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Meetings

**Third Wednesday of each month Feb-Nov
Meeting Room, Invercargill City Library at 5 p.m.
[Research facilities from 4 p.m.]**

Branch website ~

<http://www.nzsgsouthland.com/>

NZSG website ~

<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/>

Genealogical Computing Group website ~

<http://www.gencom.org.nz/>

