



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS DUNEDIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Issue 141

September / October 2010

Website: genealogydunedin.co.nz

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Meetings are held in the King Edward Court, on the first Wednesday of the month unless otherwise notified. Starting time 7 pm, but doors are open from 6.30 until 9.30 for research.

NZSG Dunedin Branch Library open at King Edward Court Wednesday 7 to 9pm, Friday 2 to 4 pm, Sunday 2 to 4pm

Seeking assistance for research on Johnny Jones

My name is Liz Mitchell and I'm from Sydney, Australia.

I'm a relative of Johnny Jones via his sister Elizabeth Jones (who married Isaac Moore in 1825). My cousins and I have been doing some research trying to find the mother of Elizabeth, Johnny, and the other 4 Jones' children. I have managed to find one New Zealand relative who has been really helpful, but equally unsuccessful in identifying the mother of the children.

Is there anyone in your society who is a relative of the Jones family (either John, William or Thomas jnr)?

If so, could you contact Liz Mitchell, E: liz_mitchell@mac.com

H: 02 9427 9116

M: 0410 694 377

P: PO Box 812, Lane Cove NSW 1595

LIBRARY ROSTER

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY		SUNDAY	
6 th	Meeting Night	1 st	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	3 rd	Trish Fleming 489-8808
13 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	8 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	10 th	Eleanor Morris 476-3320
20 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	15 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	17 th	Jeanne Gallagher 477-4543
27 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	22 nd	Labour Weekend	24 th	Labour Weekend
		29 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	31 st	Heather Grimwood 476-2161

NOVEMBER

WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY		SUNDAY	
3 rd	Meeting Night	5 th	Shirley Hay 455-4169	7 th	Elizabeth Timms 467-2141
10 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	12 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	14 th	Gerard Ellis 456-0223
17 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	19 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	21 st	Jeanne Gallagher 477-4543
24 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	26 th	Volunteer needed ring Margaret Dyett 455-7465	28 th	Trish Fleming 489-8808

From our Librarian – Shirley Smillie**Our New Zealand CD collection.**

We have recently bought several new CDs and this has led me to have a sort-out of our New Zealand CDs. Committee member, Margaret Dyett, has spent a good deal of time putting many of them on the computers' hard drives.

The trouble with that is that there are not now many New Zealand CDs on the shelves and it has led to some people thinking that our CD resources are minimal. So I have made a list of all the New Zealand CDs and put it on a stand next to the Computers where it can be seen. This list shows which CDs have been loaded on the computers and which ones you have to get off the shelves and then put them yourself into the computers.

Magazines and Newsletters

We have received a number of newsletters from several other branches and you will find them in the Newsletter holder. It is always interesting to read what other branches are doing and to see what resources they have managed to find. Well worth a browse.

Also received from some of our members are a number of back issues of journals/magazines to which they have subscribed. We are pleased to add the magazines/journals to our collection.

Coontin Kin- Shetland History Society- No 69-75 (Yule2008-Simmer2010)

Especially of interest to those of you who have Shetland forebears. The articles range from *a DNA Conference in Scotland in May 2010 (No75)*, to *the Crew List Index Project (No 69)* to *Methodism in the Shetlands*. You may find the pictures on the covers useful, too.

Find them on the middle shelf of the free-standing bookcase.

Descent - The Journal of the Society of the Australian Genealogists December 2008- June 1010

The articles cover such topics as *Convicts Lost and Found in the East Indies (Dec 2008)*, *How the Victorian Heritage Team at the Victorian Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages plans to develop and design products and services focusing on the family and the local community*, P109 Sept 2009

Highland Family History Society Vol s 27 ,Vol 28, and 29 (7 copies altogether)

All the journals have several pages of "Strays"- look in here for those missing family members. There is also an interesting article about *"the Train leaving Waverlerly"* (Vol 27 No2 Feb 2009)

The following journals are new to our collection

Fenland Family History Society (Ag.Lab. Chronicles)

Sussex Family Historian from the Sussex Family History group

The Devon Family Historian

Cronicl Powys (of special interest to those with Welsh origins)

More donations

Leadhills - Another of the series of **One inch Ordnance Survey Maps of Scotland**. Includes Abington, Afton Water, Crawfordjohn, Durisdeer, Kell Water, Kirkconnel, Muirkirk, New Cumnock, Sanquhar, Wanlockhead.

Early Runholding in Otago by Herries Beatie

This was published in 1947. The author was a first generation Otago-ite who was fascinated by, and had an intense curiosity about, the history of Otago and Southland. He sought out surviving pioneers and interviewed them. This is one of the several books he wrote about the early history of aspects of the beginnings of our Otago region.

A Return of the Freeholders: New Zealand's Attempt at a Doomsday Book. By Michael Hamblyn. This Printed copy of the Paper that was read by Michael Hamblyn to the Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand's annual conference, 2003.

This paper discusses the decision by the government of NZ to publish a document in the early 1880's, which came to be known as *A Return of the Freeholders*.

