KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.

New Zealand Society of Genealogists P.O. Box 6, Paraparaumu

Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms, Tararua Street, Paraparaumu 4th Wednesdays of months January to November at 7.30 pm 27th June 2001

PROGRAMME

27th June Gerald Twiss - Presenting your own history 25th July Beverley Chappell - On Nurses and Jean Bryson - On Death Certificates* 2nd Aug. Beginners night. Bring along your questions. *

* Please note that July & August meetings may be swapped

NOTICES

WELCOME BACK Irish Mackay has rejoined our group. Lovely to see you back again, Irish.

DAYTIME MEETINGS Lois Wilson, who has recently moved down from Hamilton, has offered to hold daytime meetings at her home, especially for those of our members who cannot get out at night. Please note that numbers are restricted and are for Kapiti Branch members only. Those interested please phone Lois (04) 297-1947.

BRANCH OPEN DAY: The theme this year is GENEALOGY AS A HOBBY. Bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. Door charge \$5. Venue at our usual rooms

Supper Helpers

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper duties, particularly the serving and washing up.

Jun C-E Jul. F-H

(There were so few U-Z for the May meeting that we had to call on the June roster for help!

POST NZSG CONFERENCE AUSTRALIAN SPEAKERS

Helen Doxford-Harris and Gary Presland came to Palmerston North on Tuesday, 5th June, and between them gave a very full picture of records available in Victoria. I wondered why so much Australian information was based on that State, but they told us the other States were not nearly as protective of their historical records as Victoria. Since then I have heard of the "clean-up" done in Queensland, where valuable material has been destroyed. No wonder I am having difficulty in tracing shipping to New South Wales! Shipping interstate has only been partially indexed for Assisted migrants and we need to apply to the individual State Archives. I was interested to learn that the age of steamships had come in by the early 1890s (the time I was investigating) and that ships would have taken between 40 and 50 days to reach Australia from Britain.

Helen spoke of Wills & Administration papers, saying that everyone with any connections to Victoria would be in the files there. Indexes to Probates and also to Inquests are now supplied by McBeths, booksellers, as they were given the contract to have them printed. She also spoke on records from the goldfields. On shipping, she told us that 80% of Unassisted Immigrants to Victoria had now been indexed. So much information is available on the InterNet from the Public Records Office in Victoria (www.prov.gov.au)

A Mrs. Ackerly at P.O. Box 106 Newport 3015 Australia has been putting together equity files on family disputes and if anyone is interested in getting a copy, the index is \$A 5, to be sent with a stamped addressed envelope.

The Case Books of Lunatic Asylums are a source of information as, for example, women could be sent there for things like post natal depression. There is a 75 year closure on Divorce files. Industrial Schools Register was enacted in 1864 to cope with neglected children. Then there is the Colonial Secretary's Inward Correspondence which dealt with a wide range of matters.

Gary was then given a chance to speak. He was a former manager of The Historical Prison in Melbourne and has had quite a bit to do with Police Archives. He told us that policemen had wider powers in the early days, as they were often the only Government official in outlying areas, so they had to deal with Census matters amongst other things. They had to keep Crime Report Books and Warrant Books, which then had to be sent back to Head Office. The correspondence of the Chief Commissioner for Police 1853-54 is another source of information.

Gary told us of the influence that Victorian Police had in forming a Force in Otago and Southland in the early goldrush days. He went on to mention the Missing Friends files from 1890 . Some Court records dealing with minor cases had not survived, he said, but the Supreme Court had more complete records. Copies of various files were shown via overhead projector.

Altogether an interesting evening

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ATTACKED AGAIN!

We thought the battle was won on saving our National Archives with the previous round, but apparently it is on again. At the opening of the NZSG Conference in New Plymouth, members were told that the Government propose appointing Diana McCaskill as Chief Archivist. She has no archival qualifications or experience, and it was stated that, while well qualified and experienced archivists had applied, they had been overlooked. It is documented that in her previous position Ms McCaskill wanted valuable documents destroyed although they had already been approved for retention and were in protective custody. This shows a complete disregard for the value of historical documents that researchers, such as ourselves.

Members were asked to help save our archives material. Submissions on the Draft Discussion Paper had to be received by Government before 22nd June 2001. I can only hope there were enough members at Conference to put in a forceful enough protest.

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COMMENT My hobby is genealogy, I raise dust bunnies

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Pappy's Gal

Suzy Lee fell in love. She planned to marry Joe.
She was so happy bout it all, she told her pappy so.
Pappy told her, "Suzy Gal, you'll have to find another.
I'd just as soon you maw don't know, but Joe is yo half-brother."
So Suzy forgot about her Joe and planned to marry Will.
But, after telling pappy this, he said "There's trouble still,
You can't marry Will, my gal, and please don't tell yo mother,
Cause Will and Joe and several mo I know is yo half-brother"
But Mama knew, and said, "Honey chile, do what makes yo happy.
Marry Will or marry Joe, You ain't no kin to pappy!"

Thanks to "Betty" for this piece of humor discovered on the Internet.

FURTHER COMMENTS: I think my ancestors had several "Bad heir" days

My family coat of arms ties at the back...... is that normal?

There's a problem with the gene pool: NO LIFEGUARDS!!