

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch
No 205
May 2010**

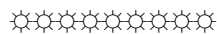
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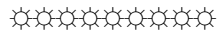
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Meetings are held in the Parish Lounge at St John's Anglican Church, Arawata Street (parking off George Street), Te Awamutu, at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month – February to December. Visitors are most welcome.



Next Meeting: 4 May 2010 AGM followed by members sharing some of their family history by bringing along a photograph, an heirloom or item of clothing.

1 June 2010 – Question and answer session with access to the internet. If members have a burning question please pose it to one of the committee prior to the meeting in order to do a little research if required



Robyn is away for a month so you have the Editor-at Large back for this publication

Convenor's Corner: I may sound like a cracked record regarding the AGM and election of committee members. This will be my last year as Convenor as I believe 5 years is enough at any one stretch. So please seriously consider putting your name forward and by now some members would have been tapped on the shoulder.

It was pleasing to have a good turn out at our last meeting bearing in mind we had 60mm of rain an hour before it started. We had the pleasure of hearing Catharine Coleborne share her findings of her five year project ***Madness in the Family: Researching the presence of families in the asylum archive in New Zealand and Australia to 1910.***

Some key points from Cathy's PowerPoint presentation are below:

'Perhaps some day we will no longer really know what madness was. Its face will have closed upon itself, no longer allowing us to decipher the traces it may have left behind. Will these traces themselves have become anything to the unknowing gaze but simple black marks? ... Nothing will remain in the hands of cultural historians except the codified methods of confinement, the techniques of medicine ...'

Michel Foucault, 'Madness, the Absence of Work', transl. Pater Stastny and Deniz Şengel, *Critical Inquiry* (Winter, 1995), pp. 290-1

Transcolonial study included

- Gladesville, Sydney, New South Wales (1838/1869)
- Yarra Bend, Melbourne, Victoria (1850s)
- Goodna, Queensland (1865)
- The Whau, Auckland, New Zealand (1853/1876)

Summary

- Archives as repositories
- Archives as sites of knowledge production about nation-state and empire
- Archives as sites for occlusion or obfuscation and sites of oppression
- Archives as ‘contact zones’ (the presence of the researcher)

Three problems

- The illusion of ‘completeness’
- The tendency to dwell in one archival domain
- The tendency to focus on single locations

Four archival sites

- State Records New South Wales
- Public Records Office Victoria
- Queensland State Archives
- National Archives New Zealand (Auckland)

Some findings: archive/asylum as contact zone

- The role of lay descriptions
- Using correspondence
- Records of maintenance payment
- Leave of absence

Some conclusions

- Firstly, I have opened up a transcolonial and a **trans-archival** inquiry
- Secondly, I have indicated that the **institutional collisions** between patients, families and authorities produce more historical complexities
- Thirdly, **histories** are indeed not ‘found’ in archives, but are very much ‘**made**’ **through such collisions**

Self-reflexivity: looking backwards

- ‘Writing history – I mean the act of writing and producing it – is like excavation. I feel this quite strongly at the moment trying to construct the policing chapter – and I feel the layers, I feel the sifting through sources and the shifts in my narrative. But why is it this kind of ‘digging’? ... I am curious about the archaeological metaphor, wondering if this is what Foucault means: that to dig is to create ... I was so struck by this sense of excavation and could see my thesis like a glass tank with different coloured soils and sands in it so clearly – for the first time!’

– 7/11/96

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 16-18 July 2010

1. General duties

- a. Fair check-in & registration
- b. Technical / IT support
- c. Roving "Ask Me" volunteers
- d. Seminar room set-up
- e. Introducing / thanking presenters
- f. Selling raffle tickets etc
- g. Skills required:
 - Good with people, welcoming, approachable
 - Note: Fair check-in & door sales on Saturday & Sunday require money handling skills and use of eftpos

2. Family history advice

- a. Help desks (beginners + "breaking down brick walls" + key internet databases)
- b. NZSG regional groups (Inspiration Centre New Zealand stand)
- c. NZSG special interest groups (Inspiration Centre stands)
- d. "Hot desks"
 - NZSG special interest groups who would like internet access are invited to operate a "special hot desk" on a roster system during the Fair. Own laptops required.
 - Individuals who have developed private databases (e.g. military) are invited to participate as part of a rostered "hot desk" system. Own laptops required.
- e. Skills required:
 - good with people
 - good knowledge of their area / topic
 - able to use laptop (for CD / index look-ups in Inspiration Centre & in specialised help desk area)
 - able to readily find information using key hardcopy resources
 - Note: beginners help desk volunteers do not require computer skills

If you have the necessary time and attributes to assist – from 2 hours to as many hours as you are able to offer - we would love to hear from you.

For any queries contact nzfamilyhistoryfair@gmail.com

RETIREE BATHTUB TEST

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not a retiree should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the retiree and ask him or her to empty the bathtub.

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Northern Ireland - BMD indexes

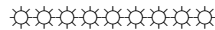
As regular readers will know, you can [search](#) indexes of births, marriages and deaths for Ireland free of charge at the [FamilySearch pilot site](#). The indexes cover the whole of Ireland until 1921, then the Republic of Ireland from 1922 onwards (they extend to 1958).

Have you tried....

I wrote about [Google Street View](#) shortly after it was launched, but at that time the coverage was very limited. Now most of Britain's streets are covered by photographs, so the chances of finding a picture of the house where your ancestor used to live is pretty good (assuming that it is still standing). In [Google Maps](#) simply drag the little yellow man onto the map - the streets which have been photographed will be outlined in blue.

Though almost all of London has been photographed, it's ironic that one street that you can't view is Downing Street, home of the Prime Minister. Mind you, we'll probably see more than enough pictures of the world's best-known front door over the next 3 weeks!

Thanks to Margaret Main for sharing these sites

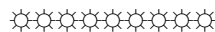


Britons can trace French ancestry after millions of records go online
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/7578817/Britons-can-trace-French-ancestry-after-millions-of-records-go-online.html>

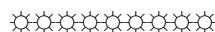
Internet breakthrough could allow millions to trace ancestors to 16th Century
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/5055524/Internet-breakthrough-could-allow-millions-to-trace-ancestors-to-16th-Century.html>

Shared via AddThis.com

Thanks to May Rhodes for sending this information



The NZSG Waikato/BOP regional meeting is to be held in Te Awamutu at the St John's Ambulance centre on 22 May commencing at 10am. Members are asked to bring a plate for morning tea and also we require members to assist serving tea and coffee from 9.30am. If you are able to assist please let the secretary or convenor know.



OLD OCCUPATIONS

ALMANAC MAN - official appointed by the Court of Sewers who warned the inhabitants of the Trent River area of higher than normal tides

ALMONER - gave out alms or charity to the poor and needy

ALMSMAN - received alms

ALNAGER - official who examined the quality of woollen goods and stamped them with the town seal of approval