

Branch Lines



Special points of interest:

- Branch Lines is a bi-monthly magazine. (February to November each year)
- Escrow for the members of the Southland Branch of the Society
- The views expressed within are those of the contributors and not necessarily representing the views of the Branch or the Society.

Send copy for publication to
wv_bird_shore@hotmail.com
or by handing to Geoff at the next meeting.

End Of The Year Is Nigh

We head into huge uncertainty as 2001 draws to an end. The USA attacked; border-less countries with border-less citizens sending our world into a spin. No doubt like you, I am wishing for a sensible outcome to what is shaping up to be a deadly conflict. This has affected many folk in all sorts of ways, and I can't but help observing that whether you are for or against retaliation, there is an air of trepidation permeating even here in little 'ole Invercargill. It has begun!

On a more positive note, it seems our fair Province Southland is on an economic high right now. 30% growth is not to be sneezed at. It has often been said that in Southland we are first into a recession but at the other end we are often first out. Let us all

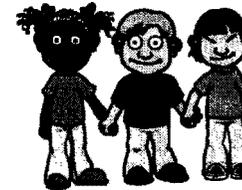
hope that the growth being experienced and the very positive vibes around us down here in the south is a sign for all of New Zealand—and ain't it great seeing smiles on peoples dials around town just now?

I trust you all have had a successful year in your research. Success is subjective of course; even the smallest of finds can be regarded as success by many of us.

We've experienced some really interesting things this year put on by your committee. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have. Well done to those who toil away in the background making it interesting for us. They sacrifice much of their precious time for us; with minimal reward apart from the satisfaction of doing the best job they can. A word of encouragement from time to time to all of them wouldn't go amiss—so apart from this written commentary—so—what say you do that too eh?

Well I'm signing off for the year. Take care over the festive break and see you in 2002.

Geoff



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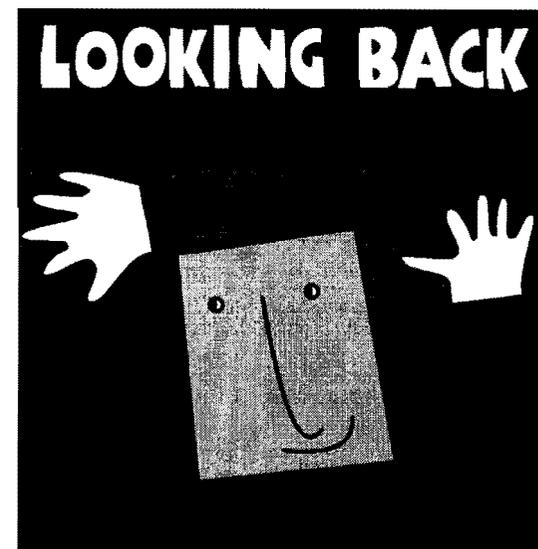
100 YEARS AGO

A Masterton private bailiff, who attempted to take possession of a tenement owing to arrears of rent, had a somewhat exciting experience a few days ago (says the Wairarapa Daily Times). He was warned by the husband before entering the house of the risk he ran, but, nothing daunted, he formally took possession and was proceeding to read the distress warrant when he was suddenly assailed by the wife, receiving a severe blow in the face. His assailant continued to knock him about generally, remonstrating with him at intervals by means of chairs and other articles of furniture. The bailiff incontinently fled to the police station where he arrived in a rather battered condition. Accompanied by a policeman, the bailiff subsequently returned to the house but only to find the doors securely locked and their admission defiantly refused by the besieged occupants.

A Gore resident, recently fined in the local court for failing to send his children to school, writes to the Standard as follows: "British Justice v. Heinous Crime. In Gore yesterday the police exacted costs and fine (£2 7s) in default five weeks' imprisonment from a poor man who has nine motherless little children, for the heinous crime of sending one - a little boy over 12 years old - to work a few days to earn a few shillings for the

children's support. O ye gods! What has become of all your Christian charity after 1900 years of charitable teaching?"

An amusing sight in Wellington every afternoon just now (telegraphs our Wellington correspondent) is to see early patrons of the opera gathering round the Opera House doors in Manners Street from as early as between 5.30 and 6 pm. The grand opera season is proving an immense success. The receipts for the Auckland season exceeded expectations by £100, and in Wellington full bookings are recorded several days ahead, seats being turned over at a premium.

