



# NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS DUNEDIN BRANCH NEWSLETTER



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Website: [genealogydunedin.co.nz](http://genealogydunedin.co.nz)

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## Programme

**December 2** For our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, the Christmas meeting will be hosted by Presbyterian Archives in their newly organized location at Knox College at 7pm. Supper will be served in the Great Hall. The KCML is also hosting a function at Knox College so parking may be at a premium. Visitors may use student parking on the left of the main drive, and on the right of lower Arden Street.

**February 3** The meeting will be held in the King Edward Centre (Formerly King Edward Tech). The hall is on the first floor Room 207. Access is from the main entrance and up the stairs. A lift is available from the ground floor..

For those needing level access an entrance is off York Place. A map with details will be available before that meeting. The speaker will be Robert McAlister. His topic is "Photographs and Genealogy" and will include advice on digital photography and the preservation and care of old photographs. We expect to be able to offer supper after the meeting.

**Meetings** will be held in the King Edward Court, first Wednesday of the month from February 2010 unless otherwise notified. Starting time 7 pm, but doors are open from 6.30 until 9.30 for research.

**NZSG Dunedin Branch Library** at OSM: open hours Thursday and Sunday 1 – 4pm only until the end of Nov.

## A word from Prue Turnbull, our Branch Convenor

A New Start after 40 years (The End of an Era)

This month is significant to us in two ways: our celebrations for 40 years of the Dunedin Branch of NZSG, and our move to new premises.

These two events were linked for me, when I surveyed all our archives, resources and other belongings which have been acquired over the last 40 years. The sheer volume of these is a nightmare for shifting to new premises, but there is so much there which represents the hard work of our members, and is so useful to as all.

In these days of internet, data CDs, and many computer and book indexes, genealogy has become easier, and more available to all. With the advent of TV programs on genealogy, it has also become a more mainstream hobby.

Back in 1969, when the branch was formed, the branch founders were probably considered rather eccentric by the general public. They set up the branch, and probably taught themselves how to “do genealogy” before teaching others. However, they weren’t just satisfied with that. They were determined to make local records more accessible. This involved liaising with various officials, and organizing themselves into groups to do projects such as headstone

transcriptions, index probates, index Police Gazettes etc. Many of these projects used the “new-fangled” computer technology, which must have been a brave step for many.

In fact, as technology has advanced, the way indexes are presented has forced many of us to learn new skills. I am sure that those pioneers in 1969 had no idea of how computers would change the ways of research. We could not have imagined internet, emails or even cell phones. We didn't have EFTPOS or Visa. We didn't realize that overseas travel would become so easy and inexpensive. DNA testing hadn't been invented either.

With all these advances, even those who thought they had done all they could on their family history, have, in the last year or two, been able to find some of those elusive ancestors on the British census records, and BMD records, and to visit or get photos of those places from whence they came.

Through all the 40 years, our branch has had a varied programme, with some sessions on local history, which are so relevant to our understanding of our ancestors' lives, and many sessions on “how to do genealogy”. The “how to” sessions in recent years, have had to demonstrate computer and internet research, as well as the more traditional processes.

Our move to King Edward Court, is an exciting move, as we will have our own room, to open whenever suits us. We hope to have internet access there, so that we can easily show how to use the various computer indexes available on the internet.

Preparations for the 2011 NZSG Conference, “A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY”, are under way. It will be held at Queen's Birthday Weekend at McGlashan College. 2011 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of gold at Gabriel's Gully. We will keep you informed, as the programme takes shape.

#### **June McDougall reviewed the Dunedin branch after fifteen years. 1987 This is her summary.**

Dunedin Group has an impressive record of achievement from dedicated members past and present. Initially project costs such as petrol, typewriter ribbons, paper and photocopying were met by individual members as part of their hobby budget.

As we progressed into the bigger cemetery projects, Councils, Libraries, Museums and Funeral Directors began to realize the value and quality of the records being produced, and helped with costs, especially photocopying. Sport and recreation office did some photocopying for us and for a time PEP workers assisted in cemeteries and with typing.

Our success with projects has clearly been in keeping up with technology and using it to best advantage.

The Dunedin special interest Computer Group is beginning its second year with personal genealogy and group projects in progress. It is significant that our Society Council in Auckland has recently purchased a computer and envisages smaller computers around the \$3000 price range being bought by some groups. I think you will not be surprised that Dunedin is already reviewing a purchase package. This is really too good an opportunity to miss, as it leads to larger local indexing projects, and our participation in those expected to be tackled on a national basis such as school rolls.

This does mean we have to look at a higher level of group finance than was previously necessary. I suggest, take a stand off position and compare ourselves with a sports team that raises a loan to supplement funds for travelling to Auckland to a competition, and our position looks much better, as on the credit side we will have a tangible asset which for some years will be worth a fair portion of the purchase price.

In conclusion, I had no idea what an eventful fifteen years would follow my first group meeting, and I cannot envisage what a review of genealogical activities might cover fifteen years from now – in the year 2002.

