



Kapiti Branch

February 2004

Convenor's Comment

My wife and I recently met an old friend from England on her arrival at Auckland International Airport at the start of a 3-week stay with us. That meeting and subsequent experiences as we showed off the North Island, invoked a whole set of thoughts about our nation and the role of genealogy in helping us relate not only to our past, but also to our present dynamic society. Rich ethnicity, immense biological and geological diversity are major attributes of the country we live in.

The first reinforced by a 2 hour wait at the airport on a busy Saturday midday with 5 flights from Asia and the Pacific landing one after the other. Watching those coming through eagerly seeking a familiar face, tourists and families alike. Welcoming ceremonies abounding. The new age ethnic mix of our largest city dominant. Then later with our guest in Rotorua, we joined other nationalities on a marae to a powhiri, welcoming ceremony and hangi, honoured to be reminded of the deep spiritual relationship our Maori people have for their ancestors, a recognition of their current place in time and the role of the whanau - the present extended family. Genealogy abounds.

A yachting day on Auckland harbour and visit to Devonport village, to Rotorua, then past the biggest recorded volcanic explosion in human times - Lake Taupo. On to Ohakune and the huge form of Mt Ruapehu dominant and walks to the waterfalls that come down off that mountain. To Wellington on a day of cloud and sunshine, a taste of the café society and stunning views from Mt Vic of the harbour and City. A quick sort to Te Papa to help explain our place in awesome geology, our immigrant history and socio-economic development.

Co-incidentally we had two family gatherings, one near Napier (vineyard) and another outside Wanganui (sheep and cattle farm), which gave us an excuse to show off something which we both grew up with - real NZ and the agriculture that remains the economic mainstay! A trip across the 'Gentle Annie' from Napier to Taihape with 40kms of un-tarred road, the largest sheep station in the NI, rolling country, bush, steep gorges, just as we knew it. Then on to Wanganui through that steep winding King Country terrain.

Our visitor was 'gob-smacked' by this diversity, the friendliness of NZers, the changeable weather, our propensity to travel (to UK-ites) long distances in a day, low traffic volumes (even in Auckland), the green-ness, more sheep and cattle than ever seen before, stunning scenery (yes she's still to do the S.Island), and

interestingly commented on how we are quick to relate to our multi-cultural ancestral history.

This is the background to the genealogical picture we will hand down to our descendants. Many of our ancestors came to NZ from deprivations of one sort or other. Life was tough for many early immigrants in their new environment. We can be thankful for that pioneer spirit from which we now reap so many benefits.

Notices

This is your last newsletter if you have not paid your subscription

Help Wanted. Marydell has been working on the school rolls for this area and could do with some help with the checking or inputting the information. Her phone number is in the Committee list at the end of the newsletter. Please contact her if you have time to spare and are willing to help.

Scottish Interest Group Meeting is to be held at Thompson House, Levin on 27th March 2004 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission \$3. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea provided. Contact person Catherine Anderson (06)368-5657

Scottish Interest Group (Wellington Region), meetings for the year, February 21st to be held in the LDS rooms, , 3rd April, door charge \$2 and 11th July. Porirua Pre-booking required.as space is limited to 15 people Contact: Pen Brown, Phone 389-7211 for details

Lynley Yates from the Defence Department will be speaking to the Palmerston North Branch on 3rd April 2004 on Military Records. She will be coming to Levin on 31st May 2004

Henry Hume will be speaking to the Porirua Branch on "Where to search the Irish Records. Admission \$5

Round Robin Our Club subscribes annually to "Irish Roots" and "Australian Family Connections" magazines. Members can subscribe to them for a small fee, to read and pass on. The more members that subscribe, the lower the cost.

If you know of a member that is unable to access their newsletter via E-mail, please let us know. It may need a different format (i.e. Words or Works etc.)

Our Twentieth Anniversary is coming up in May this year. If you have any ideas on how to celebrate, just let your Committee know.

Heritage Week will be held over Queen's Birthday Weekend and this year the theme is genealogy! So what about it, Members? We want your ideas to make it a really great show The Heritage Society hires the Southward's hall for the occasion

and we have a trestle or two for our display. As it is on genealogy, surely we should make a special effort?

My Life My grandparents arrived in New Zealand separately, met and were married here, so I suppose that makes me a third generation Kiwi. My start in life was heralded by the Hawkes Bay earthquake. Fortunately by the time I came things were getting back to normal and I was not born the temporary hospital on the Hastings racecourse after all.

A minor interest in genealogy started after the end of World War II and Grandmother's death. A piece of paper came down from her place with Grandfather's family tree going back to 1700 in Scotland, but I wasn't into following it up, what with finishing my education, learning a few office skills, and then the offer of a trip overseas, as Mum wanted to visit her family whom she had not seen for 25 years, and Dad was able to get 6 months leave of absence from school. Would I like to go with them? Would I what?? I had wanted to meet my Scottish/English relatives, and not just read about them in letters.

