



Kapiti Branch

August 2004

KAPITI BRANCH

26th August Lynly Yates, Archives Officer NZ Defence Force Personnel Archives, on the use of those records for family research.

23rd September possible research evening

28th October Annual General Meeting

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP

13th September: Using the Group's CD-ROMs

11th October: Wind-up meeting (in lieu of AGM) followed by Adding Your Genealogy to Web Pages

8th November: Publishing your genealogy

13th December: 1. Backing up Files & 2. Review of the year's programme.

Thanks go to Gwenda Cole who has donated a large collection of old NZ Telephone Books to our Library. Also to Brian Mountjoy and Fred Howell for back issues of "Family Tree Magazine" and "Practical Family History" respectively.

Convenor's Comment:-

As I reported last month, the Kapiti Genealogy Computer Group is to merge with the Branch, effective from our respective AGM's in October. We have had our first Committee meeting with co-opted KGCG representatives and the basic guidelines for the merger have been agreed. Welcome to COMPSIG - the Computer Special Interest Group!

A sub-committee of 3 persons will be appointed to run it. The current monthly programme for 2004 will be honoured. From 2005, COMPSIG will organise meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December. ALL Branch members may attend and there will be no additional subscription. As for Branch meetings, visitors pay a door charge of \$2. During the year COMPSIG will also contribute to several computer-for-genealogy focused meetings of the Branch. Space will be set aside in the Branch Newsletter each month, for computer related items. The KGCG bank account will be closed after the group's AGM and funds remaining transferred to the Branch account as a dedicated fund to be used for computer related activities. All tangible property in the form of hardware, software, CDs, books and other items will be integrated into the Branch research holdings at the Public Library.

The second major item of news is a change of venue for Branch meetings in 2005. The meeting room at the Public Library has proved less than ideal for many of our meetings. With an increase in attendance of members, a demand for more research-oriented meetings, access to projection facilities and inadequate supper facilities, the venue has been stretched. We circulated an opinion survey last month to seek your views and these were further discussed at the July Branch meeting. There was an overwhelming vote to move to the Community Centre just a short distance from the present venue. Members were not overly concerned about a likely change to a new meeting night, appreciating it would be impossible to satisfy all. Furthermore, with our research facilities open throughout the week during Library hours, there was no longer a need to have access to them before meetings. Consequently we have booked the Pack' N Save Room, on the 4th TUESDAY of the month from January 2005. The general view was that we should retain meetings towards the end of the month, but this was the only night available for booking. The facilities are very good, we have access to storage space, and there is plenty of well-lit parking. Some members expressed concern at the possible increase in hire costs, but I am delighted to advise that the Centre Management have agreed to the same rental fee as we are currently paying at the Public Library.

As a taste of things to come, we will hold our final meeting of the year, TUESDAY 30th November at the Community Centre and will post details later.
Clive Palmer

Notices

Venue Opinion Poll -and Next Years' Bookings Many thanks to those who attended last month's Meeting and who voted on this issue. Thanks also to those who phoned or e-mailed in their votes ahead of the event. The combined results were:- Community Centre Pak'n Save Room 53 Masonic Lodge Rooms 5
Either 1
Neither 1
TOTAL 60

2005 bookings have now been confirmed at the Community Centre for the 4th Tuesday of each month January to November (both months inclusive). Please note the changes in your diary

For 2004, up to and including October, the venue remains as at present in the Paraparaumu Library,- with the evening staying at the 4th Thursday. The venue for the end-of-year social on 30th November (ie The 5th Tuesday) is to be at the new venue, at the Community Centre, which will give members the opportunity to see the new premises.

The venue for Computer Interest Group Meetings for both 2004 and 2005 remains unaltered, and so they will continue to be held at the Paraparaumu Library - Derek Griffis

COMMITTEE VACANCIES: A reminder that the AGM comes up on Thursday 28th October. We are looking for new Committee members. How about it? There are a number of positions becoming vacant and, of course, all positions are open to challenge. Most positions are what the holder makes of them, but more hands are needed on deck to spread the workload. If interested, please approach any Committee Member or, if you prefer, phone Clive Palmer (293-7631) or Derek Griffis (293-1092) to discuss details.
(NB All Committee Members must be members of both Kapiti Branch and of NZSG)

