

New Zealand
P.O. Box 17
Parakaiti

NEW ZEALAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.

KAPITI GROUP

BOX 385

PARAPARAUMU

Chairperson:	June Pritchett	34 938
Secretary:	Basil Pritchett	34 938
Treasurer:	Gary Benton	71 940

SECOND HALF YEAR'S PROGRAMME

July 3	"HERALDRY & THE GENEALOGIST" Speaker: Ian Boyd, Heraldic Specialist
August 7	"PRE-19th CENTURY ENGLISH RESEARCH" Speaker: Don Hansen
September 4	"ENGLISH RESOURCES - TRAVELS OF A GENEALOGIST" Celia Harlen Reports
October 2	"WHAT SAY YOU WERE ADOPTED?" Speaker: Lorraine McArthur
November 6	"THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION" Speaker: Angela Finnerty
December 4	SOCIAL EVENING

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre on the first Wednesday in the month commencing at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. There is a casual charge of \$1.00 per evening.

We now have a membership of 52, so apart from the opportunity of hearing from such experienced speakers, this is a splendid opportunity to meet local people with the same interests as yourself.

NOT ONLY BULLS HAVE PEDIGREES

Many new genealogists are becoming familiar with the various strategies involved in mounting a full frontal attack on the problems of their family history. However, sometimes help comes from unexpected quarters, and your experienced genealogist can be a very wily person in exploiting little clues. At our May evening on Books and Mementos, a member related her success with two family paintings of bulls, which she had had restored. Having located the breed, her enquiries led her to the English Breeder's Association, a book on the breed which they kindly sent her, names of an unknown branch of the family mentioned therein, and finally, from County Records Offices in England, maps of her ancestors' farm in the eighteen th century with all paddocks (sorry fields) marked!

SALT LAKE CITY - WORLD CENTRE FOR GENEALOGY

Most of us are familiar with the great help that LDS libraries provide, but perhaps few of us know the size, complexity and sophistication of the parent library in Salt Lake City. Shirley has a fascinating brochure from Salt Lake which not only describes their world-wide operation, but also provides a simple step-by-step guide to family research for the beginner.

TOWARDS A NEW ZEALAND DATABASE?

Most genealogists have struggled with the task of locating forbears who were early settlers in New Zealand. Yet amongst the large number of genealogists working in New Zealand, there is likely to be someone who has data on your family. Many members have collected facts not recorded elsewhere, and NZSG is attempting to build up a master file of pre-1900 families, Polynesian and Caucasian. The sheets to fill out the details are available free of charge and can be picked up at any of our meetings. It is in all our interests to do it.

THE COMMITTEE

Your committee meets regularly, and has shown a lot of enterprise for such a young group. Its most successful extra activity for the year so far has been the gighly successful trip to Wellington to familiarise ourselves with our own local resource centres, the Alexander Turnbull Library, the National Archives and the Wellington Public Library. 25 members travelled, some nearly stayed longer than they anticipated, and all had their enthusiasm and confidence boosted. We were royally entertained by the Wellington Genalogy Group whose library was also a subject of much interest.

The members are: Shirley Baskerville-Robinson, vice-chairperson (35 859), Christine Bade (86 848) Betty Dallas, Librarian (70 294), Des Dawson, representing Ireland (28 148), Guy Duley (86 820) Meryl Opie (88 737), John Trollove (28 321) and Fran Woolston (70 734). Shirley may help with Scottish researching. Betty has researched in England. John helps beginners.

HEADSTONE HUNTERS

One of the very valuable advantages of membership of the NZSG is the access it gives to the society's invaluable collection of cemetery transcripts, both as individual members and as a fully affiliated group. Some of our members spent a very busy day in Levin at their Open Day researching in the full collection. Our June meeting was also an extremely hectic one as members foraged through the collection of transcripts we had borrowed for them. It is a good idea to take full advantage of Group borrowing facilities, as there is a considerable waiting list on some transcripts for the individual borrower.

WHEN A FICTION BECOMES A FACT

So-called 'facts' can be misleading, particularly if the real facts are embarrassing. Genealogists, take heed of the following little story! At a most informative evening on Computers in Education, Anthony Adams from Cambridge University, a specialist in this field, described how a group of British 9-10 year olds were seeking to find out how many children in their area were at school beyond the age of 12. A book they had read suggested a very low percentage. Not satisfied, they hooked their computer up via a modem to a database and drew out the 1861 census figures for their coal-mining district. True enough, the census said that 75% of 12 year olds were at school. They discovered that legislation had been passed forbidding the employment of children under the age of 14 in the mines. 75% should have been right! Using the same technology, they then accessed the school rolls for the period and found that, in fact, only a small percentage of 12 year olds were at school. They were clearly working in the mines, but Dad wasn't going to say that on Census night, was he?

RESEARCHING AT THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

In the Hutt Valley's most recent newsletter, there is a very valuable guide to the most efficient use of this facility. We will have photocopies of this very detailed set of hints at our July meeting.

THE NZSG MAGAZINE

We have to pass on to HQ a questionnaire on the usefulness of the national mag. How useful do you find it? What suggestions have you for improvements? We will be filling this out at our July meeting, after what promises to be a fascinating illustrated lecture by a highly qualified and experienced speaker.