My parents took me over on a one-way ticket, introduced me to The Family and left me with three delightful great-aunts in Edinburgh, while they bought a car and travelled further. I worked in a bookshop in George Street for a year, then my grandparents came North, saying I had been there long enough. That was the Festival of Britain year. I stayed with my grandparents in their service flat in London for a while, then went hunting for a job and a bedsit. I was in London when King George IV died and at the time of the Coronation I was working for the building firm that built the stands under the windows of New Scotland Yard, and extra seating was put in for our staff members.

I became a member of the Royal Overseas League, which provided after hours activities, and it was there I met my future husband. In 1954 I was joined by my older brother, who had been sent over by the NZR as a young engineer. We shared the top floor in a house in Swiss Cottage until Ron and I left for New Zealand at the end of the year. We were married in my home village, lived for 6 months in Auckland, then spent a couple of years in Tokoroa, where our eldest son was born, before moving to South Australia, where we lived for 8 years. The climate did not agree with my husband, so we went to live in Queensland, where he later died. So I brought the children back to New Zealand, settled in Palmerston North, and, when they had finished their schooling and were becoming independent, I moved to Waikanae and eventually got back to genealogy.

With other members of my family researching grandfathers and my Scottish grandmother, I decided to look at my Lancashire grandmother, and how she came to be in New Zealand. Although I have not yet found out how she travelled to Sydney from Britain, her trip from there to Napier is among NZ Archives records. However, I have discovered distant cousins on the InterNet, who have added to my

files, some of which go back beyond 1700. When I was overseas on the last couple of visits, I met some of these cousins, so I have been hunting Wildman up and down the Ribble Valley (West Riding Yorkshire) where most of them came from.
Alison Procter

Articles

What Is "Nantes"

Perhaps you would have to read, an encyclopedia, of the religious upheaval that went on in France "forever", until Henry IV (1589 - 1610),(and a remote cousin of Henry the III of England,) came into power. One of his first and major tasks was to recover and reunite the kingdom as it had once been. The people as a whole would not accept a Protestant king whom the clergy refused to anoint. The Edict of Nantes, April 13 1598, was an effort to put an end to religious conflicts, as a result of long negotiations with the Protestant churches. The latter were given the right to live in the kingdom and equality of citizenship. Their worship could be celebrated privately in the houses of "greater nobles", and publically in places where it was celebrated in 1576, or where its celebration had been permitted by edicts of 1577, 1579 & 1580. These gatherings could include no more than 30 people.

As far as Paris was concerned, Protestant worship was permitted at a distance of 5 leagues from the city, rather the 10 leagues permitted in earlier Edicts. The long and short of it, was to make France a Catholic country, and made any Protestant worship totally impossible. Those who wished to free themselves from these religious restrictions left for countries where there was less interference from the politicians and royalty, etc. Thus we find people of Protestant leanings heading out for any and all countries that allowed this form of religion to be practiced. Ireland was a destination for many, and England was eventually all Church of England, mostly due to Henry the VIII, and his disagreement with the Catholic church when he wanted to get rid of wives, etc. As an example of how strongly the Protestant Church of England held on, my maternal grandparents and their ancestors were primarily practicing Catholics. England would not allow Catholic churches to be built until late in the 19th Century. The ministers of the Church of England were trained to perform basic Catholic rituals - christenings, marriages, burials, etc.

My Great Grandparents - all four sets, were Catholic, and their marriage licenses, as retrieved, indicate they were married by a minister of the Church of England, in a Church of England, but a Catholic ceremony. Those who are on this side and whose relatives 1 to 8 or more generations back, were frequently heading to America to find freedom to practice their religion of choice as well as those "streets of gold" and a better life. As many as can be found in the USA, there are still some religions that folks won't accept readily, depending especially, in which part of the country they are residing. Hope this not only helps explain, but sends you to some good computer sites on the history of France and other countries. It

almost takes this to understand this glorious melting pot called the United States.
Marjory Watts (Thanks to Barry Thomson for finding this)

The Way They Came. Early Days. At first the numbers were few, some came about one thousand years ago paddling in canoes using a sail when they could. Then the sealers and whalers followed Captain Cook's path, not many early on, but the discovery of gold in Otago brought something like 200,000 settlers in the 1860s, with nearly 46,000 in 1863 alone. In those days they were brought by sailing ships, which were being designed and built bigger and faster to cater for these increased numbers. Ten years later Julius Vogel's immigration scheme brought in another 32,000 starting in 1874 and continuing for the rest of that decade.

In the 1840s a fast passage took just under 100 days, although the White Star made the trip from Liverpool to Melbourne in 72 days on one voyage in 1852, but much was dependent on the winds. The navigators found that the quickest way from Britain to Australia was via the coast of Brazil, then down to latitude 50°S, following the Antarctic Circle, dodging the icebergs and making use of the strong trade winds, rather than taking a course close to the tip of South Africa. In 1853 all passengers were fare-paying and a cabin passage cost £25

"The Ships That Serve New Zealand" vol. 1, written by I.G. Stewart, is full of interesting facts about trading and passenger migration from the days of sail to those of steam, until after World War II. The early steamships for the antipodes were apparently used for trade from about 1879. Before then, and up to about 1883, all transport, including passenger services, was by sailing ships. But after this a regular steamship service was established between Britain and New Zealand, journeying out via the Cape of Good Hope and returning via Cape Horn. My father said he was taken to Britain in 1899 and at the age of 3 had his birthday on the Cape Horn route.

