



⇐ BRANCH LINES ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. 47 – April 2014



I have discovered that as one gets a few more candles on their birthday cake, the greater the likelihood of blinking and missing a day or week or month without realising it! Ouch! I had the unfortunate experience of attending the funeral of a cousin on Christmas Eve leaving a husband and 3 young sons. She was only 10 weeks older than me. Enough motivation to really get into gear and get that family tree done/printed to pass on to my children! I think we could all do with getting ‘A Round Tuit’ and just do it.

Important Note: The Invercargill Library has changed its hours of opening: it now closes at 7pm in the evenings. This means that branch meetings must start earlier - at 7pm (instead of 7.30pm) - so all who wish to attend the meeting must be inside the front doors before 7pm. Those who are late should wait beside the exit door (at the right of the entrance portico as you face the library entrance) to be opened up to 7:15pm. Arrangements must be made with the Library for disabled access to the lifts and exiting the building after the meeting.

Branch Meeting Topics and Special events coming up

- 16th April 7pm Military Memories and Memorabilia – bring along war mementos from your family for a ‘show and tell’.
- 21st May 7pm Branch AGM followed by Roger Washbourn talking about accessing LDS films by remote connection from the NZSG Family Research Centre in Auckland.
- 30th May – 2nd June
NZSG Conference in Wellington. For further information visit NZSG website (also in February issue of *The NZ Genealogist* magazine).
- 14th June Saturday; at Invercargill Library meeting room. We will be having post-Conference speaker Dr Colleen Fitzpatrick. Time: 2pm.
- 16th July 7pm Colonial Books (Brenda Whiteman).
- 20th August 7pm Computers and Genealogy (local Genealogy Computing Group).



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 Compiler/Editor.

PLEASE NOTE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR NZSG SOUTHLAND BRANCH ARE NOW DUE

It is NOT too late to go to the NZSG Conference in Wellington on Queens Birthday weekend. We have direct flights to Wellington, no hassle with flight interchange and plenty of inner city hotels waiting for you. The AGM is particularly important, so if you are a NZSG member please use your voting rights by electing Roger, Mary Stuart or Lesley to act as your PROXY on Sunday 1 June.



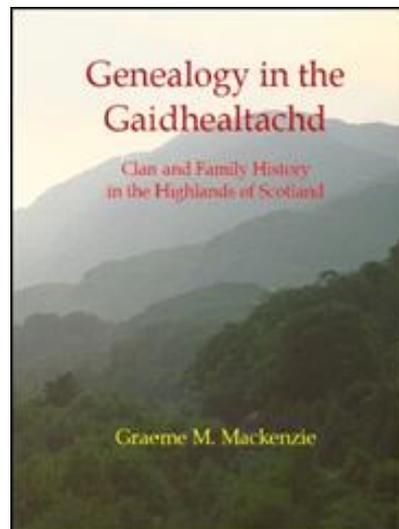
Over 80 people enjoyed hearing Graeme Mackenzie on Wednesday 19th February at the Invercargill Library.

A historian and genealogist, Graeme gave a fascinating talk on the names of clans and septs in Scotland, the advent of surnames and the changes dictated by England to remove Gaelic names and replace them with English names. Examples of name changing were given – 4 children had their baptism entry as **McMillan**, 2 children had baptism entry as **Cameron**, another back to **McMillan** and to add to the confusion, immigration records named the family as **Buchanan**. This makes researching your Scottish roots a little challenging.

He was brought out by the Clan McMillan and Clan McKenzie and was holding talks in various parts around NZ.

Graeme recommended two books: – ‘Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands’ by Frank Adam and ‘Surnames of Scotland’ by George F Black for further reading.

Orders were taken for the purchase of Graeme’s new book. He had ‘sold out’ during his North Island part of his tour. Roger Washbourn was liaising with Invercargill Library with purchase orders but orders can still be taken. Payment (\$30) to John McManus (branch secretary) please.



During the branch meeting in March the attendees were spoken to by **Rebecca Smith**, Invercargill Library Archivist, about the work that goes on in the Archives. A lot of holdings are of printed material that could otherwise be lost but also includes old maps, photos and material from businesses now closed. Great care is taken to ensure the material is kept at an optimum temperature. We were able to go out to the store room and see a selection of material which indeed whetted the genealogy appetite!

Overseas News

The Scottish Valuation Rolls for 1885

The Valuation Rolls (VRs) for 1885 have just been added to the ScotlandsPeople website. The new records comprise 1,441,484 indexed names/addresses and 77,238 digital images (taken from 144 volumes), and cover every kind of property that was assessed in 1885 as having a rateable value.

With the addition of these latest records, ScotlandsPeople now has Valuation Rolls for 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915 and 1920.

Try visiting <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk> for old maps, statistics, census and other information on counties etc. in Great Britain.

