



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc

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

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

February 2008 Newsletter

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, 26 February 2008

Kapiti branch

**Parish Records (before civil registration:
1837 in England and Wales)**

Speaker: Sue Greene

7pm research facilities and help available

7.45pm main session begins

Monday, 10 March 2008, 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy (formerly known as COMSIG)

NZ Genealogy Database

(see Computer Corner item on page 2)

Speaker: Tony Cairns

Looking ahead:

Tuesday 25 March 2008

Kapiti Branch

LINZ reference room: old original land and deed registers

Speaker: Bill Carter

Monday 14 April 2008, 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

Military records and websites

Meeting venues

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu unless stated otherwise.

Need a ride to Branch or Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings? Jackie Holland will co-ordinate car pools. Ring her on 293-2296 if you would like to be picked up or if you can offer a seat in your vehicle.

For your calendar:

2008 Expo(at)Kilbirnie

Saturday 19 April 8.30am - 4.30pm at St Patrick's primary school hall on Rongotai Road, Kilbirnie, Wellington. Details in March.

NZSG Conference

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 30 May to 2 June

2008 in Christchurch. Details on page 3.

Dates for 2008

The complete list of meeting dates and topics for 2008 is available on the Branch webpage,

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

Changes to the year's programme will be updated.

Introducing . . . Clive Palmer

This month we begin introducing the people who help Kapiti Branch function.

Convenor Clive's waka 'S.S Corinthic' arrived at Wellington in August 1948. This 13-year-old immigrant came from the suburbs of Birmingham, England, with parents born in Lancashire and Yorkshire. And what a shock it was with early life and school in the Hutt Valley! Then to university and 40 years' experience in science and technology management with the tertiary, government, international and private sectors. Much travel, work and living overseas reinforced a special interest in world affairs and history, particularly in developing Asia and Africa. Combined with a paucity of parental information on his ancestry – the relatives to be seen and not heard syndrome – it was no wonder genealogy called.

The journey has been exciting but far from complete with many brickwalls and only back into the early 19th century thus far with landfalls in India, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire and Greater London. A DNA sample is somewhere in the bowels of Oxford with a grand niece working in the human genome team.

Wife Merrilee, on the other hand, is a fifth generation Kiwi of Huguenot, Somerset, Yorkshire, Sussex, Ireland, South Africa mix, with, to boot, a great-grandma arriving with family at Port Nicholson in 1842 at the ripe old age of eight, having lost her mother and baby

brother en route. Her whanau now spread around the country has traced its origins back to the 17th century.

Computer Corner

The NZ Genealogy Database

www.nzgdb.co.nz

First publicly demonstrated at the NZSG's Wellington Conference, and since presented to several NZSG branches, the New Zealand Genealogy Databases website has been gaining in popularity and receiving very positive feedback. Currently it contains over 2.6 million records, a number that steadily grows as more and more users entrust their information to the site.

The brainchild of Robert Barnes and Tony Cairns, the NZGDB concept starts with three observations: that genealogy is always a work in progress, that genealogy is a co-operative activity, and that bare family tree information is boring: it is the extras that make things interesting. The site is therefore designed to make publishing and updating family information, and communicating with others very easy. The website aims to combine the benefits of personal PC databases (FTM, Legacy, PAF, etc) with the Internet's ability to share data and to publish instantly. GED files created by the users' programs are uploaded to NZGDB, where the data may be further updated, and may be merged with or linked to others' trees.

The site's design emphasises three key themes: Control, Publish, and Collaborate.

Control: When records are added to the GDB the system marks as "Private" any records that are (or might be) of living people. Only the record owner, and those to whom he has given permission, will see these records, others will see only the public records. You retain full control of your records: you can edit, or delete them, hide them or make them public. Since you can grant permission to other specific users to see, or even update, your private records, NZGDB can be used to share your family information with your family, while sharing information about your dead ancestors only with other genealogists.

Publishing: as well as the basic GED information, you can create "scrapbook" links between your records and documents, photos, audio, and other web pages. A record of an

ancestor is therefore not limited to bare names, and facts, but can give a rich picture of the person's life. For examples, see http://www.nzgdb.co.nz/GDB_Pages/GDB2.aspx?Linkid=7b50e9c5-6376-497e-b198-3e385f92c768, and http://www.nzgdb.co.nz/gdb_pages/gdb2.aspx?Linkid=f922d2f0-2ad0-400d-a2f6-38bc0f391c1c.

Collaboration: NZGDB makes it easy to communicate with others: simply click "Contact Record Owner" to start an email to the record owner. The site encourages users to create a user profile, which may include a photo, brief bio, and details of your genealogy and general interests, so that communication is personalised, not just to a faceless email address.

The site also provides tools to locate and compare duplicate records, and to facilitate importing information from others' records (source records are automatically created) and linking and merging trees.

The traditional way of sharing information is through exchanging GED files. The problem with this approach is that the errors in one GED are incorporated into another, which is then sent on Now errors are circulating around the world, beyond our ability to recall and correct. NZGDB has a better way. Instead of copying information, others link to your record. If you later correct it, their records are instantly corrected too. The dream is that by linking instead of making our own copy we reduce duplication, and increase accuracy.

Future development

The site continues to evolve rapidly, with each month seeing new features added. The month has seen the addition of a shipping database. The wish list, which keeps growing as new ideas are suggested, includes more search options, reporting and charting options, better merging facilities, personal pages, and a lot more.

The site now charges a small fee to help pay for its expenses, although with the offset credit for supplying data most users continue to have free access.

