



BRANCH LINES

Southland Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.

Issue 38

March 2003

Editorial : From the Convenor

Genealogy is under way for another year : if you're like me, the interest tends to wane over the summer months when other things take precedence. The Branch Committee has been busy to organise a programme for the year—see it on page 2. Note the end-piece : some of the year's activities are on Saturdays instead of the usual Wednesdays, so mark your calendar and keep your eyes on the website for changes that may be made as the year progresses. We are lucky that two visiting speakers will be passing through on a circuit arranged by the NZSG Council in March and June, so please give these meetings your support - both are worthwhile speakers with topics of interest to genealogists.



"Branch Lines" is without an editor/compiler - Pat. Turnbull has had to relinquish her duties because of conflicts with her busy private life (although she still remains a member). I would like to thank Pat. for producing the last half-dozen issues, and wish her well with her other endeavours. But ... we need someone else to step into her shoes. The Branch Committee has decided that 'Branch Lines' is to

change to something more modest as befits its purpose and audience. Former editor Geoff. Amos, an enthusiast, developed the magazine into a standard that is hard to maintain—so unless another Geoff. comes along, BL is to become more of a broadsheet format. We are looking for a keen body to take the job on : 4 issues per year, and all you need is familiarity with Publisher or Word. Assistance with printing is available. Please see me if you think you could give it a go.

The Branch's projects have drifted a little in recent times, so Committee members have been assigned as Project Co-ordinators to make sure momentum is maintained and consistency of data entry is assured. Indexing of some projects is well in arrears, and efforts to catch up are in hand. There is a list on page 2.

Subscriptions are the life-blood of any group. The Committee is greatly concerned at the declining membership of the Branch, and has decided to make 2003 as the year when efforts to retain and increase members are to be lifted. At the moment (continue to p. 2)



About Branch Lines

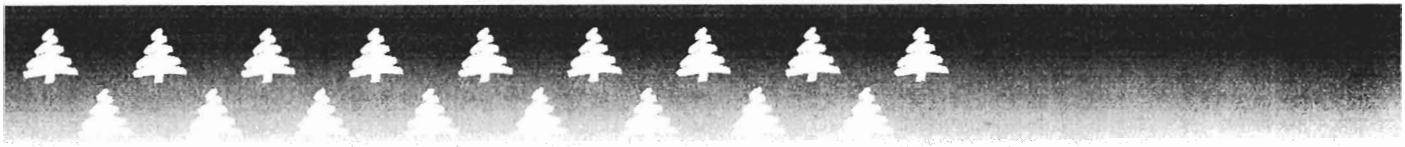
Branch Lines is a quarterly magazine, issued for the members of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

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

The position of newsletter editor is currently vacant. Aspirants—please contact the Convenor! Send copy for publication to the Branch Secretary or the Convenor.

Inside this issue:

Branch Committee & Programme	2
Mainland South Directory	3
Cemetery Tour 23 March Understanding tombstones	4
News from the Computer Group; Programme 2003	6
Early Settlers (Pre-1900) Register	7
Certificates Collection	7
Directory; web sites	8
Why should you join NZSG	8



Branch Committee—2003

The Branch Committee for 2003 is as follows ~

Convenor	Roger Washbourn	213-0968
Secretary	Lesley Instone	217-8825
Treasurer	Suzanne Ballinger	217-4569
Librarian	Mary Murray	217-6181
	Gaynor Aicken	03-234 4194
	Toni Grafton	215-7856
	Yvonne Service	213-0254
	Shirley Walker	216-8753
Ex officio	Mary Stuart	217-4560
Branch Lines Editor	(vacant)	

Project Co-ordinators

The Committee has appointed its members to act as co-ordinators for the Branch's projects. These folk are responsible for becoming knowledgeable about the projects and to ensure that steady progress is being maintained in each. The co-ordinators are :

Cemeteries	Yvonne Service
Certificates Collection	Lesley Instone
School rolls	Mary Stuart and Shirley Walker (jointly)
Southland Times Deaths/Births	Toni Grafton (collation) Roger Washbourn (indexing)
Southland (Pre-1900) Early Settlers	Lesley Instone to hold forms.

