

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch
No 208**

August 2010

Convenor: John Graham 871 8986
Email: jmrg@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Bev Simpson 871 0322
Email: bard@farmside.co.nz

Treasurer: Sandra Metcalfe 871 3250
Email: Metcalfe@wave.co.nz

Editor: Robyn Taylor 871 7603
Email: robyntaylor@wwweb.co.nz

Te Awamutu Website: www.teawamutu.net/genealogy
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 3 August will be a showing of an episode of “Who do you think you are?”

Future Meetings: Tuesday 7 September “On the Trail of James and Rebecca” Robyn Taylor will take us on a journey associated with her recent trip overseas.



Convenor's Corner: Thank you to everyone who contributed to the mid-winter potluck dinner and what a fine spread it was. The quiz was a challenge to all, with much hilarity along the way. I will have to have a word to the question setter(s) for coming up with some rather obscure questions!!

Another thank you to all who volunteered their help at the very successful *Family History Fair*. I am convinced, per capita, the Te Awamutu Branch provided the most helpers over the two days. I was there on both days manning the Waikato/Bay of Plenty stand for a couple of hours and the place was a buzz. Start time was 10am; ‘yeah right’ the car park was full by at least 9.30am which told a story in itself. Congratulations to the organising committee and I am sure this won't be the last Fair.

I am going to Namibia for three weeks from mid August so won't be at the September meeting and therefore look forward to seeing you in October.



Can Anyone Help?

I am researching my family - the Johns - who I believed lived in Te Awamutu in the early 20th century. I noticed that William Henwood Johns' name was on a plaque in St Johns Church in Te Awamutu and wondered how long the family lived there. My grandmother was Clara Johns and her father was John Johns and mother Martha Johns nee Henwood.

Would you be able to give me any details at all regarding this family in Te Awamutu such as where their farm may have been and for how long they lived there? If not perhaps you might kindly direct me to a place where I can find some of this information.

I do appreciate your time and look forward to your reply. Many thanks.

Kind Regards,
Carolyn Beadle

Extracted and adapted from the *LostCousins* newsletter by Peter Calver, Founder, LostCousins

Australian BMD indexes at Ancestry

Ancestry have compiled indexes of births, marriages, and deaths that cover most of Australia - the first time that such a comprehensive index has been available. Whilst much of the data is already available free online at the websites of the individual states, being able to carry out a global search is handy especially when you're not certain if your relative ever went to Australia, or where they ended up.

Findmypast release searchable birth indexes

Findmypast announced that its new fully-searchable birth indexes had gone on line. Covering the whole of England & Wales from 1837-2006, it is the most comprehensive index available and seems to be highly reliable - which is a great relief in view of the poor job that Ancestry have done.

Findmypast has accurate transcriptions - you only have to compare the quality of the source images with Ancestry. Findmypast's images have been newly scanned and so are crystal-clear and easy to read - many of Ancestry's are so hazy that their transcribers were lucky to be able to read anything!

One very nice feature is that you can search by County or by Registration District, or by a combination of the two. But be careful when searching by county, as Registration Districts that span the border of two counties - such as Thetford - may only show up in the search results for one of them. (On the other hand, at least findmypast has allocated the districts to the correct counties, unlike Ancestry - where searching by county is a very perilous adventure.)

I like the way that you can include or exclude spelling variations, and limit this to the forename or surname individually - and also the way that 'unnamed males' and/or 'unnamed females' are added at the end of the search results. This is a feature I haven't seen at other sites, and could be very useful if you're trying to track down children who died in infancy and whose existence you discovered from the 'fertility data' in the 1911 Census.



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Hamilton Branch

Family History Month – “Open Day”

“From whence you came”

Saturday 21st August 2010

At St Alban’s Church Hall

Corner of Belmont Ave & Comries Road, Chartwell, Hamilton

Time – 10am...3pm..... Entry Fee \$5.00

Interest Groups will be there with their resources.

Bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided

Enquiries to: hamilton.nzsg@gmail.com

Bits and Pieces of Interest

1. Genealogy/Family History: what is the difference?

(Sourced from: FamNet eNewsletter Number One, July 2010)

GENEALOGY in its strictest sense is the study of blood lines of descent from a particular ancestor or ancestors, with no attempt to examine or reconstruct the lives of those concerned. This is the fundamental building block, the foundations, leading on to ...

FAMILY HISTORY which covers a far wider spectrum and entails what might be called "putting flesh on the bones". Family history covers not just genealogical descents but the relating of your ancestors and their lives to the social and economic history of the times in which they lived. Thus, anything at all which impinged on the lives of your ancestors can be said to be legitimate family history. This includes how they lived, the kind of houses they lived in, the clothes they wore, the food they ate, the jobs they did, how they brought up their children, where they went to church, the shops they shopped at, what kind of things they bought, the hours they worked, how they spent their leisure time, etc, etc, etc - and a million other things which all help to build up a realistic picture of your ancestors' lives.

2. What is a GED?

(Sourced from: Genealogy Databases (ANZGDB, NZGDB) Frequently Asked Questions)

GED is short for “GEDCOM” which stands for “GEnealogy Data COMmunication”. GEDCOM is a standard data format that allows different genealogy programs to communicate with each other.

Many software producers have developed software that you can run on your PC or Mac to manage your family tree. Among the most popular are Family Tree Maker (FTM), Legacy, and Personal Ancestral File (PAF), but there are many others also. If I use (say) FTM, then I could send a copy of my FTM database to somebody else with whom I want to share data only if, like me, they use FTM. However my FTM database is no use to them if they use Legacy, PAF, or even a different version of FTM to mine. What we need is a standard format that we can use to exchange information so that if I were to export my information in this standard format, it then wouldn't matter if the other genealogist were to use the same program as me, or another program. Gedcom is this standard. All of the serious genealogy programs can export data as a GED, and read GED data into their own database format.

A Personal Project

Robyn Taylor

I have been busy creating an electronic copy of one of my great grandfather's autobiographical writings which had been previously transcribed from handwritten notes by a person unknown to me. The work was originally written in 1917 but relates back to his birth in England in 1837. During his early years he trained to be a teacher and he describes his time as a student at St Mark's College in Chelsea, London during the years 1854 to 1858

“The order of the day ran – seven o'clock roll call, followed by a lecture, breakfast of unlimited bread with a pat of butter about the size of a penny and half an inch deep coffee...(includes some detail of his day)...Music and drawing were taken before tea, which was the simple fare at breakfast with tea instead of coffee.”

Old Occupations

EALDORMAN - an official of the shire courts who acted as the King's deputy taking payment from the profits of the court

EBONITE TURNER - one who worked with ebonite or vulcanite, making combs or ornaments etc

EARER - ploughman

EARTH STOPPER - one who plugs up animal holes

EGG FACTOR / EGGLER - egg or poultry dealer

ELEPHANTS TEETH DEALER - who dealt in ivory ornaments etc

ELLERMAN / ELLIMAN - who sold oil used for lamps and known as an oilman

ELYMAKER - oilmaker