New Zealand CDs	
Cemeteries	Location
Burial Locator: Version 1 - New Zealand	Needs CD - Use on Laptop
Burial Locator: Version 2 - New Zealand	Needs CD - Use on Laptop
Andersons Bay Cemetery	On Desktop & Laptop 1
Andersons Bay Cemetery Service Headstones	On all 3 computers
Green Island Cemetery	On all 3 computers
Hawksbury Cemetery	On all 3 computers& shelf
Purakanui Headstones 1877 - 2005	On all 3 computers
Upper Clutha Cemetery	CD on shelf
Waimakariri District, North Canterbury Burial Records	CD on shelf
Waitati Blueskin Cemetery	On all 3 computers
Electoral Rolls	
New Zealand Electoral Roll 1881	CD on Shelf
New Zealand Electoral Roll 1893	CD on Shelf
New Zealand Electoral Rolls Combined 1881, 1893 & 1896	On Laptops
A mixture	
Baptism Index - Catholic Diocese of Christchurch	On all 3 computers
Baptist Digital - Magazine of Baptist Churches	CD on Shelf
Bay of Plenty Times, Births, Deaths and Marriages 1872-1910	CD on Shelf
Caversham Suuffragettes	On Desktop only
Dental Gazettes	On all 3 computers
Dunedin North East Valley Baptist Marriages	On all 3 computers
Dunedin Telephon Books for 1928 & 1938	On Desktop only
Early Wellington Settlers -New Zealand	CD on Shelf
Early Otago & Some of its Notable Men	CD on Shelf
Manioto Settlers	Desktop only
Marriages - New Zealand 1836-1956 Version 2	CD on Shelf
Marsh FamilyBDM 1840 1990	On Desktop
NZSG Index Version 5	On all computers, needs Password
**Obituaries-Jim Pearce Index Evening Post 1929-1977	CD on Shelf
Otago Births (From Otago Newspapers Records)	CD on Shelf
Passenger Lists Australia Outwards to New Zealand 1852-1923	On Desktop & Laptop 1. Needs CD for Laptop 2
Research Directory 2007, Dunedin Branch	On Laptops
**Return of the Freeholders of NZ Oct 1882	CD on Shelf
Waikato Births, Deaths, & Marriages 1864-1900#	CD on Shelf
2011 NZSG Conference Promotion CD	CD on Shelf

Military	
Otago Regiment NZEF 1914 - 1918	CD on Shelf
Waikato Regiments - Nominal & Descriptive Rolls of 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th	CD on Shelf
WW1 NZ Service Personnel and Reserves Index Version2	CD on Shelf
**WW2 Ballot Lists (2 CDs)	CD on Shelf
**WW2, Appointments, Promotions, Transfers & Relinquishments, Of the NZ Forces, Army, Navy, & Airforce 1939-1945	CD on Shelf
Schools	
Dunedin, St Hildas APWs	On all 3 computers
Dunedin, Technical Classes 1889-1898	On all 3 computers
Dunedin, Technical Classes 1904-23	On all 3 computers
Dunedin Primary Schools: Alphabetical by pupil names	On Desktop only
Dunedin Schools: A to High St School- only. Alphabetical by pupil names	On Laptop 1 only
Dunedin, MacAndrew Rd School	
Milburn School IPWs 1921-1944	On all 3 computers
Tapanui Schools 1880- 1975, West Otago	On all 3 computers
DCC Valuation Rolls	
High Ward Vols 42-54	CD on Shelf
Bell Ward Vols 84-96	CD on Shelf
South Ward Vols1-13	CD on Shelf
Leith	CD on Shelf
**= New CDs	

[Leigh Holmwood guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk), Tuesday 21 July 2009 07.02 BST

Michael Parkinson: My family was too dull for Who Do You Think You Are?



Photograph: Suki Dhanda

Who Do You Think You Are? gave up on Michael Parkinson after six weeks' research turned up no big surprises, he says. Michael Parkinson told Who Do You Think You Are? his family was boring. After further research, they agreed. Michael Parkinson has said that he was rejected from BBC1's hit genealogy series Who Do You Think You Are? because his family history was so "boring".

The former chatshow host said he was approached to take part in the genealogy programme, but told producers he thought his story was not interesting enough. The production team did not believe him and undertook its own research, but six weeks later he was told he was right.

"I'm addicted to Who Do You Think You Are?," Parkinson told the new edition of [Radio Times](http://www.radio-times.com), which comes out today. "It's the fascination we all have for our roots, the intriguing story of our lives. Some are more interesting than others. I had known for some time that the story of my genealogy was unremarkable. On my father's side miners and farm labourers; on my mother's railwaymen and domestics. So when Who Do You Think You Are? called and asked if I was interested, I said I would be delighted, but warned that my own research had unearthed nothing of note. 'Oh, they all say that. But we always find something,' they said. Six weeks later they phoned to apologise. My story was so boring they had to cancel the entire project. I was gutted."

Parkinson said that out of all the celebrity reality shows, Who Do You Think You Are? was the only one he wanted to be on.

The Dunedin Branch Library has copies of the "Who Do You Think You Are?" series available for borrowers.

Alison Breese of DCC Archives, spoke to the Dunedin Branch NZSG earlier this year.

A GUIDE TO FAMILY HISTORY SOURCES AT THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL ARCHIVES 2008

INTRODUCTION

This guide describes the services and information sources available at the Dunedin City Council Archives that may be of interest to family historians and genealogists. This is not a complete list of holdings but highlights sources likely to be useful. More comprehensive information regarding holdings may be obtained by contacting the Archivist.

Presently the Dunedin City Council Archives holds the archives of over 100 bodies that were associated in one way or another with the Dunedin City Council. These archives were created by a wide variety of bodies ranging from large authorities such as the City Council itself to the district road boards. This guide briefly describes records created by these organisations that are likely to be of use in family history research.

