

NZSG KAPITI BRANCH NEWSLETTER

December 1993

Meetings held at Paraparaumu Community Centre
7.30pm, first Wednesday February to December.
Library open at 6.45pm on meeting nights.

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CONVENOR	GWENDA COLE	298 5466
SECRETARY	BARBARA HUMPAGE	298 6970
TREASURER	JAN BONNETT	298 5834
MINUTE SEC	DEBORAH SHUKER	297 2238
MEMBERSHIP	HELEN QUINLAN	293 3599
PROGRAMME SEC	JENY HAXTON	297 0391
LIBRARIAN	ALLAN KENNING	298 5572
ASST. LIBRARIAN	VALERIE QUINLAN	293 3599
PROJECTS	CAROL PROCKTER	298 6826
PROJECTS	MARK SCHERF	04 577 2566
HOSTESS	VALERIE FREEMAN	298 7396
NEWSLETTER	GWENDA COLE	298 5466
MICROFICHE	BRIAN MOUNTJOY	297 0710

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1994.....we reconvene on Wednesday 2 February. On this night we will be bringing you displays & talks by members on the work they have done & the way they have recorded their family history. This will be of interest to everyone, & all are invited to take part. So take some time over the break to complete that project & bring it along. On second thoughts bring it even if it is not complete.

FROM OUR LIASON OFFICER'S NETWORK NEWSLETTER: WARNING!

Family Heritage Publications: This organisation is again active in this country, this time including an offer of a video as well as the book. Members are advised to be aware that the book is not of genealogical value but contains lists of worldwide family surnames.

1994 MEMBERSHIP, NZSG.....renewal notices will be mailed out to each member at the end of November. Remember that current membership expires on 31 December 1993. To ensure that you receive the Jan/Feb issue of the magazine at the usual time, the 1994 subscription must be paid by 20 January 1994.

The 1994 subscriptions are:

- Ordinary Membership \$34.00
- Joint Membership \$39.00

There is a \$10.00 joining fee for new members thus:

- Ordinary Membership \$44.00
- Joint Membership \$49.00

NOVEMBER MEETING..... A delighted audience of Kapiti members listened to Mr Francis King, Cultural Attache to the British High Commission In Wellington, our guest speaker. Never before had a speaker opened his address by bursting into song! He delighted us with his very well researched theme of the the six pauper families of Staplehurst in the Weald of Kent who were assisted by the Parish under the guidance & influence of the Rev T W Hornbuckle, a far sighted & compassionate man, to emigrate to New Zealand. The Weald of Kent was for many centuries a difficult & poor area of England where eking out a livelihood, indeed an existence for most was a difficult & thankless job. Many thousands were on a breadline existence in the 1830's, making a meagre living during the summer months & relying on the Parish for support during the harsh winters. Rev T W Hornbuckle did his level best for his poor parishioners. He started a soup kitchen & a leather working factory, but it just wasn't enough. In the late 1830's notices began to appear offering 'A Passage to New Zealand', but authorities in London opposed the Rev T W Hornbuckle's proposition to assist the most needy to emigrate, but he went ahead anyway with his plan, reasoning that the money spent in supporting these families could just as well be spent in providing their fares, a total of £118.

The provisioning of the passengers was carried out, men must have tools , & sufficient clothing had to be provided, with the co-operation of shopkeepers amongst his parish. They eventually sailed forth on the *Bolton*, arriving in New Zealand in April 1940, after a voyage of five months. Little did they know what was ahead. Wellington had little to offer, & dwellings had to be built immediately. Of the six families, **AVERY, FARMER, HUNT, NASH, PECKHAM & RELPH**, some settled well, others did not. Some families grew & prospered, others did not. Francis King discovered in the Kent Archives at Maidstone, a small notebook of the account of the six families, comprising 47 passengers, who were the subject of his study for his Diploma of Local Studies at the University of Canterbury in Kent. Francis is not a genealogist himself, but what his research revealed for us was good background for our own study of why many of our forbears took the risk of sailing across the world to this unknown land to take up new lives for their families. Francis told us of the history of the Weald of Kent from early historical times until the departure of the first voyage of the *Bolton* to New Zealand, where the Commissioners in London considered there was no British Colony, nor ever likely to be one! He read to us passages from a diary written of the voyage, & from correspondence written by one of the men.

