



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz)

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

August 2009 Newsletter

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 25 August, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Using message boards to answer genealogy questions

Kapiti Community Centre

Saturday 5 September, 10 am - 12pm

Help with your research

Alison Procter Family History Centre

Monday 14 September, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Using online maps

Kapiti Community Centre

Looking ahead

Tuesday 22 September, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Clearances in Scotland and emigration impact

Kapiti Community Centre

Monday 12 October, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Senior Net speaker

Kapiti Community Centre

This month's branch meeting

On **Tuesday 25 August**, Clive Palmer will be telling how you can use message boards and mailing lists on the internet to find answers to genealogy queries. If you haven't used these before, you'll be surprised to discover how much they can help research. You can tap into local knowledge and get advice (and sometimes look ups) from people who live in a place you're researching, and you may be lucky enough to find someone else researching your family.

Introducing . . . Dave Muirhead, Kapiti Branch secretary

I was born and brought up in Mosgiel, 15km south of Dunedin. After schooling at Mosgiel District High School and Otago Boys High School, I joined The National Bank. After working in Kurow, Dunedin and Queenstown I was transferred to Palmerston North and, after several more North Island shifts, I eventually wound up as manager here at Paraparaumu. Jeannie and I have now lived here for about 17 years, mostly in Otaihanga.

Genealogy is a recent interest. My father was born in Mosgiel and his father and grandfather came to Mosgiel/East Taieri from Scotland in the mid-1800s – from the Airdrie area, although I see that my great-grandfather was born in Arden. I now have to get myself into gear and take my research on from there.

Getting started with your family history research

Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 September, 9am to 5pm, Masonic Hall, 10 Tararua Street, Paraparaumu, \$40 for two days. Tutor: Lynne Blake, Educator, Family Research Centre NZSG

There are still some places available on this two-day course, so it's not too late to put your name down to attend. Not just for beginners, the course will also benefit those who have been

researching family history for many years. It introduces (or reminds us of) research skills for family history. While many people use the internet as their primary research tool, it's still important to understand the development of records and different research methods to get the best out of your research time.

The course helps with questions such as:

- Where do you start to answer your questions?
- What are you looking for and why? (What are your questions?)
- Where might you find what you are looking for?
- How do you record this information when you find it?
- Where do you file all this information?

We also explore using your computer

- What genealogical programmes are available?
- How can you use them for recording?

Then we look at what to do when you have all that information.

- Share it on the net?
- Write your 'Family History' book?
- Organise a family reunion?
- Or just enjoy the hunt?

For more information contact: Hanley Hoffmann 04 904-3276, Dave Muirhead 04 905-3170 or [Kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz).

Why not join NZSG?

Those of you who belong to the branch as associates are not members of our parent body and are missing out on heaps of resources and research help. Why not consider an upgrade, particularly if you feel your confidence level has reached a point where wider access to resources could be useful?

The engine room of the society is the Family Research Centre in Panmure, Auckland, but a team of volunteers can search appropriate resources for members no matter where they live. The NZSG library collection has a loan service and requests can be made online. Members also have online access to a huge database of material with links to other agencies. Go to the Society's website at www.genealogy.org.nz and browse through the information on resources available and how to join. There are also items that can be purchased.

Key information about the resources is also contained in a series of 'Gen Guides' and you can pick these up at monthly branch meetings or at our research days at the APFHC. Application forms for membership are available at the APFHC and other district libraries. The society's journal *The New Zealand Genealogist* is published six times a year with further information on services available, updates of international genealogy news and local stories. There are special interest groups with ethnic and geographical focus. A member email message board allows information sharing and requests for assistance. Put the icing on the cake now and become a full member of both the branch and our national body!

Book review - Google your family tree: Unlock the hidden power of google

by Daniel M.Lynch, 2008. 340 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9820737-1-1

www.googleyourfamilytree.com

Reviewed by Derek Griffis

Google is the most used computer search engine, used for 60 percent of all online searches, well ahead of its nearest rival, Yahoo, at 18 percent. This very readable publication led me to doors that I didn't even know existed, and showed me how to open them. It taught me how to craft my enquiries to maximise results, then how to refine those enquiries to yield tightly-focused and manageable numbers of hits. It seems that 85 to 90 percent of people only use first-page results, and then, if unsuccessful, they refine their query.

We learn too that the system is not case-sensitive and we are told about Boolean commands

'AND' and 'OR', but that 'NOT' does not work and that instead we must use a minus sign immediately before the word not required. A tilde(~) immediately before a word will yield similar meanings e.g. ~genealogy yields family tree, etc. Multi-search formulae are explained with examples.

