

Kapiti Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu 5254
Kapiti@genealogy.org.nz
Registered charity no. CC33988

Newsletter - February 2011

Meetings coming up

Saturday 19 February – Family Tree Maker
9.30am – 12.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre

Saturday 19 February – Legacy user group
12.30pm – 4.00pm, Kapiti Community Centre
Topic: Backing up your data and preparing for a genealogy disaster

Tuesday 22 February - Kapiti branch meeting
7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu
Mystery speaker on a genealogy topic (see below: Belonging to NZSG)

Saturday 12 March – Irish interest group
9.30am – 12pm, Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC), upstairs Paraparaumu library

Monday 14 March – Computer-friendly genealogy
7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu
Topic: Find wills and probates online

Wednesday 15 March – Australian interest group
10am to 12pm, APFHC

Thursday 17 March – WEA Family History - Researching Your Scottish Ancestors 2 pm - 4pm, Kapiti Community Centre
\$25 for Kapiti branch members (\$30 for non-branch members)
Register through WEA Kapiti
<http://www.kapitiwea.org.nz/CoursesA.html#1128>

Tuesday 22 March – Kapiti branch meeting
7pm for 7.30pm start, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu Speaker: Kathy Callaghan on discovering her Norwegian ancestor's other family

Dates for 2011 meetings are now on the branch website. Note: speakers and topics will be updated during the year as required.

Belonging to NZSG – the national society

If you belong to the branch but are not a member of our parent body, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, you are missing out on heaps of resources and research help. Why not join both? If you have reached the point where you need access to more research resources, joining the New Zealand society is a good idea.

The engine room of the society is the Family Research Centre in Panmure, Auckland, and a team of volunteers who can search appropriate resources for members no matter where they live. You can also borrow from the library collection. Members also have online access to a huge database of material, including historic newspaper collections, and links to other agencies. There are also items for sale. Key information about the resources is also found in a series of Gen Guides available at all branch monthly meetings or on research days at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC).

The Society's journal, *The New Zealand Genealogist*, is published six times a year. It has further information on the services available, updates of international genealogy news and local stories.

Application forms for membership are available at the APFHC and district libraries. There are special interest groups with ethnic and geographical focus. A member e-mail message board allows members to share information and request help with research. You can find out more at society's website, www.genealogy.org.nz.

Liz Chandler of NZSG was scheduled to speak at the February branch meeting about the services and resources available through the society, but she has had to postpone her visit at short notice for family reasons. Come along to the February meeting to hear a mystery speaker (or speakers) on a genealogy topic.

Time to renew

Branch membership subscriptions are due on 1 April, and they are still a bargain at \$20 for the year. To make life easier for our treasurer/membership secretary (Lorna), please send your payment any time from now on. With about 250 members to process, she'd rather they didn't all come on the same day.

Methods of payment:

- by cheque – make it out to “Kapiti Genealogy”. Deliver it to Lorna at a branch meeting, or post it. Address the envelope to: Membership Renewal, Kapiti Genealogy, P O Box 703, Paraparaumu 5254.
- by internet banking – pay into our Kapiti branch account 03 0732 0263025 00, and put your surname in the particulars field. If you are also an NZSG member, put your NZSG member number in the reference field. Email lornamoaa@gmail.com to advise you have paid by internet banking.

New Zealand census day – 8 March 2011

For genealogy researchers, census records are invaluable for the things they tell us about our ancestors. Who was living in the same household? How were they related to each other? Where were they born? What did they do for a living? What was their address? All that information about a family group helps to confirm relationships, dates and places.

It's great that governments have collected all that data over the years for our benefit. Of course, that wasn't the purpose for gathering it, just a wonderful byproduct. Governments use census data to see how the population has changed, so they know how many schools and hospitals are needed, and whether electoral boundaries need to change. Businesses also use statistics from the census for planning and marketing.

This year's census will be asking pretty much the same questions as the one in 2006. You can see sample census forms used from 1906 to 2011 on the Department of Statistics website. Go to www.stats.govt.nz then click on Census > About 2011 Census > 2011 Census forms and guide notes. Scroll down the page to find a link to 1906 to 2006 census forms.

Where to find 1911 census records

Were your ancestors living in the UK, Ireland or North America one hundred years ago? Here's where you can find census records from 1911 online:

Scotland 1911 census records will be published online on 5 April 2011. Go to www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. You'll have to pay to view.

Ireland 1911 census records are free online from the Ireland national archives. www.census.nationalarchives.ie/

England and Wales 1911 census records are on findmypast.co.uk. Findmypast is available to branch members at APFHC, and at the National Library reading room at 77 Thorndon Quay, Wellington. You can search indexes at home without a subscription, but you won't get the details.

Canada 1911 census records are free online. When you find a name you want to check, choose 'split view' to see the image of the record. www.automatedgenealogy.com

USA 1910, 1920 and 1930 census records, as well as earlier years, are available on ancestry.com at APFHC and all Kapiti libraries.

Findmypast at National Library

The National Library reading room at 77 Thorndon Quay now has findmypast on computers for researchers to use. Findmypast.co.uk includes the England and Wales birth, death, marriage and census indexes and census images from 1841-1911, indexes and images for passenger lists from the UK from 1890-1960, a growing number of Parish indexes and military records such as those for Chelsea Pensioners, and some Australian records. (These are all also available at findmypast at APFHC.)

The National library also has access to Findmypast.com.au, which includes records such as electoral rolls, directories and cemeteries. While many of the resources are Australian, it also has some New Zealand, Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea indexes.