#### ***Copied and edited from the summary Time Line prepared by Elizabeth Timms*** **Steps to the formation of the NZSG Dunedin Group**

June	1968	NZSG Newsletter No 6 reported Dr Veale (Otago University) had offered to file members' pedigrees if submitted in coded form used in his research (symbols replacing names, medical details included). NZSG held sample pedigree showing style.
October	1968	NZSG Members' List: First Dunedin Member - Dr Veale, Human Genetics Research unit, University of Otago, and Otago Settlers Association
Early	1969	Edith Bennell, member of LDS Church invited several interested people including Lois Houston to an open Church meeting about Genealogy.

		Edith Bennell sought information about NZSG, and reported interest in genealogy in Dunedin. NZSG then had membership of 200,
May	1969	
July	1969	A small nucleus of members began meeting in Dunedin. Secretary Mrs R Bennell
<b>Formation of the Dunedin Group</b>		
		A meeting of the Dunedin Group was held at 8pm on September 25 1969 in the Council Room of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day saints. (This room is made available monthly at no charge). The meeting was chaired by Mr R Bennell. Those present were Mrs J M Stone, Mrs J Wilton, Mr J Jago Hocken Library, Mr L Amon, and Mrs R Bennell. Apologies were received from Miss Pryde (Early Settlers Association), Dr Veale, and Mr J Marshall.
September	1969	
		The group had the intention of meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month at 8pm in the chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints, to assist each other and share their knowledge.
April/May	1971	Venue changed to office of Mr H Boddy Chartered Accountant ( H Boddy was father of Lois Houston). An advertisement was placed to encouraged additional public interest.
July	1971	Interest expressed in Cemetery transcriptions.
August	1971	First AGM elected a full committee of four members. Chairman, D Jamieson, Secretary Mrs M Koops, Liason: Mrs L Houston, Research Mr A Holdaway
Sept/Oct	1971	Regular meetings at the local repositories begin.
Summer	1971/1972	Cemetery Transcriptions begin
February	1972	Members to pay 10c per meeting.
October	1972	Transcripts of 4 cemeteries typed, indexed and forwarded to NZSG
October	1973	New larger venue - Pioneer Women's Hall Moray Place
December	1974	Membership now 33, and average meeting numbers 16. Port Chalmers Old Cemetery transcribed.
February	1975	Wanaka, Merton, Hawea Flat, Waitati, Sawyers Bay, Frankton, Naseby, Kurow, Maheno, Georgetown, Morven, Ngapara, Kyeburn Diggings, Papakaio Cemeteries all transcribed. Warrington in progress.
March	1976	June McDougall's article <i>"The Use of Cemeteries in Genealogical Research"</i> published in <i>The New Zealand Genealogist</i> .
April	1978	A Weekend Seminar. 30 Attendees spent time at local repositories.
Jan / Feb	1979	Green Island, Otago Peninsula, Clyde, Cromwell, Taieri Mouth, Southern Cemetery Dunedin (Roman Catholic section) transcribed
August	1979	Five more Central Otago and Taieri cemetery transcripts sent to NZSG
July	1980	Following 2 days of transcribing by members and the public in February, Volume 1 of Northern Cemetery transcripts available for members
November	1980	First beginners workshop on genealogy - Ngaire Ockwell
February	1981	Volume 2 of Northern Cemetery sent to NZSG
April	1981	NZSG Awards of Merit to Don Jamieson, and Alf Holdaway.
July	1981	June McDougall convenor of project "Forerunners to 1848 in Otago, Southland"
July	1981	Southern Cemetery General portion transcript complete.
September	1981	Anderson's Bay Cemetery Vol 1 sent to NZSG
February	1982	New Venue: Staff Common Room 10th Floor Hocken Building, University of Otago. Dunedin branch Library owns approximately 30 volumes of books and transcripts? How to house it?
February	1982	
August	1982	Beginning of the sales table at meetings.
September	1982	Beginners workshop at Dunedin Public Library - Ngaire Ockwell
October	1982	Expanded Committee - office of treasurer established. Transcription projects also included.
March	1983	NZSG Merit awards to Jim McCready and to June MacDougall
March	1983	Evening classes in Genealogy at Bayfield High School - Jim McCready
May	1983	Seminar in Moran Hall Octagon. Speakers Verna Moosong (NZSG President) and Elizabeth Simpson (UK)
June	1983	Latter Day Saints Library opened in Dunedin
October	1983	Over 60 present at the AGM

