

**KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.**  
**New Zealand Society of Genealogists**  
**P.O. Box 6, Paraparaumu**



Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms,  
Tararua Street, Paraparaumu  
4th Wednesdays of months January to November at 7.30 pm  
**November 2001**

*WISHING YOU ALL A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN THE  
NEW YEAR!!*

**PROGRAMME**

- Nov 28th** Christmas Party. Speaker Jan Bonnett on her travels  
**Jan 23rd** Our first meeting of 2002. Just wait and see what comes!

**NOTICES**

- SUBS ARE DUE!** Still \$15 single & \$25 double  
**LIST OF NAMES BEING RESEARCHED.** Barbara Humpage is holding a book, listing names that members are researching. Other members may have links here.  
**LDS FAMILY RESEARCH CENTRE,** Porirua will be closed from 17th December 2001 to 21st January 2002  
**GARAGE SALE.** We propose holding a garage sale in March 2002. Please save any goods that could help with this and advise any Committee member. More details later  
**LUCKY DRAW** Your Committee proposes have an occasional Lucky Draw at some meetings. You have to be there and also be a financial member to participate

**Supper Helpers**

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper duties, particularly the serving and washing up

**Nov M-O - Jan 2002 P-R**

**Any German Roots?** Here is an offer to research in Germany:-

"I am a German hobby (amateur) family researcher and I get your Review since two years, but yet without much success for me. I am researching on some emigrants from Germany and what happened to them.

In contacting some American family researchers I noticed that they have often the problem of not knowing where their forefathers came from in Germany. So I have collected for the last year all emigrants around our region based on the publication in the newspapers and the documents for getting their passport for emigration.

No I have more than 5,000 emigrants in my database and my question is, if you would like it to publish a link in your Review, so that American family researchers are able to find the connection in Germany. My database of emigrants is on the following Website:

<http://grossmann.freehomepage.com/auswanderer.html>

Please kindly bear/understand with me, that I am not able to do further research if anyone finds a match in the database. What do you think about my offer?

Ortwin Andreas Großmann Joring@gmx.de

[Review Editor's note: we think this is a generous offer and one that is representative of genealogists around the world and their willingness to compile and share data. If you find an ancestor in Großmann's database, kindly let him know, but please honor his request and do not ask him to do additional research for you]

(Kapiti Editor's comment: This was obviously sent to the USA, but perhaps it is of interest to some of our members?)

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**YOUR NEW COMMITTEE** held its first meeting last week amid much discussion and laughter which bodes well for the coming year. We hope you enjoy the results over the coming year.

**NEWSLETTER - NEW FORMAT** We have mentioned it before that our newsletters next year will be formatted for e-mail, which means that those of you who have this means of communication will get your newsletter **before meetings** provided, of course, that the Treasurer has your e-mail address. Currently over a third of our members do. So we will be going back to the bigger pages (A4) instead of our little one. Please just bear with your Editor while she comes to grips with this!

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### **Weekend wedding break**

Gretna Green in Scotland used to be synonymous with so-called "quickie marriages". Up to the not too distant past couples desperate to marry speedily, and mainly from England or Wales, used to elope to Gretna Green, and to other places just over the border into Scotland, to take advantage of the more lenient forms of Scottish marriages. Places like Gretna, Coldstream, Lamberton Toll, Chain Bridge, Paxton, Ayton and Ladykirk, etc., sprang into prominence after clandestine marriages south of the border were abolished by the Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1753, effective from 25th March 1754.

But how many family historians realise that Portpatrick, a tiny coastal community in what is now Dumfries and Galloway, was also noted for providing a similar service to Irish lovers? Auriel Richards of Peterborough very kindly reminded me of this when she sent along a photocopy taken from one of the 1986 copies of *People's Friend* which mentions Portpatrick's marriages of convenience under "An Irish Gretna", as follows:-

*Until 1849, steamers from Donaghadee in Ireland, sailed the twenty-one miles to Portpatrick in Wigtownshire, and the town became something of an Irish "Gretna" Couples would land on Saturday, have their banns called on Sunday and marry on Monday. However, the danger of severe gales led to Stranraer being developed as the main port and, gradually, the harbour of Portpatrick silted up.*

As far as I can recall, there was a good article by Arthur Brack on this very subject in the Society of Genealogists' *Genealogists' Magazine* for June 1984  
If you can't find a marriage for a couple from the Lisburn, Bangor of Belfast areas of Ireland, or even further inland, before 1849, then Portpatrick could easily be worth a try.

From *Family Tree Magazine* September 2000

### **Dorset Migration Index**

We want to find out if immigrants came to your area from Dorset, England? When did they come? Where did they come from? Where did they settle? Can you tell us their histories?

*For more information and forms see our WEB site :*

[www.dorsetmigration.org.uk](http://www.dorsetmigration.org.uk) or e-mail:

[info@dorsetmigration.org.uk](mailto:info@dorsetmigration.org.uk)

The Dorset Migration Index is a Somerset & Dorset Family History Society Project run by the West Dorset Group in the West Dorset Research Centre at 45 West Street, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3QW U.K. We are open to visitors.

Telephone\_44 1308 458061

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*Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people (Really?)*



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2002

CONVENOR	John Glover	902-2486
SECRETARY	Valerie Freeman	298-7396
TREASURER	Shirley West	293-4438
MINUTES SECRETARY	Doreen Heron	902-1918
LIBRARIANS:	Debbie Benton	902-4940
	Meryl Opie	298-8737
PROGRAMMES & GRANTS	Angela Milsted	299-0338
HELP DESK	Valerie Freeman	298-7296
SALES	Barbara Humpage	902-4979
MICROFICHE	Barbara Tunley	298-6531
HOSTESS/SUPPER	Doreen Heron	902-1918
PUBLICITY	Gerald Twiss	902-0926
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Alison Procter	904-3229
PROJECTS	Marydell Haddock	298-7254

### Am I Really Me?

I started out calmly, tracing my tree,  
To find, if I could, the makings of me.  
And all that I had was Great-grandfather's name,  
Not knowing his wife's nor from whence they both came.  
I chased him across a long line of states,  
And came up with pages and pages of dates.  
Then all put together, it made me forlorn,  
Proved poor Great-grandpa had never been born.  
One day I was sure the truth I had found,  
Determined to turn this whole thing upside down.  
I looked up the record of one Uncle John,  
Then found the old man was younger than his son.  
But then when my hopes were growing quite dim,  
I came across records that must have been him.  
The facts I collected - they made me quite sad,  
Dear old Great-grandfather was never a Dad!  
I think someone surely is pulling my leg,  
I'm not at all sure I'm not hatched from an egg.  
After hundreds of dollars I've spent on my tree,  
I can't help but wonder if I'm really me

*This was originally published in The Exchange, the monthly newsletter of the Genealogy Exchange & Surname Registry <<http://www.genexchange.org>>*