

Kapiti Group Newsletter

NZ Society of Genealogists Inc

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MEETINGS

PARAPARAUMU COMMUNITY CENTRE
7.30 pm First Wednesday
February - December

OCTOBER 1992

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SEPTEMBER MEETING.....this night was highlighted by the presence of 23 visitors from the Te Puke Group on a week of research in Wellington. We thank them for taking the time to spend the evening with us and sharing their experiences with us. A great evening altogether. Mrs Bobby Mawkes told us of some of the frustrations of her post as Librarian for the postal borrowing of NZSG books & gave us an insight into the complexities of her job. We now all have a better appreciation of the need for being concise & specific in our requests for books. Our group has received a letter of thanks from the secretary of Te Puke Group, Aylyth Gilbert, for our hospitality on this occasion.

We were indeed soory that Mr Joe Cassin of Wellington was not able to be with us once again, we had been looking forward to his company & his great collection of books on Irish research. It is to be hoped that Joe will join us at a future date when his health permits.

STATISTICS.....Our Treasurer reports an attendance of 47 members & 23 visitors in September, a grand total of 70. The financial year rounds off with 119 financial members.

SPRING ON THE KAPITI COAST.....We have been invited to participate in an historical display highlighting the results of our family history research within New Zealand, & particularly with relevance to the Kapiti Region. The venue will be the ground floor of the Post Office Building in Mahara Place, Waikanae on the Friday & Saturday of Labour weekend. We call on all of you members to contribute something towards this display in the way of Photographs, Family trees, displays of genealogical interest. The idea is for us to take part in a district wide promotion of Kapiti & also to promote & foster Family History & our group.. As well as material for the display we require volunteers to help man the display. Don't be backward in coming forward, as we used to say, let's get right in there & do our bit. Contact John Ross, 293 3771.

RETIREMENTS.....three committee members who have served in office & on the committee for several years have declined to be re-elected this coming year. Jan Bonnett, Terri Manu & Mary Mcleod have made the decision to stand down this election. They will be very much missed from our committee, & we thank them all most sincerely for their invaluable contribution in the past & wish them more time to get on with their own research. There would be few among us who have not called on these ladies for help & assistance over the years.

MICROFICHE.....As Terri Manu, who has been our microfiche officer for several years is moving to Te Horo to live, the microfiche records will need a new home. Brian Mountjoy has volunteered to take over the control of Group microfiche & readers until such time as a more permanent home can be established for them. Therefore, requests for the hire of microfiche records must be directed to Brian, ph. 297 0710. We all wish Terri, Monty & Richard all the best in their 'good life'.

LANCASHIRE & CUMBRIA..... Barbara Humpage has brought back telephone directories of these areas, & numerous leaflets concerning research facilities available for postal research. Welcome home Barbara.

QUEENSLAND RESEARCH.....an item in the Wellington Group newsletter, for September 1992 contains a contact number for a researcher in Queensland. Contact Donald Hay 04 476 8450 for details.

NATIONAL MARITIME HISTORY SEMINAR.....Brian Mountjoy advises us of this occasion to be held at BP House, Customhouse Quay, Wellington, Friday - Monday of Labour weekend 1992. There will be local & overseas speakers. Registration information may be obtained through the Wellington Maritime Museum, ph 04 472 8904. Registration fee is \$45.00 Have a word with Brian if you would like to know more about it.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR PROOF READING?.....I wonder how many of you spotted my little 'typo' in last month's newsletter, where I referred to John Ross as 'our treasure'!
You are that & all John!

NOVEMBER MEETING.....Instead of the usual gathering for November, a visit to Porirua Library has been arranged, on THURSDAY 5th November. Full Genealogical research facilities will be open for us, & we will travel by bus. Fare \$7.00, bus leaving Rimu Road, Paraparaumu at 7.00pm. Bookings to be made with John Ross, tonight.

ELECTORAL ROLLS.....Talking of John, he reminds members that he has a collection of 1972 also 1990 Electoral Rolls for your perusal or for a phone request. His set of 1966 Rolls is not yet complete.

EXTRACTING STRAYS.....A letter has been received from Derek Griffis regarding his project of compiling directories of persons born in selected areas of Britain & who died in New Zealand. The selected areas are: Somerset (+ Bristol), Dorset, Wales (Incl Monmouth) Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire. Derek appeals to you as members of our Kapiti Group to contribute to his project. He has drawn up a form for your use & copies of these are available tonight. As yet he has no close off date. Please help by sending him details of your family to include in this project.