The reorganisation of local government in 1989 has resulted in the Dunedin City Council Archives becoming the repository for archives of now defunct local bodies covering a fairly large geographic and diverse area from Hyde and Waikouaiti towards the north of Dunedin to Taieri Mouth towards the south.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location: Basement level of the Civic Centre building, the Octagon, Dunedin. Take lift from Plaza level to Basement level.

Postal Address: Dunedin City Council Archivist

PO Box 5045

Dunedin

Car Parking: 1 hour metered parks Filleul St and Moray Place, 4 hour metered parks in carpark at corner of Filleul St and Moray Place, also Smith Street, York Place and Haddon Place, parking buildings in Moray Place (YMCA Building), Filleul St (Golden Centre Building) and Great King St.

Open: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm weekdays.

Telephone: (03) 474-3553

Facsimile: (03) 474-3594

E-mail: archives@dcc.govt.nz

Web site: www.CityofDunedin.com

SERVICES PROVIDED

Reading room where archives are used.

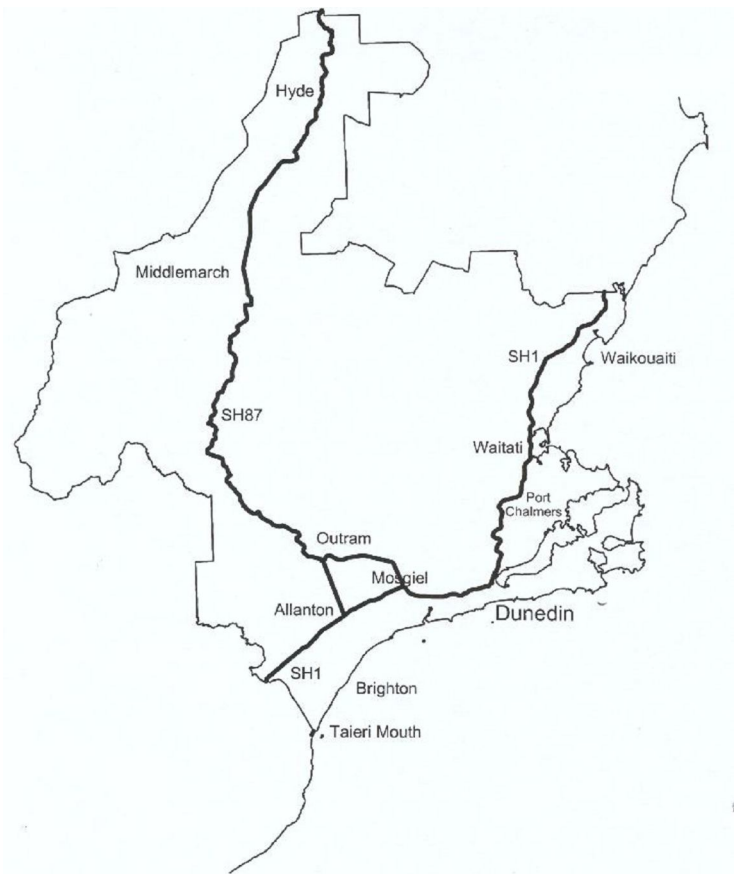
Photocopying of documents. Note the Archivist may refuse to copy fragile or oversized documents.

Copies of photographs from the collection, these may be copied photographically or by laser photocopy if we already have a reference print. Telephone, written or e-mail enquiries asking for specific information from the archives, or for information about the archives, will be answered promptly.

Visitors are welcome but it is advisable to make an appointment. Group visits may be arranged by contacting the Archivist.

A power point is available for lap top computers

Map of the geographic area covered in the Dunedin City Council Archives



A POTTED HISTORY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DUNEDIN

The Dunedin Town Board

The history of local government in the Dunedin area began with the establishment of the Dunedin Town Board in 1855 under an Otago Provincial Council ordinance, seven years after organised European settlement began in 1848.

The Town Board was established in response to the growing need for a body to coordinate the development of the fledgling town. The Board was hampered in its activities by a lack of funds and continually struggled to find the money to turn the muddy tracks into streets and create the rudimentary beginnings of the drainage system. The first rate was levied in 1857 but seems to have done little to help the situation. The Town Board was replaced by the Dunedin City Council in 1865.

District Roads Boards

After the establishment of the Town Board, the next step in the development of local government was the formation of the first District Roads Boards in 1856, also by an Otago Provincial Council Ordinance. The Roads Boards administered the construction of local roads in suburban and rural areas and in some areas did much to help the development of communities. Their efforts were coordinated by a General Road Board consisting of the Provincial Council Executive and locally elected representatives.

The Roads Boards went through many reorganisations before gradually being replaced by other forms of local government. Shown on this chart are only those boards which amalgamated directly with a County or Borough.

Boroughs, Counties and Town Boards

Between 1860 and 1886 there was a period of growth in the number of local authorities; about 35 local authorities were established in the Dunedin area. This growth was in response to the growing need for services in the quickly developing settlements and rural areas.

Port Chalmers and Waikouaiti (then called West Hawksbury) established local authorities in the 1860's, and the suburban areas of St Kilda, South Dunedin, Maori Hill and Green Island all established boroughs in 1875 and 1876.

