



⇐ BRANCH LINES ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. 45 - February 2013



February 2013

Welcome to another exciting year for genealogy – not only in Southland but also worldwide. This year's programme for the local Southland branch is varied with many interesting topics – mark the dates on your calendar now.

We encourage you to seek out people that you know who are developing an interest in their family tree and get them to come along to our meetings – together we can share, discover and learn.

Branch Meeting Topics and Special events coming up

- 20 Feb Demonstration of new CD's and DVD's, including the new West & East Otago Cemetery CD. There will be several computers available
- 20 March Rebecca Amundsen will speak on Oral Heritage and her involvement in preserving memories and history through the spoken word
- 23 March **Scottish Research Workshop with Tom Brooking** at Windsor Church
- 17 April In keeping with ANZAC commemorations, there will be a talk with a military theme by Don Auckram and others
- 15 May **AGM** followed by looking at 'Shipping to NZ' via Australia and through our southern ports of Bluff, New River, Jacobs River and Riverton
- 19 June Family Search website – how to use the site, how to research, tutorials and more
- 17 July Maureen and Aaron Fox, local historians with an interest in Yule House will talk on the restoration of this house and its history



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 bi monthly to keep you up to date with events. Wendy Shaw has offered to fill the position of Editor.

Branch Library:

Venue:

1st floor Invercargill Library, past the computers towards Dee St window

Hours:

- 1) 6-7:30pm prior to the monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of month (Feb-Nov)
- 2) 10:30 – 12:30am on last Saturday of the month
- 3) 1:30 – 3:30pm on the first Sunday of month (this is a trial for approx 6 months for those who work other days)

Who can use the Branch Library:

Branch members and NZSG members who have a current subscription

Genealogy - According to the dictionary genealogy is:

- 1. A record or account of the descent of a family, group or person from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree.*
- 2. Direct descent from a progenitor; lineage or pedigree.*
- 3. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.*

To me, however, genealogy is a whole lot more than those three dry sentences. It is finding my roots, my family, and my home.

It is seeing my grandparents as a young couple in a census record with their two baby girls; children who I know will be dead within the year. It is seeing my mother as a one-month-old child. It is seeing my great grandfather's signature on Civil War records and knowing that he and others like him must have gone through hell.

It is even finding the skeletons in the closets or the black sheep of the family.

It is finding that my family went through some terrible times, but also knowing that they survived.

It is seeing in my mind's eye the careworn faces of all of those who have gone on before me.

It is listening to old stories told by our elders and passing those precious stories down. It is writing down those stories and facts for our children and their children.

It is finding cousins I had not seen or heard from in fifty years. It is finding new cousins and new friends, people who have come to mean so very much to me.

It is the realization of how important family is. It is the realization of how important it is to honour those ancestors who came before us.

But most of all, it is the sharing of information with others who like me love the research. It is not just dusty records or words.

It is not only sharing the excitement of finding a new ancestor, but also sharing the frustrations of not being able to find what you are looking for.

It is the bouncing of ideas back and forth of theories of what might be and commiserating with another when that theory falls through, which it often does. It is being able to say "Look! Look what I have found!" and knowing that your excitement will be shared and understood.

It is being able ask a question on a mailing list, knowing that what you are asking may be dumb but knowing that you will not be treated with disrespect.

It is people who give of their time and their energies to help you.

It is people who volunteer their time and energies to do lookups on the various county web pages. It is people who volunteer their time and energies for the various historical societies.

It is people who give of their time to transcribe old documents and microfilm, and who share that knowledge, whether it is through books sold by historical societies or on web pages.

It is people who go through old cemeteries and take the time to write down those who are buried there and share that knowledge gladly.

It is people who share old photographs, old letters and their old family stories, not expecting anything back other than a thank you and the knowledge that they have helped another in their family quest.

It is people who go above and beyond what is asked of them because they love genealogy. They love the fun of it, the frustrations of it and the excitement of it.

It is also the knowledge that you are passing down something of worth; that you are leaving behind a little something of yourself. It is the knowledge that through all of your research you may have made a difference, however small it may be.

That is a little of what genealogy means to me. (author unknown)

Overseas Newspapers



If you are a member of the NZ Society of Genealogists, you will have access to an increasing number of overseas (mainly British at this point) newspapers online - similar to the local Papers Past website. NZSG has just negotiated more titles to expand the list of On Line Newspapers already available to their members.

Log in to the NZSG website, go to MEMBERS AREA > ON LINE NEWSPAPERS

Searchable Newspapers <<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/nzsocgen>>

1. **Times Digital Archive** - 200 years of The London Times
2. **17th & 18th Century Burney Collection** - 1,270 newspapers and news pamphlets from the United Kingdom
3. **19th Century British Library Newspapers** parts 1 & 2 - includes papers originating in England, Scotland and Ireland
4. **19th Century US Newspapers** - featuring full-text content and images from numerous newspapers from a range of urban and rural regions throughout the U.S.
5. **The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003**
6. **19th Century UK Periodicals**

The Scotsman Digital Archive is available online here: <http://archive.scotsman.com/>

New Zealand Newspapers



PAPERSPAST



Newspapers contain a wealth of information for genealogists. Finding this information is now much easier as newspapers are digitised and made available on the Papers Past website - which contains more than 1.3 million pages of 58 New Zealand newspapers and a number of periodicals. There are new additions each month although there is incomplete cover and not all issues of all papers are available. The papers may be accessed by date, by region or by title, and are fully searchable. (<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>).