February	1984	Anderson's Bay Cemetery transcription completed. - Ngaire Ockwell	
February	1984	Membership from 10c per meeting to \$5 annual subscription.	
April	1984	Seminar: Dr J Child on Chas Ayton, goldminer, and Tom Brooking on William Cargill.	
May	1984	Demonstration of a genealogical computer programme	
June	1984	Vist by NZSG President Anne Bromell and Secretary Kay Guthrie. Merit awards presented to Allen and Jean Thompson	NZSG
Oct	1984	Committee agreed on the need for more formal procedures, and more frequent committee meetings.	
February	1985	About 90 members and visitors attended the Group meeting. Venue capacity stretched.	
February	1985	NZSG Merit awards to Eleanor Leckie and Ngaire Ockwell. Eileen Wallis elected to NZSG Council.	
April	1985	Seminar at Otago University. Speakers: K Weatherall, G Kirkby, N Ockwell, M Maslin, George Griffiths	
May	1985	Brochure produced " <i>Genealogical Research in Dunedin</i> " for sale 50c.	
May	1985	Several members demonstrated their computer systems for genealogy.	
June	1985	School Records project announced - indexing Otago School Rolls to 1930 in co-operation with the Hocken Library. Ngaire Ockwell.	
June	1985	The NZSG Dunedin Branch Library was transferred to the Otago Early Settlers' Museum	

*Further Timeline details will be published in future newsletters. However this extract must impress with the energy and commitment of these early members.*

If you have old family home movies or slides that you would like copied onto DVD please contact "Film Heritage Trust", Charlie Gilligan, 4883212 or email [bauer5s@inspire.net.nz](mailto:bauer5s@inspire.net.nz)

Recently my wife and I visited the remote **Ploegsteert Wood Military Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium** and found the graves of the following four members of New Zealand **Otago Regiment**:

Private W **Cooper** # 39172                      Corporal R A **McKinnon** # 23931  
Private G **Campbell** # 32625                      Lance Corporal W B **Campbell** # 8/2868

We left poppies on their graves and those of other Kiwi soldiers in the Ploegsteert Wood cemetery and took photos of them. We have now returned home and are wondering if there are any members of the Cooper, McKinnon and Campbell families who are members of your group or are perhaps living in Otago who would be interested in receiving a photo of their family member's grave. Let me know when you can.

Regards

Paul Hickford                      NZSG Member #13587.

### **From the Library**

**Shirley Smillie**

With our forthcoming shift to King Edward Court, activity in the library has been a case of tidying up and checking the shelves. We shall be sorry to leave our room at the Settlers' Museum. It has been a repository for our resources for such a long time and we have been lucky to have such a great venue. Remember, the library will be closed from the end of November. We hope to have it up and running again in early February in our new venue at King Edward Court.

However there are some additions that have lately been put on the shelves.

### **“Your Family’s History – Research, write and publish it” by John MacGibbon**

As John says in his introduction, this handbook grew out of his speaking engagements at the National Library in Wellington. It gives tips based on his own genealogical experiences. The book is divided into three parts, doing research, writing “the book” and publishing. There are relevant illustrations and reading it almost made me decide that it was time to stop researching and “put pen to paper”!

**“Growing up in Wartime Recollections from Children & Adolescents of the 1940’s”, compiled by Isobel Veitch and edited by Mervyn Palmer.**

This book contains stories from 37 people who are acquaintances of Isobel Veitch, whom you will remember was a speaker at one of meetings earlier this year. These are local peoples' memories and recollections of the 1939-1945 years – the war years. Some were living in Dunedin at the time and some were actually involved in the war on the other side of the world. Some of the stories are very brief and some are several pages long. All give a personal account of what it was like to have been living at such a tumultuous time. It is good that Isobel Veitch was able to persuade and encourage these people to record their stories.

### “Whitaker’s Almanack 1925

As you can see, this is not a new book. It arrived with some other books that were mentioned in the last Newsletter. Some good person has donated it to the library and I thank whoever he or she was for it. This book contains information about the world in the mid 1920's, with perhaps an emphasis on Great Britain and the Empire. (The New Zealand entry was contributed by the then Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. W. F. Massey)

There are 1046 pages just crammed with information (I even found the name of the headmistress of the school that my mother attended!) There are advertisements for banks and insurance companies that no longer exist, and the list for Nobel prize winners from 1907 – 1924. You will be able to find what plays were on in the London theatres, as well as the results of the 1924 Olympic Games. Really, if you want to do research in this timeframe do browse through this book. It's a gem.

### Identity Verification Service - Mobile Office Dates:

This is to notify you all that the first of the Identity Verification Service (IVS) mobile office dates and locations have now been published on The Department of Internal Affairs website.

If you would like to use this service you will need to apply for an igovt ID in person at one of the mobile office sessions. You will need to hold a current New Zealand passport (less than 5 years old) or have citizenship granted in the past five years and have a mobile phone.

**Please note that your passport must be less than 5 years old on the day of your mobile office visit.**

### Steps for joining

1. At the mobile office you will need to show your passport or citizenship certificate to a Department staff member. These will be checked to ensure that you are eligible to join.
2. You will set up an [igovt logon](#) (if you don't already have one). This is a username and password that you use to access the igovt Identity Verification Service. You may use this same username and password to access other online government services in the future.
3. A staff member will take your photograph and compare it to the one stored in the passports or citizenship system.
4. You are now ready to use the service. You will receive an email to confirm that you have been issued an igovt ID.

### How does the igovt Identity Verification Service work?

Once you have joined, you can use the service to verify your identity to a participating government agency whenever you need to, using the Internet.