The abolition of the Provincial Governments in 1876 provided further impetus for the establishment of local authorities. New legislation created a new type of authority, the county, and changed the way boroughs were constituted making them more appealing to local communities.

The Waikouaiti and Taieri Counties were established in 1877 and continued for a century until they amalgamated in 1977 to form Silverpeaks County. Peninsula County was also formed in 1877 but did little but meet occasionally to distribute funds to the various Roads Boards on the Peninsula until 1927 when the County was reconstituted. Peninsula County amalgamated with the City in 1967.

In 1882 the need for an intermediate type of local authority suitable to the needs of small rural communities was recognised by the Town Boards Act which resulted in the establishment of Town Boards in Mosgiel, Outram and Greytown (now called Allanton). Mosgiel soon became a Borough and the Greytown Board amalgamated with Taieri County in 1907, but the Outram Town Board continued until 1960 (?) when it amalgamated with the Taieri County. The short-lived Bay Town Board (in the Anderson's Bay area) was formed in 1905 and amalgamated with the City in 1916.

Development of Services

The supply of services such as water, gas, electricity and transport was often begun by enterprising local companies. These companies were later taken over by local authorities for various reasons in some cases the services they supplied became an important source of revenue for the local authority concerned.

Special Purpose Local Authorities

The Ocean Beach Domain Board was originally established in 1884, but was reconstituted in 1892 under a special Act with powers to develop the domain and protect the sandhills from erosion.

The construction of an efficient drainage and sewerage system for the city was long talked about and various plans were devised, but work only began in earnest after the establishment of the Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board in 1900. Prior to this time the lack of one coordinating body in the City had long delayed the provision of effective drainage and sewerage in the urban area.

Amalgamations

The years following the turn of the century were marked by a series of amalgamations within the Dunedin urban area as suburban boroughs decided to join the city as they found they lacked the resources to provide more modern services and amenities to their citizens. Further amalgamations occurred in the 1960's.

The most recent reorganisation of local government occurred in 1989 when eight local authorities amalgamated to form the new Dunedin City Council under a scheme designated by the Local Government Commission. The Local Authorities concerned were; the Dunedin City Council, the Silverpeaks County

Council, the Port Chalmers Borough Council, the Green Island Borough Council, the St Kilda Borough Council, the Mosgiel Borough Council, the Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board and the Ocean Beach Domain Board.

USEFUL RECORDS FOR FAMILY HISTORY

Minutes

Minutes record the decisions of the local authority. They may contain reference to individuals for a variety of reasons. Ratepayers may complain about the potholes in the road outside their property or they may not have paid their rates on time. Staff may also be mentioned in the minutes when appointed or retiring or leaving. Minutes are not usually indexed so are usually only useful if you have a reasonable amount of information about the individual already. For instance you may know that they were a member of a particular Council and want to check the dates they held office, or that they were a contractor in the area and may have carried out contracts for the local council.

Correspondence

Correspondence records may document particular individuals and their relationship with Council. Many older correspondence records are in the form of letter books which are usually indexed by name of the person to which the letter was addressed. This makes searching relatively easy.

Rating and Valuation Records

Rating and valuation records give details of about ratepayers and the property they owned or paid rates on. Usually the ratepayer was the owner but sometimes could be a tenant or lessee. The information is usually arranged according to the legal description, or in later years, the valuation number of the property owned. However for some of the smaller authorities the lists are alphabetical by the name of the ratepayer. Also, for the smaller authorities it is a relatively easy matter to read the whole list and find a person's name.

To make use of these records you need to have a good idea of where and when an individual lived.

Electoral Records

There are also some district electors rolls and burgess lists, these may contain information differing from that found in Parliamentary rolls as they were made up separately.

Staff Records

There may be information relating to employees and contractors who worked for local authorities in minutes, old financial records and correspondence files. Access to more recent staff records may be restricted for reasons of personal privacy.

Cemetery Records

Records are held for most cemeteries now administered by the Dunedin City Council. Most of these records have been transcribed and indexed by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists and it is recommended that the transcriptions are used as a first point of enquiry as they are much easier to use. Copies of the transcriptions are held by the Dunedin Public Library, the Otago Settlers Museum, the Hocken Library and the Dunedin City Council Archives. The original records may be consulted if required, for instance if some doubt exists over the spelling of a name or a date of death. Some original records are held at the Andersons Bay Crematorium.

Building Permit Records

Building permit records may also be of interest to genealogists. The records usually consist of an application form and a plan of the proposed work. You may even find a plan of the house your grandfather built! As different local authorities have been responsible for different parts of the city over the years the quality of the records varies. Be aware that street names and numbers may have changed. Most building permit records have been microfilmed and indexed by street address and are available from the Building Control Office on the first floor of the Civic Centre. Original plans and applications (if kept) are held in the Archives.

Area Dates for which records are available

Area within Town Belt 1901-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Maori Hill 1915-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Mornington 1915-present, microfilm and selected originals.

North East Valley 1910-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Roslyn 1912-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Caversham 1904-present, microfilm and selected originals.

South Dunedin 1906-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Andersons Bay 1916-present, microfilm and selected originals.

St. Kilda ca. 1950's-1989, microfilm and originals.

Green Island ca. 1950's-1989, microfilm only.

Silverpeaks County ca. 1940's-1989, originals only, not all indexed.

(Includes Waikouaiti and Taieri Counties)

Port Chalmers ca. 1950's-1989, microfilm and originals.