Any queries about these projects should be taken up with the appropriate co-ordinator.



Branch Programme 2003

- 19 February NZSG Research Services and Branch Resources.
- 15 March (Saturday) : Lynly Yates [Defence Forces Archivist] : 2pm.
- 23 March (Sunday) : Eastern Cemetery Tour, 1.30pm; Mary Stuart (weather permitting). Meet at Cemetery Office.
- 16 April Local research evening.
- 21 May Publishing a family history (Toni Grafton).
- 21 June (Saturday) - Genealogy Fair, Scottish Hall. Keynote speaker : Dr Chris Watts - post-conference speaker : maritime history (2 topics).
- 16 July Maori whakapapa (Myra Clarke).
- 20 August Computers in genealogy (GCG).
- 17 September Oxfordshire genealogy - Lesley Instone talks of her overseas trip.
- 15 October Branch AGM. Local historian Rachael Edgerton from DOC.
- 19 November Pot luck supper. Speaker from the Historic Places Trust.

NB : The programme may change, as it is subject to the availability of speakers in some cases. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month, unless shown otherwise. Check the Branch's web-site [see back page] for updates.

(from p. 1) the Branch is existing on a barely-sustainable level of membership for long-term development : if the Branch is to provide services to its members, it must budget for a surplus to build up reserves to fund development. This is not happening at the moment. Unless the downward trend is changed, there can only be one outcome! Several initiatives are under way to improve member numbers.

The biennial open day (this year, it is to be a Genealogical Fair) is scheduled for Saturday 21

June to coincide with a visiting keynote speaker, and a number of commercial interests and displays are expected to be on-site. The opportunity will also be taken then to attract new members.

I hope you find this issue useful. Any comments/feedback would be welcomed.

Roger Washbourn.
Convenor.



Mainland South Region - NZ Society of Genealogists

'Mainland South' is the collective name given by NZSG to all the Branches and Groups in Otago and Southland located south of the Waitaki River. Representatives from the Branches and Groups meet 3~4 times per year, hosted each time at a different location, to discuss items of common interest, to exchange ideas and pass on any concerns to NZSG national office. The meetings (the most recent was in Alexandra on 2 March) are chaired by a NZSG Councillor assigned to the region - in this case Avis McDonald from Gore.



A directory is given below to the Branches and Groups of Mainland South. If you are travelling and wish to visit any of the Branches, you are encouraged to go along, just as anyone visiting Invercargill on Southland Branch meeting nights would be welcomed.

Alexandra Branch

Convenor : Edith McKay. Contact : Alison Allison, 03-448 5200. Meetings : 7.30pm, first Wednesday, February to November; Alexandra Public Library, Tarbert Street, Alexandra.

Balclutha Branch

Convenor : Bob Richardson. Contact : Noeline McLaren; 03-418 0653.. Meetings : 7.30pm, first Thursday, February to December; Balclutha Public Library, John Street, Balclutha.

Dunedin Branch

Convenor : Stewart Harvey. Contact : Dinah Dunavan; 03-476 7539. Meetings : 7.30pm, first Wednesday, February-November; Otago Settlers Museum, Queens Gardens, Dunedin.

Gore Branch

Convenor : Carole Perwick. Contact : Jill Youngson, 03-208 6938. Meetings : 8pm, first Tuesday, February-December; Gore Historical Museum, Hokonui Heritage Centre, Norfolk Street, Gore.

Mosgiel Branch

Convenor : Ernie Parker. Contact : Irene Patterson; 03-488 3632. Meetings : 1pm, third Saturday, February-November; Genealogy Centre, 1 Green Street, Mosgiel.

Oamaru Branch

Convenor : Marie Guthrie. Contact : Marie Guthrie; 03-434 7397. Meetings : 7.30pm, third Monday, February-November; Holmes Hall, St Paul's Church, Oamaru.

Wanaka Branch

Convenor : Susan Guthrie. Contact : Lynette Duncan; 03-443 8577. Meetings : 1.30pm (winter) & 7.30pm (summer), first Tuesday, February-November; Wanaka Arts Centre, Ardmore Street, Wanaka.

Winton Local Area

Contact : Joan McConnachie; 03-236 1737.

