

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



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Newsletter April 2010

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 27 April Kapiti branch meeting
7pm for 7.30pm AGM

Saturday 1 May Help with your research @@ APFHC
10 am to 12 noon Alison Procter Family History Centre
(upstairs, Paraparaumu Library)

Monday 10 May Computer-friendly genealogy
7.30pm Using PDF files

Looking ahead

Tuesday 25 May Kapiti branch meeting
7pm for 7.30pm Speaker: Historian Warwick Johnston
"People arriving in the region"

Wednesday 2 June Help with your research @@ APFHC
1pm-3pm Alison Procter Family History Centre
(upstairs, Paraparaumu Library)

Monday 14 June Computer-friendly genealogy
7.30pm Using Scotlands people, paying for and downloading certificates

Venue: Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu except where noted otherwise. For meeting dates of special interest and user groups, see page 4. You can see the year's programme on our website.

This month it's the AGM - but wait, there's more!

We are looking for some new faces for the committee. Why don't you join us? We value those who serve and those who have served. We have job descriptions of the portfolios available on the website so you can see what needs to be done. Please contact any of the current committee members to find out more. Nominations can be made at the AGM, but showing your interest before then would be a great help!

The Annual Report and Financial Statement will NOT be available at the meeting, but will be delivered before the meeting to members who receive a paper copy of this newsletter and available on our website to everyone.

After the AGM, four committee members will hold a panel discussion about what successful tools they used during the past year to help them with their research. This is an opportunity for members to participate by describing their own search challenges and to learn from the experiences of others.

Special General Meeting for NZSG

As you know, we have been active in the debate about the NZ Society of Genealogists that has resulted in three Special General Meetings, being held on Friday 30 April. The time to lodge proxies has passed, but if any of you are going to be in Auckland on the day, please dig out those papers and refresh your memory on some very important issues for the Society which are to be discussed at the meetings.

The Society rules require 100 current financial members for a quorum. We hope those closer to the meeting venue will attend to exercise their membership rights. If those who were at the facilitation meeting can also attend and bring along another member, the numbers should be healthy. The meeting is on Friday 30 April at the Fickling Convention Centre, Hillsborough Room, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland. **Registration from 2.30pm, meeting commences at 3pm.**

Military Research

April and Anzac Day, and it's time to look at military records. Kapiti branch research officer Sue Greene has a long list of websites relating to military records. Here are just a few of them.

Almost all New Zealand military records for the South African War (1899-1902) and WWI (1914-1918) have been transferred to Archives New Zealand in Wellington. _
www.archives.govt.nz/

The NZ Defence Force Archives still holds files of South African and WWI veterans who continued to serve after 1 January 1921 or who re-enlisted to serve during WWII (1939-1945). nzdf.mil.nz/personnel-records

Embarkation database - NZ in the South African ('Boer') War <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/>

The New Zealand Division 1916 - 1919: A Popular History Based on Official Records <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-WH1-Fran.html>

Ypres Summary of events (NZ and England)
<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~dccfarr/summary.htm>

For soldiers who were killed, these next two websites give a wealth of information. Cenotaph <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/general/BasicSearch.aspx?DatasetID=264>

Commonwealth War Graves
Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/>

For soldiers who served in the Maori wars, read "Discharged in New Zealand", a book in our branch library.

British Army service records of soldiers discharged between 1760 and 1913, known as Chelsea Pensioners, are now available through findmypast.co.uk. Kapiti Branch has a subscription to this website, available only on PC 2 at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (upstairs at Paraparaumu Library).

Another brickwall crumbles

My wife's great-grandmother, Jane Edwards, arrived in Wellington with her family in 1842. Born in Somerset, she was eight years old when she first set foot in New Zealand. Her father was an agricultural labourer who became a farmer and landowner in the Wairarapa, an impossible feat in England with its rigid class structures. Jane lived to the ripe old age of 97, had two husbands and 11 children, living much of her life in spartan and isolated conditions – the epitome of the stoic pioneer women who contributed so much to our kiwi heritage.

I use several mailing lists and genealogy websites to share details of our families with a wider

audience. Ancestry.com is one of these and I have a subscription to their UK records. Our family tree of the Edwards have been on this site for some time but go back only one generation from Jane's father, Robert.