West Harbour 1943-1963, originals only, 1963-present microfilm and selected originals.

Peninsula ca. 1950's-1968, originals only, 1968-present, microfilm and selected originals.

Photographs

There is a collection of photographs which are indexed alphabetically according to the subject matter or the persons name. There are photos of Mayors and Councillors, and a few staff but by no means a complete set.

LIST OF RECORDS LIKELY TO BE OF INTEREST

This list describes records held by the Dunedin City Council Archives likely to be of interest to family history researchers.

The left hand column gives a brief description of the relevant local authority. This description gives the dates that the local authority was in existence (if known) and its relationship to other local authorities, such as predecessors and successors.

The right hand column gives a brief description of records likely to be useful.

Please note that the list is not exhaustive and the Dunedin City Council Archives holds records of other bodies such as small domain boards and special purpose committees which may be of interest if you know that an individual was active in a particular organisation

Local Authority	Description of records
Allanton Town Board <i>see Grey Town Board</i>	
Andersons Bay Road Board 1856-1870 <i>Amalgamated with Peninsula Road Board</i>	Minutes 1856-1863
Bay Town Board 1905-1916 <i>Amalgamated with Dunedin City Council.</i> <i>Area previously administered by Andersons Bay Road Board, Peninsula Road Board and Peninsula County Council</i>	Minutes 1905-1914, correspondence 1910-1916, rate book 1912-16. electoral roll 1912-13
Blueskin Road Board 1866-1881 <i>Amalgamated with Waikouaiti County Council</i>	Minutes 1879-1881, correspondence 1879-1881
Caversham Borough Council 1877-1904 <i>Amalgamated with Dunedin City Council.</i> <i>Area previously administered by Caversham Road Board</i>	Outwards letters 1883-1904
Caversham Road Board 1861-1877? <i>Appears to have been dissolved on constitution of Caversham Borough Council</i>	Minutes and annual reports 1863-1872
Deborah Bay Road Board 1865-1870 <i>Became a subdivision of Blueskin Bay Road Board in 1870</i>	Minutes 1866-1872
Dunedin City Council 1865-1989 <i>Amalgamated with Silverpeaks County Council, Port Chalmers Borough Council, St Kilda Borough Council, Green Island Borough Council, Mosgiel Borough Council, Dunedin Drainage and Sewerage Board and Ocean Beach Domain Board to form new Dunedin City Council. See also Dunedin Town Board, Peninsula County Council, Caversham Borough Council, South Dunedin Borough Council, Mornington Borough Council, Roslyn Borough Council, Maori Hill Borough Council, North East Valley Borough Council, West Harbour Borough Council</i>	Minutes 1865-1989, correspondence 1865-1989 Valuation and rating records 1875-present day, these are arranged according to the legal description of the property. Nineteenth century records cover just the area within the Town Belt but this gradually expanded during this century as suburban local authorities amalgamated with the City Council. District Elector's rolls 1891-92, 1913-14, 1915-1989

Ancestry has today released probate calendars for English and Welsh wills between 1861 and 1941, but with some gaps – see below.

The following is taken from the Ancestry website at <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1904>

“This collection contains summaries of the vast majority of probate cases in England and Wales between 1861 and 1941. It effectively forms an index to wills and probate records for this period.

“The records were created by the Probate Registry, which took control of proving wills and administrations in 1858. Before this, four different types of ecclesiastical (church) courts dealt with these cases. A Principal Probate Registry was established in London in January 1858, and several district probate registries were created around the country. >From then on, the registries oversaw all grants of probate and letters of administration. This collection is the Calendar of these grants.

“The Calendar is separated into a different volume for each year. The entries in each volume are then alphabetised by surname. Information varies across different entries, but each typically includes:

- * Probate date
- * Full name of the deceased
- * Death date
- * Death place
- * Registry where issued

“Missing volumes:

“Our collection covers 80 years from 1861 to 1941. We currently do not have the books for the years 1858-1860 and there are some gaps for the years 1863, 1868, 1873, 1876, 1877, 1883, 1888, 1899-1903 and 1910-1911. However, we hope to add records for these years as soon as possible.”

New Zealand Maritime Records Go Online

New Zealanders looking to learn more about their family trees will soon have access to around three million maritime immigration records. Some 300,000 pages of passenger and crew lists noting who arrived at which New Zealand port in the 1800s, and on what date, have been digitized and are now being uploaded to genealogy website, www.FamilySearch.org.

The shipping documents have been made available for the public to access online free of charge due to a unique partnership involving Archives New Zealand and FamilySearch, a not-for-profit organization funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Around 10% of the records are now online, with the rest to follow in the next few months.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2010/08/new-zealand-maritime-records-go-online.html

FREE DIGITAL BOOKS WEBSITE

<http://www.e-book.com.au/freebooks.htm#nz>

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

<http://www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm>

for those of you who have photographs but don't know what era they are from, this may prove useful

ON THE WEB

PapersPast website has been updated - www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

The updates are:

- Poverty Bay Herald (1902)
- Lyttelton Times (1851-1862)
- Evening Post (July-December 1871, 1916-1945)
- Thames Star (1901-1920)
- Albertland Gazette (1862-1864)
- The Colonist (1857-1889)
- Otago Daily Times (1861-1900)
- Waipapu Church Gazette (1921-1945)

OTAGO NOMINAL INDEX
Progress report to Hocken Collections Committee
July 2010

Thank you function

Last year the Hocken Collections Committee suggested holding a thank you function to express their appreciation to the volunteers for their work on the Otago Nominal Index. I suggested waiting until work on the Otago Police Gazettes was finished so that there was a significant event to celebrate.

