



Kapiti Branch

January 2005

Conveners Comment:-

Another year has flown by and 2005 is upon us. I hope it will be a productive and happy one for you all, but having said that the realities and risks of life have been driven home by the dreadful Tsunami catastrophe in Asia on Boxing Day. The search for our ancestors and the opportunities that Christmas and New Year brought us to be close to our present day extended families, pales into insignificance with the losses faced by so many through the unknowns of nature.

In the context of our New Zealand heritage and irrespective of our ethnicity, while comparisons are odious, there have always been catastrophic events over the centuries from war to pestilence that have clouded our history and affected many lives. We live in a fragile environment in which both nature and nurture are unforgiving. It is unlikely to change much for our descendants. One of the pluses of the global village and modern technology is the speed with which not only news is transmitted into our living rooms, but rapid response to such disasters can be rapidly mounted, crossing cultural and political boundaries and differences.

For the Branch we have lots to look forward to in 2005. Our draft programme of monthly meetings, visits and associated activities has something for all. Our new meeting venue on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Kapiti Community Centre promises much more flexibility in what we offer on those nights. Our resources at the Paraparaumu Public Library will continue to be upgraded. Our new Computer Special Interest Group will provide facilities for the use of computers in your family history research.

One of our most untapped resources is YOU. We intend to update our membership interest database and have this available on our website. Input from your experiences could provide that breakthrough for other members and can take many forms from discussions at monthly meetings, special interest days, Kapiti Gen Forum - our in house research facility - among others. We might even try a Rootsweb style e-mail information and search facility - any takers?

And for those of you who are not members of our parent, the NZ Society of Genealogists - why not explore their offerings and join now!

Finally, we welcome lots of new blood onto the Committee and Appointed Officers. We are however short of someone to take on responsibility for looking

after our Computers and CD-ROM collection and providing day to day backup and advice. Let me know if you are interested.

Clive Palmer

Computer SIG:-

Again we have had problems with logging onto the Internet at the library meeting room at our last meeting in December. However we managed to get through a few things which many found interesting.

At the next committee meeting we hope to have a programme agreed to for our 2005 meetings in the library meeting room. Remember meetings there will be every second month this year. Click here for dates.

AVG Anti-Virus 6.0

For those members using AVG, Anti-Virus 6.0. Full support for this version ended on December 31st 2004. However virus database updates will be released for AVG 6.0 until January, 31, 2005. After that date all updates for this version will be discontinued.

To continue to be protected by AVG Anti-Virus, you must upgrade to AVG 7.0. (It is still free) go to

<http://free.grisoft.com/freeweb.php/doc/2/> for the update

No additional action is required by Members who have purchased AVG Anti-Virus since the launch of AVG 7.0 (July 7, 2003). Which version am I using?

AVG 6.0 customers should click on the "Help" menu and select the "Program Info" option. The version of AVG will be displayed.

AVG 7.0 customers should click on the "Information" menu and select the "About AVG" option. The version of AVG will be displayed.

Installation:-Download the update, and then click on the file to install version 7 over the old version 6. When complete the programme will ask you to go on the internet to get the latest virus definitions do this. Then restart your computer and then run a complete virus check on your computer.

Notices:-

Welcome to new members who have joined us since the November Newsletter, and including one or two who have been Branch members in earlier years:-

Dorothy Bayly, Will Buist, Brenda Macdonald, Kay Milburn, John Moss, Julie Sayer, Fiona & Jack Sharp, and Glen & Jeanette Smith.

Meeting Dates & Times

Kapiti Branch:- 7.30pm, 4th Tuesday, Jan-Nov at Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahine 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

Subs are now due! No doubt you will be pleased to know that the subscriptions for 2004/2005 remain the same: \$16 single membership, \$27 joint membership and \$2 per meeting for visitors.

Our search facility which allows us to access Ancestry.com is underused. This is a huge database of international genealogical records including Census info. Fill in a Kapiti Gen Forum form off our website or pick up a copy at monthly meetings.

You can get free access to the catalogue index by going into the <http://www.ancestry.com/>

From our Branch librarian.

Dear Members, As your new librarian, I have been going through our collection, with the help of Judy Olsen. Trying to match the books on the shelves with the list has been quite a challenge, with unlisted books there while others listed don't appear. We have been through the cupboards, but not along the open shelves as yet. Then the job of sorting through them all, putting them into some sort of order, with the "Reference Only" items kept apart needs to be dealt with

Also, as our books are not on the Public Library catalogue, the question of members having access to them is a further difficulty. I am trying to sort out a temporary way of doing this with the chief Kapiti Librarian Still negotiating.

I have not been able to devote a lot of time to this, as I do have other commitments, but am doing my best. So "don't shoot the pianist, she is doing her best". As the old saying goes.