Out of the blue came a message from an Edwards relative who lives in England and had seen our records. She has done extensive work on the Edwards line, including visits to the village of Witham Friary and surrounding areas, where several generations of the family lived. In her words, this small village with a 12th century heritage is largely unspoilt and she can almost see and hear her ancestors going about their daily lives. She has got back three more generations, using parish records and local information, to Phillip Edwards, born 1652 in Cornwall.

So families did shift around way back then, probably following the job market and at some stage there was a move to Somerset. We believe several generations were of agricultural labourer (aka peasant) stock. Another relative emigrated to the US and we have shared stories of our pioneer ancestors.

Another direct relation in the UK and also an ancestry.com subscriber has recently joined the sharing of information. To me, family history comes alive when you can develop contacts like this, and particularly with those nearer to the locations from which our ancestors came. I strongly recommend using mail lists and genealogy sites for sharing information and meeting up with relatives you didn't know existed.

- Clive Palmer

Have you broken down a brickwall recently? Email the editor with details to include your story in a future newsletter. You may give other members new ideas for tackling their own.

Branch notes

Official AGM notice – 27 April 2010

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirm 2009 AGM Minutes
3. Business arising from the Minutes
4. Branch Report for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010
5. Financial Report for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2010/2011
7. Election of Officers and Committee*
8. General Business

*Nominations are called for a **minimum** of five Committee Members, including the positions of Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominees, Nominators, and Seconders must all be members of NZSG, whilst Nominators and Seconders must all be members of Kapiti Branch. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. While nominations will be received at the AGM, members are encouraged to submit these beforehand so that credentials can be checked.

Dave Muirhead
Secretary, Kapiti Branch

New members

A warm welcome to Peter FINLAY, Angela REYNOLDS, Vic JAMES, Ted MAGUIRE, Martin FAHEY and Robyn USMAR who have all joined the branch since the last newsletter. Welcome back to former member Viti BURSON, who has rejoined us.

Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **N to R** please be at the April branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In May it will be someone else's turn.

Help with your research

Experienced members provide volunteer research help every Wednesday morning, from 10am, at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC), upstairs at Paraparaumu Library.

Can't make it Wednesday morning? Don't know what's among our resources? You can have a one-on-one introduction to resources at APFHC - books, microfiche, CDs, computers and internet access. Contact Clive Palmer (see committee list below) to arrange a time.

You've done some research, but now you're stuck. When you don't know how to proceed, contact the branch Research Officer, Sue Greene, for ideas. She'll need details in writing of what you know and what you've tried so far. See contact details below.

Interest and User groups

The 2010 programme for the Computer-friendly genealogy group, and all other user and interest groups, is on the branch website. On the main page, click programme. On the next page, click on Interest and User Groups.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/

Legacy (database software)

meets: every two months on Saturday
next meeting: 24 April, 12.30 to 4.30pm contact Gerald Twiss 902-0926 _
gero@@ihug.co.nz

Family T ree Maker (database software)

meets: quarterly on Saturday
next meeting: 24 April, 9.30am to 12.30pm
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see page 4)

Scottish interest group

meets: quarterly on Saturday
next meeting: 1 May, 9.30am to 12.30 pm contact: Trish Mallia 293-3966 _
tmallia@@xtra.co.nz

Computer friendly genealogy

meets: monthly, second Monday next
meeting: 10 May 2010, 7.30 pm
contact: Sue Greene (see page 4)

Irish interest group

next meeting: Saturday 8 May, 10 am APFHC
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see page 4)

Australian interest group

meets: monthly, third Tuesday, 10am to 12pm next meeting: 18 May, APFHC
Contact: Deborah Shuker 905-2238 shuker@@xtra.co.nz

APFHC = Alison Procter Family History Centre (upstairs at Paraparaumu Library)

On the web

Presbyterian Church archives
www.archives.presbyterian.org.nz/

Committee			
Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz	904-3276
Secretary	Dave Muirhead	kapiti@@genealogy.org.nz	905-3170
Treasurer/Membership	Lorna Henderson	lornamoaa@@gmail.com	293-7771
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