A function was held on 1 June 2010 and there was plenty to celebrate. It was noted that indexing of all the Otago Police Gazettes had been completed, giving 43,477 records. Over 300,000 records from Electoral Rolls had been entered in the database. Entering of data from Mackay's Otago Almanac had started and the total number of records in the database was nearly 400,000.

The function was attended by volunteers and staff. Anne Jackman organised a display of relevant documents including Electoral Rolls, Police Gazettes and Mackay's Otago Almanacs. She also led a tour of the Collections. Supper was provided. The volunteers appreciated the praise expressed by Sharon and Anne and a generous, unexpected donation of book vouchers.

Electoral Rolls

Since the last report in March 2010, 27,228 Electoral Roll records have been added to the database for:

Bruce	1876
Bruce and Supplements 1 & 2	1890
Clutha	1876-77 and 1879-80
Clutha and Supplement	1881-82 and 1890
Dunedin City	1890
Dunedin Suburbs	1890
Dunstan	1876, 1879-80, 1881-82 & 1884
Invercargill	1876-77
Mataura	1876 and 1879-80
Mataura and Supplement	1881-82
Mt Ida	1879-80
Port Chalmers and Supplement	1890
Riverton	1876-77
Taieri	1876-77
Taieri and Supplements	1 & 2 1890
Tuapeka	1876 and 1879-80
Waikaia	1876-77
Waikouaiti	1877 and 1879-80
Waitaki	1877 and 1879-80
Wakatipu	1876-77

Eight people are now entering data from the following Electoral Rolls:

Caversham and Supplement	1881-82
Dunstan	1881-82
Dunstan	1887
Mataura	1884
Moeraki and Supplement	1884
Mt Ida	1883
Riverton	1876-77
Taieri and Supplement	1890
Tuapeka	1879-80
Waikouaiti	1877-80
Waitaki	1877
Wakatipu	1876-77

Mackay’s Otago Almanac

I have run two training courses for eight data enterers.

3,173 records from the Mackay’s Otago Almanac have now been loaded into the database. The records are for the Advertisements and General Sections from 1864 and for the Advertisements and Narrative of Events Sections from 1865. Five volunteers are entering data from the years 1864 to 1869.

Records in database

The numbers of records in the database now are as follows:

HR electoral rolls	279,950
HR & OPC combined electoral rolls	913
Otago PC electoral rolls	32,549
Southland PC electoral rolls	2,536
Wise’s directories	21,629
Harnett’s directories	14,190
Jurors’ lists	784
Otago Police Gazettes	43,477
Mackay’s Otago Almanac	3,173
TOTAL	399,201

General

Seventeen volunteers are working on the Otago Nominal Index project.

The layout of the database interface has been improved and a simple keyword search facility has been added.

Noel S L Read
 Project Convenor
 18 July 2010

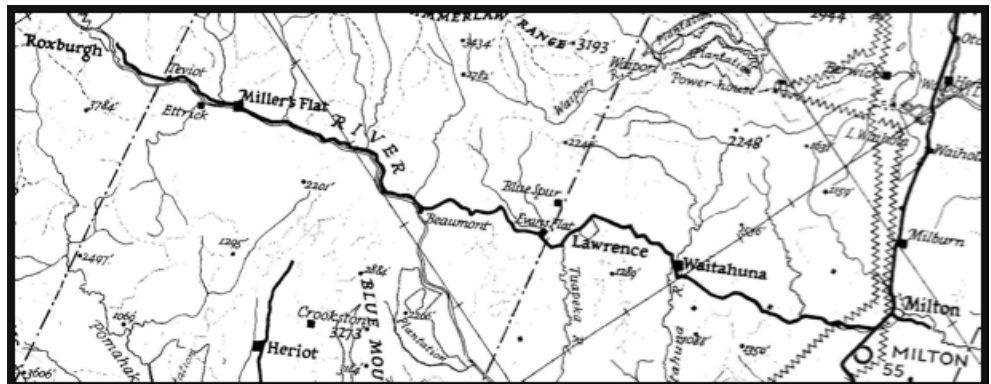
Report on the Branch meeting of 1 September 2010

Building the Taieri Gorge Railway

Few of the thousands of people who enjoy the scenic journey on the Taieri Gorge Railway can comprehend the difficulties and hardships experienced by those responsible for its construction. Begun about 1885 the project was estimated to take a year per mile to construct. The climatic conditions - bitterly cold winters and hot windy summers as well as the geographic challenges combined to make this an exceptional undertaking.

When Mr Bill Cowan, author of the recently published book “Rails to Roxburgh’ and retired school teacher shared his research with Dunedin Branch members of the 1st September he opened their eyes to the determination and endurance of the “navies” who cut the tunnels, bridged the gorges, laid the rail bed for the railway line.

Bill acknowledged that a prime source for information was a periodic columnist to the Otago Witness who made frequent journeys through the area on his way to and from Wanaka and Hawea. These personal reports, under the nom-de-plume of P.J (A



peripatetic Joker) shed light on the lives and hardships of these engineering pioneers.

