

Gavenda
Cole - editor

KAPITI BRANCH NEWSLETTER



NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, BOX 6, PARAPARAUMU

MAY 1996

Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms, Tararua Street, Paraparaumu, fourth Wednesday of months January to November, 7.30 pm.
Branch Library open 7.00pm. CONVENOR Deborah Shuker 297 2238
SECRETARY Valerie Freeman 298 7396 TREASURER Val Quinlan 293 3599
MEMBERSHIP Jennifer Small 293 2577 MICROFICHE Brian Mountjoy 297 0710



LOOKING AHEAD tonight our raffle will be drawn. Make sure you have tickets, this is your last chance to be in to win a copy of **FAMILY HISTORIAN'S ENQUIRE WITHIN**. 50 cents a ticket.

TONIGHT Mr John Sullivan of Alexander Turnbull Library - **THE DATING & CARE OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS.....26 June** Mr Ian Tyler of Upper Hutt Family History Library - **HOW TO USE THE CENSUS RECORDS.....24 July - WORKSHOP NIGHT.**

KAPITI COMPUTER GENEALOGY GROUP, Next meeting, Monday 10 June 7.30pm at Lodge rooms, Tararua Street, Paraparaumu.

WELLINGTON GENEALOGICAL COMPUTER GROUP, MAY meeting, Sunday 26 May, Guide Hall, Broderick Road, Johnsonville, doors open 1.30pm meeting 2.00pm.

GREAT! SUCCESSFUL! BUSY! INFORMATIVE!

Judging by the activity during our recent **OPEN WEEKEND** the above words describe the event. Thanks to our publicity officer, Rosalyn Smaill, over the two days 97 persons registered, which was an excellent turnout. From comments received and overheard most people found something to further their research and left feeling their time was well spent. Joe Cassin of course was a great attraction with his wonderful and extensive collection of Irish reference books. We were indeed fortunate to have such an expert in his field in attendance. We are very grateful to Joe for giving us his time. The NZSG Scottish and Irish library collection proved popular, and the Branch microfiche holdings were in great demand. The committee were very pleased to have the assistance of Branch members to guide researchers. We welcomed several who are members from other Branches. *Member Marion Le Pine has not missed one of our research days since joining our Branch several years ago!*

APRIL MEETING Members thoroughly enjoyed listening to Mr John McCibbon tell us how he researched his family and the way he is compiling his book. This is being given an unusual twist in that the story will contain some fictitious characters to round out the lifestyles of the true characters. He told us of his visit to Glasgow and research into the McGibbons there.

NEWSLETTERS from other Branches have been compiled into two large volumes. Masses of good informative reading here, watch for them in our library.

LANDFALL IN SOUTHERN SEAS, the 8th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry, 6-9 February 1997 to be held at Lincoln University in Christchurch. Several eminent speakers, & more than 70 lectures to chose from. Registration will be in the region of \$180.00 covering the four days. There will be no NZSG Conference in 1997.

BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO NZSG If you are not already a member of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, think seriously about joining. Membership avails you of vast resources of research material, both microfiche & hardcopy. Access to many services, ie: St Catherine's House Index of UK birth death & marriage records by mail, & certificate ordering service; postal enquiry into the 1881 Census records of Great Britain; CD ROM services including Ancestral File, IGI, Family History Library Catalogue, Australian Pioneer Indexes and more; Matching NZ Brides & Grooms index; Pre 1900 NZ Families index; publication sales, and of course the Bi-monthly magazine of the NZSG.

CENTENARY OF THE BRUNNER MINE DISASTER. Valerie & Helen Quinlan recently attended the Commemoration. Helen has contributed the following article.

At 9.30am on 26 March 1896 the Grey Valley was shaken by a tremendous explosion. Everyone stopped what they were doing & ran toward the Brunner mine. Sixty-five men died that day. The explosion did not kill all these men, but the gases following the explosion extinguished their lives. One man was found clutching his bible, which he was reading as he took a break.

One hundred years later, descendants gathered at Brunner to remember. It was a most interesting & rewarding commemoration. As genealogists we are interested in finding out about our forebears, & this event made us think about the life they led & the people they worked with - where they came from & how they met.

On the Saturday morning we gathered at the site. A magnificent three metre statue representing a miner with banjo shovel formed the centre of the monument. A re-enactment of the funeral procession began on the other side of the river & slowly made it's way across the bridge. The minister led the way followed by the coffin, mourners & a band. The slow beat of the drum was eerie - the drizzle brought forth colourful raised umbrellas, but this added to the atmosphere. Silence reigned as the minister read out the names of the men, followed by a lady singing 'The Sweet Bye & Bye', so fitting. Speeches were then given by the local Mayor, the local Member of Parliament & a representative of the Miners' Union.