Chapter 3 on Advanced Search was too challenging for me, but I have no doubt that others will have no trouble. Subsequent chapters deal with foreign languages, books, news archives, blogs, images and videos, alerts, and maps, to name a few. Both the experienced and the inexperienced stand to achieve a great deal more with their online searching efforts by drawing on the information in this book.

I obtained my review copy on three-week interloan for \$5 via Waikanae Library. National Library in Wellington holds a copy that may be sighted but not borrowed. To purchase: \$52 + \$5 p&p from Beehive Books, Box 25025, St Heliers, Auckland 1740 or phone (09) 521-1518 or email [sales\(at\)beehivebooks.co.nz](mailto:sales(at)beehivebooks.co.nz). I have just recommended to KCDC Libraries that they buy a copy for public lending.

Branch notes

Branch meeting report – July '09

Research evenings such as this one give members a chance to pick the brains of others in the branch who have experience in different areas of research, and to see what research resources are available. In July the main research areas were Europe (with an emphasis on Scandinavia) and North America. Online databases were available. A sales table of genealogy-related material raised \$71.80 for the branch. Unsold material has been donated to the Waikanae book fair.

Archives tour

Nine of us met at Archives New Zealand on Thursday 13 August for a tour of the archives collection. Down in the third basement, we got an idea of just how much material is stored there – on floor to (high) ceiling shelves (those ones that can be moved along so you don't need aisle space) running from one end of the long building to the other.

We saw genealogy-related documents such as the intention to marry entry for Edmund Percival Hillary, apiarist, and his wife-to-be; a codicil to Katherine Mansfield's mother's will, where she disowned Katherine because of the way Katherine behaved while she was living overseas; mug shots of Wellington criminals from the early days – featuring great quantities of facial hair and each man's hands spread on his chest, so any missing fingers could be noted; and a book published for police use during WWI naming all aliens living in New Zealand. Those of us who didn't have a current reader's card signed up and got to work in the reading room, to see what we could find.

Members' interests survey

Have you completed your members' interest survey yet? Listing the surnames, places and periods you are researching may put you in touch with others researching the same subjects. Send your completed form by email to Clive Palmer at [c-mpalmer\(at\)xttra.co.nz](mailto:c-mpalmer(at)xttra.co.nz) or by post to "Members' Interest Survey", P O Box 703, Paraparaumu. The deadline for submitting these is Friday, 28 August to be in this year's list. Mislaidd your form? Contact Derek on 293-1092.

Could you be a computer helper?

Are you mystified by computers? Would you like to be able to plug one in and connect it to a data projector? Free training is available in return for assisting our Computer Support Officer, Lindsay Olsen, in setting up and putting away computers at branch meetings and/or computer-friendly genealogy meetings. No experience required, and no payment given, but your extra pair of hands would be much appreciated. This could be a job-sharing position, if more than one person volunteers. No heavy lifting is required. Please contact any committee member if you can help out.

New members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter: Beryl STEPHENSON, Sue WILLS, Wendy ARMSTRONG, Brenda JOHNSTONE and Patricia STARR.

New meeting registrar

Thanks to Mary Braddock for taking on the role of meeting registrar. Those who attend branch meetings will soon get to recognise her as the friendly face behind the tables of nametags.

Tea makers for August meeting

If your surname begins with the letters **A or B**, please be at the August branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In September it will be someone else's turn.

On the web

Online Parish Clerks

Online parish clerks are a growing group of volunteers worldwide, providing free information about a parish, its people and history, to family historians. Type 'online parish clerk project' into a Google search and see what comes up.

Tasmanian family history portal

Searchable indexes to all kinds of records for Tasmania can be found here.

www.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/familyhistory

Limerick Burial Registers

Limerick (Ireland) City Council burial registers for the city's largest cemetery, Mount Saint Lawrence, are now available online.

www.limerick.ie/Press/LimerickBurialRegisterOnline/

Ships' passenger lists

TheShipsList website has 3000 free pages of immigration reports, newspaper records, shipwreck information, ship pictures, ship descriptions, shipping-line fleet lists and more, as well as hundreds of passenger lists to Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. New information is added regularly.

www.theshipslist.com/index.html

Canadian veterans

Searching for someone in Canada who served in WWII? The Royal Canadian Legion has an online database of 130,000 former servicemen and women who have died since January 1989.

www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost

Committee as at August 2009

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz	904-3276
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