Tough conditions

In the 1880's the gorge was virtually treeless except for some manuka and the accommodation for the men, and their families, at Flat Stream (one of the relatively long lived camps) was described as 'a sod hut about 6 metres by 5 with a calico ceiling and a thatch roof (tussock) " A single door and perhaps a window an with a calico partition between the living and the sleeping areas. Sanitary arrangements were primitive with no running water and only candle lighting.

Supplies were delivered to stores located at the main camps that were maintained, in the main, by Dunedin and Mosgiel firms and transported by dray, packhorse and punt.

The nearest medical assistance was provided by Dr Fletcher at Hindon and Constable Murphy patrolled the area as required. Religious services were conducted by visiting clergy and an unnamed Welsh preacher.

Hard work

Construction work on the line was almost totally manual with the chief tools being crowbar, pick , shovel and wheelbarrow - the latter constructed on site. Rock was blasted with gunpowder or gelignite and the resulting rubble barrowed to tip points.

The labourers - usually referred to as 'navies' were paid 7 to 8 shilling per day and worked six day weeks with a daily start time of 7.30. There were few safety requirements in place and accidents were common. Turnover of labour was high with opportunities for farm work offering safer conditions an similar rates of pay. Any suggestion of a gold strike caused a n immediate loss of workers.

'Gangers' who were paid 10/- per day were responsible for the progress of each section and the use of explosives as required. The nonchalant handling of explosives led to many disastrous accidents.

Access to some of the construction sites, such as the awesome "Notches" required courage and some gymnastic ability. ^t was reported that at one stage workers were swinging across a ravine on a long rope tethered to a point high above.

The Men

Although many of the men had worked on the canals in England and earned the title 'navy' in fact there were men from all over the world. Italians were known for their ability to drive tunnels while chinese were skilled at the smooth surface finishing of cuttings. Most of the Chinese workers lived in their "own" camps which seemed to have been rather more settled than those of other workers. Reporting on a visit to one such camp J P mentioned a variety of recreational facilities.

The railway promised both long and short term rewards.

In the short term the employment of workers, either by the Public Works Department of the Private contractors , injected money into the local community

In the long term it opened up the the upper Taieri Plain for development.

Footnote: Mr Fred Earl, husband of member Gaynor , was for many years an engine driver on the completed line..

Copies of Mr Cowan's recently published book "[Rails to Roxburgh](#)" are on sale at \$69.95.

Google "[Rails to Roxburgh](#)" for more information.



Published Date: 21 July 2009 By Jim Gilchrist

Wha dae ye think ye are?

Scotland has what are widely considered to be the best public records and research facilities in the world, with websites such as Scotland's People, which includes the General Register Office's resources. Picture: Jon Savage

DOUGIE MacLean may be best known for his anthem Caledonia, but another song from his prolific output contains the lines "I'm talking with my father, he's talking with his son, / And I don't need to look any further for the one I have become..."



Later this week, however, the Perthshire based singer-songwriter does indeed look much further, as he goes public with his family history at the International Genealogy Festival, which opens at Strathclyde University today.

As well as MacLean, the Glasgow-born BBC Newsnight presenter Gavin Esler will o turn the limelight on his Ulster Scots and German Lutheran ancestors. Both are taking part in a four-day programme of lectures, workshops and introductory sessions on the "nuts and bolts" of genealogy, all of it open to the public. The event is the university's contribution to the Scotland's Year of Homecoming, and a recognition of how widely popular family history has become over the past decade or two.

Any genealogical revelations – or unlooked for skeletons in family cupboards – will be revealed at two sessions hosted by BBC broadcaster Janice Forsyth today (Esler) and Friday (MacLean), and will be broadcast at a later date on BBC Radio Scotland's Radio Café. Dr Bruce Durie, director of the university's genealogy course – possibly the only professional postgraduate course of its kind – who has been working on MacLean and Esler's family histories, agrees that, "as composer of Caledonia, the anthem of Homecoming, it's particularly apt that Dougie MacLean is tracing his roots."

As many of his songs suggest, MacLean is an artist who is particularly rooted in his Perthshire and wider Highland background. He lives and has his recording studio in the former village primary school at Butterstone, outside Dunkeld, which he and his father both attended. He knows the lie of the land and its ancestral voices, and it comes as no surprise to learn that he has done some family research of his own in the past. "I'm fascinated by it all," he says, "and over the years I've done a fair bit of work on it myself, or as much as an individual can, so it's really exciting to get involved with the professionals to fill in some of the blanks."

MacLean's father and his Gaelic-speaking grandfather both worked on Perthshire estates, and while Durie is keeping any revelations about his star subjects' genealogies close to his chest until the festival, he says the singer's Highland connections go way back: "Dougie's antecedents are in Argyll and the West Highlands on one side, and Ross-shire on the other, with a sprinkling of family from Northamptonshire. They were Gaelic-speaking and intimately connected with the land – shepherds, gamekeepers, agricultural labourers, and they knew the sweep of the landscape and the turning of the seasons that run through his work today. Their names – MacLean, McGregor, Menzies, MacDonald, Campbell, Lamont, McIntyre – are virtually a roll-call of Highland clans."

And as a performer who once rolled a vintage "wee grey Fergie" tractor on to the stage of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, as part of his Rural Image Celtic Connections extravaganza, MacLean is clearly steeped in his heritage – although whether or not a musical gene runs through his family tree won't be revealed until Friday.