Genealogical Computing Groups

There are two sub-groups of NZSG's Special Interest Genealogical Computing Group in the southern region, in Dunedin and Invercargill :

Dunedin

Contact : Noel Read; 03-488 2213.
Meetings : 7.30pm, Science III Building, Cumberland Street, Dunedin.

Invercargill

Contact : Roger Washbourn, 03-213 0968.
Meetings : 7.30pm, third Thursday February-November, SeniorNet Rooms, Menzies Building, Leven Street, Invercargill.



Magazine subscriptions

The Southland Branch subscribes to the following magazines :

- Australian Family Tree Connections
- Family Tree (UK)
- Irish Roots
- Scottish Genealogist.

Please see Librarian Mary Murray for borrowing.

New Zealand Defence Forces Archives

New Zealand Defence Forces
Personnel Archives
Private Bag 905
Lower Hutt.

Archivist : Mrs Lynly Yates



Cemetery Tour - Eastern Cemetery - 23 March

On this year's Branch programme, you will see that Mary Stuart is to lead an afternoon's tour of parts of the Eastern Cemetery. A 1.30pm start is planned, but is weather dependent — meet at the Cemetery Office. This is a continuation of a successful series first begun last year. Mary will point out resting places of some of Invercargill's more interesting residents.

The following extract (from Legacy News March 5 2003) may help those who find tombstones sometimes puzzling.-

Understanding the Art and Symbols on Tombstones

There is nothing like a visit to an cemetery to make you feel close to an ancestor. You are walking the very ground where they were buried and where they may have walked once long ago and visited loved ones. Tombstones can be plain or they can be decorated with art and symbols and wording that have meaning you might not fully appreciate. Some examples of words or letters you might find engraved include:

"B.P.O.E." means Benevolent Protective Order of Elks

"F.L.T." with each letter in a link of a chain means Friendship, Love and Truth (see "I.O.O.F.")

"F.O.E." Means Fraternal Order of Eagles

"G.A.R." means Grand Army of the Republic. It was an organization of Civil War Union Army veterans.

"I.O.O.F." means International Order of Odd Fellows (see "F.L.T.").

"V.D.M." means "verbi Dei minister" (Minister of the Word of God).

"W.O.W." means "Woodmen of the World". Upright tree stump markers are typical of the fraternity.

"Relict" carved on a woman's headstone means she died a widow. "Consort" means she outlived her husband.

Some examples of engraved symbols include:

Anchors and Ships: Hope or Seafaring profession

Arches: Victory in Death

Arrows: Mortality

Broken column: Loss of head of family

Broken ring: Family circle severed

Bugles: Military (see Trumpeters)

Butterfly: Short-lived; early death

Candle being snuffed: Time, mortality

Cherub: Angelic

Compass and Square: Masonic emblems

Corn: Ripe old age

Cross: Symbol of Christian hope

Crossed Swords: Officer in the military

Darts: Mortality

Doves: The soul, purity, innocence, gentleness

Father Time: Mortality, The Grim Reaper

Flowers: Brevity of early existence, sorrow

Flowers: Condolence, grief, sorrow

Flying Birds: Flight of the soul

Fruits : Eternal plenty

(to page 5)

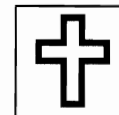


Garlands : Victory in death
Hand of God Chopping: Sudden death
Hands of God Chopping: Sudden Death
Handshakes: Farewell to earthly existence
Harp: Praise to the Maker
Hearts: Blissfulness or love of Christ
Hourglass with wings: Time flying; short life
Hourglass: Swiftmess of time
Ivy: Friendship and immortality
Lamb: Innocence
Laurel: Fame or victory
Lily or lily of valley: Emblem of innocence and purity
Morning glory: Beginning of life
Oak leaves and acorn: Maturity, ripe old age
Open book or Bible: Deceased teacher, minister, etc.
Palm Branch: Signifies victory and rejoicing
Picks and shovels: Mortality
Poppy: Sleep
Portals: Passageway to eternal journey
Rose in full bloom: Prime of life
Rosebud: Morning of life or renewal of life
Roses: Brevity of mortal life
Sheaf of wheat: Ripe for harvest, divine harvest time
Shells: Pilgrimage of life
Suns: The Resurrection
Thistles: Remembrance
Tombs: Mortality
Torch Inverted: Life extinct
Tree stump with ivy: Head of family; immortality
Trees: Life
Trumpeters: Heralds of the resurrection
Urn with flame: Undying friendship
Urn with wreath or crepe: mourning
Willows: Emblem of sorrow
Winged effigies: Flight of the soul



A cenotaph is not a grave marker at all. It is a monument erected in memory of someone who died elsewhere, perhaps at sea.

