

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch**

No. 224

February 2012



Bathers at Asnières, 1884, Georges Seurat

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 7th February. John Graham is going to present to the club – “Historical Aspects of Mental Health in the Waikato”

March Meeting: Tuesday 6th March. We will be hearing from a modern day stonemason about this amazing craft

Convenor: Margaret Main 872 4815
Email: rmain@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Linda Howarth 871 7115
Email: blhowarth@xtra.co.nz

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

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

From the Committee

A new year and new beginnings!

Welcome to 2012 and we hope that you all had a relaxing time and have many stories to tell. Perhaps you were able to interview that all important relative over the holiday period

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting for the year. Quite a full schedule of speakers and topics has already been planned for the upcoming year. First up John is going to talk to us about mental health in the Waikato which will include content relating to Tokanui Hospital

The committee talked about the club's website at its recent meeting and we invite everyone to take a look and make suggestions. It can be found at the above URL. You might like to check out other club websites to compare

We also talked about the microfiche readers in the Library and do ask that members report any problem to us as soon as they are aware please. Contact anyone from the above list and appropriate action can be implemented as soon as possible

A reminder about the new NZSG draft constitution. NZSG members have until Friday 3rd February 2012 to send comments about these draft rules to the Constitution Review Committee

As we have some new members to our club and new to genealogy there will be some helpful hints etc in the newsletter over the coming months. The aim is to make genealogy rewarding for everyone regardless of how long each of us has been involved and how successful we have been in piecing our puzzles together. If anyone has some excellent tips please feel free to forward to Robyn

Lastly, a reminder that Trademe has a Genealogy Message board. You can use it to post a request of your own or comment on someone else's query

Go to www.trademe.co.nz

Click: Community

Click: Message Board

Scroll down

Click: Genealogy

Note: You can also use the search box to the left of the message board to look up previous requests related to a particular topic. It will allow you to go back up to one year



Event Calendar

Thames Family History Expo

Assistance from the Experts. Areas covered include: Australia, Channel Islands, Cornwall, England, Europe, London, Ireland, Maori, North America, Scotland and New Zealand!

Thames Civic Centre: 31 March, 2012 ~ 9:30am ~ 4:00pm. Door Charge: \$10.00

For further information contact the Thames Branch of the NZSG ~ thames@genealogy.org.nz



A lesson in Genealogy # 1

In recent years genealogy has become a hugely popular hobby. For someone who is just beginning the process it can be somewhat confusing. While there is an abundance of books written on the subject and a number of internet sites available to help it is always good to have a clear idea of how to begin

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Assemble what you already have.

This may be in the form of Birth Certificates, Baptismal Certificates, Marriage Certificates, Death Certificates, Burial records, Journals and Diaries, Wills, Family Bibles, Obituaries, Deeds to land, Military Records, Qualification Records as well as any Family legends you know of

- Purchase or find boxes or folders for storage

Start with at least four – one for each of your father’s maternal and paternal line and one for each of your mother’s maternal and paternal line. You may wish to use different colours for each of the family lines. You can add to these as your research advances. You may wish to keep original documents or primary source documents in a separate place

- Make copies of original documents
- Set aside a space to store your records and research somewhere at home
- If you have a computer, get a family file program.

An excellent one to get you going is PAF Family History software available **FREE** from FamilySearch <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp> Go to the website and **Click** Download PAF. Start entering the names of family members you already know. You can include birth, marriage and death information as well. Do include siblings

If you don’t have a computer then you need to devise a method of recording information on paper. Do include columns for events, dates, ages, locations and most importantly, the source of your information

- Use the New Zealand Births, deaths and marriages online site which is **FREE** to search <https://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/>

You can use this site to find the years of events and if you wish you can keep narrowing down the days and months until you get the actual date of an event. Keep a note of the record number shown. You can search births up to 100 years ago, marriages up to 80 years ago and deaths up to 50 years ago, except if the person would have been over the age of 80 on the day of your search, then the death is shown when it occurred. More recent deaths will give the actual date of birth as well

SUMMING UP

1. Gather evidence
2. Make copies of original records
3. Sort out a method and place of storage
4. Enter your information into a family file computer program or devise some way of recording information on paper
5. Confirm dates of events where possible



What's on the Web?

1. The British Newspaper Archive <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Search this vast historical newspaper archive from home for **FREE**. Thousands of new pages are added every day
2. British Pathé <http://www.britishpathe.com/> 90 000 films that you can view **FREE** of charge

New Year Resolutions

Apparently many of our ancestors in the past made 'New Years resolutions' along the following lines. They did it to confuse and confound us later researchers of family information:

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year
2. I will also be totally inconsistent in the use of my "dit" name
3. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same given names that my ancestors and cousins have used for six generations in a row
4. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document
5. I resolve to have each of my children baptised in a different church or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptised at all or will be baptised by an itinerant missionary who keeps no records
6. If a child should die, I will give the next child born the same name. Girls will all be named Marie. Marie-Josèphe and Joseph-Marie will be good names for my children
7. I resolve that if my beloved wife Marie-Catherine should die, I will marry another Marie-Catherine. I will see that she write her name Marie, Marie-Catherine, Catherine, and Catherine-Marie in different documents
8. I will name all the children of my second marriage with the same names as the children of my first marriage. Each Jean-Baptiste with thus have several brothers and half-brothers as well as cousins and other relatives, plus moi, named Jean-Baptiste, all with the same surname. Again, I will see that they be inconsistent in the use of the "dit" name.)
9. If I emigrate to the U.S. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every 10 years--just before those pesky census enumerators come around asking silly questions
10. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years
11. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service
12. If a census enumerator does come to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink. I will also find that I can only guess at my children's ages-and even their names
13. I will not take pictures of the family. If I do, I will not identify the people in the photos. If anyone does not know who the people are, they have no business nosing through the album
14. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on lowlifes like lawyers?
15. I resolve that when I die, my tombstone will be made of soft stone with shallow engraving so that it is guaranteed to weather away as quickly as possible and become ILLEGIBLE. This will be done to confuse cemetery transcribers and force them to list my grave as UNKNOWN.

Thanks to Sandra and NZSG memberslist