



⇐ BRANCH LINES ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. 50 – December 2014



Best wishes for Christmas and New Year celebrations. May they be filled with fun, laughter and family time!



"FIND THE ROTTER WOT NICKED OUR CHRISTMAS TREE!"



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 is currently filling the position of Editor.

Branch Meeting Topics and Special events

- 9th February 2015 Topic: Yule Family Presentation.
Speaker: Michelle Morrison
- 18th February First branch meeting - Research Night
- 18th March Topic: Irish research
Speaker: Sean Brosnahan of the Early Settlers
Museum in Dunedin
- 15th April Topic: Gallipoli stories.
Speaker: Bryce Horrell
- 20th May AGM followed by stories/pictures of ancestral
homes. Bring your pictures and tell us about them

Overseas News

Familysearch: If you have Swedish ancestry, do check out the new additions – many parish records are now online. This is a boon as previously you had to pay for access to the Swedish archives. Browse the collections by country – you may be surprised at what is listed. Remember there are far more resources in the Library Catalogue than there is online so check out the town, parish you are interested in, see what is available, order on line and either read the films at an LDS Family History Centre or through the Remote Reader Service at NZSG Family History Centre in Auckland.

Find My Past: If you have family research in Devon, many parish records are now available. Also Surrey, Middlesex and Eastbourne collections, Cheshire, Sheffield, North West Kent and North Yorkshire collections

Ancestry.com.au: Over the past year there have been collections from Canada released or updated online. Don't forget to look at UK Chelsea pensioners

Scotland's People: 1925 Valuation Rolls have just been released

TheGenealogist.co.uk has released records of Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks awarded the DCM in WW1 and the second Boer War

RootsTech conference this year is in Salt Lake City. If you are tech minded and a computer geek who loves gadgets then this is the gathering for you (www.rootstech.org)

New Zealand

Michelle Morrison – guest speaker 9th February 2015

In December 2008 Michelle Morrison and her husband visited in Invercargill and 'discovered' the existence of Yule House in Ness Street. She established contact with members of the Troopers Memorial Corner Charitable Trust and, being the great-great-granddaughter of Robert Duncan and Ann Sarah Yule, has subsequently focused her genealogy research into the family of Robert Duncan Yule, his origins in Scotland, and subsequent life and family in Invercargill.

*Michelle has arranged for a gathering of descendants over Waitangi Weekend 2015 to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the marriage of R.D. & A.S. Yule. She has also researched and written a book *The Yule Family of 'Yule House'* for the occasion.*

*Her PowerPoint presentation will cover *The Yule Family; the Restoration of 'Yule House'; and the family's more recent involvement in Invercargill; bringing together details and many photos to provide a visual insight into the lives of her ancestors and also the work that went into restoring the house.**

Michelle appreciates the effort that went into restoring 'Yule House' and is aware of the pride the community feels towards the historic house. Sharing the story of the Yule family is her way of contributing something back to the community. Michelle lives in Auckland and is a member of the NZ Society of Genealogists."



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 Feb-Nov

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

Contact is 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

Dear Santa:

Don't bring me new dishes;

I don't need a new kind of game.

Genealogists have peculiar wishes;

For Christmas I just want a surname!

A new washing machine would be great,

But it isn't the desire of my life.

I've just found an ancestor's birth date,

Now I need the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring

that would put a real diamond to shame.

What I want is a much cheaper thing:

Please give me Martha's last name!

To see my heart singing with joy,

Don't bring me a red leather suitcase.

Bring me a genealogist's toy:

A surname, with dates and a place!

From the Book Shelf

The Rose of Sebastopol by Katherine McMahon

Publisher: Orion, 2008 ISBN: 9780297858041

This is obviously set around the Crimean war – a woman who arrives at Sebastopol to tend to her sick fiancé. It describes her living quarters and the duties she undertook. It is a light hearted story set around a well known event. The author weaves fact and fiction but I personally felt the threads needed to be a bit deeper. A good break from reading dense historical books on Crimea. More of a chick flick.

Generals die in bed by Charles Yale Harrison

Publisher: Penguin Books Australia 2002 ISBN: 0 14 300155 8

Drawing from his own experiences, Harrison relates the story of a young 20 year old man sent to fight on the Western Front. The horrors of the trenches, the rats, the insufficient food rations and the witnessing of fellow soldiers dying and becoming entombed in the relentless mud are all related through his eyes. A sobering book which gives an accurate view of what it was like for so many.

Over the Top by Martin Marix Evans

Publisher: Arcturus Publishing Ltd 2003. ISBN: 1 84193 111 x

This book examines the advent of trench warfare on the Western Front and Gallipoli. The battles describe the introduction of three major new weapons – gas, tanks and aircraft. The military operations have been described in terms of the weather, the human resources, the weapons used and the planning required with viewpoints from the commanders as well as the front line soldiers. There are so many books produced about WW1 and I am sure there will be many more to come however I found this book gave me a good insight into the precarious battles that ravaged both countryside and men.



Branch Library/ Resource Room:

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

Hours: CLOSED DECEMBER AND JANUARY.
Resource room will be reopening Wednesday 18th February.
Other times can be made by arrangement with Librarian

Branch Contacts

Convenor:	Lesley Instone	217-8825
Treasurer:	John McManus	217-4200
Secretary:	John McManus	217-4200
Committee:	Mary Murray	217-6181
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	Mary Stuart	217-4560
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Directory

Southland Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.

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Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month
Meeting Room, Invercargill Public Library
In the central city at 7 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/>

