



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/

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, 22 January 2008

Kapiti branch

Brick walls: Finding places in the UK and people on the move

Where did people go and why can't I find them? Where did they work? Where did they die? Could they be somewhere else? How did they get there?

Bring place names to find and share.

Facilitator: Margaret Brown

7pm research facilities and help available

7.30pm main session begins

Monday 11 February 2008, 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy (formerly known as COMSIG)

Topic: PDF Converters

(Read about PDF files in Computer Corner, page 2)

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.](#)

Looking ahead:

Sunday 17 February

Garden Party

A genealogy get-together at the home of Clive and Merrilee Palmer, 225 Huia Street, Waikanae, high noon.

Tuesday 26 February

Kapiti Branch

Speaker: Sue Greene

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

Monday 10 March

Computer-Friendly Genealogy

Speaker: Tony Cairns

Topic: New Zealand Genealogy Database

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 NZSG CONFERENCE, Christchurch

"From Coast to Coast"

Friday 30 May to Monday 2 June 2008

Venue: St Bede's College, Main North Road, Papanui, on main bus routes and close to a range of accommodation.

Details on the NZSG website.

Convenor's comments

Welcome to 2008! We have lots in store for you with a programme that includes more hands-on research help, guest presentations, visits to centres of interest, a garden party and revamped monthly meetings.

Exciting things are happening at our Paraparaumu Library research facility. Foremost will be access to the NZ Gazette, the Government's official weekly publication, published since 1848, as a result of a major grant from Pub Charity. Pending a formal agreement with KCDC which we hope will be finalised mid-January, this will be on-line on our two PCs at the research centre, and on the public PCs also at Paraparaumu, Waikanae and Otaki libraries. In addition, access to ancestry.com will be available shortly at our research centre. This will be a real bonus for members, giving unlimited access during opening hours, and taking pressure off the public computer facilities. Printer access will also be available from both our PCs, as demand is expected to increase with these

additional resources. We will keep you posted with access details once the legal and technical issues are settled.

In response to the recent member survey, we are going to trial a new user-friendly sequence at our monthly meetings. From 7pm to approximately 7.45pm we will have facilitators on hand to assist with research enquiries. Our laptops will be available for demonstrating what is available from our research collection and on-line. Supper will be available during this period, followed by a brief Q & A session to allow members to raise issues in a more collective sense. Administrative notices will no longer be announced unless very pertinent -- the newsletter and periodic email notices will be the mainstream for such items. When guest speakers are scheduled their time slot will be from approximately 8pm and we will try to close 9pm for 9.15pm. The pattern developed in 2007 of a research evening one month and a guest presentation the following month will be continued.

Don't forget our research facility at Paraparaumu Library is open seven days a week during library opening hours. Help is on hand every Wednesday 10am to midday. If in doubt, a booklet on how to use the resources and what is available can be obtained from the Secretary. If you have a real curly problem, call our Help Desk Officer or Branch Research Officer (phone numbers at the end of the newsletter), or fill in a Kapiti Genforum form (copies at library, monthly meetings and website).

- Clive Palmer

Computer Corner

COMSIG is having a name change. The Committee have agreed the new name is to be "Computer Friendly Genealogy". The objectives of the group are to promote using computers for genealogy.

We do help with some computer problems but we are not technicians. For major computer problems members need to contact someone in the know.

What are PDF files? PDF stands for Portable Document Format. Documents that are converted to PDF files look exactly like the original documents since all the formatting, graphics, and photographic images from the original document are maintained. PDF files are created with Acrobat Distiller, a

component of Adobe Acrobat. Other Adobe products, like PageMaker and FrameMaker, incorporate the Distiller component as well. PDF files can be viewed and printed through the Acrobat Reader, available free for many platforms and languages.

Why use PDF files? Publishing documents with non-Roman fonts or with many equations—quite difficult in HTML—is easy using PDF. PDF files are easily linked to web pages and, if the browser is configured to see Acrobat Reader as a plug-in or helper application, viewing and printing them from the web is seamless. The PDF format is ideal for longer documents and for anything that contains tables, charts, special characters, etc.

- Sue Greene

Branch meeting report

The November meeting was taken up with small group discussions of the results of the members' survey. Among the suggestions that have been taken on board are revamping Branch meeting timing, with research facilities being available from 7pm; including more meeting dates in the newsletter; and getting access to ancestry.com in the research area of the library so that genealogists don't have to compete for computer time with people who want to check their emails. Most respondents were very supportive of efforts made to cater for a diverse range of interests.

New members

Welcome to two new members, Lesley O'Hara and Alison Rudd.

Who do you think you are?

UKTV is broadcasting the fourth season of this series starting Sunday 27 January at 9.30pm. The first person featured is actor John Hurt, looking at his Irish heritage.

Special Interest Groups

We have three informal special interest groups in addition to the regular and more structured Computer-Friendly Genealogy group. One covers a region - Australia, and the other two relate to software programs Family Tree Maker and The Master Genealogist.

