



# Branch Lines

The Southland Branch of the  
New Zealand Society of  
Genealogists

Issue 34

January/February 2002

## Editor Geoff. has moved on .....

Yes, Editor Geoff. Amos has moved on.

It came somewhat at short notice, even to him—but his employer has seconded him to a position in Wellington for six months. After that, he is not sure what the future holds for him, but he doesn't rule out the possibility of a move from Invercargill.

Geoff. had been the Editor of 'Branch Lines' at least since late 1998, taking over the duty from Guy Harris. In those days, it was just entitled 'Bi-Monthly Magazine' and was in A4 format. Issue #19 was the first of the booklet-style A5 that we are now familiar with. The credit for the renaming goes to two people: to Geoff. for seeking a brand name, and Evelyn Jones who

came up with the 'Branch Lines' name. Issue #20, of March/April 1999 was the first to appear with the new masthead.

In the 14 or so issues since then, there have been two style changes—



issues 22–29 had 'Branch Lines' running up the left-hand spine; issues 30–33 saw the masthead at the top of

page one, with a fresh style.

We pass to Geoff. the very best wishes for his secondment, and thank him soundly for setting the high standard that he has managed to achieve with the magazine. It is, as the saying goes, a hard act to follow. We hope that Geoff. might return to the Branch one day; his cheerful and larger-than-life presence will be missed.

Geoff. was an active contributor to the Genealogical Computing Group also; the computer users wish him well also in the capital, and hope he may be back one day.



## ... but Branch Lines continues !

As this palindromic year starts, there has been some fast footwork to make sure that 'Branch Lines' continues

And continue it will. This issue is being hastily put together by Roger Washbourn, who is

thankful that Mrs Pat. Turnbull of Tussock Creek has expressed an interest in taking up the Editor's pen. Problems this issue revolve around having suitable computer software to produce the newsletter. Next month,

Pat. hopes to be kitted up, and will take the reins from Issue 35.

Thanks Pat., and best wishes.



### About 'Branch Lines'

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

*Send copy for publication to Mrs Pat. Turnbull (whom we hope is to take up the position of Editor).*

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## From the Branch Committee

Some announcements from the Committee for the information of Branch members :-

- Subscriptions for the 2001~02 year are now due - please pay them to Suzanne Ballinger as soon as you can, as the Branch relies on prompt payment of subscriptions to fund the Branch's activities. Subs this year are \$35 for singles; \$45 for joint membership. There are no rebates for early payment.
- Please note the change to the date of the Eastern Cemetery Tour—it is now **Sunday 24 March**, at 1.30pm.
- Kathryn Davies is co-ordinating the copying of members BDM certificates to lodge with the Branch and the NZSG collection. Please bring your certificates to meeting nights for Kathryn to copy.
- Remember the Early Settlers pre-1900 Register - we would like to have more completed forms. Copies of blank forms are available from the Secretary.
- The Committee is investigating purchase of a second-hand desktop computer, to be set up permanently in the fiche room for members' use (for reading CD's, school rolls and other Branch resources). More news next month.

Mary Stuart  
Convenor.

## Meetings

### Sunday 10 March

The Gore BRANCH is hosting the regional NZSG meeting (Mainland South) at the Heritage Centre 11am~3pm.

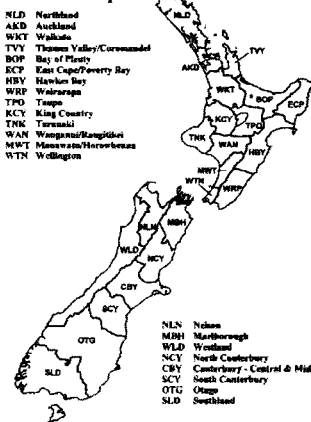
### Wednesday 13 March

Southland Branch Committee meeting, 7.30pm, at Lesley's.

### 1st weekend October 2002

Southland to host NZSG meeting in Invercargill. (Details to be announced.)

### Districts Map



## AGM

### NZSG AGM and Research Weekend

Oamaru  
1~3 June 2002

(See the January/February Issue of 'The New Zealand Genealogist' for a Registration form.)

## Committee Members

The Southland Branch Committee members for 2002 are :-

Convenor Mrs Mary Stuart  
 Vice-Convenor Roger Washbourn  
 Secretary Lesley Instone  
 Treasurer Suzanne Ballinger

Librarian Mary Murray  
 Committee Gaynor Aicken  
 Kathryn Davies  
 Toni Grafton  
 Yvonne Service  
 Ex Officio Shirley Walker.

The Committee meets about 6~7 times during the year. They would welcome comments or constructive criticism on the Branch's programme or any matters which Branch members feel is not being adequately addressed.