MacLean, who will take the stage in Holyrood Park this weekend at The Gathering, is philosophical about any surprises. "I've had a chat with Bruce Durie, and he's taken it on a good bit more from where I got, but he hasn't told me yet. My family were all rural folk, so they probably didn't get up to anything spectacular, though I asked him to make sure there's no sheep stealing," he laughs. "But really, I think it will be fascinating."

Gavin Esler is also well acquainted with some of his lineage, but hopes that Bruce Durie's investigations will shed further light beyond his more recent family backgrounds – again, all will be revealed during the festival. The broadcaster and author describes his recent background as "solid west of Scotland Protestant working class, even though I was mainly brought up in Edinburgh and went to Heriot's."

He can, however, trace his ancestry back through working-class Clydebank and Northern Irish immigrants whose forebears arrived in Scotland in the 1880s, but were Ulster Scots who had settled in Ireland during the "Plantations" of the 17th century. The Eslers had originally arrived in Scotland from Europe, following the former Baltic trading routes in search of religious freedom. "I know quite a lot about them," says the broadcaster. "They were German Protestants who emigrated to Scotland in the 17th century to escape religious persecution during the Thirty Years' War. The name Esler comes from 'Esel', meaning donkey – which might explain my family history of mule-like stubbornness. They were probably ostlers, looking after horses. Three brothers settled near Ballymena in County Antrim, and thereafter bits and pieces of my family lived in Ulster and the west of Scotland."

What Esler looks forward to learning is more about his mother's side of the family. "That's the real mystery to me – the Knights of Clydebank and my grandmother, Annie Bruce. I know almost nothing about them and I can't wait to find out what Bruce Durie has discovered.

"What we do know so far is that at least five of my ancestors signed the Ulster Covenant, threatening a rebellion against a united Ireland. And I also know that I have relatives all over the world, in Australia, Canada, the United

States, Ireland north and south... you name it. And the same names keep recurring – David, James, William, Robert Esler come up time after time."

Durie hints that today's session could reveal whether Esler's interest in current affairs and communications can be traced back through his family, "and why he opted for journalism rather than following his childhood plan of studying medicine, and why he didn't follow the family tradition of working in industry".

Esler reckons there are "hints of writers in the background somewhere". Pointing to his new novel, *Powerplay*, which will be launched at the Edinburgh International Book Festival next month and which concerns an American vice-president who vanishes while grouse shooting and exploring his family history in Aberdeenshire, Esler adds: "For many Americans, and for me, Scottish genealogy is absolutely fascinating. I also think that the British have more in common with the Germans than we realise."

In many ways, says Durie, the contrasting backgrounds of Esler and MacLean, of historical emigration and longstanding rootedness in the land, encapsulate the history of Scotland. And so far as family history is concerned, interest has burgeoned hugely over the past couple of decades. Scotland is well equipped to pursue that interest with what are widely considered the best maintained public records and research facilities of any country in the world. Much of this has become accessible online in recent years, with websites such as Scotland's People, and the National Archives of Scotland.

"At Strathclyde here we teach the principles, which are the same anywhere," says Durie, "And we do English, Irish... world genealogy, but Scotland is a great place to do it in."

There's no doubt, he concedes, that BBC television's *Who Do You Think You Are?*, currently into its seventh series, has further heightened public awareness of genealogy, as celebrities such as Jeremy Paxman, Moira Stuart and Stephen Fry make emotional forays back through their family histories, to confront unexpected revelations or family tragedies, or to have long-standing assumptions dashed.

"Anything that goes on TV tends to stir up public interest," says Durie. "Professionals tend to hate these things, much in the way that marine biologists hate *Jaws* and archaeologists hate *Indiana Jones*... But you can't deny that they get the public really interested, and *Who Do You Think You Are?* has really got everybody going.

"There have been some issues: people are now walking into libraries demanding to see their family tree, and of course it's not quite like that, but it has made people realise just what is possible."

- The International Genealogy Festival is at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, from today until Friday. For further information, see www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland or tel: 0141-548 4147

SO FAR as investigating family history is concerned, Scotland boasts the best maintained public records and research facilities of any country in the world, and much is now accessible online. However, start your search by speaking to relatives and consult any family documents available. When looking for basic information about when and where your forebears lived, elderly relatives are worth talking to before you go online.

Essential sites include Scotland's People www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk which offers records of births and deaths from 1855 to 2006 and marriages from 1855 to 1933, plus births and baptisms, banns and marriages and deaths and burials from 1538 to 1854, as well as a searchable database of Scottish wills and testaments from 1513 to 1901.

The National Archives of Scotland www.nas.gov.uk holds land and probate records for Scotland, including wills, and parish court and kirk session records from 1550 onwards, addressing family law, poor relief, education and more.

The recently opened Scotland's People Centre at the east end of Edinburgh's Princes Street combines the resources of the General Register Office for Scotland, National Archives of Scotland and the Court of the Lord Lyon. For more details, see www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk

Local archives, libraries and family history societies are also indispensable. There is also a useful introduction on the UK & Ireland Genealogy website: www.genuki.org.uk

PS. If Dougie Maclean's music is new to you I have CDs – Shirley

The newsletter is prepared and edited by Shirley Jack, 4731163, shirley-jack@xtra.co.nz

Deadline for copy for each newsletter is 20th of odd months. Contributions from members are appreciated.

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