K.C.D.C. Public Libraries Catalogue is now on-line at www.kapiticoast.govt.nz
They have a small Family History Section which complements our own and they have added a number of books we have transferred from our own collection. Our facility on the first floor of the Paraparaumu Public Library is open during Library hours: 9.30a.m to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday Wednesday & Friday. Thursday 9.30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 3.45 p.m. Catalogue information is freely available. To access personal information, or to make a book reservation, you will need a PIN number - apply for one to the Public Library in person, by phone or by e-mail

Kapiti Branch Library Resources part 2 (by Derek Griffis)

This is the second in a series of occasional articles on the various research resources available to Kapiti Branch Members, and that are held in our collection located upstairs at the Paraparaumu Public Library (the first article, on videos, appeared in the April Newsletter, and may be accessed via our website).

Access is granted to our collection on production at the Information Desk at the Ground Floor Entrance, of a current KCDC Library Card + a current Kapiti Branch Membership Card. After then signing in to the Attendance Book, keys are issued to our locked cabinets upstairs, and must be returned when you leave and sign out of the Book.

Fiche collection (NZ Births, Deaths, & Marriages)

As the total fiche collection is quite large (some 15000 fiche), it will be looked at in sections, and here we will consider the "NZBDMs". There are about 4000 of these fiche, and they form the most important and the most heavily used part of our collection. Similar collections are held in Porirua Library and in National Library, but the savings to researchers in both time and money by having these locally, alone gives full value to the Branch Membership Subscription.

A few words in general, on the practicalities of using our fiche. It is recommended that you do not take over the full use of the relevant cardboard box, as each is quite heavy and besides, to do so would be to deny access to others to the remaining contents of the box. Instead, extract only the limited number of fiche that you actually need, insert a Place Marker, and use one of the small empty plastic boxes

to hold the fiche you propose to work on at the viewer. When finished, reverse the process, and be sure to return the fiche to the correct place in the cardboard box. Thanks - mis-filed fiche are a head-ache to everyone.

Researchers have different priorities and different goals, but aside from the more obvious use in tracing back a sequence of ancestors, these fiche can also pave the way towards tracing forward the more scattered members of one's New Zealand family. Contemporary and collateral family (that is, First, Second, and even, Third Cousins) may be identified, leading on to the prospect of tracking down all distant current members of the family in this country. These fiche are, arguably, the most important single resource needed by those wishing to fully develop their NZ Family Tree, to create a framework to write their NZ Family History, and to build a comprehensive mailing list to support a Reunion of descendants from common Pioneer Ancestors

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Births 1840-1990. Indexes give year, surname, first name(s), and folio number. From 1960 inclusive, the mother's first name + initial of any second name, is quoted. For Births from 1960, searching the same surname but looking out for a matching mother's first name, may reveal previously unknown siblings.

Deaths 1848-1990. Indexes give year, surname, first name(s), and folio number. From 1961 inclusive, the age of the deceased is quoted. Care needs to be taken though in not assuming the age to be exactly as stated, as the person who was most likely to know is, of course, dead. When deducting the quoted age from the date of death to arrive at a notional birth year, allow yourself a wide margin of potential error.

Marriages 1840-1990. Indexes give year, surname, first name(s), and folio number. From 1957 inclusive, the surname of the spouse is quoted. Checking for the spouse's surname + matching folio number, will then reveal the spouse's full name. For pre-1957 marriages, NZSG members may use the Society's NZ Matching Brides & Grooms Index Service to obtain the full name of the spouse.

Maori Births, Deaths, and Marriages 1911-1961. Indexes give surname, first name(s), and folio number. Prior to 1911 Marriage registration, and prior to 1913 Births and Deaths registration, was not compulsory, and after 1961 all were integrated into the one national system.

A detailed explanation of NZ Civil Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, is to be found in "Tracing Family History in New Zealand", pages 24-53, by Anne Bromell, a copy of which is located in the book cabinets to the left of the fiche cabinet at the library. This is an excellent and most readable book, and its purchase is recommended from: NZSG (Box 8795, Symonds Street, Auckland) for \$25. The folio numbers referred to in the fiche indexes, are themselves obsolete, as they

have been replaced since the Registrar General went over to an electronic ordering system. However, the folio numbers still have their use for Births and Deaths, as reference to the "District Keys to the NZ Registration Indexes" (top shelf of the fiche cabinet) will lead to the locality of the event (which you may not have previously known), but can also help in identifying the correct entry for common names. For Marriages there are no "Keys" as a different registration system was used, and so the folio numbers are of no use in finding the locality.

