



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

July 2009 Newsletter

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 28 July, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Research evening: Europe (especially Scandinavia) and North America

plus: book and magazine sales table

Kapiti Community Centre

Wednesday 5 August, 1pm to 3pm

Help with your research

Alison Procter Family History Centre

Monday 10 August, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

How to scan, save and make changes to photos

Kapiti Community Centre

Looking ahead

Thursday 13 August, 10 am

Tour of Archives New Zealand

Tuesday 25 August, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Using message boards to answer genealogy questions

Kapiti Community Centre

Saturday 5 September, 10 am - 12pm

Help with your research

Alison Procter Family History Centre

Monday 14 September, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Using online maps

Kapiti Community Centre

This month's branch meeting

The **Tuesday 28 July** branch meeting is a research evening with an emphasis on finding records in Europe (especially Scandinavia) and North America. Members with experience in these areas will be there to advise, and some branch research resources will be available. Come and have a look also at the sales table of genealogy books, magazines and family tree charts. Bring along any donations of genealogy-related items for re-sale (please no NZSG monthly magazines), or contact Derek Griffis if you've got a donation but can't get to the meeting. Proceeds to the branch.

Introducing . . . Hanley Hoffmann, Kapiti Branch convenor

Thank you all for your welcoming messages and congratulations, and to the committee for their having the confidence to take me on.

As an Australian, and thoroughly hooked on family history, I have to say "there are no convict felons sitting like crows in my family tree" (Robert Hughes in *The Fatal Shore*). My ancestors were German (Hoffmann), Welsh (Lewis), Irish (O'Reilly), British (Beasley), and as I said, there are no convicts in my background. I don't have that outback accent that many tend to think is typically Australian.

But many of my ancestors are as elusive as anyone else's. My grandfather Hoffmann was illegitimate, born in 1877 and registered under my great-grandmother's name, and he possibly had a sister likewise, before my great-grandparents married seven years later in 1884. They went on to have eight more children after marriage.

There were no convicts transported into South Australia. Its first settlers were German Lutherans and Catholics all fleeing from an oppressive Tsar in the mid-1800s. My Hoffmann line was Catholic but that obviously did not make any difference to the way my great-grandfather behaved. He was also, I am sure, an alcoholic and probably the reason for the long lead time in his getting married! I suspect Maria Amelia Kirchner's parents were not amused by his getting their daughter in the family way twice, and into the third pregnancy they must have relented. Johann Hoffmann and Maria Amelia Kirchner married just three months before their third child was born.

Our branch website - Clive Palmer

It's time for a review of our website. Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at every existing page, checking where amendments are needed and also looking at the need for new items. We want the site to be informative and interactive and we need feedback from users. Members are invited to contact me with suggestions and comments at [c-mpalmer\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:c-mpalmer@xtra.co.nz).

If you haven't looked recently, go online and check it out – the address is on the front page of the newsletter. Many other branches have websites, so there will be tips from these. Links to other genealogy websites need to be included in the review. We plan to have any amendments up and running in August. Your input would be much appreciated so if you have suggestions please contact me before Tuesday 4 August.

Scottish research day - Sunday 9 August 2009, 1-4 pm

Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington
Thompson Block, St Orans College, 550 High Street, Lower Hutt
Wee door charge \$5
Contact: Pen Brown, ph 04 389 7211
[penbrown\(at\)globe.net.nz](mailto:penbrown@globe.net.nz)

Resources with an emphasis on deaths, burials, cemeteries and headstone inscriptions.

Tour of Archives New Zealand – Thursday 13 August, 10 am

Join us in a free, one-hour guided tour of Archives New Zealand. Take the train leaving Paraparaumu at 8.40am. You'll get to Wellington about 9.35am, leaving time for a short, leisurely walk up Murphy Street to Archives. You'll need to store your bag and/or coat in a free locker there, before meeting in the foyer by 10 am. Stay after to do your own research. To book your place, contact Liz Matthews on 293 8553 or [liz.matthews\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:liz.matthews@xtra.co.nz).

Getting started with your family history research

Saturday and Sunday, 19-20 September, 9am to 5pm, Masonic Hall, 10 Tararua Street, Paraparaumu, \$40 for two days. Tutor: Lynne Blake, Educator, Family Research Centre NZSG

Registrations have started to roll in for this two-day course, so get yours in now to avoid missing out. Not just for beginners, the course will also benefit those who have been researching family history for many years. It introduces (or reminds us of) research skills for family history. While many people use the internet as their primary research tool, it's still important to understand the development of records and different research methods to get the best out of your research time.

The course helps with questions such as:

- Where do you start to answer your questions?
- What are you looking for and why? (What are your questions?)
- Where might you find what you are looking for?
- How do you record this information when you find it?
- Where do you file all this information?

We also explore using your computer

- What genealogical programmes are available?
- How can you use them for recording?