Have a look around the website www.nzgdb.co.nz and see what you think. Could this be the future of NZ Genealogy on

the net?

Tony Cairns, Wellington

Who do you think you are?

UKTV, Sundays at 9.30pm. New season finishes 9 March.

From Coast to Coast NZSG Conference and AGM

30 May - 2 June 2008

St Bede's College, Main North Rd, Papanui, Christchurch. Registration forms were in the Nov/Dec issue of *The NZ Genealogist*. Forms can also be downloaded from the NZSG Website www.genealogy.org.nz or email [2008conference\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:2008conference(at)genealogy.org.nz) or write to PO Box 20 506 Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543.

No extra charge for non-members.

Daily registration \$70.00 per day. (Friday night and Saturday morning count as one day.)
AGM on Saturday afternoon.

Branch notes

New members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the previous newsletter:

Christine Mackechnie, Pamela Nicholson, Kathy Callaghan, Deirdre Standish, Paul & Christine Burnett, and Bernice Lindegren.

Branch meeting report

In January, Margaret Brown shared with

members the use of her extensive collection of UK maps, along with a gazetteer to help locate places and historic cyclopedias of New Zealand, which included descriptions of places and brief biographies of some early residents. Online access to ancestry.com was also available for searching the British census and other records.

Ancestry.com now on our PCs

By the time you read this, we should have access to ancestry.com on the two PCs in our research area at the Paraparaumu Library.

There's no need to book in as for the public computers, but you will still need to register to get the key for the cupboards, as log on information will be found in the PC/CD Help Booklet. We've installed a second printer so that both PCs have a printout facility. When using the PCs, please make sure you close down the machine (and printer) and turn off the power before leaving the area.

New meeting format

The new format tried at our January monthly meeting was judged a great success. From 7pm to approx 7.40pm, supper is served and our laptops are available for CD-based or online research. Facilitators provide help if needed. Gone are the schoolroom rows of seats, replaced by a small group format to encourage sharing of ideas and experiences. Then a brief opportunity to more publicly ask questions or raise points of interest. Only urgent notices will be mentioned. Scheduled guest presenters will begin about 7.50pm with the meeting to close at 9pm.

Donated research material

Our somewhat belated thanks go to Ross McCarron for the donation of a quantity of genealogical books and CDs. Some items have been absorbed into our Branch Resource Collection, while those that duplicate existing holdings will be offered to Branch Members. [If anyone else feels inspired to dispose of surplus genealogical material, please let us know.]

Genealogical Research Directory (GRD) CD 1994-2007

Belated thanks also go to Brian Mountjoy for installing this recently-purchased CD on our computer upstairs at Paraparaumu Library. All 14 consecutive GRDs are on the one CD, and may be searched simultaneously. The hard-copy versions are still available on the shelf.

1988 IGI Microfiche

We have withdrawn our set of 1988 IGI Microfiche from the cabinets at Paraparaumu Library, as the information (and much more more) can now be accessed on the www.familysearch.org website via the public computers at KCDC libraries. This has freed up three shelves in our cabinets, allowing us to reduce congestion. There are some 7000 fiche in the set. Anyone interested in having these should contact Derek Griffis on 293 1092 or email [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz)

Fundraising

We are looking at two new sources of funds for the Branch, beyond what we take in from subs, community trust grants, raffles and sales of ink cartridges. The first is books, on genealogy or otherwise, for our sales table. Please bring any you'd like to donate to a monthly meeting or ring the Sales Officer to arrange collection.

The second is more of the white elephant

variety. If you have something in good condition that you would like to donate, contact the Sales Officer or the Convenor and we'll sell it on Trade Me, with proceeds to branch funds. Your help would be appreciated.

New resources?

What would you like to see added to our Branch Resource collection? Suggestions are welcomed. If you have a particular item in mind, please pass on the name, price and source (if known) to a committee member. First priority is for New Zealand material. Suggestions received soon will be considered at the March or April committee meetings, but are welcomed at any time.

Found: After the end-of-year meeting at the Kapiti Community Centre, a signed copy of the book *Strangers and Pilgrims: The von Tunzelmann Saga* by Douglas S. Combs and Anne G. Coombs. If it's yours, ring Derek Griffis on 293 1092.

Volunteers needed

To provide the Familysearch microfilm ordering service at the National Library. Half day or full day, Monday to Friday and Saturday morning. Training provided. Do your own research while you're there. Email Hanley Hoffmann at [hdhoffmann\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz) or ring him on 904-3276.

Kapiti Branch help desk

Valerie Freeman runs our "Help Desk" at our main Monthly Meetings, but those seeking basic advice and guidance on Family History research may also ring her at home (298-7396) at any time, within reason!

Special Interest Groups:

Australia Rex Roberts phone 905-6570
[rxroberts\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:rxroberts(at)paradise.net.nz)

Family Tree Maker Hanley Hoffmann
phone 904-3276
[hdhoffmann\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:hdhoffmann(at)paradise.net.nz)

The Master Genealogist Lorna Henderson
phone 293-7771
[lornah\(at\)paradise.net.nz](mailto:lornah(at)paradise.net.nz)

On the web

New at www.findmypast.com

An index of **Great Western Railway**

Shareholders gives changes in ownership of shares. Records from 1835 to 1910. **UK**

outbound passenger lists, 1940 to 1949. Searching is free, but you'll need to pay to view details.

Can't read the writing?

The Scottish Archive Network has created a free site to help interpret old handwriting.
<http://www.ScottishHandwriting.com>

Committee 2007-2008

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