THORNDON.....Jeremy Lowe has sent us the following request:
Thorndon community history researcher wishes to contact genealogists & family historians any of whose ancestors lived in Thorndon at any time before World War 1..
Jeremy Lowe, Ph. 04 472-4424, 23 Ascot St, Thorndon, Wgtn.
(NZSG # 11867).

More detailed information is here tonight.

FOUNDERS BULLETIN.....An account of the voyage of the 'Victory', London to Auckland, 1 October 1850 to 2 February 1851 is in two copies of the Founders Bulletin in our group library. Vol 22 # 59 & # 60.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....Is any one available & willing to take over the compiling & production of our monthly newsletter? One of you may be bursting to get into the job, so please see Gwenda if you are keen.



CALLING PAF USERS.....it has been brought to our attention that there are now a large number of genealogists using the computer program P A F, Personal Ancestral File. Users Groups are being formed in Wellington, Hutt Valley & Kapiti. If you would like to share your P A F hints, experience, ideas, problems or whatever with other local Paffers, please contact Ralph Biss Ph 298-8482 or Terri Manu Ph 298-5071.

SURNAMES

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Few people realise that surnames go back to the middle ages and were introduced simply to differentiate between two people with the same surname. Often they were based on occupation, physical characteristics, or the father's name. Some surnames can be traced back as far as the Norman conquest.

CLARK Although this is one of the commonest of English surnames and has obvious associations with scribes and secretaries it's origin is far more esoteric. Cleric is Old English for priest. In the Middle Ages it was mostly members of religious orders who were literate in a largely illiterate society and soon the word became a nickname for anyone who could read or write.
(variations:- Clarke, Clerk(e))

PALMER var:- Palmar, Paumier, Palmes.
Etymologists claim two distinctly different derivations of this fairly common surname. In Mediaeval English a palmar was one who had returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, proudly clutching a palm branch as proof of the journey. Alternatively, bearing in mind the Old French paumer (for palm, as in hand) a palmer was a professional tennis player or coach, when one of our oldest games was played with the hand and the court keeper named after the jeu de paume.

BELL var:- Beller, Bel(l)man.
In the Middle Ages the town bell was often the core of the community, tolling from the belltower messages of alarm, celebration or maybe just a summons to some local meeting. Thus the man living "atte belle" was soon known as Bell. Another derivation is taken from the Old French for handsome, beau or bel, as in Robert le Bel, Mayor of Bristol in 1239, a dignitary who obviously had a high opinion of himself.

(Thanks to "This England")

'FOREIGN' PLACE NAMES.....From Family Tree Magazine, September 1989, the following interesting item: Foreign sounding placenames which are actually in England.
LONDONDERRY - Ulster, West Midlands & North Yorks
EGYPT - Nr Bradford, Yorks; GREENLAND, SW Goole, Yorks
AMERICA - Nr Sutton, Isle of Ely; CALIFORNIA - Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk; CALIFORNIA - Nr Little Downham; DUNKIRK - Nr Little Downham; DUNKIRK - N of Keighly, W Yorks; DUNKIRK - Devizes, Wilts; NEW YORK - Tyne & Wear; WASHINGTON - Tyne & Wear;
GIBRALTAR - Nr Carnforth, Lancs; GIBRALTAR - Nr Skegness, Lincs
HOLLAND - area of SW Lancs; HOLLAND - part of Lincolnshire;
ISLE of MAN - Nr Wilpshire, Lancs; PARIS - Nr Wilpshire, Lancs;
WATERLOO - SW of Blackburn; BAY of BISCAY - B6144 NW Bradford nr Egypt; BOHEMIA - Parish of Redlynch, Wilts; BOTANY BAY - Parish of Castle Eaton, Wilts; CAEN HILL - Parish of Rowde, Wilts;
IRELAND - Parish of N Bradley, Wilts; NEW ZEALAND - 3 Parishes in Wilts; PICADILLY - various parishes in Wilts;
SCOTLAND - various parishes in Wilts.

It proves now that we must look to our own country (England) for such 'foreign' names first, before anything else.

(Thankyou Deborah for this item).