Location of the correct registration entry can be quite a revelation, as it may be found for example, that "Uncle Jack" is really "Allen John", or that "Auntie Nan/Bella/Dot or whatever" is really something totally unrecognisable. The events are sometimes several years out from what had previously been believed, and some of the events occurred in parts of the country you never thought they had ever visited.

For anyone with New Zealand ancestry or family, usage of the "NZBDMs" fiche is a "must". At first you may find it all a bit mystifying, but once you get the hang of it, you will find it hard to break the habit of just popping in to the library every now and then to check out that latest idea. Regrettably, Public Holidays aside, the library is only open 46 hours 45 minutes every week!

Computer Corner:- By Sue Greene.

For many members who are lucky enough to have New Zealand research once they find an ancestor came from the British Isles they have to learn a whole new avenue of research. If your ancestors arrived in New Zealand after 1901 but were born before 1901 then you have at your fingertips the online 1901 English census. (This does not include Scotland or Ireland)

The index is free to search if you then wish to view further information it is pay to view.

You can use a credit card, or you can purchase vouchers from Beehive Books in Auckland or from the web site. I suggest you use the vouchers, they last up to six months if you don't use it all up on the one night. Censuses are a wonderful way of finding family, where they were born, how many were living in the house and can help identify a Christian name of a spouse. You may also find family living near by such as grandparents and great grandparents.

Once you have used the census this then gives you information needed for the English GRO indexes. The indexes are slowly being computerised by volunteers all around the world some of which are now online. When using the online Free BDM site ALWAYS check to see what areas have been added to the site. If you don't find the event you are looking for then you will need to make a trip to Porirua Public Library (fiche to 1930) or the National Library in Wellington (fiche to 2000) to search. If family came to New Zealand after 1891 but were born in the British Isles before 1891 once again there is an online census. (This does not

include Scotland or Ireland.) This census is on the Ancestry.com web site and the Branch can do a search for you - see July Newsletter.

The 1881 census is the easiest accessible census and free to use. Though on line, you do not need to have an internet connection, as this census has been produced on CD.

The CDs include England, Scotland and Wales. The census online free to use is England and Wales. Scotland is pay to view so using the CDs is the best way to go if you have Scottish research. This is just a small sample of how you can start your research from your own computer once back into the British Isles by using census records on your computer and the GRO records.

Civil registration started in England & Wales 1837, Scotland 1855, census records that are of use to genealogists started in 1841. Many of Ireland's census records were lost in the 1922 fire.

By using the GRO records and census records you can slowly work your way back before civil registration to using many of the parish records which can be viewed through the LDS research centres. Many censuses are now being scanned and sold on CDs which you can purchase. Below are some useful web sites to help get you started.

The web site for the LDS. <http://www.familysearch.org>

S&N Supplies <http://www.genealogysupplies.com>

Free Census <http://freecen.rootsweb.com/>

For England, Wales, Scotland & Irish research help. <http://www.genuki.org.uk>

NZSG online catalogue at <http://www.genealogy.org.nz>

Ancestry.com <http://www.ancestry.com> this is a pay to view site but the Branch also has a FREE search facility

For Scottish research <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/index.php> this is a pay to view site.

The 1901 is online through the National Archives web site

at <http://www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

A Puzzle "Her. Estop. An. Dspe. Nd.a.mer. Ryh. Our. InH. Arm. Les. Sson. G. an. M. Irthl. Let. Friend. Ship. Reig. Nan. Plea. Sent. Talk. To. All. And. In Al. Lyo. U. Say. And. All. Way. Spay. You. R. W. ay"

You need to alter the punctuation (and sometimes the spelling) to get the meaning. This was found in a book amongst some papers in 1888, and given to the Isle of Wight Record Office. Anyone able to decipher this? Ed.

The Five Stages of Genealogy

1, Denial - I'm NOT related to you

2. Anger - I'm related to YOU?

3. Bargaining - O.K., I'm related to youBut only by marriage

4. Depression - You mean I AM RELATED to you?

5. Acceptance I guess I AM related to you

This article came from Ann Spiro (IWFHS M 1551 (P.O. Box 156 Applecross, W. Australia 6953 and was copied from the "Lore of the Roses", a magazine published by Thomas & Jane Rose Family Society.