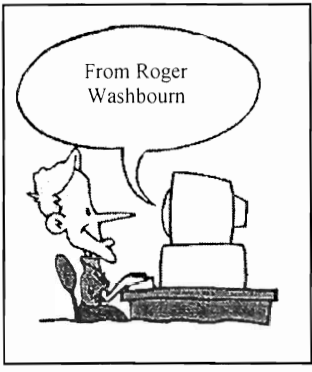
Reading Tombstones



Here are a few tips if you are having difficulty transcribing an old headstone .

1. Wet the headstone, perhaps by gently wiping with a sponge and wait for it to dry - often the surface dries, leaving the indents of the letters wet.
2. An alternative to water is to dust the headstone with talcum powder.
3. Wait for the sun to move - a shadow may form across the letters, making them easier to read. You can make use of a small mirror in order to reflect sunlight onto the stone from different angles.
4. Limit your field of vision - try looking down a cardboard tube or some similar tool.

And a no-no : do not ever use modern household cleaners or bleaches to clean tombstones, as long-lasting chemical reactions can often be initiated which may in fact hasten the degradation of the stone.



News from the Genealogical Computing Group

The Invercargill Genealogical Computing Group is made up of around 15-18 members who have a particular fascination with computers for genealogy. They meet on the third Thursday (immediately after the Branch night) at the SeniorNet Rooms in the Menzies Building off Leven Street. The group has an annual programme of topics (see below), which is planned based on the needs of its members. There is no subscription as such to join the group; members pay a very modest \$2 per evening to cover room hire and tea and biscuits afterwards.

If you have a home computer (or if you are thinking of getting one for recording your family data, but want some advice), then you should think about joining the group. Speak to Roger Washbourn (the Convenor) or Pam Atkinson (Secretary), or any of the other members about this. There is a range of experience represented in the group - you do not have to be a nerd to join in : there are several beginners in the group. It is a great place to learn and have problems solved.


The parent body, the Genealogical Computing Group, attracts a \$15 per year subscription, in return for which members receive a quarterly magazine =GenCom News=, an excellent publication full of up-to-date information, software reviews, and advice. See page 8 for their website address.

Invercargill Group's 2003 Programme

27 February	BBQ at Pat Turnbull's house at Tussock Creek.
20 March	Buying new/upgrading your computer (Alistair Turnbull).
17 April	FamilySearch tutorial (Pam Atkinson).
22 May	Email : Pegasus, Outlook and others. (Peter Johnson).
19 June	Utilities (Roger Washbourn).
21 June	Genealogical Fair, Scottish Hall - demonstrations.
17 July	Invercargill Public Library visit.
21 August	Data storage—CD burning. (Lewis Thompson).
18 September	Scanning and graphics (Kathryn Davies).
16 October	AGM. Internet Search Engines I (members).
20 November	Internet search engines II (members).

As with all programmes, they are subject to change at short notice. Where possible, changes will be advised on the Southland Branch's website.

BDM Certificates



Genealogists should be aware that the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages has changed offices, and is now relocated in Wellington . The former Lower Hutt office has been closed.

Contact details are now :

Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages
 Level 3, Boulcott House
 47 Boulcott Street
 Wellington.
 Postal : PO Box 10-526.
 Freephone 0800 225 252
 Fax 04-474 7584
 Website <http://www.bdm.govt.nz/>

Certified copies \$30.00
 Micrographic copy \$30.00
(Folio nos. MUST be quoted.)