- You go to the government agency website and request a service that uses the igovt Identity Verification Service
- You then choose to be redirected to the igovt website so igovt can verify your identity to the government agency
- You log on to igovt entering your user name password and igovt code sent to your mobile phone
- igovt displays your name, date of birth, gender, place of birth or only some of

these as required by the agency

- You give your consent for the information to be sent to the government agency
- You will then be re-directed back to the original government agency website, which will now know who you are and enable access to the service you require
- The logon can also be used for ongoing access to that government agency's online services

**Mobile office locations and times**

Location	Address	Date	Time
Wellington	Department of Internal Affairs Level 1 46 Waring Taylor Street Wellington	Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2009 Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2009	9am – 4pm 9am – 1pm
Auckland	Department of Internal Affairs Level 6 AA Centre 99 Albert Street Auckland 1010	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2010 Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2010	4pm – 7pm 9am – 5pm
Manukau	Department of Internal Affairs Level 1 20 – 24 Lambie Drive Auckland 2104	Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2010	9am - 1pm

Further dates and locations for early 2010 will be published by January 2010. If you require further information or if you would like to make an appointment please email: [igovt@dia.govt.nz](mailto:igovt@dia.govt.nz)

**Please note that in order to reduce potential waiting times on the day of your visit, appointments are recommended.**

Kind Regards

Adrian Jarvis Business Subject Matter Expert Identity Verification Service The Department of Internal Affairs  
Extension – 8033 DDI - 04 4748033 Cell Phone - 021 937706

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Professor Ian **Morison** (*Head of Department*) Pathology, *Health Sciences, Dunedin School of Medicine*  
**Genealogy to the Rescue.**

Every Genealogist knows the importance of the information collected and stored for purposes other than Family History research.

Old wills, electoral rolls, newspapers, books, census records, family bibles, land titles, school records, marriage registers, church records and many other sources are called into the reconstruction of the stories of our families. Its not often however that Genealogy provides essential assistance to scientific research.



Members at the October meeting of the Dunedin Branch heard how an old “Family Tree” provide essential information in sophisticated medical research when Dr Ian Morison , Professor of the Department of Pathology at

the Dunedin School of Medicine, revealed how “Uncle Graham’s” genealogy assisted in the search for a mutated human gene.

He called his talk: **“Genetic Gold from the Cornish Tin mines.”**

In 1997 “M”, a young woman studying at Otago University was scheduled for surgery but reported to her colleagues that her operation had been cancelled when blood tests revealed that her platelet levels were low. Platelets are the little soldiers whose task it is to clot the blood when bleeding occurs. They clump together to form clots.

In conversation with other University staff she commented that her mother had low platelet levels so what was so surprising. Further discussion revealed that Uncles and cousins also functioned normally with low platelet levels. Later it transpired that great-uncle Brian and Auntie Lorraine and uncle Ron ( who had a bone marrow biopsy) also had low platelet levels.

The incidence caught the attention of Dr Ian Morison who with his team began to investigate the apparently inherited condition of his junior colleague. It seemed that in spite of their low platelet levels the family members generally functioned normally. They lived long active lives.

An early breakthrough was that uncle Graham was a genealogist and he had a significant tree for the family “Cargeeg”. Part of the Cornish diaspora that saw the end of the Cornish tin mines when rich deposits of ore were discovered in Africa in the 1870’s. Bill Cargeeg and his wife Selena arrived in Dunedin on the “William Davie” apparently carrying the genetic modification as a silent and invisible passenger.

Reconstruction of the Tree with the members of the family known to carry the condition of low platelet levels marked showed a remarkable connection. A very high proportion of the family carried the condition while living perfectly normal lives. Quite quickly, thanks to Uncle Graham, the pattern became clear and the research team came to know the family as a very special cause for extended study.

The Symptoms of low platelet levels become serious only when they fall to low single digit figures. They may be indicated by bruising, bleeding after tooth extractions or blood noses and after surgery. But for the Cargeeg family there seem to have been little to indicate their condition. It was only when blood tests were taken for some other cause that the levels showed up. And it appeared to be just this one family from St Just in Cornwall who had come to New Zealand about 1875 that carried this genetic mutation.

With “M” part of the study team the task of locating the family continued. A cousin in knew of Barbara and others in Wellington and “Brenda” in Gore and her daughter both had low platelet levels. The search began in earnest to find the genetic variation that caused this unusual condition.

The gnome is carried in a three million letter code and somewhere in that code there was a variation from standard. Good fortune was with the research team and a tiny variation was discovered in Chromosome 7. What in normal Gnome would be “G” showed as “S”.

It was about this time that “M”s Nana had a hip transplant and with the permission of the donor the rejected bone was carried to the laboratory where microscope slides were prepared for examination. Under electronmicroscopy some apparent abnormalities were detected.

Mark Smith, a researcher in this field working in London was consulted. He recommended Elizabeth Cramer in Paris as the key worker in this field. Her response to the slides was exhalted. The abnormality was clear. The platelets were being generated normally in the bone marrow but the megakayocytes appeared to be destroying them before they could be released into the blood system.

