

Kapiti Branch N.Z.S.G.

October 1998



**New Zealand
Society
of
Genealogists,
Kapiti Branch
P O Box 6,
Paraparaumu.**

Meetings held at
Masonic Lodge
Rooms,
Tararua St,
Paraparaumu,
4th Wednesdays
of months
January to
November,
7.30pm,

Branch Library
opens 7.00pm

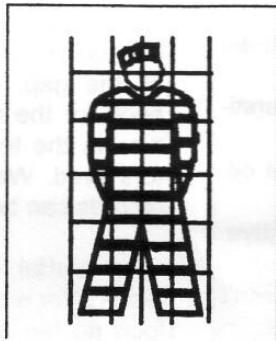
Notice Board

Genealogy Magazines - Ireland, Scotland, England, Australia - Are you interested in being part of the round robin distribution for a nominal cost? Phone John Glover 29 84936
Round Robin magazines - If you wish to be a part of the round robin, please pay your sub to John Weston, Phone 2992176.

Previews and Reviews

Tonight's Meeting:

The Kapiti Genealogy Group AGM and election of the 1998-1999 Committee will be held first tonight. It will be followed by **Angela Finnerty** who will talk about her research into convicts in NSW. She will also cover those sent to other colonies. The title of her talk will be "Convicts to Australia".



September Meeting: At the last meeting we were entertained by **Pauline Neale**. We had been waiting anxiously to

hear more of "My Dear Fanny". **Fanny Part 2** was every bit as interesting and entertaining as Part 1. Fanny Sara was an actress who came from England to New Zealand last century. Her life has been researched by Pauline through letters from her family, which are held by the Turnbull Library, Wellington, and other sources.

November Meeting: This is our final meeting for 1998, and as usual we will pit our wits against the wily Gwenda who is even now preparing one of her famous quizzes. It is party time, so **PLEASE BRING A PLATE**.

Supper Duties: To assist our Committee, we are asking members to please help with suppers, particularly the serving & washing up.

**October, O - R
November, S - Y**



Kapiti Branch 1998 Committee

CONVENOR	Deborah Shuker 299 2238
SECRETARY	Valerie Freeman 298 7396
TREASURER	John Weston 2992176
MINUTES	John Glover 2984936
MEMBERS	Barbara Humpage 298 6970
LIBRARIAN	Lindsay Smaill 2987395
	Debbie Benson 2971940
PROGRAMME	Gill Radford 2932239
MICROFICHE	Barbara Tunley, 298 6531
EDITOR	Rosalyn Smaill 2987395

From The Family History Bookshelf

**"HOW TO SAVE YOUR
FAMILY'S LIFE"** by Madonna
Dries Christensen

What's the best way to save your family's life? Preserve its collective memory in a written history.

Alex Haley, author of "Roots," said, "Each of us needs a sense of where we belong. In every family someone should take the responsibility of becoming its historian. Interview the old people, comb the attic, then write up the information and circulate it."

That historian could be you. Go ahead. . . elect yourself historian. It may be the most fascinating and rewarding job you ever undertake.

Memoir writing is sweeping the country, and it's not only senior citizens who have caught the fever. Baby-boomers are already waxing nostalgic about their youth and writing reminiscences and family history.

You don't have to be a skilled writer to record your memoirs; it's the story that's important. If the task seems overwhelming, do as Sarasota, Florida life history facilitator, Virginia Jackson suggests: "Write one story at a time: gradually you'll have a book."

To get started writing, you might join a writing class. These classes provide motivation, encouragement, and friendship. Hearing classmates' stories will trigger your own memories. You will be encouraged to write

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"HOW TO SAVE YOUR FAMILY'S LIFE"

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a story as if you were telling it around the family dinner table. Years later, your written words will reflect your voice, manner of speech, and expressions, bringing you to life for those who knew you and those who did not.

Class instructors could elicit students' memories through specific assignments, or props such as a roller skate key, a tattered hat, or a locket. You will be asked to stretch your mind and use all five senses to add flavour to your story. If you are writing about the North Dakota wheat harvest, don't stop with how the golden waves of grain looked. Lin's voices in the field. Recall how the grain felt on your skin as you waded through the field. Describe the taste and aroma of bread baked from freshly ground wheat. Vladimir Nabokov said, "Nothing revives the past so completely as a smell that was once associated with it."

