

Kapiti Branch Newsletter

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NZ Society of Genealogists Inc

MEETINGS	PARAPARAUMU COMMUNITY CENTRE
	7.30 pm First Wednesday
AUGUST 1993	February - December
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CHAIRMAN	BRIAN MOUNTJOY 297 0710
SECRETARY	BARBARA HUMPAGE 298 6970
TREASURER	JOHN ROSS 293 3771
MINUTE SEC	MICHELLE WAPP 298 8483
PROGRAMME SEC	JENY HAXTON 297 0391
LIBRARIAN	LORRAINE GUTHRIE 298 6874
PROJECTS	MARK SCHERF 298 2520
PROJECTS	CAROL PROCKTER 298 6826
HOSTESS	VALERIE FREEMAN 298 7396
FUND RAISING	CHERYL HODGES 293 3009
NEWSLETTER	GWENDA COLE 298 5466
MICROFICHE OFFICER	BRIAN MOUNTJOY 297 0710
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LOOKING AHEAD.....1 September our guest speaker will be Mrs Lorraine McArthur, addressing the meeting on the subject of adoptions. Lorraine has visited Kapiti twice in the past, & is most knowledgable on this subject. Be sure not to miss this meeting.

6 October is AGM to be followed by Jan's account of her prize winning trip to san Diego, we'll all be looking forward to this Jan.

Other plans for this year include another open research day. Negotiations are under way to bring down the Cornwall & Greater London records for this day. In November we anticipate holding a garage sale, but more about these later. How many of you realise that Kapiti Branch was formed in 1984? Plans are underway for a celebration & a project to mark our 10th anniversary. Watch this space...

TED GILBERD LITERARY TRUST 1995 ESSAY COMPETITION.....This is open to members of NZSG who are members by 1 May 1993 and remain members until the close of the competition on 31 March 1995. The Ted Gilbert Literary Trust provides the means to encourage & promote the writing & or publishing of family history by members of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. See our notice board tonight for entry forms, rules & conditions of entry.

JULY MEETING.....a lively & interested gathering listened to our guest speaker Mr Andrew Malcolm of Kapiti Coast Funeral Home explain to us the requirements of the Registrar General concerning registration of a death. In many cases this information is difficult for the Funeral Director to obtain from grieving relatives, & requires much tact & perseverance to complete the necessary forms. A certain amount of this information is needed for statistical purposes, quite apart from that needed to be recorded to appear eventually on a death certificate. Actually there are three forms which need to be completed by the Funeral Director, apart from the Registration of Death (RG 28) there is the Medical certificate of causes of Death, (RG 50), & the Burial Certificate (RG 38). From these three the details on a death certificate are compiled. Andrew is happy to assist by searching old Funeral Home Records for us, as are most other Funeral Directors. Many people asked how do we find records when the Funeral Home ceases to exist or is bought out? The records go with the business to the new proprietors. In the case of a closed business, write to: Joan Sawkins, National Secretary of Funeral Directors, FDANZ, PO Box 54222, Mana, Wellington, to find where the records are now held. Andrew distributed leaflets which can be filled out in advance with the correct details & stored in a safe place for when our own time eventually comes. This is very sound practice, common sense really, & in light of the fact that each of us at some time in our own family history researching has come across death entries with vague (ie birthplace: England) or incorrect information, a necessity. In my own case an ancestor's death entry had a blank for number of issue living, in fact he had thirteen. Andrew answered questions which came in thick & fast, & we all enjoyed this well informed & interesting speaker.

Jan Bonnett outlined for us the programme of events in store for them, later this month when she & Alex visit San Diego to sail on the *Euterge* or *Star of India* as it is now known, Jan's 'Ancestral' ship.

One of our members brought along a remarkable old book to show us & read extracts from it. 'An Exposition of the old & New Testaments' by Mr Matthew Henry, late Minister of the Gospel at Chester, published in Edinburgh in the year MDCCLXVII by Revd. Mr Willaim Tong - over 1,000 pages. It includes 58 pages giving an account of the life of Matthew Henry, his birth 18 Oct 1662, parentage, education & early piety, his marriages, children, friends & his death on 22 June 1714. This large book must have been brought by a settler to Hawkes Bay. The family trees of David Longlands, Burnside, Parish of Dron, Scotland & John Reid of Arngask, Scotland are handwritten inside the front cover by Thomas & Janet Longlands, proprietors of Gourock Castle, 16 December 1861.

OCCUPATIONS.....In the June newsletter it was asked if any one knew the meaning of the word FET(T)LER. Mr Bill Moore gives us this explanation: a 'fetler' is a worker in a foundry, who cleans sand off castings after pouring. Another unusual occupation also in the foundry is the 'pudler', This worker poked a steel rod into the moulds to ensure there were no air bubbles. Thanks Bill.