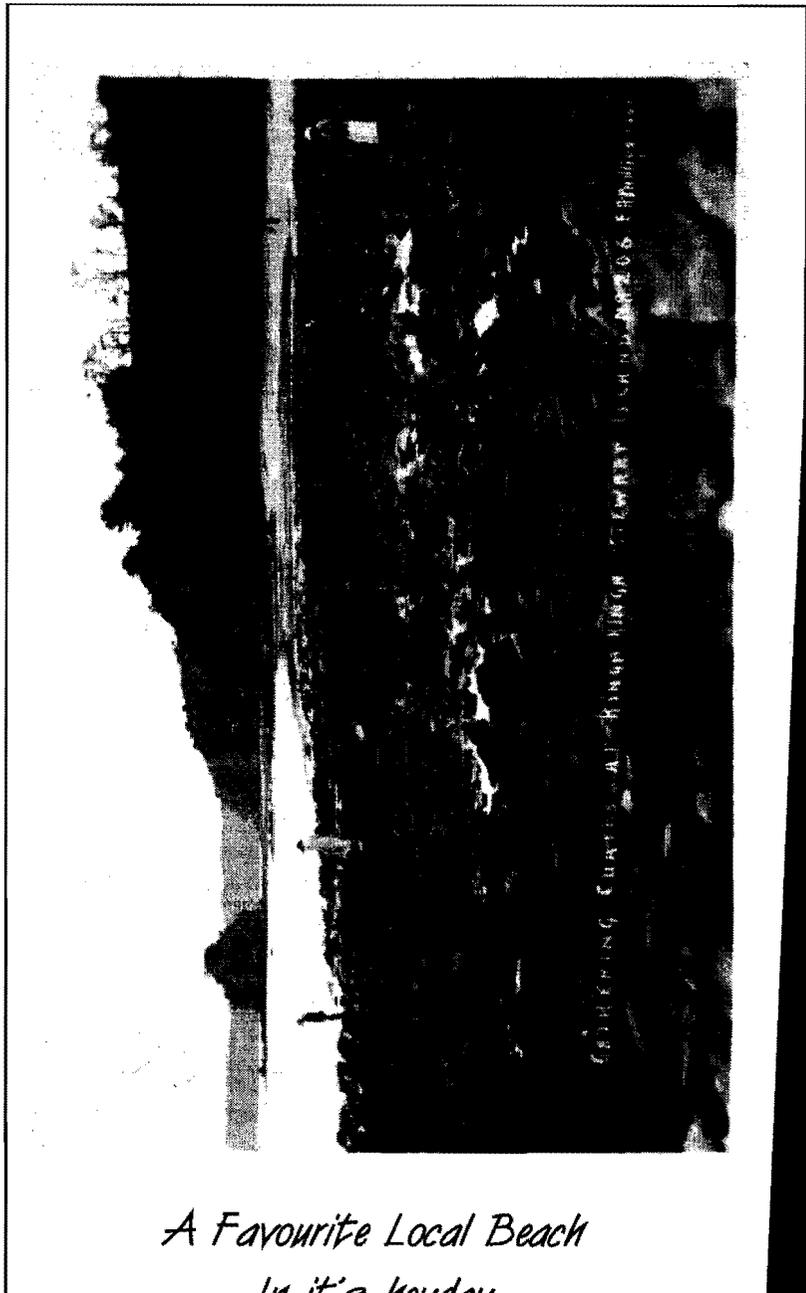




2001 Programme

- 17 October AGM and Speaker
- 21 November Pot Luck Supper and Talk on 1901 Census.

This programme is subject to change if circumstances arise which will benefit members



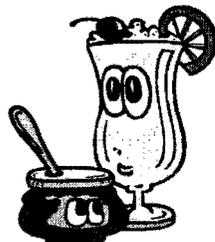
*A Favourite Local Beach
In it's heyday*

An' Then There Was

Deskford, 1740 'Alexander MacHattie in Ardoch had a Child by his Wife who was born with a wooden leg. It is supposed the child has been got by a Chelsea Pensioner with a timber heugh' (Deskford, 10.1 1740; OPR 151/1, Fr 164)

Livingston, 1807 Born to Hellen Baxter in the Village of Livingston on 28 Decr 1805 and Baptized on the 26th Feby. 1807

'N.B. This Child Baptism could Her Mother gave which she said the road from ther was sus- the doors. But a



named Helen Baxter at the time of its not find a Father. it to a Packman came up to her on Edinr. though the Fa- pected to be nearer

confession from the time it was born to this day Could not be extorted from the Mother.'

(Livingston, 1807; OPR 669/1, Fr 358)

Banchory Devenick, 1827 Marriage of Andrew Wood & Agnes Twig [And they branched out] (not in book) (24 July 1828 son George) (Banchory Devenick, Kincardineshire; 4.10.1827 - OPR 251/3, Fr-)

Death by 'stupidity' 'James Robertson born January 1785 died 16th June 1848 aged 63 years. He was a peaceable quiet man; and to all appearances a sincere Christian. His death was very much regretted which was caused by the stupidity of Laurence Tulloch in Clotharther who sold him nitre instead of Epsom salts by which he was killed in the space of 3 hours after a dose of

it.' (Esherness, Shetland)

Something - George Something lawful son to what-ye-call-him in Mains of Barskimming was baptized April 9th 1704. (Ochiltree, 1704 OPR 609/1. page 9)

'Waterloo Wellington Kennedy.' (Born 11 Feb/Bapt 22 Feb WATERLOO Wellington lawful son of James Kennedy Junior Seedsman and Elizabeth Hayne Dumfries - Baptised by Dr Wallace) (Dumfries, 1853; OPR 821/8, Fr 2041)

