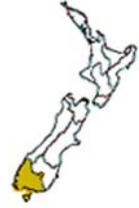




⇐ **BRANCH LINES** ⇒  
Newsletter of the Southland Branch  
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. **85** – June 2020



**Branch Meeting Topics and Special events**



- Wed. 19 June** Meeting room at Library at 7pm.  
Lockdown implications followed by  
Review of some of our reference material.
- Wed. 15 July** (*Subject to be confirmed*)
- Wed. 19 Aug** AGM followed by presentation on the  
Seacliff Asylum.

NO Family History in August week this year!



**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.

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## ***New Zealand News***

We are sad to report the loss of Dave Stuart, husband of Mary Stuart one of our lifetime members. Given the Covid restrictions, a memorial service will be held in the future. Our sympathy goes to Mary and her family at this difficult time.

### **Volunteer transcribers needed.**

- Dunedin City Library is digitising their extremely large card index located on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and need helpers to digitise them
- Canterbury Museum still needs help with digitising the information held on the Macdonald card index and other collections e.g. Standish & Preece photography have donated their photo records from around 1970s and need help identifying the subjects
- You can join the Invercargill Indexing group which can be found on the Familysearch website. They are currently working our way through, along with the rest of NZ, the electoral rolls from 1865 to 1957. They are relatively simple to do, typescript, and usually relatively easy to read etc. The project is about 25% indexed, and about 8% reviewed.

To access it, log onto [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), select the indexing tab, and then find a project. It is listed under beginner. If someone has not used the [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) site to do indexing before, they would have to request to join the Invercargill indexing group.

The project typically has 100 names spread over a two-page image. The only fields that are required for the indexing of this project are Christian names, surnames and gender. The gender is only to be entered if the occupation clearly states it, such as fireman, barman, Catholic Priest, spinster, widow/widower i.e. you can't make assumptions about someone's gender from their name.

This project is only being indexed by people in NZ. You do not have to belong to LDS Church. There are other projects from other countries available should anyone wish to do those. There are also projects that are in different languages, so if any of you speak more than one language and are confident to work on such a project, helping with these would be appreciated.

### **LDS Family History Centre, North Road, Invercargill.**

Hours for the public are generally Tuesday evenings 6:30-8pm but you would need to email [invercargillfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:invercargillfamilyhistory@gmail.com) first to check the availability. Other times can be arranged to suit.

Check out what Christchurch City Library has in their digital collections <https://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Photos/>

In addition to the Alfred and Isabel Reed Collection, and the McNab New Zealand Collection, the Dunedin Public Library's Heritage Collections have been augmented by a number of other significant donations made since 1927.

<https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/heritage/special-collections>

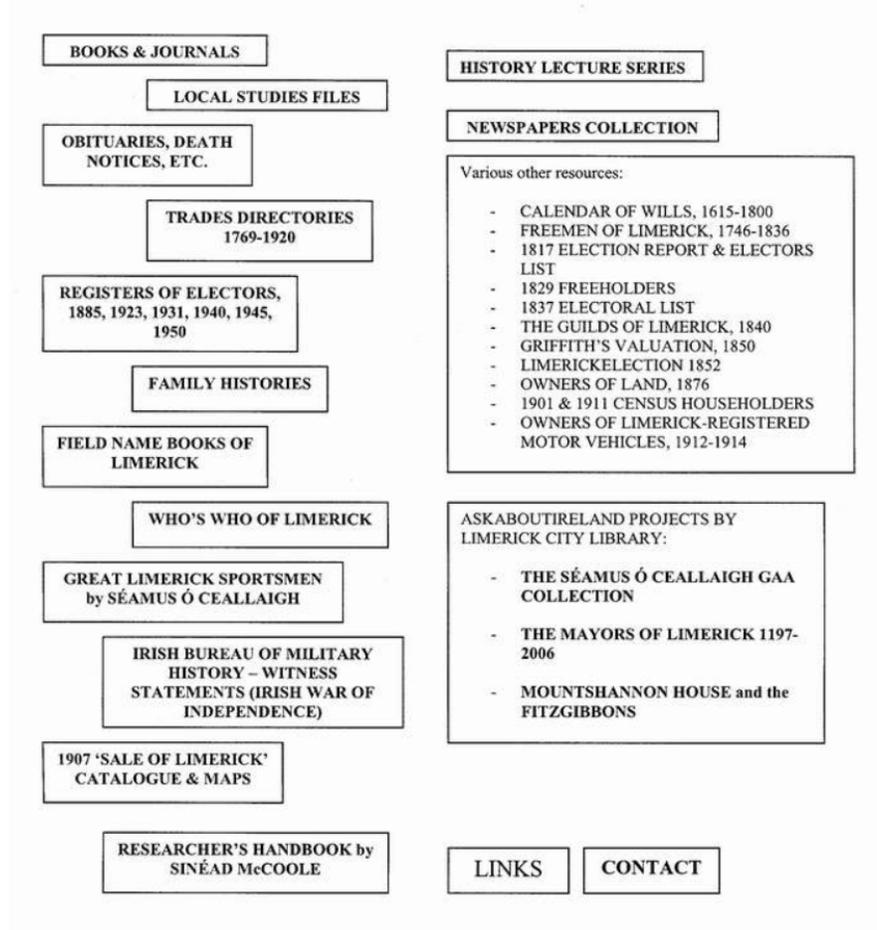
Don't forget the NZSG Library in Panmure, Auckland is open – naturally with some restrictions to activities – if you can't visit in person the check online for POSTAL BORROWING, CERTIFICATE COLLECTIONS, DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS, RESEARCH HELP, REMOTE FILM READING and DIGITAL ARCHIVING OF FAMILY HISTORIES!