**DUNEDIN BRANCH**

6 February—Branch meeting "The History of the Knox Church/Olveston area."

21 February—GCG Group—CD writers.

6 March—Branch Meeting "Murder and Mayhem in South Dunedin."

10 March—Irish Group Meeting.

3 April—Branch meeting: Focus on Genealogy night.

Meeting Venue: Otago Settlers Museum.  
Queens Gardens, Dunedin.  
7.30 p.m.

Postal address:  
NZSG Dunedin Branch  
PO Box 5634, Moray Place  
Dunedin.

Convenor: Stewart Harvey.

**GORE BRANCH**

5 February—visit to the Waikaia Museum.

2 March—Open Day: Research.

5 March—Research and photocopying certificates.

9 April—English research speaker.

Meeting venue: Hokonui Heritage Centre,  
Gore.

Convenor: Avis McDonald.

**WINTON LOCAL AREA**

Contact: Mrs Joan McConachie  
38 Anne Street  
Winton.  
Phone 03-236 1737.

**ALEXANDRA BRANCH**

Meetings: 7.30 pm; First Wednesday betw.  
February and November.

Venue: Alexandra Public Library, Tarbert  
Street, Alexandra..

Convenor: Mrs Edith McKay.

## Southland Branch's 2002 Programme

The programme is reproduced from the green Information Brochure 2002 circulated latest year.

**2002 PROGRAMME**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 20 February              | Back to Basics (refresher)<br>- Lesley Instone.  |
| 20 March                 | Panel discussion and Research night.             |
| 24 March (Sunday) 1.30pm | —Eastern Cemetery Tour.                          |
| 17 April                 | Computer genealogy.                              |
| 15 May                   | Southland Museum.                                |
| 1~3 June                 | <b>NZSG AGM</b> and Research—Oamaru.             |
| 19 June                  | Local historian (to be advised).                 |
| 17 July                  | Local research evening.                          |
| 21 August                | Photographic conservation and restoration.       |
| 18 September             | Dunedin Repositories.                            |
| 16 October               | <b>Branch AGM</b> , and speaker (to be advised). |
| 20 November              | Pot luck supper and speaker (to be advised).     |

*This programme is subject to change if circumstances arise which will benefit the Branch and its members.*



## Computer Group News

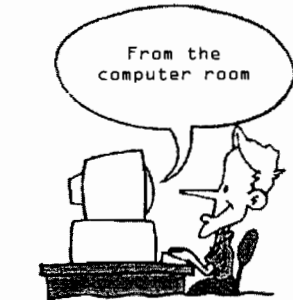
### Computer Software

If you are thinking of buying a genealogical computing program, then there is a very good article in the Consumer magazine for December 2001, pages 14-17. Copies of Consumer are available in the magazine section of the Invercargill Public Library.

The article covers many points you need to consider when deciding which program would best suit your needs and your budget. It reviews a number of programs, and lists the top ten in the following order -

- |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1. Family Tree Maker        | \$100 |
| 2. Family Origins DeLuxe    | \$95  |
| 3. Legacy 3.0 Standard      | Free  |
| 4. Personal Ancestral File  | Free  |
| 5. Generations Grande Suite | \$130 |
| 6. Ezitree for Windows      | \$136 |
| 7. Master Genealogist Gold  | \$250 |
| 8. Brother's Keeper 6.0     | Free  |
| 9. Relatively Yours II      | \$150 |
| 10. Reunion 7.0 (for Mac)   | \$265 |

Remember that there is a Genealogical Computing Group in Invercargill (a NZSG special interest group), whose members have a vast collective experience with many of these pro-



grams. It would be of considerable benefit to tap this knowledge before starting out - see notes at the foot of this page.

## CD-ROMs available from LDS Centre in Auckland

CD-ROMs available from LDS Centre in Auckland

A catalogue recently received from the LDS Distribution Retail Store in Auckland includes the following CD-ROMs for sale. Those marked with an asterisk also contain Viewer 3.0. Prices are as at 24 August 2001; no additional payment is needed for postage and handling. The number of CD's in any product varies between 1 and 51 CD's.

