



Kapiti Branch

August 2005

Conveners Comment:-

We have again been successful with an application to Pub Charities. This time an \$1100 grant for portable display boards which we will use for publicity around town, in the Library and at our meetings. As reported in earlier Newsletters, we have been able to substantially upgrade our research resources at the Paraparaumu Library with new computer hardware, books, microfiche and CD's, using grants from several sources. If you have not already done so then check out the new material.

The August 23 meeting of the Branch will be devoted to a demonstration of how to use our CD resources - 2 computers are now available at the Library - and the information you can obtain from using these research tools. We had hoped to have a speaker from Waiouru Army Museum, postponed from June, but regrettably this has fallen through again.

In November, (Saturday 5 and Sunday 6, 10am to 3pm) we have reserved space at Coastlands for public open days on family history and searching for your ancestors. We will have static and active displays introducing genealogy and encouraging new membership. We will require help to man desks and operate our PCs and also assistance with preparing graphics for presentations and publicity. COMPSIG input too please! Let me know if you can help. We have in mind a roster over the 2 days.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel Starter Course III in September, as we have been unable to find a local computer lab facility willing to provide access for hands on training and experience. We will have another look at this next year.

Clive Palmer

COMPSIG,.-Computer SIG

FreeBMD is one of the most useful resources for anyone researching relatives who were born, married, or died in England & Wales. Constituted as a charitable trust, and supported by hard-working volunteers, the primary objective is to transcribe all of the index entries from the commencement of civil registration in 1837 up to 1910. Five years ago just 850,000 entries had been transcribed - now there are over 100 million!

Unlike 1837online, Free BMD is not a complete index of births, marriages, and deaths. However, thanks to the sterling efforts of the transcribers, coverage is now close to being complete for most years between 1837 to 1910, with the biggest gaps in the years prior to 1866 which have handwritten indexes. If you go to <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/progress.shtml> you can display charts showing the percentage of each quarter's entries that have been transcribed.

As with the census, it's important not to enter too much information when you search Free BMD. In particular you need to be reticent about specifying middle names - sometimes these were added only when a child was christened, and so do not appear on the birth certificate, and in later years only middle initials are shown in the index. Note: if you enter an initial the search will find any name that begins with that letter.

Because Free BMD is a free service run by volunteers there is limited server capacity, and searches that take too long will be rejected. In this situation the best solution is usually to search over a shorter period, but an alternative is to search the same records at Ancestry.co.uk, where the response is quicker and there are few restrictions. However the search at Ancestry is less powerful than that at Free BMD, and the results are presented in a less useful format.

Free BMD is an excellent place to start looking for the birth, marriage, or death of a relative because you can search for a precise name. For example, if you were searching for the death of the author and politician Benjamin Disraeli, you would soon discover that it was registered in the quarter to June 1881 at St George's, Hanover Square register office in London. As it happens there is only one person of that name whose death is currently recorded on Free BMD, but if you were to look for the death of Florence Nightingale you'd find there are over 100 who died between 1857-1910. However, if you happen to know that Florence Nightingale was born in 1820 you can use this information to narrow down the search.

From 1866 onwards the age at death is shown in the index, and Free BMD allows you to take this into account when you search. If you search for a Florence Nightingale who died between 1866-1910 and enter '@@1820' in the box labelled 'Death age/DoB' (date of birth) you'll get just one result - the right one (Florence Nightingale lived to the ripe old age of 90 and died in 1910.) You can also enter a range of birth years, for example '@@1819-1821'.

Because the indexes at Free BMD are incomplete, the site is most effective when used in conjunction with the complete indexes at 1837online. Start your search at Free BMD, then if you've been unable to find the relative you are seeking search the complete indexes at 1837online. Fortunately you can save yourself a lot of time and money by first checking the charts that show Free

BMD's coverage - because the quarters in which the percentage is lowest are the ones you should check first at 1837online.

For example, if Free BMD is 90% complete in one quarter, but only 10% complete in another then, when you search the complete indexes, you are 9 times more likely to find the event you are seeking in the quarter with only 10% coverage. The less pages you view the longer your credits will last!

Beginners often make the mistake of assuming that the first person they find with the right name is the one they are looking for, because Free BMD is an incomplete index it's that much easier to jump to the wrong conclusion. Before spending £7 on a certificate it might well be worth spending a few pence checking the complete indexes at 1837online.

When you're searching at Free BMD you can specify one or more counties or one or more registration districts, (this is particularly useful when you've found someone's place of birth on the census). To find out the registration district in which a town or village falls, refer to the GENUKI site: <http://www.fhsc.org.uk/genuki/> Similarly, if you've found an entry on Free BMD, but do not know what area the registration district covers, just click on the name of the district.