These early steamships had the disadvantage of having little cargo space, and, because of the heavy consumption of coal, required constant refuelling on the way. Also, until about 1880, they carried sails, because the steam engines were not completely reliable. However, they were contracted to make the trip to Australia in 70 days, while the average time for sailing ships in the same period was 84 days out and 93 days return, but so much more depended on the winds and weather and some could take up to 3 months, while others were lost en route.

By 1887 the world's steamships tonnage. exceeded that of sailing ships, which reached a peak of about 9 million in 1892, while that of steamships had increased more than tenfold since then

As steam engines grew more reliable and more efficient, they consumed less coal. Around the end of the 19th century, the steam turbine was adapted to ship

propulsion and its use spread rapidly as this type needed fewer men in the engine room with no coal shovelling. Deisel engines for ships were first used in 1912. (Bibliography: I.G. Stewart "The Ships that Serve New Zealand" Vol 1, Bateman's "The Illustrated Encyclopaedia of New Zealand"; "Clipship" and "Ships Through the Ages" articles taken from the InterNet)

I have been wondering how my grandmother travelled and how long it would have taken her. The only thing I have discovered so far is that the S.S. "Wairarapa" was the fastest transTasman ship of its time, and took 4 days from Sydney to Napier via Auckland. But the big questions have been "How long did it take her to travel from Britain to Sydney?" and "Was it by sail or steam?" She would have set out at the end of 1891, to arrive in Sydney early in January 1892.

Kapiti New Zealand Legacy Users Group

A successful meeting was held in Paraparaumu to discuss and form a new autonomous "Kapiti New Zealand Legacy Users Group" with 27 persons present. It was encouraging to have folk travel from Wanganui, Palmerston North, Upper Hutt, Wellington, Tawa, Kapiti - with a lady from Australia interested. This meeting was organised by Gerald Twiss, Eileen and Bill Allan, and George Watson, with Eileen in the Chair, Bill and George on the reception desk and Gerald presenting a great Datashow programme throughout the afternoon.

Questions and discussion were thrown open to the floor for constructive responses. All those present wish to set up an informal group to meet four or five times a year, but with a set programme. Unfortunately Jan Gow was unable to come down as planned. She had presented us with a comprehensive weekend programme working through 'Legacy' from the beginning. It is to be hoped we can present this later in the year. Shirley Dixon was appointed to co-ordinate the group with the above four persons agreeing to help her. Gerald requested help in the kitchen and to re-organise the room when we finished, and we wish to acknowledge our appreciation for the terrific response received and the alacrity with which these tasks were performed. In fact, the entire afternoon was carried out in a friendly atmosphere. Gerald, Eileen, Bill, George"

N.Z.S.G. Interest Groups. If you happen to be in Auckland on 20th March, there are a couple of Interest Groups holding research day meetings. I have just discovered an East Anglia one. Last month I gave details on the Southern England research day Details of other N.Z.S.G. Interest Groups can be found on their Web site www.genealogy.org.nz You can become a member of any of these specific groups on payment of an annual fee and receive their quarterly newsletters.

Round & About from other Branches. The latest Papakura Branch Newsletter has an interesting article on travelling through the South Island and what can be found in junk shops and museums. Their Convenor did not visit one cemetery but noted the names on the various War Memorials and thinking of the impact the loss of

these men had on the small communities. She advised that Alexandra has an amazing collection of photographs at their local museum which they are happy to reproduce for anyone with ties in those parts, for a small fee - people, places and events with folders for them.

Litchfield Family Reunion 10/11th September 2005 Port Macquarie, New South Wales, Australia.

To mark the 170th anniversary in Port Macquarie (1835) of Sergeant William LITCHFIELD (b. 1802-4 Derbyshire, England), his wife, Mary DUGAN and 4 of their children, a LITCHFIELD reunion is planned. Members of other Litchfield families also moved to Australia and New Zealand. They came from Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Kent, settling in Australia and New Zealand. For more information please write to Janet Dickinson, Box 8854, Mackay, Queensland, 4740 Australia or email to dickinsonjanet@@hotmail.com including some information about your connection to the Litchfield family and a stamped, addressed envelope. The idea is to treat this as a normal holiday with the added bonus of meeting up with other members of the Litchfield clan. Information found in the Canterbury Branch newsletter, Feb. 2004
Kapiti Gen-Forum

A new service to members was launched at our January Meeting. Kapiti Gen-Forum gives members the opportunity to put in writing their genealogical brick wall problems and seek the help of colleagues. And it is not limited to family history help. Some members new to the age of PCs are having difficulty in a range of uses from accessing suitable internet sites or using genealogical software, to e-mailing, reading and printing attachments and others. The new help facility covers this area also.

So no matter how trivial you think your problem is, pick up a help form from the Secretary, the Help Desk on meeting nights, or from our website