Alison Procter

Reports:-

News from Ireland

For those who have Ancestry Com it now announces that there is a 1766 Religious Census of Ireland. Part 1 Fragments of 1766 Religious Census written by Tenison Groves years before "The Fire" 1921 survive! They are now partially microfilmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints in no alphabetical order or rhyme or reason! and cover over 11,000 heads of households, names, parish & religion and where Ancestor lived at that time. It is not a complete record, and women are mentioned only if widows or single head of the house. LDS films 10073 & 100200 = mostly Northern Ireland.

Maori Mariages

In 1911 it became compulsory for Registration of MAORI marriages. Two years later Registration of MAORI Births & Deaths became compulsory. Twenty years later the Registration of EUROPEAN and MAORI Marriages combined under one system, but it was not until 1961 that EUROPEAN & MAORI that Births & Deaths were Registered together.

People of half or more Maori blood were eligible to Maori registration before amalgamation of European & Maori systems, but could choose to register under the European system. (Articles from the Canterbury Branch NZSG Newsletter) [NB A full set of fiche indexes to Maori BDMs are held in our Branch Resources at Paraparaumu Public Library]

The National Archivist's London new Record Recovery Service takes the pain out of sourcing family history documents · New 28-day record recovery service makes it even easier to trace family history documents · Your very own researcher will be assigned to do the legwork for you!

London, UK, 5th August 2004 UK-based genealogy website The National Archivist -www.nationalarchivist.com - has announced the launch of its new Record Recovery Service - designed to make locating Death Duty Records and Divorce files as pain free as possible. The unique offering, from as little as £17.50* involves a personal visit from a dedicated family history researcher to The National Archives (formerly The Public Record Office) in Kew, who will locate and retrieve photocopies of original family history records and send them to you in 28 days.

Just download and fill in an application form from the website - www.nationalarchivist.com - giving as much information as possible on the records you wish to locate. Currently, the records for which copies can be obtained are Death Duty Register Entries 1796 - 1863 and Divorce & Matrimonial Case Notes 1858 - 1903 . Once the completed form and payment have been received, The National Archivist will send one of its researchers to The National Archives in Kew to begin the search for your required records. The researcher will cross-reference the information provided on the application form in order to locate the actual documents. Once these have been identified, they then have to be retrieved for photocopying.

Finally, The National Archivist will send you copies of the original documents, along with a "How to Interpret Guide" to help explain the information and abbreviations used in the records. How the Record Recovery Service works: The National Archivist's Record Recovery Service enables you to obtain photocopies of original documents held at The National Archives in Kew. Currently, the service can obtain copies of Death Duty Register Entries 1796 - 1863 and Divorce & Matrimonial Case Notes 1858 - 1903. Simply download the application form at

www.nationalarchivist.com. This details the information required in order to locate the correct record. If you are unsure about what details to give, email rrs@@nationalarchivist.com for help. Once your application has been received, The National Archivist will send you an acknowledgement by email within five working days. As soon as your records have been obtained, they will be posted to you. You will receive the documents within 28 days, excluding public holidays. You will be notified by email when your records have been dispatched..

About Death Duty Register Entries, 1796 - 1863 Death Duty Register Entries give different information to a will or administration and contains information not found elsewhere. The registers were created by the office responsible for collecting taxes on personal estates. Details of what the estate was actually worth after debts and expenses and what the beneficiaries received can be recorded. In addition to the last address and occupation of the deceased, they can give the date of the will, the names, addresses and occupations of the executors, and details of estates, legacies, trustees and duties paid. They may also give the date of death and information about beneficiaries and family relationships

About Divorce & Matrimonial Case Files, 1858 - 1903 Case notes contain the petition, copies of any relevant certificate, affidavits, and also a further copy of the decrees nisi and absolute (from about 1870). If there is a previous or later petition, a cross reference is given on the file cover. Sometimes the original marriage certificate is included in the document bundle. For each suit, case files were created, identified by year and a number. Almost all of the divorce papers have survived but there may be some that are unavailable.'

Fantastic Website

<http://www.londonburials.co.uk/> A truly fantastic web site. This site lists burial grounds in London, and gives information on each one listed. Each entry has maps, and pictures where possible, of the site in the nineteenth century and nowadays. The web site is put together in such a way that it is compulsive, and historical information about the site added to details of famous burials make it an absolute gem. The site is extremely well designed, very fast to download and incredibly informative, this is definitely one of the best web sites I have seen for some time. An absolute boon for local and family historians with an interest in the London area - both City and Greater.
(Genuki News Dec 2004)

Articles:-

The Wesleyan Methodist Historic Roll. During 2003 Methodists and Anglicans celebrated the 300th anniversary of the birth of John Wesley, the founding father of the Methodist movement. In 1897 Reginald Perks, MP for Louth in Lincolnshire and a leading Wesleyan layman, proposed the setting up of a One Million Guinea Fund from each of the one millions Wesleyans, to purchase a site in central

London to build a world centre of Wesleyan Methodism and to expand the mission of the Wesleyan Methodist Twentieth Century Fund.