<i>Item No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Price</i>
50145 *	Western Europe Vital Records Index	\$60.75
50174 *	Mormon Immigration Index	\$11.25
50169	1881 British Census & National Index	\$74.25
50096	1851 British Census (Norfolk, Warwick)	\$11.25
50095	Australian Vital Records Index	\$18.00
50029	North American Vital Records Index	\$42.75
50176	Family History Source Guide	\$11.25
77062	Personal Ancestral File (PAF4)	\$11.25
50041	PAF Companion 2.0	\$22.50
50081	Family History Library Catalogue	\$11.25
50154	Viewer 3	\$17.20
50154	1880 United States Census	\$129.70

See list in column opposite ➔

Enquiries should be made to the LDS Distribution Retail Store, PO Box 76-226, Manukau, Auckland. Telephone 09-262 2913. ☒

## Invercargill Sub-group of NZSG's Genealogical Computer Group

The NZSG has a number of Special Interest Groups - one of them being Genealogical Computing. There is a sub-group in Invercargill, made up of genealogists who are interested in using computers to store their family information and print details out in a variety of ways. The group meets on Thursday evenings immediately fol-

lowing the Southland Branch meeting, in the Methodist Community Centre on the corner of Lindsfarne and Miller Streets, at 7.30pm.

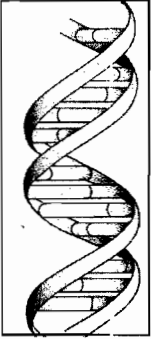
There is a charge of \$2 per meeting, to cover the cost of room hire. The Convenor for 2002 is Roger Washbourn, with Pam Atkinson as Secretary. Anyone interested in

combining computers with genealogy is welcome—there is a wide range of experience in group members, from beginners to 'old hands'. The 2002 programme will be available in the next issue of Branch Lines. ☒



### DNA ANALYSIS : The Newest Genealogical Tool?

From notes by John Thompson



The good news is that your entire family history is stored securely and unambiguously in your DNA. The bad news? It is not so easy to decipher and it covers only the identities of your ancestors, omitting details on their lives. So what can genealogists expect from DNA in the near future? To understand this, a little knowledge of genetics is required (but not much).

Any pair of unrelated people has exactly the same DNA sequence at about 99.8% of the three billion positions in human DNA. Related individuals have an even higher level of identity. Close family relations can be confirmed by comparing the DNA sequence at positions that tend to vary more often than average (the differences can be either in the sequence

of DNA present or its length). It is relatively easy to determine the identity (like in forensics) or very close relationships (like determining paternity), but it becomes progressively more difficult to analyse more distant relationships.

Each person has 23 pairs of chromosomes in nearly all the cells in their body, with one of each pair contributed by the mother and one by the father. 22 of the pairs are virtually identical. One of the pairs is the sex chromosome that can be either XX (women) or XY (men). Each person gets one X from his or her mother, and either an X or a Y from his/her father. In addition, most cells have hundreds of copies of mitochondrial DNA that is much shorter than the chromosomal DNA, and comes only from your mother.

If the DNA behaved itself and tracked nicely from one generation to the next, molecular genealogy would be easy. However, there are changes in the DNA in every generation (if you think transcribing census records is tough, try getting 3 billion base pairs of DNA right every time). Also, the individual chromosomes in the pairs recombine with each other, mixing up the parents' contributions in each generation.

Thus, each of your great-grandparents supplied one-eighth of your DNA, but their contributions are scattered throughout all of your chromosomes and are not so easy to track, especially since each of your great-grandparents was 99.8% identical to the others to begin with.

It is therefore concluded that DNA analysis will only be useful for establishing close family relationships until much more has been completed on the human genome project. Genealogists should not hold their breaths in hopes of immediate assistance.

Johndnaguy@aol.com



**Think on this ....  
If the right hemisphere of the brain controls the left side of the body,  
then only left-handers are in their right minds!**



## THE HUMP RIDGE TRACK and PORT CRAIG

November 2001 presented the opportunity to walk Fiordland's newest track—the Hump Ridge Track, located in western Southland. The walk is around 54 km and takes you from sea level, up to the top of the Hump Ridge with an overnight stay at the Okaka Hut (940m), then a traverse down the Hump Ridge with spectacular 270 degree views, dropping down to the South Coast Track and another overnight stay at Port Craig. Day 3 is spent walking out to the carpark at the road end.

From the historical viewpoint, the stay in the comfortable huts at Port Craig gives an opportunity to explore the site of the township which flourished between 1920 and 1930, supporting the Port Craig sawmill. At its peak, the township had 23 houses, a singlemens' camp, and its own school with 30 pupils. The sawmill cut timber from logs prepared in the bush and transported by bush railway of nearly 15km in length. The viaducts over 3 of the incised burns were subject of a huge restoration programme in 1994 (see photo at left).

The venture collapsed with the Depression and became a ghost town after dismantling. Today the remnants of this village are rapidly being swallowed up by the encroaching forest, but there are plenty of artifacts to be seen. Only the former school remains standing.

Craigpine Timber Ltd. at Winton is the surviving offspring of the venture : it has a vast photographic resource of the Port Craig episode, many of which are to be seen in Warren Bird's excellent book.

Roger Washbourn.