“M” travelled to London and then on to Paris and was working not far from Elizabeth Cramer when the material was studied. ELizabeth took blood from “M” to grow some stem cells in the laboratory in order to observe the development of the platelets . In a few days they were all dead. Cells from Nana’s hip likewise grew quickly but showed the same early death.

The cytochrome C , present in all animals for the termination of body cells, seemed to be interacting with the megakayocytes to terminate the platelets before they could reach the blood system.

The questions remained: Why did the family appear to live quite normally with low platelet levels? Is there some hidden disorder? The study of this unusual condition continues on an international basis. Huge strides were possible by the assistance given from a family tree and the published results gained for the team working with Dr. Ian Morison a genuine nugget of gold. He also made a special visit to St Just, to see for himself where the family came from.

*Thanks to Brian Williscroft for preparing this record of the October presentation.*

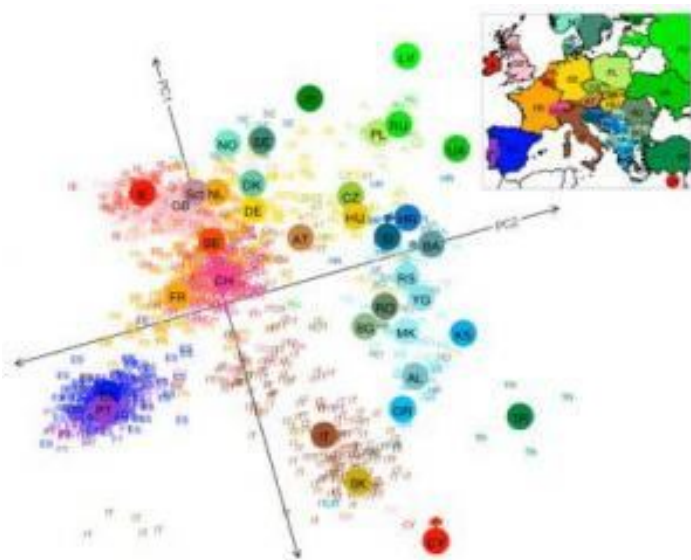
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/>  
**Person's Geographic Origins Located From DNA**

ScienceDaily (Sep. 2, 2008) — One day soon, you may be able to pinpoint the geographic origins of your ancestors based on analysis of your DNA.

A study published online this week in *Nature* by an international team that included Cornell University researchers describes the use of DNA to predict the geographic origins of individuals from a sample of Europeans, often within a few hundred kilometers of where they were born.

- *When researchers simplified and plotted the genetic data from a sample of Europeans, the findings revealed that individuals with similar genetic structures clustered together on the plot in such a way that the major geographic features of Europe became distinguishable. In the plot above, each small colored set of letters represents a single individual's genetic data, and the larger colored points represent the median of each country. A legend for the colors and label abbreviations is shown in the inset map. (Credit: John Novembre/UCLA)*

"What we found is that within Europe, individuals with all four grandparents from a given region are slightly more



similar genetically to one another, on average, than to individuals from more distant regions," said Carlos Bustamante, associate professor of biological statistics and computational biology at Cornell and the paper's senior author. John Novembre, an assistant professor in the University of California-Los Angeles' Department of Ecology and Evolution, was lead author of the study that also included researchers from GlaxoSmithKline, the University of Chicago and the University of Lausanne (Switzerland).

"When these minute differences are compounded across the whole of their genome, we have surprisingly high power to predict where in Europe they came from," Bustamante added. This is one of the first studies to examine genome-wide patterns of genetic variation across a large

sample of Europeans, and to use these data to predict ancestry. The methodology has wide-ranging implications for using DNA samples from unrelated individuals to identify genes underlying complex diseases, as well as forensics, personalized genomics and the study of recent human history.

Using data from a sample of almost 3,200 Europeans supplied by GlaxoSmithKline, the team analyzed more than 500,000 genetic points known as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs), or minute sequence variations in DNA. The researchers focused its analysis on individuals for whom all the grandparents were believed to come from the same country. The team simplified and plotted the data, revealing that individuals with similar genetic structures clustered together on the plot in such a way that the major geographic features of Europe became distinguishable. "What is really surprising is that when we summarize the data from 500,000 SNPs in just two dimensions, we see this striking map of Europe," said Novembre. "We can recognize the Iberian peninsula, the Italian peninsula, southeastern Europe, Turkey and Cyprus."

The resolution of the genetic map was so precise that the investigators were able to find genetic differences among the French, German and Italian-speaking Swiss individuals; with French speakers being more similar to the French, German speakers to Germans and Italian speakers to Italians.

Based on these observations, Novembre and colleagues from the University of Chicago developed a novel algorithm for classifying individuals geographically based on their patterns of DNA variation.

For well-sampled countries, this approach placed 50 percent of individuals within 310 kilometers (km) of their reported origin, and 90 percent within 700 km of their origin. Across all populations, 50 percent of individuals were placed within 540 km of their reported origin and 90 percent of individuals within 840 km. The findings excluded individuals with grandparents from different countries, since these were assigned locations between their grandparents' origins. Some next steps will be to infer origins for people with recent ancestry from multiple locations and to perform similar analyses for populations on other continents.