STATISTICS.....44 members plus 4 visitors at July meeting. Of 124 members, 109 are financial. Are you one of the unfinancial 15?

MICROFICHE.....We have acquired the following new microfiche: which are available for borrowing by financial members of Kapiti Branch..

- * The Tuckett Index of Hutt Valley Cemetery Records. 2 fiche
- * Gloucestershire Marriage Index 1800 - 1837 listed under Brides, Bridegrooms & Parishes. 39 fiche
- * GS Research Papers, series A, No 6, Welsh Patrynomics & place name problems in Wales. 1 fiche
- * GS Research papers, series A, No 55, Irish Maps, Leinster Province, (includes Kilkenny). 1 fiche
- * Feilding Star 1882 - 1909, Extracts of Births, Deaths & Marriages. 5 fiche

SPEAKING OF MICROFICHE.....Would members borrowing or returning fiche, please phone Brian 297 0710 and arrange a mutually convenient time.

NEWS FROM THE RGO.....via Hutt Valley News & Views, July 1993

News from the RGO

As a result of Russell Marshall's discussion with the Registrar-General regarding the forthcoming Privatisation Bill and its possible effect on RGO records, a number of assurances have been given:

1. The records will continue to be Government owned and will remain in the public domain
2. The records are being computerised up to the nineteen-eighties. The specific year has not been decided, but by about May 1994 the public will be able to access this information
3. The only exception to the above will be adoption records
4. Computerised access means that Local District Registrars will be able to feed their quarterly returns to the RGO in Lower Hutt by computer, and conversely, information can be sent out to other areas. Individuals will no longer feel the need to make a special visit to the Registrar General's Office. This will be a greatly enhanced service. What it will all cost we have yet to find out.

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NETWORK NEWSLETTER.....the bi-monthly liason letter of the NZSG, from newly appointed BLO (Branch Liason Officer) Peggy Crawford, is on our noticeboard tonight. Please read.

There is also a notice from Palmerston North Branch re the new 'Clan Mackay Society of NSW', including eligible names.

Also the newsletter of the Orkney Group South Island, NZ.

CHILDRENS HOMES/ ORPHANAGES..... Peggy Crawford of Lower Hutt is doing research on the above about the experiences of people who spent time in care during their childhood. Write with information to Peggy Crawford, 59 Mabey Road, Lower Hutt.

SHADOWS OF TIME.....PO Box 6454 Te Aro, Wellington, are offering a special London research service applicable 1 June - 31 October 1993 on Somerset House Wills & Administrations & Census returns of England & Wales. (Valerie Freeman has used & is very satisfied with this service).

GLIMPSES OF THE PAST.....as this is our nostalgia & memorabilia night I am including some excerpts from an old volume I was shown recently. It is Cassels Domestic Dictionary, an Encyclopaedia for the Household. Owned by a lady named Marion King (maiden name) who married in 1894, The date of publication is missing, so presume it to have been 1880's or 1890's.

Drawing-room Amusements.—It is an advantage for the mistress of a house and the mother of a family to have at hand the means of affording interest and amusement to her friends and her young people during the time that they are seated in her drawing-room. It happens too frequently that the time which is spent by the ladies alone, when the gentlemen are otherwise occupied, is but a dull, sleepy period, and it requires both tact and ability on the part of the mistress to make it anything else, or to keep up a bright, energetic conversation. It is a great advantage to a lady if her drawing-room is supplied with artistic or amusing objects which suggest subjects of interest. A drawing-room cannot be said to be complete unless it is supplied with photographs, curiosities, and plenty of books, magazines, and illustrated works of travel and research. There is nothing like a book for suggesting a conversation. The last work of a well-known author is always sure to lead to a discussion of his merits as a writer, which will call forth an expression of various opinions which must be interesting. Good books constitute such a bond of sympathy amongst cultured people that they must be valuable in promoting conversation between them. Puzzles and quiet games are useful in the same way, and a lady would certainly reap the benefit of supplying her drawing-room with articles of this kind.

Ragged Schools.—The originator of these was John Pounds, a shoemaker, of Portsmouth, who for many years gathered about him ragged children, and taught them as he sat at work. He died in 1839; and at the same time, or a little earlier, a Ragged School Union was formed in London. The movement became popular, and spread over the country. In 1877 the Ragged School Union reported 28,451 scholars. Modern legislation has so materially affected the ragged school system that its peculiar sphere is almost wholly occupied by the school board agencies. It unquestionably accomplished a vast amount of good, and it must be remembered that it was based on purely philanthropic principles, and made its way against every kind of obstacle. The ragged school system includes not only day schools, but Sunday schools, ragged churches, shoe-black brigade, penny banks, mothers' meetings, and a number of other departments.