German/English ancestry? Visit <http://www.agfhs.org> – the Anglo German family history organisation

Ancestry.co.au - newer additions:

New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825

New South Wales, Australia, Butts of Marriage Licenses, 1813–1835, 1894

New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870

New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937

New Zealand, City & Area Directories, 1866-1954

UK, Mechanical Engineer Records, 1847-1930

Web: Australia and New Zealand, Rootsweb Death Index, 1813-2003

New South Wales, Australia, Index to Deceased Estate Files, 1923-1958

New Zealand

Papers Past additions over the past year:

April 2013	New Zealand Herald (1885-1924)
May 2013	Hutt Valley Independent (1911-1919) Lyttelton Times (1866-1869) Manawatu Standard (1911-1912) Manawatu Times (1909-1911) Nelson Evening Mail (1910-1918) North Otago Times (1901-1918) Upper Hutt Weekly Review (1935-1939) Waihi Daily Telegraph (1904-1909) Waikato Times (1893-1895) Wairarapa Daily Times (1879-1901)
September 2013	King Country Chronicle (1906-1920) Mount Ida Chronicle (1869-1926) Oamaru Mail (1876-1920) Timaru Herald (1901-1920)

Archives NZ is still working their way through digitising all Army records for those who fought in WW1.

Alexander Turnbull Library – <http://natlib.govt.nz/collections/a-z/alexander-turnbull-library-collections>

Current Branch Projects

Obituaries from the Southland Times are being collected which are then indexed before placing in the Resource Room.

Mary Stuart and Yvonne Service continue with collecting data on lone graves in Southland.

Help needed to identify the people in this wedding photo

This photo was included in a high school project a number of years ago in Auckland but enquiries to establish who had brought it to the project has not been found. The photographer stamp on the bottom of the matt surround is 'Campbell, Invercargill'. The clothing could identify the photo as being around 1918-1920's. If this photo is of your family or you can identify who the people are, please contact Wendy Shaw (phone 027 654 1363 to view).





Genealogical Computing Group

Special Interest Group of the
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
INVERCARGILL Sub-Group



Venue: SeniorNet rooms, WEA building, Esk St opposite Invercargill City Council offices.

Time: 7pm on 4th Thursday of month February-November.

All are welcomed to the group - there is no subscription, but members pay \$2 per person to cover room hire and supper.

Contacts are GCG secretary Sandy Byers-Evitt (03 218 9344) or Convenor Wendy Smith (03 217 3595).

Genealogy Computing Group is organising monthly field trips to various parts of Southland. They are designed to be informal and open to all who are interested as well as getting to know one another a bit better.

Computing News – hot off the press!

Microsoft has apparently relented and are now offering an update 8.1 for all those frustrated people who found the move to the touch screen friendly Windows 8 NOT so friendly. The update was released in USA earlier this week. 8.1 apparently moves back to a similar format to Windows 7. HOORAY.

From the Book Shelf

Q & Eh – questions and answers on language with a Kiwi twist **by Laurie Bauer, Dianne Bardsley, Janet Holmes and Paul Warren.**

ISBN 978 1 86979 343 2 Printed by Random House, Auckland. First published 2011

Have you noticed Letters to the Editor decrying the ‘terrible’ accents, pronunciation and general irritation when others do not ‘speak the Queen’s English’??

Is there a correct way to pronounce words? Consider the word *either* – pronounced with the first syllable rhyming with *see* or does it rhyme like *eye*? For a while the Southland burr was considered uncool so many stopped using it. Now considered ‘cool’ again there has been a resurgence of the ‘rr’ in Gore reappearing in southern provinces.

How have accents from the various countries and regions our forebears brought with them have enriched our speech.

NZ English continues to evolve – adding letters to words, taking them away, running words together, raising your voice at the end of a sentence making it always sound like you are asking a question, finishing each sentence with ‘eh’ – the list goes on.

Divided into five sections the book covers why say it that way, how does language define us, what is in a word, how we make sentences, do we really speak the same language and ‘dus it matta how we rite’. If you enjoy words and the element of speech then you will enjoy this book that has been put together by NZ linguists and sociolinguists based at Victoria University.

OMAUI and the New River Estuary

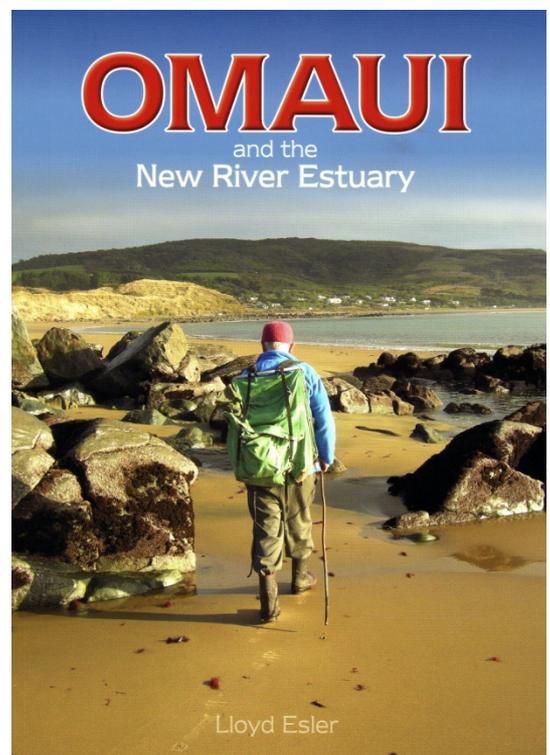
by Lloyd Esler

ISBN 97800-473-23017-3. Printed by Craigs Design &Print Ltd.,
Invercargill. Published 2013