*The study was funded by the Giorgi-Cavaglieri Foundation, the Swiss National Science Foundation, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health in the U.S., and GlaxoSmithKline.*

*Adapted from materials provided by [Cornell University](#)*

## Everyone over the age of 24: Think yourself lucky... burial records reveal short lives of starving Britons in 1809

By [DAILY MAIL REPORTER](#)

16th September 2009

Swine flu? Credit crunch? Pub prices going up and up? If you think you've got it bad, cheer up - at least you weren't around in 1809. Records published online for the first time today reveal that in parts of Briton you could expect to be dead before you were 24. The data from parish files shows how [London](#) was among the most dangerous and unhealthy places on the planet only 200 years ago. Ancestry.co.uk said the capital's records will cover a period from 1539 to 1980, including information on many of the 100,000 Londoners who died of Bubonic Plague between 1665 and 1666.



Brush with death: a painting of a 19th century London workhouse queue

Pre-dating Civil Registration, the records are the only way to trace the baptism, marriage or burial of a person living before 1837.

The earliest records date back as far as 1538 when Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's Vicar General, issued an order that each parish was to keep a register detailing every baptism, marriage and burial it performed.

In Westminster the average life expectancy was 23. In Kensington and Chelsea, now a haven for the super-rich, it was 25. A resident of these areas can now hope to live to as long as 88.

Analysis of burial records shows the average age at which a person died in 1809 was 29 and London was particularly unhealthy because of chronic overcrowding, terrible sanitation, poor work conditions, alcohol abuse, and high food prices caused by the wars with [France](#).

Babies and children died in droves from disease and malnutrition and the figures show that the closer to open sewers and cesspits people were, the greater their chances of dying.

Notorious slum areas such as Southwark, where [Charles Dickens](#) would find much of his inspiration, were equally unhealthy.

**HARD TIMES: HOW LONG YOU COULD EXPECT TO LIVE**

	1809	1900	1950	2007*			1809	1900	1950	2007*	
				Men	Women					Men	Women
Barnet	34	49	70	80	80	Islington	27	39	56	75	81
Brent	37	53	76	79	83	Ken & Chelsea	25	36	51	84	88
Camden	29	41	59	77	82	Lambeth	24	34	49	75	81
City of London	28	41	58	no data		Lewisham	27	39	56	76	81
Ealing	30	44	63	78	83	Newington	25	36	52	76	82
Elmbridge	30	43	62	81	83	Richmond	35	51	73	80	84
Enfield	31	44	63	79	82	Southwark	25	36	51	77	82
Greenwich	26	37	53	75	81	Stepney	29	42	60	77	82
Hackney	25	36	51	76	82	Tower Hamlets	26	38	54	75	80
H'smith & Fulham	27	39	56	78	82	Wandsworth	27	39	56	77	81
Haringey	28	40	58	76	83	Waverley	28	40	58	80	84
Harrow	37	54	77	80	84	Westminster	23	33	47	82	84
Hillingdon	32	47	67	78	83	<b>Average</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>82</b>
Hounslow	30	43	62	77	81						

\*Figures for 1809, 1900 and 1950 record age at burial or death. Figures for 2007 record life expectancy and are rounded to the nearest year

But in what were then villages outside the centre, lives were longer - at the start of the 1800s residents of Brent and Harrow could look forward to reaching the impressive age of 37.

Dan Jones, director of content at Ancestry.co.uk, which is putting the 18 million parish records online, said: "London was clearly a very unhealthy place to live for a very long time.

"It was only the creation of the NHS in 1948 that got Londoners up to the sorts of levels of life expectancy we have seen for the past 30 years or so."

The records include many of the 100,000 Londoners who died from the Bubonic Plague between 1665 and 1666 - 20 per cent of the capital's population at the time.

Officials sometimes marked a plague victim's burial record with 'plague' or simply the letter 'P'.

The collection also covers the period of another of London's major disasters - the Great Fire of London, which occurred in 1666, destroying more than 13,000 houses and 87 parish churches across the City.

Dr Deborah Jenkins, assistant director of the City of London's Department of Libraries, Archives and Guildhall Art Library, said: "Parish registers reveal facts about the lives of individual Londoners and their families, providing key evidence about shifts of population, disease, war and famine.

"This is a fantastic project that will transform family history research for those with ancestral ties to London. The City of London is delighted to be unlocking these primary sources for online publication, making them globally accessible."

The records are being launched in partnership with the City of London's London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1213871/Over-24-Think-lucky--burial-records-reveal-short-lives-starving-Britons-1809.html#xzz0T0u5p0Q5>

**New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc** FAMILY HISTORY - PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE  
**Newsletter for Branches, Interest Groups, Officers and Contact Persons**

**Keeping in Touch**

*Newsletter for Branches, Interest Groups, Officers and Contact Persons*

**Issue Number: 64 November 2009**

Kia ora and Greetings to you all

The theme of this issue of KIT is **CHANGE**. So many changes are happening at the same time that it is hard to keep track of them all. This issue of KIT will give you brief summaries and websites where you can get further information.