### References :

"Viaducts against the sky : the story of Port Craig." Warren Bird.  
Published by Craig Printing Co. Ltd., Invercargill. 1998.

Visit the Hump Track website : <http://www.humpridgetrack.co.nz>

Support the Hump Ridge Track by buying a metre of boardwalk for \$50. Write to the Tuatapere Hump Track Trust, P O Box 21, Tuatapere or download a coupon from the website. A certificate is supplied.

**Humpridge**  
track





## YANKEES IN NEW ZEALAND

Bruce Le Grange Garner  
legrange@alpahalink.com.au

No less than 100,000 U.S. Marines landed on the Pacific islands of New Zealand during the Second World War. This caused more than a few family trees to sprout. Americans first came to the region in the 1830s as whalers and sealers and in the 1840s as firearms dealers. American warships visited New Zealand ports again in 1908 on a Pacific goodwill tour.

New Zealand's plight during the 1939-1945 War was real and frightening. Japan had decided to isolate Australia from its allies. In implementing such a strategy, Japan could well have invaded New Zealand to strengthen her blockade. So, New Zealand turned to her American cousins for protection and on 14 June 1942, the USS WAKEFIELD arrived at Auckland with 5,000 troops aboard.

Before long, American forces were everywhere. They were based in brigade and divisional strength at camps near the North Island cities of Auckland, Masterton, and Wellington. In less than six weeks, a camp for 20,000 marines was built at Paekakariki, some 80km from Wellington. A stream of American warships began to arrive at New Zealand ports and the white star of the American bombers and transports was a familiar sight on the local airstrips.

The marines were given hotels for officer accommodation. Motor camps and race-courses were adapted for use as camps, warehouses were leased, wharves were reserved and car park sites appropriated. New Zealanders welcomed their American cousins with enthusiasm. Some were surprised to find themselves regarded as aliens by the Americans.

The New Zealand girls certainly found the American GI's attractive. Tens of thousands besides were sufficiently impressed to drink with them in the "Ladies Lounge." But, scuffles soon broke out as Yankee sailors and the local lads fiercely competed for the available female company.

By July 1943, the New Zealand Home Guard went into reserve, and the residents of these islands slept safely in their beds once more. Fewer American servicemen were seen on New Zealand streets, the once busy camps now empty.

And so, the Yankee visitors went home again, after one year's sojourn in Kiwi Land. Many New Zealand girls were carried off back to America as war brides and now have next generation descendants, some in their mid-50s. If you are one, please drop a line to Bruce GARNER, PO Box 449, Horsham, Victoria, Australia, 3400, who is compiling a register of US/New Zealand Connections.

[Bruce Le Grange Garner legrange@alpahalink.com.au is a New Zealand research specialist and author of PARISH REGISTERS IN NEW ZEALAND. <http://genealogyPro.com/garners-genealogy.html> ]





**The Southland Branch of the  
New Zealand Society of  
Genealogists**

The Secretary  
P.O. Box 1329  
Invercargill 9515

**We're on the Web**

Branch Website :

[http://www.geocities.com/nzsg\\_southland/](http://www.geocities.com/nzsg_southland/)

NZSG website :

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

GCG website :

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

## Directory



The Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists was formed in 1969. The aim of the Branch is to bring together those with an interest in genealogy and family history, to promote the study of family history and the preservation of records which have a genealogical or historical value.

The Branch meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except for December and January), at 7.30 p.m. in the Burns Room upstairs in the Scottish Hall, 110 Esk Street, Invercargill. Details of the programme for 2002 are outlined elsewhere in this issue.

Subscriptions for the 2001-02 year are ~ Single : \$35.00 Joint \$45.00

The Branch has a research library in Esk Street, available for use by financial members only of the Branch. The microfiche room normally opens at 1.30 p.m. and the book library at 3 p.m. on the same day as Branch meetings.

## Branch Website Statistics

The Southland Branch's website, which went live in May 2001, has been a successful venture using the latest information technology. Feed-back from respondents has been positive. Particular comment has been reserved for the section "Other Genealogical Resources", as this has enabled visitors from out-of-town to contact repositories to obtain useful information about their family's ancestors.

In the 8 months of availability, there has been a modest total of nearly 900 hits, consistently around 20-25 per week. Other statistics are interesting : 92% of viewers use Internet Explorer as their browser; 87% of viewers have been from New Zealand (altho' this is probably understated).

The website is updated regularly as better information comes to hand, or as small corrections/additions/changes are known.

There are plans to update the website layout later this year, to make navigation between the sections easier and faster.

Comments are welcomed - author Roger Washbourn would like to hear your ideas on how the site can be improved.



Get your clipart from Joan O'Donovan's website :  
<http://www.users.fl.net.au/~joanod/>