These groups meet at a member's home to share information and learn from each other's experience.

We are always keen to set up groups so let the Secretary know if you would be prepared to facilitate a group. There must be someone out there who has an interest in a Scotland, Ireland, England or other group! There is also a Kapiti Legacy Users Group which covers that popular genealogy software programme. They are not a formal part our Branch, but we applaud their contribution to local resources and are pleased to promote their activities. Contact details of these groups are given at the end of this newsletter.

Look for us in the library

Kapiti Branch will have a display at Paraparaumu library until mid-February

British War Pensions 1914-1920

Those subscribing to the NZSG Members-Only Mailing List may have noticed an announcement late last year of the addition of British Army WW1 Pension Records (containing close to a million names) to the existing extensive range of resources accessible on-line via ancestry.com.

For those very new to genealogy, and for those with short memories, I mention that there is **free** public access to the ancestry.com web-site at KCDC public libraries at Paraparaumu, Waikanae, and Otaki.

Ask library staff for access and they will sign you on for 30 minutes (which may be extended if nobody else is waiting). The staff member will set up the opening screen ("Ancestry Library Edition") for you, then go away and leave you to it. To proceed to the British Army Pension Records

(1) From the opening screen, scroll down (use the vertical slide-bar on the right-hand side) to the bottom, select "All databases" <click>

(2) Into the "Keyword" panel enter "Pension" (without the inverted commas), scroll down, select "Search" <click>

(3) You are presented with a whole list of items. Third down is "British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920". Select, then <click>

(4) Enter "First Name" and "Last Name" (for uncommon surnames, the "Last Name" alone will suffice). Scroll down to "Search" <click>

(5) Select entry of interest [Take note of the "Number of Images"], then to "View Record" <click>

(6) Select "View Original Image" <click> [If image is overwhelmingly large, go top-left to place cursor on the magnifying glass symbol with the word "Out", then <click>]

(7) Proceed through **all** the "Images in the set, by going top-centre to place cursor on the square with the right-pointing arrow (view next image in set), then <click>

Some sets of images tell a lot, some a little – it is a matter of luck. Regiment, rank, and service number can be expected, along with enlistment and discharge details. There tends to be a lot on physical details and health. Important to look out for is "Next of Kin", which normally will give name, address, and relationship. Images may be printed out at a cost of 20 cents a sheet – pay at counter.

If you have difficulty in working your way through this, please feel free to contact me on 293-1092.

-Derek Griffis

Birth records for 1906, Marriages for 1931, and Deaths for 1956 are now available on

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Archives New Zealand's new audio visual website showcases over 100 film clips sourced from the National Film Unit. Films featured include Weekly Review and Pictorial Parade newsreels as well as one-off documentaries. Historic events covered include Queen Elizabeth's visit to New Zealand in 1953, New Zealanders leaving for Europe at the beginning of World War II and the opening of the Rimutaka Tunnel.

<http://audiovisual.archives.govt.nz>

Findmypast.com has added two indexes of interest. They are the National Burial Index for England and Wales and The Civil Service Evidence of Age index. The burials index covers the years [1538 to 2005, and can be searched by surname](#) across all records, without needing to know the county. Access is by subscription or pay per view.

The Civil Service Evidence of Age index gives dates of birth or baptism for some 64,300 people born between 1752 and 1948, many of

whom do not appear in the central birth registers for England and Wales. The records were created after 1855, when people applying to join the civil service or for its pension scheme needed to provide evidence of age.

The records mainly relate to lower-ranking civil servants, such as prison officers, postmen, museum workers, messengers and engineers. Both successful and unsuccessful applicants to the civil service are included. Some were born before 1 July 1837 (when Civil Registration began in England and Wales), were born overseas, or their birth was not registered. A free search of the records by an ancestor's name will produce a list of results showing the name, year and place of birth or baptism. To view the full details, you need to register and pay per view or by subscription.

Indexing by LDS church

The website www.familysearch.org is being completely updated by a massive project to digitise and index their 2.4 million rolls of microfilm and make the contents available online. The project is expected to take anything from five to 15 years, but records will be accessible as each section is completed. Already, the IGI section for the British Isles has improved with a number of Counties being represented in the records. You can register to be an indexer at www.familysearchindexing.org.

1911 Census of Ireland Now Online

The National Archives of Ireland, in partnership with Libraries and Archives Canada, has now put the 1911 census of Ireland online. So far, the website only holds records for Dublin, but the rest of the census should be online sometime this year. <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

Special Interest Groups:

Australia Rex Roberts phone 905-6570
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Family Tree Maker Hanley Hoffmann
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The Master Genealogist Lorna Henderson
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Committee 2007-2008

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Meeting Registrar

Dave Muirhead

Programme Support

Kay and Bill Carter

Don't forget the garden party!

**Sunday 17 February 2008 from midday
at Clive and Merrilee Palmer's house,
225 Huia Street, Waikanae
See you there**