Omaui is a small portion of the Southland coast, about half-way on SH1 between Invercargill and Bluff, bordered by the mouth of the New River (Oreti) estuary and Greenhills. The locality has a long history of human settlement - there was a Maori kaika there for several hundred years before the early sealers and whalers of the 1700s. European explorers arrived from about 1813, and by the 1850s there was a small settlement of pioneer farmers.

The locality was important in the early days of the settling of Invercargill because it was located at the entrance to the Oreti River which allowed shipping to proceed upriver to the Port of Invercargill, which in its heyday (1863) was the port of entry for many Australian goldminers intent on continuing on to the central Otago goldfields. There was a pilot station for incoming vessels, and a proposed township of Stanley. It was a difficult river entry, and there were many shipwrecks. However, silting of the estuary and a difficult sandbar at the mouth meant that its importance dropped off rapidly in favour of the deeper-water Bluff harbour a short distance away.

The book is divided into 8 sections, covering early history, the Port of Invercargill, early travel, industry, cribs and the health camp, natural history, the reserves, and the estuary today. The first three take up half of the book. It is worth noting the importance played by the sawmills, quarries, flaxmills, gold and cement in earlier times - none of which are there now. Only farming, which had been



carried out since the days of the Pilot Station and the early sawmills, remains the main land-use today. The present-day village of Omaui is located where the Maori kaik was established, west of the Mokomoko Inlet.

A children's health camp was opened in 1935 and lasted until 1952, then became a holiday camp which remains to this day.

The book is profusely illustrated: around 110 monochrome pictures (many taken by the author), 9 maps, 5 pencil sketches, and an 8-page colour photograph section. These span all stages of the locality's history, from the early settlement to the present day, and are well placed to supplement the narrative.

One small complaint (and only a genealogist would say this) is that there is no index. However the book is not large and is easily readable, so that it is not hard to find items of interest.

Letters to Grace – writing home from colonial New Zealand.

Edited by Jean Garner and Kate Foster

ISBN: 978 1 877257 98 8 Published by Canterbury University Press, Christchurch 2011

A collection of letters from four women of the Hall family written describing life in colonial Canterbury – children, household duties, health, housing, servants and church as well as the activities of their husbands' political lives (one woman was married to Sir John Hall – a Canterbury farmer who became Premier of NZ in 1879).

Found in England in 2008, these letters were then compiled by a descendant to give insight into the women and their families as early settlers in a new land. Letter writing, a seemingly dying art, describes the everyday events of the families - the high price of food, flooding that destroyed sheep stocks, entertainment and other new settlers in the region.

This book has been annotated with explanations of situations and incidences described within the letters. Appendices include fabrics and clothing, medical terms and shipping. It has been well indexed with a detailed bibliography and plenty of family photographs.

Branch Library/ Resource Room:

Venue: 1st floor Invercargill Library, past the computers towards Dee St window on the left.

Hours: 1) 6-7pm prior to the monthly meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of month (Feb-Nov).
2) Other times by arrangement.

Who can use the Branch Library? - Branch members and NZSG members who have a current subscription, or non members who pay a research fee for the session.

What is there? – school rolls, current genealogy magazines from Australia and UK, BDM newspaper notices from Southland Times, reference books on local history but most of all there are helpful staff to help you find the information you want.

Branch Contacts	
Convenor:	Lesley Instone 217-8825
Treasurer:	John MacManus 217-4200
Secretary:	John MacManus 217-4200
Committee:	Mary Murray 217-6181
	Roger Washbourn (ex officio) 213-0968
	Don Auckram 03-236-1097
	Mary Stuart 217-4560
	Norma O'Neill 022-133-5819
	Yvonne Service 213-0254
	Wendy Shaw 27-654-1363
	Wendy Smith 217-3595

Directory
Southland Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. P.O. Box 1329, Invercargill 9840. Email: Southland@genealogy.org.nz
Meetings: Third Wednesday of each month Meeting Room: Invercargill Public Library In the central city at 7pm [Research facilities from 6pm.]
Branch website : http://www.nzsgsouthland.com
NZSG website : http://www.genealogy.org.nz
Genealogical Computing Group website : http://www.gencom.org.nz