Then we look at what to do when you have all that information.

- Share it on the net?
- Write your 'Family History' book?

- Organise a family reunion?
- Or just enjoy the hunt?

For more information contact: Hanley Hoffmann 04 904-3276, Dave Muirhead 04 905-3170 or [Kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz).

Members' interests survey

The branch gives members the opportunity to list their family history interests as part of the branch research assistance and sharing process. To update the list, we will be distributing data forms shortly to all members. If you have submitted your list of interests previously, here's a chance to make any changes to it. If your interests haven't been listed before, please consider adding them to this valuable source of information. This is also an opportunity for members to identify special skills and resources they would be prepared to share with others.

We ask you to list the family surnames you are researching, along with districts and countries of origin, and timelines, but this is, of course, voluntary. The information goes on our website, and on information boards at the Alison Procter Family History Centre and at monthly meetings. However, the names of members providing the information are coded to satisfy the Privacy Act.

If you'd like to compare notes with someone who's got similar names, places or interests, you'll need to contact the Branch Research Officer (Sue Greene), who holds the master copy. As they say – help begins at home! Have a look at the current listings of members' interests on our website.

Kelvin Grove burials

Palmerston North Branch NZSG now has records of burials and headstone inscriptions for Kelvin Grove cemetery for sale on CD. This completely revised second edition has 25,000 names and covers 1928-2008. Burial records are integrated with headstone inscriptions, to reveal additional burials. Detailed maps of plot locations. \$25 each, plus \$5 for packing and postage. Order from Secretary, Palmerston North Branch NZSG, P O Box 1992, Palmerston North or [PalmerstonNorth\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:PalmerstonNorth(at)genealogy.org.nz).

Branch notes

Branch meeting report - June

Jill Palmer, who has worked in genealogy research support at Salt Lake City, gave us a guided tour of the LDS www.familysearch.org website, and news of the way the website is going to be expanding, making it even more useful. You can now find indexes for the censuses for England and Wales from 1841 and 1861 in the website's record search pilot area. They link to findmypast.com to show the actual images – and it's free. Historical books are being digitised now, with some 29,000 books already able to be read through the site, and many more to come. The library link also allows you to watch videos of research classes offered at Salt Lake City. Research advice and favourite sites of Salt Lake City researchers can be found at wiki.familysearch.org.

New members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined since the last newsletter: Robert BLACKBURN, Ron GAMBLE, Philippa STEELE and Basil PRITCHETT.

Calling volunteers - situations vacant

We still need a new **Meeting Registrar**. This is the person who looks after the nametags and the register of attendance at branch meetings. No experience required, and a great way to learn people's names. Our **Computer Support Officer**, Lindsay Olsen, requires some backup to help with installing the laptop and projector at meetings. All training provided. Please contact a committee member if you can assist.

Tea makers for July meeting

Take a turn with the tea urn. If your surname begins with the letters **S to Z**, please be at the

July branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In August it will be someone else's turn.

Library news

Hutt Valley branch newsletter: an interesting item on preserving (or not) newspaper clippings by archivist Ken Scadden. This series can also be found in the AFFHO 2009 conference proceedings in our library book collection.

On the web

Eastman's Online Genealogy newsletter

If you need a daily dose of genealogy information, bookmark this website. It covers all manner of genealogy-related topics, including new records becoming available. Of course, you don't have to read it every day. The items are stored there indefinitely.

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/

Lynda's Lot

This website has links to websites of particular interest to New Zealand researchers, including New Zealand births, deaths and marriages, sources for England, Scotland and Ireland, passenger lists and more. If clicking on a link doesn't appear to be taking you anywhere, scroll down to the bottom of the page, where the information may be found.

<http://sites.google.com/site/lyndaslot/>

Dunedin Family History Group website

This recently launched free site has links to all Dunedin repositories, research guides for Dunedin, write ups for Otago and Southland cemeteries, guides to researching in England, Ireland and Scotland, discussion forums and newsletters. You'll need to register the first time you use the site, and after that you'll be notified when more information is added.

www.dunedinfamilyhistory.co.nz/dfhg/moodle

Ashburton Family History Group website

Here's another branch website. Look here for local school records, church records, cemeteries, an early settlers' register and lists of Ashburton members' research areas of interest.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlasfhg

More news in Papers Past

New Zealand newspapers on the Papers Past site now cover the entire period from 1839 to 1932. Search by name for ancestors all over New Zealand, or narrow your results by choosing the newspaper and time period that suits you.

www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

Canada census indexes

Familysearch is adding Canadian census indexes for 1851, 1861 and 1871 to its online collection. To search them free at www.familysearch.org, click Search Records, and then Record Search pilot. The 1881 Canada census is already on the website, and the 1891 Canada census will soon be added.

Committee as at June 2009

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