

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch
No 202
February 2010**

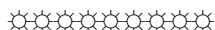
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New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. www.genealogy.org.nz

Meetings are held in the Parish Lounge at St John's Anglican Church, Arawata Street (parking off George Street), Te Awamutu, at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month – February to December. Visitors are most welcome.



Next Meeting: Tuesday 2 February 2010 – Julie Anso will share her family history of whaling. To quote Julie

“The English sought the Greenland whale through the 16th Century, and the Dutch were especially active in the industry as early as the 1600’s.

Our journey begins prior to the Golden age of American whaling which began in 1815.

The two most important whaling ports were Nantucket and New Bedford, from where several generations of the Sherman family were Shipwrights, Whaling Captains, and seamen.

It was a filthy and dangerous pursuit but offered adventure and to some extent fantastic profits. (Some were never to be seen again!)

It was an endeavour in which it is acknowledged that the New Englanders’ were unsurpassed.

We trace the whaling routes and end our journey where my Great Grandfather settled at the Whangaroa Harbour.”

Future meetings: Tuesday 2nd March – Bill & Glenys Chadderton sharing the 15 month experience converting all of New Zealand’s shipping records from 1842 – 1972, held at Archives new Zealand in Wellington, into digital form.

Tuesday 6th of April our speaker will be Cathy Coleborne, Associate Professor, Department of History University of Waikato. Cathy spoke to us five years ago on “*Different ways in which historians can trace and `see` families and family history*”.

Last time was at the beginning of her research and now she is at the end of the process, so will share her experiences.

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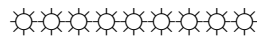
Disclaimer: All efforts are made to ensure the information published is accurate

Convenor's Corner:

Welcome to 2010 and trust you had an enjoyable festive season, found time for research and success along the way. I am pleased to announce that Robyn Taylor has agreed to take on the editorship of our monthly newsletter, so I encourage you to support Robyn by sending in your articles and stories – remember it is your newsletter and therefore should be a collective affair.

I would like to highlight the AGM coming up in May. New committee members are sought and especially the position of secretary. Sandra has ably filled the breach in the interim but can not sustain it indefinitely. I therefore ask members to give serious thought to putting their name forward to join the branch committee. It is not an onerous task, meeting once a month on the 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm. The meeting is usually done and dusted in a little over an hour and then some social time over a cup of tea.

It is with sadness I note the recent the passing of Trevor Tonks who was a long serving member of the branch. Trevor looked after the microfiche equipment in the library for many years. The branch extends its sympathy to the family.



NZSG Family History Fair

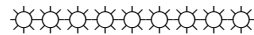
16-18 July 2010 in Hamilton

Email: nzfamilyhistoryfair@gmail.com

The branch has expressed its interest in being part of a roster to 'man' a stand at the fair – more details will be published soon

Watch this space!

Registration forms will be in the next Genealogist magazine



Old occupations

BEAMER - winds the warp on the roller before putting it on the loom in the textile industry

BEARER - worked underground carrying the coal to the bottom of the pit shaft and placed it in the containers for uplifting to the surface

BEATER - cleansed and thickened the cloth by treading it underwater with fullers earth (aka Fuller)

BEAVER - made felt used in hat making

BEDMAN - sexton

BEDRAL - in Scotland a minor church official

BEDWEVERE - made the webbing for bed frames and also a one who wove quilts

BESKEPMAKER - made beehives

BEETLER - operated a beetling machine, used in the textile trade for embossing fabric

BENDER - cut leather

BESSWARDEN - appointed by the parish to look after its animals

BESOM MAKER - made brooms

BEVER - beverage maker



Technological Advances



I (John Graham) attended a presentation by Maurice Williamson MP in 1998 where he was discussing communication technology, where it had come from and where it was thought to be heading. Tidying up papers (as you do) I found his notes and thought it was worth reflecting on them twelve years on.

Let us look at another aspect of the knowledge revolution - the impact of communication technologies. We can think of this as a classical exponential curve with one technology feeding off the next to give an ever faster pace of change

- *faxes in the 1970's*
- *cell phones in the 1980's*
- *CD-ROMs & the internet and the world-wide web technology: within the last few years*

We can already look at this progression in technology and think of the immense impact it has had, and is likely to have, on our lives, on business and on society.

But we have barely started on the curve.

We are here in 1998. But what is going to come next?

What technologies will appear in here? What impacts will they have?

Are they going to change game plans forever, and for quite unanticipated reasons?

MIT Media Labs, of the US, state that "80 per cent of the systems, processes, services and

Boards are about to disappear and government is about to change

Here we are in 2010 and still the future is uncertain, we now have DVD's, ipods and GPS tracking to mention a few. Before we are all much older there will be new technology along with a new language to learn.

products that today's five-year olds will experience and use as adults have not yet been thought of."

One thing that is certain is that the future is uncertain.

This is easily demonstrated by looking at a few predictions that have been made in the past.

In 1895, Lord Kelvin the President of the Royal Society stated that "Heavier Than Air Flying Machines Are Impossible"

In 1927, Harry M. Warner of Warner Bros asked "Who The Hell Wants To Hear Actors Talk?"

In 1943, Thomas Watson the Chairman of IBM, said "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers"

And more recently, in 1986 Bill Gates stated that "640 k RAM is enough for PC applications."

The one thing for certain is that the Internet represents anarchy.

**From an article by Andrew Wood in Ancestors, August 2007 called
“Caught in the Civil War” – (Thanks to Sandra for this article)**

Life under Cromwell, following the English Civil Wars that raged between 1642–1648, is illustrated in an article by Andrew Wood, whose 8x gt grandfather was an unwilling participant during that period.

Under Cromwell “there was a new social order in the land. The number of ale houses was reduced and a scale of fines was introduced against anything considered blasphemous. Failure to pay resulted in a three – six hour session in the stocks. A duke would pay 30 shillings, a squire 10 shillings and an ‘inferior person’ three shillings & four pence. For any subsequent offence, double fines were imposed. Women were charged in accordance with the rank of their husband or, in the case of a single woman, her father.

The celebration of church festivals was repulsive to strict Puritans and in 1644, 25 December was declared a day of absolute fasting. The rigid theology behind this was that congregations might recall their own sins and those of their forebears. Later it was forbidden to celebrate Easter & Whitsuntide, both traditional days of revelry in the old Church of England.

Observance of the Sabbath was high on the political agenda; sport and any other pastimes were prohibited on Sunday and fast days, which now included the last Wednesday of each month. This hit hard because Sundays and holy days in the church calendar were the only days ordinary people had to pursue leisure

interests. Travel, other than attending church, and all forms of theatre were also banned.

As any celebration involving a Maypole was usually held on a Sunday, this too was forbidden on the grounds that it was based on heathen rituals and on superstition, vanity and wickedness. Promiscuous (mixed gender) dancing was also banned. Both male & female attire came under scrutiny as fashion was considered notorious and offensive. Any attempt at beautification was considered dissatisfaction with God’s work.

After a few years of this rigid rhetoric from the pulpit, many who had been carried away with the passion of the Puritan revolution and inspired to support a change in the political hierarchy became disillusioned. Disillusion turned to indignation and indignation to hate. They began to ask themselves “who had benefited from the revolution?”

The answer was simple: the Puritan hierarchy or politicians, the Puritan clergy and the soldiers. Even before Cromwell’s death in 1658, some Presbyterian leaders who had been members of the House of Lords prior to its abolition in 1649 began to support the return of the monarchy. When Charles II was restored in 1660 he was accepted by many with relief.”

Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open
Sir James Dewar

Editor-at-large signing off