(Just the thing to do when the weather is too bad to venture outside – you can spend HOURS at this site! However due to the digital captioning of the actual newspaper articles the headings may not fully indicate the nature of the article about the person you are looking for as there will be several articles in that particular column.)



The Invercargill Genealogical computing Group is for people who use computers for fun, work and genealogy. Many genealogy programmes are now available (free and purchased) so come along to hear, share and learn how to get more out of your computer and websites. Meetings are held at the **SeniorNet rooms in the WEA building** in Esk St, opposite the Invercargill City Council on the 4th Thursday in the month (Feb-Nov)

All are welcomed to the group - there is no subscription, but members pay \$2 per person to cover room hire and supper. Check out the national body's website at <http://www.gencom.org.nz> as well. Contact is GCG secretary Sandy Byers-Evitt (03 218 9344).

Scottish Research Workshop 23rd March 2013



SCOTTISH RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Saturday 23rd March 2013 @ Windsor Community Church Hall, Windsor Street, Invercargill

The workshop is to be at 9 am and should finish about 3.30pm.

Guest Speaker will be Tom Brooking from Dunedin, a noted author on rural and environmental history and Scottish Emigration to NZ

The cost is \$15 per person (to cover room hire and photocopying). Registrants should bring their own lunches; hot water and tea/coffee will be provided.

Those wishing to attend must register beforehand, either by emailing name, address, telephone number and email address to the Branch's Southland@genealogy.org.nz or by telephoning Lesley 217-8825 or Roger 213-0968 (evenings only please!).

Parritch: (Eneuch for fower fowk)

A giud nievefu' o' coorse aitmeal for ilka yin. As muckle saut as ye can haud atween three fingers an' the thoom. Get the roughest meal, then and fresh frae the kil'. Gin yo hae tae hain the meal by ye for a while, hae it keepit awa' frae the air. Tae mak' the parritch, tak'an or' nar' pat ei' about twa inches o' wattir in it. Bring the wattir tae the bile. Pit inta wee thingie o'saut, aiblins a teaspoonfu' o't or as muckle as ye can haud atween three fing'ers and the thoo'. Syne tak' a nievefu' o' meal wi' yercaurie haun an' letit rin cannie through the fing'ers intae the pat, steerin' a' the while wi' the spurtle in the richt haun, tae keep it frae gettin' knotty. Keep steerin' till it comes tae the bile again. Noo let it sotter cannily aside the fire for aboot ten meenites, nae mair, giein' it a wee steer noo an' then for fear it should stick tae the pat. Poor intae bow'ls an' leave till cauld eneuch tae tak'. As it set the parritch should be thick eneuch tae gar the spune staun' straucht up in it.

For guidness sake, dinna pit ony sugar intil't or ye'll gie fowk the scunners. It's no' a puddin' ye're makkin' bit parritch.

AN' MIN' THIS - Afore ye rax for yer spune tae prie the parritch boo yer heid an' think the Imichty for sicna farin'

(In keeping with our Scottish theme try and decipher this recipe. If you give up – come along to February's meeting for the translation but the picture below is a big hint!)



| <i>Branch and GCG Contacts</i> | | <i>Genealogical Computing Group</i> | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Branch Committee Contacts</i> | | | |
| Convenor | Lesley Instone | 217-8825 | Convenor - Ian Joll |
| Treasure | John MacManus | 217-4200 | Secretary-Treasurer - |
| Secretary | John McManus | 217-4200 | Sandy Byers- Evitt |
| Librarian | Mary Murray | 217-6181 | |
| Committee | Roger Washbourn (ex officio) | 213-0968 | |
| | Don Auckram | 236-1097 | |
| | Mary Stuart | 217-4560 | |
| | Norma O'Neill | 022-133-5819 | |
| | Yvonne Service | 213-0254 | |
| | Wendy Shaw | 027-654 1363 | |
| | Wendy Smith | 217-3595 | |

Southland Branch's Website

The site is updated on a regular basis, and is provided in part so that members of both groups can keep up to date with future meetings. There is a meetings programme, information for new members, a section devoted to other genealogical resources, and links to a selection of genealogical and Southland-oriented pages. The URL or address for the site is

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

The site has been live since May 2001. A counter on the page showed that it receives around 120 visits per month.

Directory

Southland Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.

Postal address
P.O. Box 1329
Invercargill 9840.

E-mail: Southland@genealogy.org.nz

Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month
Meeting Room, Invercargill Public Library
In the central city at 7.30 p.m.
[Research facilities from 6 p.m.]

Branch website ~
<http://www.nzsgsouthland.com/>

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

Genealogical Computing Group website ~
<http://www.gencom.org.nz/>