'1774 June 15th BALDY Lawll. Son to Archd Buchanan and Jean Buchanan at Rid[?] was baptized before these witnesses: John and Walter Buchanan Elders' (OPR 482/3)

22nd February 1818, Glasgow 'Duncan McIntyre Mason & Mary McIntyre [had] a Law. Son [called] Saint Mark - Bo. 31st January Wit: James Laird & John Gilmour' (Glasgow, 1818; OPR 644.1/22*, Fr 2456)

4th July 1819, Glasgow 'Archibald McPherson Weaver & Elizabeth Forsyth [had] a Law. Son [called] John Baptist Wit: John McPherson & James Douglas.' (OPR 644.1/22*, Fr 2552)

And in Longforgan in 1685 we find the somewhat ambiguous statement: 'It is also ordered that no brydegroom kiss his bryde before the Minister under the pain of ten merk.'

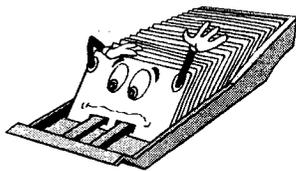


CORNWELLS MISSING IN AUSTRALIA

Here are all the details I have on the missing CORNWELL relatives (please note they are definitely CORNWELL not Cornwall).

Harry Benjamin CORNWELL was born 1879 in Bow, Middx to Cyrus and Sarah CORNWELL. The family originated in Isleham, Cambridgeshire, but Cyrus moved to London where he listed in 1881 as a coffee house keeper in Greenwich. Harry, then a market cashier, married Teresa Naomi BRAYE (b. abt 1879; father Wilfred Eugene BRAYE) on 15 July 1907 at Clapham Common Baptist Chapel. Their first child David Eugene CORNWELL was born on 26 May 1909 at 69 Stormont Road, Battersea. At this time Harry is described as a butcher's clerk.

David married and neither of listed as witness is an Albert who I haven't



Family tradition says that the parents went to Australia or New Zealand with a younger child. I assume that they probably left England about 1930, when David came of age, since he opted to stay here.

With help, I have traced the family back to 1739 but cannot find where Harry, Teresa and ?? their younger child went between 1909 and 1934. I have drawn a blank in Australia so far. My cousin's wife would love to discover that she has relatives out there!

Many thanks for your help

Please contact Lesley Instone
if you have information

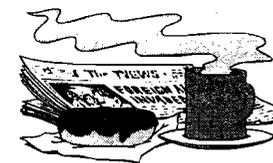
SHROPSHIRE WILLS

To the best of my knowledge there is no comprehensive list of Shropshire Wills. The County of Shropshire was and still is divided among the Diocese of Lichfield, St Asaph, Hereford & the Peculiar of Bridgnorth. Wills until 1858 were either proved in one of the local Diocesan Courts or in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury - PCC or Prerogative Court of York - PCY.

So when looking for Wills before 1858 you have to ascertain which was the most likely Diocese in which to search or search them all.

Hereford Diocese Wills are at Hereford Record Office, they have a number of indexes, but none of them on the internet. There is also a listing in the Shropshire Record Office, in a book in the search room of Shropshire Wills, proved in Hereford, but it is not comprehensive. Lichfield Diocese Wills are at Lichfield Record Office and once again the early ones are listed in a book at Shrewsbury. For later Lichfield Wills, you then have to search the Calendar Books, in Lichfield Record Office for any relevant entries. St Asaph Wills are in the National Library of Wales, they do have fairly good Indexes, but none on the internet. They are very helpful if you write and ask.

Early PCC Wills have been indexed, up to about 1750 I think, they are then calendared and the books are available at the PRO and on the 1st floor at Myddelton House.



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Deep and Meaningful

—Contributed By Pam Atkinson via the Web

I recently found this on the internet by an unknown author. "My feelings are in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe.

All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors you have a wonderful family you would be proud of us? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do?

It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it.

It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today.

It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us.

So, as a scribe called I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones."

Postscript

I remember my Dad telling me that we descended from a family of scribes. From my research I have established that after about 6 generations I was the first and only one to pick up the trade of being a scribe/clerk/administrator—call it what you will—a storyteller—h'mm makes me thinkbut why did it take so long to emerge ??

Geoff (Editor)



					Hurry to:-
					Stamp

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Southland Branch of the New Zealand Genealogy Society
 holds a meeting on the third Wednesday of each month except
 December and January at 7.30 pm. A wide range of research resources
 owned by the Branch are available from 1.30pm on the meeting day to
 Branch Members only.
 Visitors are welcome at the meeting and also to some research mate-
 rial from 7.00pm on meeting day at no cost for one introductory meet-
 ing. Full membership would be necessary thereafter.
 Venue: First floor Scottish Hall Park Street Invercargill
 Supper and photocopier provic t the meeting (each for a small
 charge).