Southland Early Settlers (Pre-1900) Register

One of the Branch's newer projects is the Southland Early Settlers (Pre-1900) Register. This was started in 2001, and matches similar projects under way in neighbouring places :

- Gore Branch calls theirs the Eastern Southland (Pre-1950) Settlers Register
- The Oamaru-based North Otago Branch has a North Otago Pioneer Register for Pre- and Post-1900
- The Alexandra Branch has already published its first index of 10,000 names from its Central Otago Family Register.

Objectives are much the same for all of these projects - which is to collect and index information on the early settler/pioneer families of the southern region. Any family which was resident in Southland prior to 1900 qualifies for this project. The cut-off dates vary a little from Branch to Branch. Southland has followed the Oamaru Branch most closely, and is to use their indexing system in due course.

Forms are available from Secretary Lesley Instone, who is also the collector of completed forms. Forms and data sheets have been placed with Southland District Council libraries to cover the rural hinterland—however progress has been rather slow. The GenFair in June will be used to encourage participation in the project.

If you wish to contribute your family/families, please ask Lesley for forms and an explanatory data sheet.

Certificates Collection

This is another Branch Project worthy of support and one which will eventually build a resource for NZSG members nationwide. Since the Department of Internal Affairs announced the increases in charges for obtaining copies of certificates and micrographs, the NZSG has organised a national Certificates Collection. All members of NZSG are asked to make photocopies of any/all birth, death and marriage certificates held by them, to contribute to a national certificate collection. The collection will be available to all NZSG members at much reduced costs.

Locally, this collection service is being mirrored, with local copies then being passed on to the NZSG Certificates Collection convenor in Whangarei. Lesley Instone is the Branch's collector—please pass your copies to her for local deposit and onward passage to NZSG.

My Spelling Chequer

Eye have a spelling chequer
 I goat tit for my pea sea
 It plainly marquis four my revue
 Miss stakes eye kin knot sea.

Eyes trike a quay and type a word
 And weight four it too say
 Weather eye am wrong oar write
 It shows me strait a weigh
 As soon as a mist ache is maid
 It nose bee fore too long
 An eye can put the error rite
 Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
 I am shore your pleased two no
 Its letter perfect awl the weigh
 My chequer tolled me so.

- Anonymous



Southland Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.

Postal address ~
P.O. Box 1329
Invercargill.

Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month
Burns Room, Scottish Hall, Esk Street,
In the central city.
7.30 p.m.
Research facilities from 4 p.m.



Branch website ~
http://www.geocities.com/nzsg_southland/

NZSG website ~
<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/>

Genealogical Computing Group 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 7.30pm in the Burns Room upstairs in the Scottish Hall, 110 Esk Street, Invercargill (in the central city). Details of the programme for 2003 are outlined elsewhere in this issue.

Subscriptions for the 2002~03 year are : Single \$35.00 Joint \$45.00. Subs are optionally payable in two instalments.

The Branch has a research library in Esk Street, available for use by financial members only of the Branch. The microfiche room and the book library normally open at 4pm on the same day as Branch meetings. Two computers, with several resources on CD-ROM, are also available for use.



Why should you join NZSG ?

Membership entitles you to :

- 6 issues per year of *The New Zealand Genealogist*
- Up to 16 research interests published each year in *The New Zealand Genealogist* at no cost.
- Research enquiries published in *The New Zealand Genealogist*, at no cost.
- Enquiries answered by the reference librarian.
- Purchase the Society's Index CD-ROM

Members may use our research services :

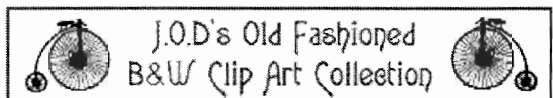
- General Register Office Index service for England and Wales.
- CD-ROM resources
- UK Probates (wills) Index service and purchasing scheme.
- Purchasing scheme for Australian certificates.

New Zealand residents may borrow from the various libraries for the cost of postage. Holdings include ~

- Books on NZ, Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, America, Europe and others. ↗

- Census Indexes (booklets, m/fiche).
- Family, District, Church and school records.
- Overseas genealogical magazines.
- Cemetery transcripts (NZ and o/seas).
- Microfiche (NZ and o/seas).
- Audio and video tapes.

Think about it !
Visit the Society's website



Get your (free) genealogy clipart from Joan O'Donnell's website :
<http://www.users.fl.net.au/~joanod/>