Newsletter December 2015: Seasons greetings and new xmas reading from PapersPast

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Next Meeting Monday January 25th
January’s meeting will be a bit of show and tell:

Bring something along (e.g. an heirloom, photo, etc) and tell us all about it.

News from the committee

Seasons greetings, peace and joy from

Merv Judge 368 4859
Noeline Lyons 368 7789
Ron Gallagher 368 7322
Hillary Kenny 368 4641
Ian Meyer 368 0602
Linda Fletcher 368 9597

Our November meeting
Several members shared some interesting genealogical developments, then we had a quiz (won by Linda and John, with 37 ticks), then Saint Ian was Saint Nicholas with a sack of goodies. Gloy won the raffle. Then we enjoyed a great spread.

St Andrews Day
Ian, Merv, Noeline, Doug, Alan and Cedric attended the St Andrews Day at St Andrews Church celebration on Sunday November 29th in various capacities, getting a taste of haggis and an exhibition of Scottish dancing as well as attracting some people to our stall.

RIP: Cedric Harris
Members will have noted the recent passing of Cedric Harris. Cedric hadn’t been able to attend meetings for a while, but often popped into the Heritage Room. Some of us last saw him at the St Andrews Day celebration.

Market Day
Thank you to those who helped out on the stall in Te Takere on the day of the xmas parade (Gloy, Lorraine, Merv, Pippa, John D and of course Linda), and those who parted with a few dollars. The raffle (won by Alan Smith) and painting item sales raised about $250 for the Heritage Room.

Laptop
Diane is loading the new laptop with databases and it will be available for members to borrow early in the new year. Watch this space.
Volunteer For One Day In March
Linda is organising a Heritage House Trail opening up 6 to 8 historic houses to the public on Sunday March from 10am till 4pm 13th 2016, and needs a team of volunteers to help out on the day.

Can we put up our hands for people on the gates or keeping an eye on things inside the houses?

If you think you should be able to help out for a few hours please let Linda or Merv know.

NZSG Rules Review
Your committee made a short submission to NZSG on their Draft Revised Rules, expressing support overall and especially for three specific changes:

- Formally recognising and defining the status of non-NZSG members in NZSG branches (usually referred to as Friends Of The Branch, to be called Local Members)
- A bit more flexibility on the matter of non-NZSG members on branch committees (although still requiring Pres, Sec and Treasurer to be NZSG members)
- Redefining the idea of institutional membership to make it clearer that NZSG welcomes other groups joining (it will be called Affiliate Membership)

On the last item, it is interesting to see the reference to HFFG in the questions and answers about the review on the NZSG website:

Some existing branches have indicated it is time to cut the apron strings. This new class of membership means the Society would not be turning its back on those branches, but entering into a new relationship - a new partnership. This provides an opportunity for the Society to reinforce its role as the primary genealogy group in NZ and welcomes a diverse range of organisations and groups. There is already a former North Island branch in the Institutional membership class, a successful independent operation, with active NZSG networking and attendance at regional meetings.

Family Tree Maker Programme
Ancestry.com has “taken a hard look at the declining desktop software market and the impact this has on being able to continue to provide product enhancements and support that our users need. With that, we’ve made the decision to stop selling Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2015.”

Ancestry will continue to support current owners of Family Tree Maker at least through January 1, 2017. During this time, all features of the software, including TreeSync™, will continue to work, and Member Services will be available to assist with user questions. They will also address major software bugs that may occur, as well as compatibility updates.

It’s a bit like the situation with the familysearch and the PAF software. The software will continue to work, but there won’t be any more upgrades or fixes. Like familysearch, Ancestry has decided to focus on expanding the databases instead.

A bit of a blow for FTM users who currently enjoy that interface with Ancestry.

RootsMagic were first off the rank in offering FTM users a new home, including offering the full-version of RootsMagic for only $20, along with the book, “Getting the Most out of RootsMagic”. (Visit www.FTMUpgrade.com to receive the discount).

FTM users might also consider the free, basic versions of Legacy or Ancestral Quest which can be downloaded for free.