## Overseas News

### Ireland:

Do you have connections in Limerick?

Try <http://www.limerickcity.ie/library/localstudies/>



Irish Newspapers??? Try <https://johngrenham.com/>

### England:

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/archives>

<https://booth.lse.ac.uk/> - fascinating look at London in 1880s with his notations on poverty and affluent areas. Gives a great insight into the environment if you have London ancestors.

### Scotland:

Give Scotland's People another go. There are interesting articles to read – the current release is on the 700 year old Declaration of Arbroath. You CAN search for free – just pay if you want an actual digital image.

Family lived around the Clyde?

Try <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/heritage->

## That's a lot of weddings!



"The 'I do' scene, Take Thirty-Six."

Mr John Macfarlane of Nova Scotia is known as the 'Lake Ainslie widower'. He believed in marrying early and often. His first marriage was in his 20<sup>th</sup> year and now in his 61<sup>st</sup> year has brought home his eighth bride (Ref: *Mataura Ensign*: 14 Mar 1905)

## Challenging Birth

Baby was due to make their entrance into the world. The issues were that medical help was far away and there was no one locally with any knowledge of childbirth so as early settlers in Southland in the mid 1860s, they just got on with it. Unfortunately there was such a storm that the house began to flood. With water rising rapidly through the house, and Mum-to-be not able to be moved, the bed was raised onto blocks. Still the water rose and the bed was propped up even higher. With settler ingenuity, the bed was finally raised up to the rafters by rope and there the child was born with water swirling underneath the bed!

This story was recounted in a local Southland history book that I had been reading during the Covid lockdown. As a former midwife, I can certainly appreciate many of the childbirth issues in those early days and am glad women of today do not have to face such challenges.

### *Accuracy to be observed in the Names and Ages of Children sent to Industrial Schools.*

THE following circular from the Secretary for Education is published for the general information and attention of all members of the Force.

23rd May, 1895. A. HUME,  
Commissioner of Police.

"Education Department,  
Wellington, 25th April, 1895.

"(Circular memorandum.)

"THE Ministers of the several departments concerned have authorised me to remind Clerks of Courts and members of the Police Force of the importance of accuracy in recording the names and ages of children sent to industrial schools. A circular on this subject was issued from this office in September, 1883.

"To illustrate the necessity for the writing of this memorandum, I may mention that recently, in the course of a few days, the following errors came to light: Names—Collett, for Kolet; Killcolly, for Kilkolly; McGinaty, for McGinity; Maud Robbins, for Florence Maud Robin. Ages—14 years 8 months, for 15 years 5 months; 11 years 6 months, for 12 years 5 months; 10 years, for 9 years 6 months.

"WM. JAS. HABENS, Secretary."

Source: NZ Police Gazette 1895 – Got to get the spelling right – not much has changed!

**Southland History Spot:**

8 – 14 Tay Street. Section 20, Block 2, Invercargill

In 1863 Calder & Blacklock had a building on this site but unfortunately was destroyed by fire in October 1871, alongside other buildings in the block.

In 1876 Abram Watson erected a brick building housing 3 shops with offices and living quarters on the second floor. His ironmongery business remained there until the 1890s. Hairdressers (Richard Peters), boot makers (William Murdoch) and engineers utilised the other shops. There was even a public bath available for the general public.

The right of way that is presently alongside the building has been there from the earliest time. To the rear of the section a tannery was built.



Ref: A0010 S00940043 (approx 1877)



Ref: A0105 S27520001\_090 (approx 1880-1890)

Both images held in the Invercargill City Archives Collection

In the ensuing years, butchers and bootmakers, commercial offices leased the premises with Rankin the Jeweller, Pollock the chemist onsite in 1940s. The buildings at the rear were demolished with the construction of the movie theatre complex but the back sheds remain where the butchers followed their trade.

Hazel and Kay ran Lezah’s dressmaking service from a ground floor showroom for many years before Lana became the last tenant, who had relocated her custom printing business Creativity Plus there. With the impending plans to redevelop most of the city block, Lana moved to Dee Street to continue her business.

Upstairs, various tenants had leased the rooms as a residence but with the deterioration in the condition of the building, living there was no longer desirable. If the walls could talk I am sure there would be many tales of what happened there since the first structure was built on the site – near to the original site where the original European settler Kelly first pitched his tent in around 1854.



(Photo taken 2019 – W Shaw)

## **In Our Resource Room:**

The Resource Room is once again open from 11am-1pm each Wednesday. Come and visit – you will be surprised what we have available.

## **Current Branch Projects**

**Obituaries** from the Southland Times of local people (and many national figures) are being collected. These are then indexed before placing the books in the Resource Room. Index is on Resource Room laptop.

**Lone Graves in Southland and Stewart Is** - Mary Stuart and Yvonne Service continue collecting data on these graves – found in isolated places e.g. on farms, in isolated bush, disused dwellings, abandoned mining camps.

## **Directory**

**Southland Branch,  
NZ Society of Genealogists Inc.**

**Postal address:  
P.O. Box 1329, Invercargill 9840.**

**E-mail: [Southland@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Southland@genealogy.org.nz)**

**Meetings  
Third Wednesday of each month Feb-Nov  
Meeting Room, Invercargill City Library at 7 p.m.  
[Research facilities from 6 p.m.]**

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

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

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

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