Whilst the primary function of Free BMD and 1837online is to provide the references that you need to order a birth, marriage, or death certificate it's easy to overlook other ways in which you might use the sites. One is to discover the middle names of your ancestors by finding their births in the index, and another is to identify children who died in infancy (and so never appeared on a census). A third is to determine an approximate birthdate - useful when, as often happens, the ages on the censuses are inconsistent.

But the best feature of Free BMD is the way you can find out who your relatives married - without paying out for a certificate! Prior to 1852 up to 4 marriages were listed on each page in the registers - after that date it was usually just 2. Once you've found a marriage entry at Free BMD you can click on the page number to find out the other people on the same page - one of whom is going to be the spouse. Usually you'll have enough additional information (eg, a first name from the census) to work out who it was.

A final note: when you search the Free BMD site you will often see a small "pair of spectacles" at the end of an entry. Clicking on the spectacles allows you to view a scan of the original index page - just follow the instructions that appear (they will be in a new window). You will find this an easy way to check for possible transcription errors, and to find other entries for the same surname.

(Taken from The new Kilbirnie Branch Newsletter)

Notices:-

Round Robins: Have you a special area you are interested in? Perhaps there are other members also searching in the same place. Have you thought of sharing resources? Our Club currently subscribes annually to "Irish Roots" and "Australian Family Connections". Interested members pay a small fee to cover the cost and then can read and pass on. The more members interested, the lower the fee. This is one way to gather information without having to pay prohibitive subscriptions. Anyone interested should contact Meryl Opie: email opiemb@@xtra.co.nz

GenGuides: Following January's interesting talk by Sue GREENE on the NZSG Record Collections, all our then existing local stocks of the relevant GenGuides:- (#41 Strays & More, #43 Pre-1856 NZ Marriage Records Collection, #44 NZSG Certificates, and #45 New Zealand First Families) were exhausted. Local stocks have now been replenished and so those who missed out may obtain them this month. They are free of charge.

Ink Cartridges: This month greater prominence is being given to our periodic reminder that we are collecting used cartridges for re-cycling/fund-raising. Any inkjet or bubble cartridge is required - e.g. Canon, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Epson.

It is time that we put theory into practice, and to see if we can turn these into cash. We have a large number of cartridges on hand, but obviously we would like more. Shortly after the August Meeting (Tuesday 23rd) these will be taken in to the dealer, so we would be pleased to receive more at that Meeting or, if that is not convenient for you, then they may be placed in our steel cabinet at Paraparaumu Library.

Let's see whether it's been worth the effort, or whether we've all been wasting our time. Other Branches have done well. You will be kept informed of the.

Derek Griffis (Secretary)

Meeting Dates & Times

Kapiti Branch:- 7.30pm, 4th Tuesday, Jan-Nov at Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (near Paraparaumu Library)

Computer SIG:- 7.30pm, 2nd Monday, of every second month in the Paraparaumu Public Library (meeting room) -Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec

Note:- The 2005 Programme of Activities is on our website [Click here](#)

Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:

The next meeting will be on Saturday 27th August 2005, at the Masonic Hall in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. Doors open @@ 1.00pm with a 2.00pm start. Subject

is "Recording Resources". The entry charge is \$3.00 (For hall hire, tea and coffee). For further details: contact Gerald Twiss: gero@ihug.co.nz or kapitilegacy@hotmail.com

Reports:-

Library Report:-

Brian Mountjoy helped me to update our Library catalogue. Instead of a reference number on the catalogue, books are now listed in alphabetical order under sections, such as New Zealand, Australia etc. The shelves are labeled accordingly. Cupboard 1 holds New Zealand, Australian, Biography and Military books while Cupboard 2 holds those dealing with U.K., Europe, Irish, General, Shipping, American/Canadian ones. This is to simplify keeping the books in order.

One of our members who was recently overseas purchased "The Genealogist's Internet" by Peter Christian, who has been researching his genealogy for about 25 years. This is a very comprehensive book with the latest edition updated in 2003, and, while realizing that technology is constantly being updated, says this can be coped with by using his web site www.spub.co.uk/tgi2/ or the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk both of which are constantly keeping up with the times.

Bert McGarry has donated a copy of the Post & Telegraph edition of their list of employees in 1946 which also includes the Roll of Honour of their employees, together with a list of passengers on the barque "Chile" voyage London to Nelson 22nd July 1874 to 26th October 1874

Alison Procter

RAF SQUADRONS

A recent welcome addition to my bookshelves at home has been the 2nd Edition, 2001, of "R.A.F. Squadrons", by Wing Commander C.G.JEFFORD, MBE, BA, RAF (Rtd).