Current FTM users include: Kerry (he is a computer whiz kid), Ian, Ron Leggett. And who else? RSVP if you are too. Talk to other HFFG members about this, and raise it a monthly meeting.
HFG Rules

The committee decided that after nearly six years it would do no harm to review our HFG Rules.

Nothing dramatic is proposed in the way of changes, mainly a bit of tidying up (e.g. some clauses refer to the Winchester St set-up; and another clause is about former NZSG Branch members transitioning to HFG; and there is some unnecessary repetition here and there).

Some of the more significant proposed changes are:

1. Some clauses discriminate against people who do not have email e.g. that notice of meeting or access to minutes is available only be email or that hard copies come at a cost. We have about 10 members not on email, or who prefer hard copy for practical purposes, and it is proposed to do away with any suggestion of any extra cost for them.

2. There is no appeal procedure against a committee’s decision to terminate someone’s membership. As a matter of natural justice, there should be, and it is proposed to use the same appeal procedure as is used elsewhere in the Rules for declined membership applications.

3. There is currently no quorum specified for a SGM or an AGM. The suggestion is for a quorum of ‘15.

4. The Rules current require a 2/3 majority for a motion to pass at a SGM. The proposal is for a simple majority, like everything else. Except for a change to the Rules (keeping the 2/3 for that).

5. Currently only one Life Membership can be conferred at any AGM. The proposal suggests up to two at any AGM.

6. Currently the Rules say that only person is needed to authorize a payment by internet banking. In practice we now work on two people having to authorize, and the proposal that this should be a Rule.

7. Currently the Rules specify that the President and another are to sign cheques. It is proposed that this should be any two of the approved signatories.

8. In some places the Rules refer to the role of a Vice President. This is not an elected position, but (presumably) appointed from within the committee. We have never actually had a VP, and the committee doesn’t feel the need for one. It is proposed to delete all these references.

Further information on the proposed changes will be circulated for comment early in 2016, with a view to adopting any changes at the AGM in April 2016.

Meanwhile, please feel free to discuss the proposals with any committee member.

New Years Resolutions: tick any three

During 2016 I will: (tick any three)

☐ Drop off funeral service sheets.

☐ Share my finds at monthly meetings.

☐ Become a volunteer in the Heritage Room.

☐ Write up two bits of my family history (a person, an event, a recurring theme across generations, or just something funny).

☐ Name all my photos and sort them into groups.

☐ Arrange to have my important photos scanned.

☐ Set myself 3 important brick walls and get help.

☐ Browse through some NZSG guides and videos.

☐ Interview two people about my tree(s).

On second thoughts, try ticking 4.
Useful Stuff On NZSG Website

The education section of the NZSG website is constantly being updated, and includes guides, presentations, library tutorials and workshops available for anyone to view. To find these gems, while on the Home page, click on Education in the top tool bar.

Guides including

- GS 1 - Personal and family sources
- GS 2 - Recording information
- GS 3 - Key life events - civil registrations
- Wise Words 1
- Wise Words 2

Presentations including

- DNA (Ancestry au, Gail Riddell)
- Getting Started (Gay Williams)
- About the NZSG (Gay Williams)
- Identity Conference (Privacy Commission)
- Migration to NZ (Robyn Williams)
- Finding Families in NZ (Robyn Williams)
- History NZ Cemetery Collections (Ben Mercer & Gay Williams)
- Locate Ancestors Using Burial Records (David Verran)
- The Great Flu' Pandemic (Gay Williams)
- Shipwreck Cemeteries (Michael Wynd & Gay Williams)
- NZSG Burial Resources (Diane Wilson & Gay Williams)
- HMS Orpheus - Our Worst Shipwreck (Michael Wynd)
- Tangiwai Disaster (Gay Williams)
- Hawkes Bay Earthquake (Christine Clement)
- Air NZ Erebus Disaster (Gay Williams)

These are in various formats (PowerPoint, PDF, YouTube, videos). NZSG cannot yet host PowerPoint presentations on the website but you might be able to get a copy from the office.