## **November Council Meeting**

Council met over the weekend of November 7-8. There have been some changes in personnel. David Bryant, President, has been granted a leave of absence by council due to ill health. His responsibilities have been taken on by Fiona Brooker, Vice-President. We wish David a speedy recovery of his good health. Pauline Miller and Janet Connochie have resigned as Councillors. Council is now in the process of re-allocating their portfolios and coopting

persons to take their places as Councillors until the new Council takes over in July 2010.

Marianne Cummins has taken up the position of Office Manager and we extend to her a warm welcome. Graeme Constable will remain at the FRC until 20 November. Council thanks Graeme for assisting us with managing the office at such short notice.

Sherri Viccars has resigned as membership clerk and we welcome back Ruth Kerr into this role. Ruth is sharing this role with Alison Holmes (Accounts) to ensure that there is somebody available for membership queries at all times.

## **Karen Kalopulu**

It is with grief that we report the sudden passing of Karen Kalopulu in the early hours of Sunday 8 November. Karen, of the Family History Section of Auckland Public Library, will be remembered for her famous 'lock ins'. She was a long time supporter of NZSG, wrote frequent articles for the magazine and was a friendly person always willing to advise others on their research. Karen will be sorely missed. NZSG extends their condolences to Karen's family.

## **New Publications**

The new Victoria Outwards to New Zealand CD-Rom will be released in December. This contains a transcription and index of the passenger lists of the ships leaving Victoria for New Zealand ports, as contained in VPRS 948 Outward Passenger Lists 1852 - 1923. You can search by Passenger, Ship and Port of Arrival. The cost will be \$50.

Keep your eyes out for the 2009 Cemetery Supplement as well.

## **NZSG's Family History Fair & AGM 16 -18 July 2010**

By now branches and interest groups should have received the memo that was emailed to them at the end of October. If this has not arrived, please check your spam box or contact the Fair organisers on [familyhistoryfair@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:familyhistoryfair@genealogy.org.nz) for another copy.

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## **Family History Fair Registrations and Accommodation**

Fair registrations will open in February to coincide with the distribution of the first NZ Genealogist magazine for 2010. The accommodation at the venue has been block booked for the weekend of the Fair and you will be able to make your room reservations from early February onwards.

## **Branches:**

The memo asked for an indication from your branch of their interest in either attending or contributing to the Family History Fair in some way. It is important that you respond to this by the **22 November. Remember - it is only an expression of interest required at this stage.** If you change your mind later on and have to pull out then that is less of an issue than trying to squeeze you in when there is no space left! Space is limited and once it is filled the organiser's don't want to be forced to say "Sorry but..." so make sure you get in now and let them know what your intentions are. By the time of the February regional meetings the organisers will be requiring a firm commitment from those attending and by that stage planning among branches should be well underway.

With regional meetings coming up shortly, there will be an opportunity for branches to discuss how they can best work together. As mentioned in the last magazine, you are being asked to contribute your expertise, resources and research aids on a **regional basis**. This not only makes the best use of the available space but also shares the workload when it comes to manning the stands. The organisers want everyone involved in the Fair to be able to enjoy it.

### **Interest Groups:**

Again it is important that interest groups let the organisers know of their intention to exhibit at the Fair. Groups with a common country focus are being encouraged to pool their resources for the same reasons outlined above. If you wish to hold an interest group meeting during the Fair then the organisers also need to know that as soon as possible. There are only so many rooms available and once they have been allocated to another interest group your options are severely limited.

**2010 is nearly here and once the summer holidays are over it will be full steam ahead. If your branch or interest group wishes to be at the Fair then make sure you let the organisers know before 22 November.** Email [nzfamilyhistoryfair@genealogy.co.nz](mailto:nzfamilyhistoryfair@genealogy.co.nz)

### **Seminar presenters:**

The next NZ Genealogist magazine has an article about the search for fresh faces to present seminars at the Fair. There are many experienced and well-known presenters in this organisation who get called upon on a regular basis and it would be very easy to continue using their skills but what the Fair organisers want to find out **who else is out there among the branches just waiting for this golden opportunity to show what they can do?**

This is NZ's 1st Family History Fair - a chance to try new things. If you know of someone (maybe you!) who is interested in sharing their knowledge and making a positive contribution to the Fair then please let the organisers know. The pay is not good but the job satisfaction is enormous!

Expressions of interest are being called for, along with the person's area of expertise. For further information please contact [nzfamilyhistoryfair@genealogy.co.nz](mailto:nzfamilyhistoryfair@genealogy.co.nz)

Sandra Metcalfe

Convenor

Family History Fair 2010

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### **Family History Month 2010**

Next year Family History Month will be held in August. Further information will be coming in due course but it is not too soon for Branches and Interest Groups to start planning for this event.

### **National Library and Alexander Library**

Access to the holdings of both these repositories will be limited from early December due to the closure of the Molesworth Street building for redevelopment. From 8 December the Family History Section will be located at 77 Thorndon Quay. Further details can be found at [www.natlib.govt.nz/building](http://www.natlib.govt.nz/building).

