

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch
No 207**

July 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: 6 July – Mid winter potluck dinner evening with a quiz and general social get together. The timing will be earlier than usual – from 6pm, with dinner commencing at 6.30pm. Please bring a plate to share be it savoury or dessert.

Future Meetings: 3 August – View a programme of “Who do you think you are?”



Convenor's Corner: After a few minor technical challenges we connected to the internet and managed to access a variety of genealogical websites. It was a worthwhile evening where family members were found and attendees got a flavour of the various sites and how to navigate their way around them.

The branch intends to purchase a broadband stick which will allow us to access the internet on a more regular basis.

Membership – all but six members have paid their subs for the 2010 year, hopefully following the Family History Fair we will attract some new members.



Tuesday Morning Sessions: An opportunity to have help to get started or solve those problems in the "too hard basket"

Call Jan McBeth on ph 872 1866 any Monday evening for a get together at 228 Long Rd Hairini on the Tuesday morning, 9.30 am to 12pm.

Family History Fair

Don't forget – Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th July, Kingsgate Hotel, 100 Garnett Ave, Hamilton. Doors open at 10am on Saturday and go through until 8pm. On Sunday they are open from 10am – 5pm. That's only 17 hours altogether! Don't miss out

Tips for getting the most out of the Fair:

(Modified from the latest *NZ Genealogist* publication)

Preparation is important. Go to www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz and make yourself familiar with what's planned.

- Checkout the pay-to-view websites & exhibitors. See what they have to offer. Decide what you want to find and come prepared with names, notes and information. Time is precious at the Fair – it only lasts for two days!
- If you are new to genealogy, download the pedigree and family group sheets from the website. Start with yourself and work backwards through your parents, grandparents and great grandparents, filling in as much information as you can. Male lines on top, female on the bottom, pencil for unconfirmed information, pen for confirmed.
- If you've struck a brick wall, identify what it is you are wanting to find, bring proof of what you have found already (copies of certificates, census returns etc) and bring a record of the fruitless searches you have already made (there's no time to waste at the Fair!) And please make sure your folders and research materials are well named.
- If you are not on the internet, ask someone to download the information for you.

Thanks to the generosity of these (pay to view) companies, there will be free look-up access to their websites during Fair opening hours. In addition, many of them have offered annual subscriptions as raffle prizes.

- FindMyPast (www.findmypast.co.uk)
- Origins (www.originsnetwork.com)
- Footnote (www.footnote.com)
- MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com)
- The Genealogist (www.thegenealogist.co.uk)
- ScotlandsPeople (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- Ancestry (www.ancestry.com.au)



**Beware of the Genealogy Bug; It's
bite can be addictive!**

Searching for Family Using the IGI

Last month's meeting was an in-house session using the internet to explore some useful sites. What became apparent was the number of people present who were not really aware of the IGI.

What is the IGI?

IGI stands for International Genealogical Index. It is an index to births/baptisms and marriages worldwide, compiled by the Church of Latter Day Saints. The IGI is an index to original records and should only be used as a guide to where to direct you to original records. However, while there can be inaccuracies in the information it is a truly valuable resource and an excellent starting point.

Take the time to check it out at www.familysearch.org

Under *Search Records* click on **Advanced Search**
Then click on **International Genealogy Index**

Hint: Sometimes you can find whole families by entering in the parent details and leaving the First Name /Last Name boxes empty

Thanks to Sandra Metcalfe for these links to help you further understand the IGI

What is the IGI?

<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/barry.ruck/FAQIGI.htm>

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/education-lifelong-learning/leicesterlibraries-home-page/information-reference/family-history/what-is-the-igi/>

Using batch numbers

http://www.lostcousins.com/pdf/USING_BATCH_NUMBERS.pdf

Irish Records coming Online – Free!

The Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage has launched further church records. These include pre-1900 church baptisms, marriage and burial records for Dublin City, Carlow, cork (City and West Cork) and Kerry. These records are available free of charge.

Website: www.irishgenealogy.ie



1911 Scotland Census

Early release of the England & Wales census was prompted by an application under the Freedom of Information Act, but that isn't going to happen with the Scottish census. However, the indications are that we won't have to wait until January 2012, as was originally planned in England & Wales, but may get access to the Scotland 1911 census on 4th April 2011.

The bad news is that the householder schedules for the 1911 Scotland census have not survived, so we won't see our ancestors' handwriting.

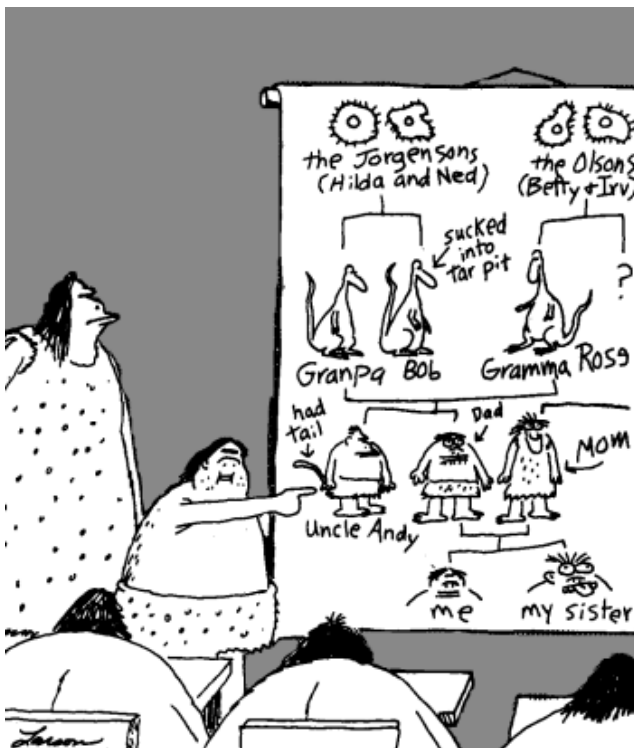
Organising your research (by Peter Calver, Founder, LostCousins)

There's nothing worse than collecting information about your ancestors and then not being able to find it - or ordering a certificate, only to find that you already have it. So I thought it might be useful to describe how I manage the information that I've collected over the years - not because it's a perfect solution, but because it works well for me, and may inspire you to come up with an approach that works even better for you.

I have two parallel sets of records, written records and digital records. Any unique documents that come into my possession, for example photographs or original certificates, are scanned in - just in case something happens to the original. When I find a household on any of the censuses I save the image on my hard drive, then load it into Irfanview where I trim off the margins and adjust the brightness and contrast before printing it out.

The folders on my hard drive closely emulate the files in my filing cabinet - I have a folder for each of my ancestral lines, and within that main folder I have subfolders for the collateral lines that I've researched in the most detail. In other words, when I find I've got a lot of information about a particular line I put all the information about that line into a separate subfolder.

It isn't hard to do what I do, and it isn't expensive either. The Irfanview program can be downloaded free at <http://www.irfanview.com/>



Dirk brings his family tree to class.

DEAR ANCESTOR

Your tombstone stands among the rest;
Neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.
It reaches out to all who care
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.
Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.
I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

Author Unknown