No one was allowed to donate more than one guinea, but a donation could also be made "in memoriam" in the name of a loved one who had died or emigrated. Sunday School scholars were encouraged to contribute one shilling each. The fund raising committee also decided to ask all donors to write their names and addresses on special pages which were distributed to all churches and circuits (groups of churches) in the Wesleyan Church in England, Wales, Scotland and overseas.

The overseas circuits included India, China, Hong Kong, South Africa and Gibraltar. When these pages were returned they were bound into 50 volumes which were called the Historic Roll. The volumes are arranged by district, then by circuit and church within each district. Altogether the volumes comprise over 17,000 pages containing the names of over 1,0265,000 donors. The Million Guinea Fund finally closed in 1908, by which time £1,073,682 had been donated and the grand opening of the new building took place on 2 October 1912.

In 2002 the trustees of Westminster Central Hall decided to copy the Historic Roll onto microfiche and install a microfiche reader in the visitor services area. A master index has also been compiled so that if researchers have some idea where their Wesleyan Methodist ancestors were living between 1898 and 1908 it is relatively easy to locate the Wesleyan circuit and the chapel within the circuit where they may have worshipped. Further information about this roll can be obtained from Visitor Services, Westminster Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster, London SW1H 9NH or by email at: events@@c-h-w.co.uk
"Family Tree Magazine August 2003"
2004?

Setting Crayfish Pots. As we pursue our research down through the years, we painstakingly work our way through many and varied resources, until eventually we run out of ideas, and are left with a number of unresolved problems. New resources, as and when they become available, are eagerly pounced upon, and yet still no progress is made. Those problems remain, and they stubbornly defy resolution. In this situation, it has been my practice to fall back on what I like to think of as "setting crayfish pots".

That is, when all attempts to go out and find the answers for myself have been unsuccessful, then I place a suitably baited pot in a promising place, and wait to see if the answer will come to me. You need patience for this, and although a positive response is sometimes/never, it's usually a very long time indeed before anything happens - often many years. So long in fact, that it is very easy to forget just which pots you have placed where.

One of my "promising places" is GenForum (not to be confused with the research service of the same name, offered to Kapiti Branch members). For those not already familiar with it, check it out for yourself: Go to:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/surnames/>

Type in the selected surname, and click on <find>

Click on the selected Forum. Browse down, or, selectively search if a very large Forum. If you want to reply to a message, or to place a message of your own, you must first register (which is FREE).

If there is no Forum for the surname you are interested in, you can start one. You can jump Forum by using "To Change Forum" (top right), insert the new surname, and click on <go>. The vast majority of the messages are American, but a significant minority of them are not. For the less common surnames the number of messages is quite manageable (for example: GRIFFIS 660), whereas for others the numbers are huge (SMITH 51401) and so more selective search methods are called for. Once you are registered, incoming messages to you are relayed to whatever email address you used when registering.

I myself placed one such, suitably baited (that is, a very concisely worded message), in the GRIFFIS Forum back on 6th June 2002. Time went by, I had several overseas trips, my Bulletin Board closed down, I had two changes of email address, and I got myself a new computer. My crayfish pot was totally forgotten. Just a few days before Christmas, I was routinely working on Search Engines, and deliberately chose a complex item to test the system - just happening to select the name I had used in the GRIFFIS Forum back in 2002. It was "Cyril St John Griffis" (complete with inverted commas and spacing) which is, I should think, a unique name, and ideal if you are seeking a very low volume response. One or two of my own earlier messages were regurgitated, plus there was an extra one in GenForum!

Needless to say, I followed this up without delay, and read (slightly abbreviated) Sue ROBINSON (nee GRIFFIS) 26th July 2004: "I believe the person you are seeking is my grandfather. His name was Cyril St John GRIFFIS, and all his sons (7) have "St John" as a middle name - moved to Quebec, Canada. My father was the 2nd youngest of 11 children"

My missing man had last featured in the 1901 British Census, aged 15, and I had felt that he must have emigrated, but to where? Now I knew. Perhaps there were GRIFFIS descendants out there somewhere. Yes indeed. The incoming 2004 message had not been relayed to me for the very simple reason that the email address I had used when registering in GenForum, was no longer valid. Whilst it can definitely be very rewarding to carefully set a crayfish pot, don't forget to check it from time to time to see if you have caught anything!

Derek Griffis

Dates to Remember 2005

19th February Palmerston North - Lady Teviot

4th-6th June NZSG Conference in Nelson

Post Conference David Webster in Wellington