Library Video Tutorials (prepared by Christine Hurst, ex NZSG Librarian)

- Library Catalogue access
- Library Catalogue search
- Selecting items
- Borrow, reserve and write reviews
- Manage your account

[Source: NZSG eKit December 2015]

Australia

Victoria, Mental Health Institutions (FMP)

This FMP collection set includes 11 institutions, covering admission years from 1811-1919, and discharge dates from 1838-1914. This could help you to discover the dates of their stay, what ailed them, and possibly the names and residences of their next of kin and their medical histories.

According to a paper presented at that Melbourne conference in 1889, 77% of the inmates of Australia's 18 public lunatic asylums were immigrants, while at that point the immigrant population as part of the general population was around 33%. The Irish formed the largest group of inmates at 27%, closely followed by England and Wales at 23% and Scotland at 6%.

The largest percentage suffered from delusional behaviour and paranoia. In a strange, unknown country they were likely to become "suspicious" and suffer from "false beliefs". At this point in the 19th century Victoria had the largest population of mental health patients with 3,300 patients housed in 16 over crowded institutions. In 1889 they estimated that 1 in every 300 Victorians had spent time in a mental health institution.

Coming from largely rural Ireland, with its rain and low grey skies, the Australian sky must have seemed impossibly big, the sun must have seemed impossibly bright. Making a new life in an alien landscape must have been a huge strain if you were used to knowing everyone you met from day to day.

A few quick searches came up with

- four Judge
- one Lyons
- one Fletcher
- ten Taylor
- no Bolitho, Woodmass or Turnbull
UK

Freemasonry records revealed for the first time (Ancestry subscription)

Two new collections on Ancestry provide details of over 2 million men that belonged to masonic lodges across England, Wales, Ireland and beyond; practising Freemasons dating back to the 18th century.

Spanning 1751-1921, the larger of the two datasets names men that belonged to the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), which still acts as the governing body for Freemasonry in England, Wales and several countries overseas.

The second collection, which covers the period 1733-1923, provides details of Freemasons belonging to masonic lodges across the 32 historic counties of Ireland, including those that were attached to British Army Regiments in the country.

Searching the records can reveal the date of birth and occupation of a Freemason ancestor, as well as the name and number of the lodge that they belonged to.

Staffordshire, Dioceses Of Lichfield and Coventry
Wills and Probate 1521-1860 (FMP)

These are a new release. FMP doesn’t say how many records there are.

A few quick searches came up with

- one Kenny
- three Charnley
- 2668 Wright
- six Humphage
- five Lepper
- two Judge
- no Deadman

Military

Over 500,000 records from the War Office: Army Casualty Lists, 1939-45 War, exclusive to Forces War Records. The records are mainly for the British Army, but they do contain troops from elsewhere in the Empire and other parts of the services occasionally, typically where these men were attached to land based units.

www.forces-war-records.co.uk

New On PapersPast This Month

Great news!

Christmas reading 😊

The latest additions to Papers Past (December 2015) feature Central Otago, Canterbury and Maori language newspapers:

Aotearoa : he Nupepa ma nga Tangata Maori (1892) (exclusively Maori)
Aotearoa, or the Maori Recorder (1861-1862) (two new years day issues)
Cromwell Argus (1869-1920)
Dunstan Times (1866-1948) (covers the goldfields)
Kopara (1913-1921) (C of E, in Maori)
Lake County Mail (1947-1948) (Queenstown, Central Otago)
Lake County Press (1872-1928) (Queenstown area)
Lake Wakatip Mail (1921-1947) (Queenstown area)
Maori Record : a journal devoted to the advancement of the Maori people (1904-1907) (Maori development issues in English, often by Judges)
Mt Benger Mail (1921-1941) (Central Otago)
Pipiwharauroa (1898-1913) (C of E, in Maori)
Press (1936-1945) (Canterbury)
Star (1918-1920) (Canterbury)
Toa Takitini (1921-1932) (C of E, in Maori)

It is especially pleasing to see another major daily go right up to 1945: The Press.