### **Archives New Zealand**

The ground floor at Archives New Zealand's Wellington office is being redeveloped over the next few months. The changes include a new Orientation Area near the main entrance, combining the current Living Room and Gallery space. Construction will run until 2 January 2010. During construction, the Reading Room will be open from 10.30am until 5pm Monday to Friday and the most disruptive work scheduled to occur before 10.30am.

As well as the work on the ground floor Archives New Zealand is also preparing to receive the Alexander Turnbull manuscripts collections which will be stored there while the National

Library is being redeveloped. Nearly 10 kilometers of extra shelving will be put up to house the collection.

Dianne Macaskill, CEO and Chief Archivist, has tendered her resignation.

### **Update on LINZ Records Moves**

LINZ is closing three of its five remaining Processing Centres, in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin. Most of the records from the reading rooms at these offices will be transferred to the nearest office of Archives New Zealand.

What's happening with the records?

- The first records to move will be from the Wellington Processing Centre. The Deeds Registers and other Wellington and Hawkes Bay District records will move to Archives New Zealand Wellington in the first two weeks of December.
- The Gisborne District records currently in Wellington Processing Centre will move to Archives New Zealand's Auckland Office in January/February 2010.
- The "surveyors field books" will move to LINZ Processing Centres (eventually all of them will be in either Christchurch for South Island books or Hamilton for North Island books)

To locate records in Archives, lists of the records will be available via "Archway" [www.archway.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz) soon after they're transferred.

Some records will stay with LINZ.

People can still order copies of land titles and other records by contacting LINZ or using the standard ordering forms. Instructions for this are in the survey and titles section of LINZ's website: [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz)

### **Identity Verification Service – Department of Internal Affairs**

If you wish to purchase recent, as opposed to historical, BDM certificates you will need to prove who you are and this can be a complex process. You can now apply for an iGovt ID which you may find helpful. At the end of this issue of KIT you will find details about how to apply and the advantages of doing so.

### **Heritage Events**

I am assembling a database of heritage events that take place annually in New Zealand. The purpose is that local Branches and Interest Groups can be alerted to these and be encouraged

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to take part and promote NZSG. Hopefully, the result will be a significant increase in NZSG membership. The FRC would be happy to provide promotional material as requested. I would be most grateful if Branches and Interest Groups would send me details of any heritage events in their area so that my database can cover the whole country comprehensively

### **Generic Email Addresses**

Would Branches and Interest Groups please use their generic email addresses. Use of these is an aid to security. Also, the use of non-generic email addresses adds considerable extra work to the staff at FRC. Council is presently planning a way to make the re-directing of emails quicker and more effective.

### **Genealogy Toolbar**

Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society (MLFHS), based in the U.K, has announced the release of its genealogy toolbar which integrates seamlessly with your browser links. It will help you find and access genealogy websites and is well worth exploring. The toolbar can be downloaded via the MLFHS home page [www.mlfhs.org.uk](http://www.mlfhs.org.uk) or from <http://MLFHS.OurToolbar.com/>

### **Distribution of KIT**

Beginning with this issue after I have put it together, KIT will be distributed by the FRC office. If you have any queries about delivery you should contact the Office Manager at [office.manager@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@genealogy.org.nz). Current and back issues of KIT can always be accessed

through the NZSG website.

### **Contacting Council**

If you have any concerns or issues you want to raise with Council it is essential that you write to or email Council. Letters should be addressed to NZSG Council, PO Box 14036 Panmure Auckland 1741 and emails addressed to NZSG Council and sent to [office.manager@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@genealogy.org.nz) at the FRC. Your communication will then be discussed at the next Council Meeting and you will receive a reply as soon as practical after that. Council Meetings are held every three months – usually the first weekend of February, May, August and November. You should aim to get your letter or email to Council three weeks before it meets to ensure your correspondence is included on the agenda.

### **Next Council Meeting**

The next meeting will be held over the weekend of 6-7 February 2010.

**Finally** please make sure all your Branch and Interest Group members see KIT. It is the most effective way for members to know what is happening.

Kia kaha and all good wishes

Brenda JOYCE #13868

Member of Council

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### **Genealogy Humour**

Gene-Allergy - It's a contagious disease, but I love it!

Geneologica Bonsai: Little family trees.

Genealogists do it generation after generation.

Genealogists do it in trees.

Genealogists live in the past lane.

Genealogists never die, they just get filed away.

Genealogists: People helping people.....that's what it's all about!

Genealogists: Time unravelers.

Genealogy can sometimes be a really dead end hobby

Genealogy is a family affair

Genealogy is breaking bread with the dead.

Genealogy is not a hobby, it's a disease!

Genealogy is the only hobby where dead people can really excite you.

Genealogy is T-R-E-E-rific!

Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!

Genealogy made me what I am today.

He ain't heavy--He's my brother's aunt's sister's husband.

He who dies with the most ancestors wins!

The newsletter is prepared and edited by Shirley Jack, 4731163, [shirley-jack@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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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