That evening we gathered for finger food & a chance to talk with others. On Tuesday 26 March we gathered for a service at Stillwater Cemetery where most of the men are buried. Children of Brunner & Stillwater schools played a part in the service. They each placed a flower at the base of the monument at the head of the mass grave. The children then sang a song written especially for the event. Parents provided morning tea in the Stillwater School, our last chance to speak with the locals & to say our goodbyes.

The Brunner mine disaster is the worst industrial accident in our country's history. Even in those days New Zealanders pooled together to set up a relief fund. The first type of social welfare occurred as a result of this with the pension for the families. There were over two hundred dependants.

HOW TO DETERMINE RELATIONSHIPS

FIRST make a chart to illustrate the relationship between yourself & an ancestor common to yourself & another relative.

- Persons with a common GRANDFATHER are FIRST COUSINS.
- Persons with a common GREAT-GRANDFATHER are SECOND COUSINS.
- Persons with a common GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER are THIRD COUSINS. And so on...

BUT, WHAT ABOUT OTHER RELATIVES ?

1. Determine the common ancestor.
2. Determine how many generations you are from this common ancestor - (you are three generations from your great grandfather).
3. Determine how many generations your relative is from this ancestor.
If he is three generations also, then he is your SECOND COUSIN.
If he is two generations from your common ancestor, he is your FIRST COUSIN ONCE REMOVED, (your father's first cousin).
If he is four generations out, he is your SECOND COUSIN ONCE REMOVED.

There is an ambiguity in that FIRST COUSIN ONCE REMOVED may be either your father's first cousin, or your first cousin's child. These may be distinguished by 'ascending' or 'descending'.

(The above extract is from *The Scot's Link*, Feb 1994.)

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER COLLECTION (Wellington Branch newsletter, April 1996)

Wellington genealogists are very fortunate in having the great resources of the National Newspaper Collection so close to hand. Jubilee supplements, often published when a newspaper celebrates it's 25th, 50th or 75th anniversary, and provincial anniversary supplements are a very rich source of information.

Accounts of old settlers' lives were often written up in great detail, with descriptions of early life in their community. Two interesting examples are the Centennial supplement issue of the *Grey River Argus* (West Coast), published on 30 March 1940, and the Rangiora Golden Jubilee issue of the *Star of Christchurch*, published on 28 September 1928. These are a resource which should not be overlooked.

CORNISH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP NZSG. This group is proposing to hold a RESEARCH DAY for members in the Greater Wellington area on SATURDAY 13 JULY, 10am to 4 pm, at the FRIENDSHIP LOUNGE, JOHNSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 3 FRANKMOORE AVE, JOHNSONVILLE. Cost is \$5.00 including morning & afternoon tea, bring own lunch. Contact JAN BONNETT PHONE 04 298 5834 FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES.

HUTT VALLEY BRANCH RESEARCH WEEKEND.

A REMINDER, 15TH & 16TH JUNE, 10am to 4pm, at the dining room of Pilmuir House, Pilmuir St. Lower Hutt. Cost, NZSG members \$7.00 day, \$10.00 weekend. Phone Mrs Joan Bray for information, 04 563 5190.

NEW RESEARCH SERVICE FOR MEMBERS (FROM NZSG BI-MONTHLY NETWORK NEWSLETTER)

An order has been placed & delivery is expected within the next three months. This resource will be available to NZSG members as a postal research enquiry service similar to that provided for the St Catherine's House Indexes. Details will be published in a future issue of *The NZ Genealogist*.

IRISH CERTIFICATES ORDERING SERVICE (From Dunedin Branch newsletter, May 1996)

The Irish Special Interest Group of the Dunedin Branch are willing to provide a service for ordering photocopied certificates directly from Dublin. These certificates would cover the following time periods:

ALL OF IRELAND TO 1922, SOUTHERN IRELAND (EIRE) FROM 1922.

When placing your order you would need to know the reference number for the certificate. To obtain this reference number, the indexes are available on Microfilm at Dunedin FHC. The cost of the photocopied certificates would be approximately \$5.00. (This amount will vary depending on the number of orders placed, the exchange rate at the time & cost of the bank draft) It is hoped to place the first order by 6 June 1996. All orders & queries to Norma Bethune, 107 Bush Road, Mosgiel, 9007.

(This edition of our newsletter contains a lot of extracts from other newsletters, however we feel they are all important & interesting items).

Talking of newsletters, congratulations to Alan Kenning of Kapiti Computer Genealogy Group on his excellent productions. Don't forget Computer meetings are held on 2nd Monday of the month, if you haven't already joined, well, how about it?

"I'm catching up with yesterday. By tomorrow I should be ready for today!"

Thanks for the quote Mary, we all know the feeling!