While most memoirs are written to pass on to family members, some writers also derive satisfaction from having stories published. Many areas have local publications or newspaper columns where memoirs can be submitted. There are magazines as well: "Good Old Days," "Reminisce," and "Yesterday's Magazine." Ned Burke, editor & publisher of "Yesterday's Magazine," began his publication twenty-five years ago with the philosophy that, "Everyone has a yesterday, and everyone, regardless of age, has a cherished memory worth telling. Our goal is to preserve as many as possible."

Committee News

A Vote of THANKS!!! A number of committee members are standing down this year. We would like to thank **Deborah Shuker, John Weston** and **Gill Radford** for jobs well done over the past year/s.

Going To Good Homes: Norwick/Norfolk, Scottish Highland and Lower Hutt Newsletters - see Barbara on the Sales Table.

Schools Rolls: Many thanks to all who have and are helping with the School Rolls Projects. Steady progress is being made, and we look forward to an early completion.

No matter how ordinary your life may seem to you, your past is unique and important. Alex Haley adds, "When an old person dies, it's like a library burning." Don't let your library burn. Furthermore, don't let it go unrecorded. Write it, videotape it, use whatever medium you feel most comfortable with. Your collection will be a gift to others that will be treasured long after you depart this life.

It's also a gift to you. Your journey to the past will exercise your mind, body, and soul. It will give you a sense of purpose and fulfilment, a better understanding of your identity, boost self-esteem, and promote emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.

Madonna Dries Christensen is the past editor of "Doorways," a memoir magazine, and is currently on the advisory board of the same publication.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE

2000 B.C. - Here, eat this root

1000 A.D. - That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.

1850 A.D. - That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion.

1940 A.D. - That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.

1985 A.D. - That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.

2000 A.D. - That antibiotic doesn't work anymore. Here, eat this root.

From the Internet

CIRCUMVENTING COURTHOUSE DISASTERS

(This is an American article, but the principles in family history research are the same everywhere. Editor)

While fires, floods, tornadoes and wars have destroyed many records that genealogists need, never accept as the final word that "all records were destroyed." Usually after a disaster, county officials attempted to reconstruct the missing information. County residents were urged to bring documents of previous transactions and events into the county office so they could be rerecorded.

Officials seldom mention alternate records that are available. Many clerks do not know the history of the records of their own county. Few county officials, or clerks, especially, are familiar with all the records which have ever existed in his or her particular courthouse. As a genealogist

1998 Calendar

October 28: AGM, plus Angela Finnerty of Palmerston North on "Convicts in Australia"

November 25: End of year HIJINX...

January 27: Sue Green, President of Otaki NZSG Branch for 10 years will talk on **Pre-1900 Families**

March 24: Lyane Kendall and NZSG Strays Index

Porirua FHC's hours are:

Monday	10 am to 3pm
Tuesday	10 am to 3pm
Wednesday	10 am to 3 pm
Saturday	10 am to 2pm

Librarian:

Debbie Nicholson, Ph 04-237 5412

you must learn what records exist because nobody else will tell you.

In most states title and abstract companies have a set of records that are similar to the property (land) records that were recorded at the local county courthouse. These are usually in condensed or abstracted form, but can fill the gap. Consult the telephone book for the name of these companies in the town where your ancestors lived. Warning: Access to such records can be expensive.

The partial equivalent to probate records for a county may be found by locating the private papers of attorneys who practised law in that county. Learn their names by consulting old city and business directories or the state bar association records for the time period of interest. These collections usually are known to local or state historical societies, and sometimes these papers will be found in the special collections of university libraries.

Whenever a new county was formed it had to set up its own system for keeping records. Often it created a duplicate set of records from the parent county. Look for some of the very early records for a county in its parent county. Often state libraries and archives have miscellaneous county records and you never know what "miscellaneous" includes until you look. So, search the catalogues and ask the archivists or librarians for suggestions. You just might find something valuable buried in those "miscellaneous" files.

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, CG