The publication spans the period from the formation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in 1912, through its transformation into the Royal Air Force (RAF) in 1918, running on until 2000. The Fleet Air Arm, being part of the Royal Navy, is not included.

This is a reference book, and so there is very little supporting narrative other than by way of background and explanation. Its purpose is, primarily, to concisely summarise when and where any numbered squadron was Formed (and also, perhaps, Disbanded), together with a chronological sequence of all subsequent locations after, or between. Dates are usually exact, as are the dates that the squadron was equipped with specific aircraft. Squadron movements can therefore be tracked for any numbered squadron from 1 Squadron to 695 Squadron (with a

few gaps), plus 1435 Squadron all alone at the end. Within each squadron the sequence of its aircraft types can also be followed. There are no individual Squadron histories, as they are subjects in themselves.

Elsewhere in the book, by a re-sorting of the information, we can also search by either location, or by aircraft type. By location, we can examine any particular airfield or landing-ground, and find out which squadrons were based there or used it during the time of its operation. By aircraft type we can learn precisely which squadrons were equipped with any particular aircraft and from that of course, where they were located

Examples of the three sorting processes are as follow:

(1) 75 Squadron: Formed 1.10.1916 Tadcaster, BE2c Disbanded 8.4.1940. Re-formed 8.4.1940 Feltwell, redesignated New Zealand Squadron August 1940, Wellington I Disbanded 15.10.1945 Spilsbury, Lincoln B2 - transferred to RNZAF.

(2) Changi: 33, 48, 52, 81, 84, 103, 110, 205, 215, 656 Squadrons.

(3) Kittyhawk IV: Flown by 112, 250, 450 Squadrons.

In genealogy it is people we are interested in, but if those people should have been in the Air Force and associated with any particular squadron, then the location of that squadron at the time, and the type of aircraft it was flying, suddenly become relevant. We may know their squadron, but not know where it was stationed, or when. We may know where they were, and even when, but not know their squadron. We may even know the aircraft type in which they flew, but have only the vaguest idea as to the where and the when. Sometimes photos are inadequately captioned. Having only part of the information can, by use of this book, lead on to more information.

Any members seeking help in this regard are invited to contact me either by phone (2931092) or by email (griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz). Basic information required would be, say, Squadron Number and/or date-range and/or location and/or aircraft type, or variations thereof, to enable me to try and complete the full set of information. The name of the person is not required, unless it may be relevant to expanding the area of research (eg shot down on a specific date, but nothing else known).

By Derek Griffis

New Acquisitions on the Library

Australasian Genealogical Computer Index.

This index is a joint project between Australia and New Zealand which references people & events in the two countries. It is a terrific finding aid. The listing gives name, date, place, event, source, and the Genealogy Society and reference.

Included is an order form and covering letter which you can print out to help you order copies of the documents. The programme also gives an estimate of the cost.

W. W. 1 N.Z. Service personnel & Reserves Index.

This is an index of all men who had to register under the National Registration Act, 1915. It includes those called up for service as well as those who were classified as being married with one, two, three or four+ children. In some cases the information is minimal, but in others next of kin and address are included.

Who's Who in New Zealand 1938.

This is a book in electronic form listing prominent citizens and giving details of their genealogy, a photograph and their business interests.

Historical Records of New Zealand, by Robt. McNab, 1908, Vols 1&2. McNab was Minister of Lands & Agriculture in the Government of the day. Included in the volumes are items concerning early New Zealand, concerning Tasman & Cook, lists of whaling ships calling here, letters and ships logs from the 1700s and various other early documents. The two volumes are full of the history of N.Z. in the days of the 1600s to the 1840s. Copies of some James Cook's letters are also included.

Wise's N. Z. Post Office Directory of 1926.

This directory covers the whole of the country and has a good alphabetical index of the head of the house with the street & town address. Also included is a street and town index.

Stones Dunedin & Invercargill Directory for 1886.

As above but also has a gazetteer included and has a very comprehensive coverage of the area.

The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand. (Circa 1897-1908).

This is a 6 volume set covering the provinces. It has articles on & photos of, the dignitaries of the day, some early settlers, a description of the various industries, as well as a history of the main cities & towns, with some good photographs of the people and area.

The Master Name Index.

On the hard disk of the new computer is the above index. It is a huge index with tens of millions of entries. It is a list which, after you have entered the Surname & First Name, tells you where to go to see information, i.e.

Doe John 1841 Census Middlesex County.

Smith Issac 1910 BDM Registrar General Index

The index was provided by S&N Genealogy in the UK and is on the cover disk of the June issue of Family Tree magazine. S&N sell CDs of the census and parish records etc. Anyway it is handy tool if you are trying to find someone

Brian Mountjoy