Irish Research Day

The Irish Interest Group Lower North Island is having an Irish research day in Taihape, on Saturday 19 March, from 10am to 4pm. It's at the council rooms in the library building, and the cost is \$5 per person. For more information, ring Carol Gilbert on 07-376-9430 or email cjgilbert@xtra.co.nz

New Zealand Society of Genealogists national conference – 3-6 June 2011



Pack your swag and be ready to join the Gold Rush to Otago, on Queen's Birthday Weekend 2011. The conference and AGM will be held at John McGlashan College, Dunedin.

For more information and registration form, see the latest issue of New Zealand Genealogist. You can also register through the society website: www.genealogy.org.nz.

Early registration for the conference closes 28 February.

Branch notes

New members

Welcome to Noelene RUST, Christine ELKS, Colin CARTER and Jill BANFIELD, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters N to P please be at the February branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. Next month it will be someone else's turn.

January branch meeting report

We hope all those at the January meeting enjoyed the "talk to your neighbor" segment at the beginning of the meeting. By the amount of talking that was going on, members must have had lots to share with each other. This is going to be a regular short feature at meetings, to help members find out what others are researching. You may find someone else is researching in the same part of the world, and get (or give) some ideas to follow up.

Adrian Holland was the guest speaker in January, and he brought along some samples of his work: published family histories in hardcover binding. His business, "Memories to memoirs", involves interviewing people and turning their family stories into books. As a former journalist, he had lots of advice about how to write up family history. Some of his tips were:

- Think about why you are writing the history. Who is your reader and what will interest them?
- Choose the most interesting stories to write about, and start with the most exciting part of the story to draw the reader in.

- ❑ Put the personal story in its historical context. What was going on in the world or in the area that affected this person's life?
- ❑ Don't include everything you know. Much of the genealogical information is better presented in an appendix or chart.
- ❑ Write captions for photos.
- ❑ Use a 'sidebar', a separate bit of writing in a box, to give background.
- ❑ Use punchy headings to draw the reader in.
- ❑ Use active sentences, not passive, ie: "He joined the navy" rather than "He was accepted by the navy".
- ❑ Use short paragraphs for easy reading.
- ❑ If you are writing about someone your readers know, only minimal description is required.
- ❑ Beware of controversy.

Death notice

We regret to report the death of a former member and longtime genealogist, Brian Mountjoy. Brian was researching well before the New Zealand Society of Genealogists was formed, in the days of microfilmed census records (1841 and 1851 were the only ones available, and you had to visit repositories in the UK to access them).

Brian was a committee member of Kapiti branch from 1991 to 1995, and was closely involved in the early computer genealogy group, before it became part of the branch. When he resigned his membership last year, he donated a number of research resources to the branch. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

On the web

Ancestry.com gets New Zealand records

Ancestry.com has some New Zealand records online. These were from the collection of the late Anne Bromell (author of *New Zealand Beginner's Guide to Family History Research*), and include: New Zealand electoral rolls from 1853 to 1981, city and area directories 1866 to 1955 and naturalisations 1843 to 1981.

Deceased online

This UK site has a growing number of burial and cremation records for some areas.
www.deceasedonline.com

Ancestors in Balclutha?

If your forebears lived in Balclutha, you're in luck. The Balclutha branch welcomes queries or requests for lookups in their area at the cost of a donation. The new branch website includes a useful gazetteer of local placenames, information about the resources they have available, and interesting bits from newsletters and speakers.
www.balcluthagenealogy.org.nz/

Naval history

Any sailors in your family? Here's a website that has a wealth of information on Royal Navy history.
<http://naval-history.net>

Canadiana Discovery Portal

This website links to digitised collections at universities, libraries, archives, museums, and other repositories across Canada, and is said to contain 60 million pages of Canadian history. I didn't count them, but there are certainly a lot, and many historic photos too.

<http://beta.canadiana.ca>

Historic newspapers – northern New York state

Historic newspapers of seven counties in northern New York state can be searched on this website. The counties are: Lewis, Oswego, St Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, Franklin and Jefferson.

<http://news.nynl.net/index.html>

Queenstown Lakes cemetery records

Cemetery records for the Queenstown Lakes District now can be searched online.

www.qldc.govt.nz/cemeteries_database_search

Scottish directories

If you've seen this type of book in the paper version, you know how thick they can be. This site allows you to search for the name of a person once you've opted to read the directory online. An example I looked at was called: The Post Office Directory for Perth for 1845-46: with a copious appendix and a plan of the city and environs drawn expressly for the work. It appeared to be a mere 196 pages. There are 678 directories on the site.

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=collection%3Ascottishdirectories>

Committee for 2010-2011

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz	904-3276
Secretary	Lyn Lee	kapiti@genealogy.org.nz	293 1610
Treasurer	Lorna Henderson	lornamoag@gmail.com	293-7771
	Clive Palmer	c-mpalmer@xtra.co.nz	293-7631
	Jackie Holland	jtholland@xtra.co.nz	293-2296
	Bev Chappell	chappell@paradise.net.nz	904 1860
	Bill McKeich	yanakie@clear.net.nz	905-6952
	Liz Matthews	liz.matthews@xtra.co.nz	293-8553
	Derek Griffis	griffisnz@ihug.co.nz	293-1092

You, too, can be a committee member! The AGM for Kapiti Branch is at the April branch meeting, and we will be looking for new faces to swell the ranks. Contact any committee member if you'd like to know more. We will be pleased to hear from you!