A truly enlightening & enjoyable evening.

Francis explained to us the distinction between 'Kentish Men & Maids', & 'Men & Maids of Kent'. To the west of the River Medway live the 'Kentish Men & Maids', & on the east of the river live the 'Men & Maids of Kent'. Fascinating, but why?

OBITUARY.....ERIC VICTOR ROSE

It is with great sorrow I record the death of our member Eric Rose, on 13 November 1993. Eric had only recently joined Kapiti Branch, after moving to Waikanae from Stokes Valley. However, Eric will be well known to many of us as he was formerly Chairman of Wellington Branch, & original convenor of the Wellington Genealogical Computing Group, & had been guest speaker at Kapiti on two occasions. He was a dedicated genealogist, & had visited Salt Lake City in his pursuit of his study of the name of ROSE. Although Eric had been incapacitated by a severe stroke, he didn't give up his interests & carried a laptop computer with him to meetings. Eric had a great sense of humour & could always take a joke against himself. He will be greatly missed.

Kapiti Branch extend our condolences to Eric's family.

QUESTIONNAIRE.....thank you for filling out your pink questionnaire forms. Helen is going to analyse them to help work out future programmes & purchases for the branch library etc..

OLD PHOTO.....in the September newsletter I printed an old photo taken of pupils at Newtown School in Wellington. I took a calculated guess at the year. Our member John Weston confirms this guess, & pinpoints it more precisely as between August & November of 1910. How? Well, John recognised both his mother & her sister in the photo. John is not with us tonight as he is celebrating a Genealogical event, the 90th birthday of his aunt, one of the little girls in the picture, & will be taking a copy with him.

GARAGE SALE.....WARNING, never plan an important event the same weekend as Kapiti Genealogy plan to hold a garage sale. For the second time the weather turned against us, it couldn't have been much wetter. Thanks to those who braved the elements in wellies & macs & supported us. It certainly was 'nice weather for ducks', indeed a pair of ducks waddled right up to the garage door & peered in, but they weren't carrying their wallets. Nevertheless the day was a financial success, total proceeds to be confirmed. Our grateful thanks to those who provided goods for sale. The helpers all had a good day & all bought each others 'junk'!!

ON A CHURCH NOTICEBOARD.....

Every time I pass this Church,
I pay a little visit,
So when at last I'm carried in
The Lord won't say "Who is it?"

KEEP UP YOUR GENEALOGY 'KEEP FIT' PROGRAMME OVER THE HOLIDAYS

showing a beautiful picture of the Church & the Chantry, to give away.
(see Gwenda)

Best Wishes for a Very Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS & ALL THAT.....For many of us the idea of Christmas Dinner wouldn't be Christmas Dinner without the Christmas Pudd. How many remember as children finding a lucky silver coin or charm in their slice? I can admit to finding silver threepences. However I don't recall a pudding doll. In years gone by they were included in the pudding treasures. I do have one in my possession, it was dug out of the vegetable garden many years ago at 70 Molesworth Street, where my Grandma lived, now the site of the National Library. These tiny dolls were hand moulded from scraps of porcelain in German doll factories, & were most common from about 1850, to early 1900s, now they are an endangered species & are most likely found in collections or antique dealers shops, not puddings. There is also a slightly different version, the American 'Frozen Charlotte'. I read somewhere of 'Fair Charlotte', a vain young woman who refused to wrap up warmly when being driven to a ball in her young man's sleigh. By the time they arrived at the ball she was frozen stiff! Hence the naming of the little doll.

WISHING YOU ALL A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS & EVERY GOOD WISH FOR 1994