

Remember to check our website <http://KapitiGen.org> for additional information on events, Branch, Interest & User Groups, and any late changes.

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Editorial



Well! Would you believe it? St George's Day on April 23rd - a great opportunity to use online pictures and famous quotes from Shakespeare have been thwarted by technology. "Not available due to a server issue." I hope the above expresses my reaction to such messages!

It is a pleasure this month to feature three contributions from members. Thanks to Pat McCabe for sending in his impressions from the Irish/Irish-Scots Family History Day (page 5) and to Ian for elaborating on websites to assist New Zealand researchers (pages 6 & 7). As you can see, I had to put in an extra page to contain his article, but I felt the clear explanations would be valuable to some members. Bill McKeich has added to his wealth of stories with an unexpected connection to Peebles. Good to hear from you, Bill. (page 4)

I was sad to read that the Wairarapa Branch closed on March 31st. This is partly due to the lack of people willing to stand for their committee.

Please note on page 2 that our Committee is looking for more members, so please give it serious consideration. It is such a satisfying way to contribute to the Branch. Contact Jenny on Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org for a nomination form.

Members will be pleased to note that Kathy has managed to arrange another tour of the Supreme Court. See page 3 for details.

Many thanks to Martyn Wright for his excellent and so interesting presentation at the last meeting about his cousin, Mavis Huggins. If you missed it - you missed a good night.
Cheers
Sheila

Meetings this month:
Tuesday Evening
April 23rd

Chris Pugsley
"Le Quesnoy"

Day Meeting
Wednesday afternoon
April 24th

April Branch Meetings

Evening meeting.

When: Tuesday April 23rd

7pm - meet and greet. Refreshments
7.30 - 9pm, main session.

Where: Coast Community Church

57, Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

What:

Chris Pugsley - 'Le Quesnoy'

Chris will be speaking on New Zealand's involvement in the liberation of "Le Quesnoy" and the formation of the NZ Liberation Museum.

Convenor: Denice McCarten

Daytime meeting

When: Wednesday April 24th

1.30 – 4pm

2 - 4pm meeting

Where: Waikanae Baptist Church Café , 286, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae

What: Summary of the evening meeting, followed by research and discussion.

Co-ordinator: Denice McCarten

Branch notices

Welcome to new members Patricia Sheehan and Janet Blackwood.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing of your research interests.

Publicity and Facebook

Thank you to the two members who have stepped up to help with publicity and the Kapiti Genealogy Facebook group.

For the Facebook group however we still need another person as backup. It isn't an onerous job.

Please contact Secretary Jenny Wilson if you are able to help: [Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org](mailto:Secretary@KapitiGen.org)

The Committee needs your help

We need members of Kapiti Genealogy to consider joining the committee. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm and, other than the role you might like to take on as part of the committee, that is your commitment. We are not a bad bunch, like a laugh and chocolate biscuits. (supper).

We particularly need a convenor, Ian Barbour who has been Acting Convenor for some time is standing down. So if you would like this role or any other one please let us know. Please contact Jenny for more information [Secretary"at"KapitiGen.org](mailto:Secretary@KapitiGen.org).

Membership renewals:

Our financial year began on April 1st 2024.

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed. Keep them coming folks. Further details on the back page of this newsletter, and in the attached email.

Don't get too anxious if you haven't yet received your new blue card, your current cream one is still valid for accessing our resources at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC) for a few weeks yet.

Tour of the Supreme Court

A booking of the Supreme Court has been made for **Tuesday May 14 at 10.30am.**

I have been assured that this booking is very unlikely to be cancelled (unlike last year!), as they now have a permanent tour coordinator.

You must register for this tour as they need to know numbers. Please register by **Tuesday May 7**, by email kathycallaghan@gmail.com or phone 021 045 2925 or 04 297 0733.

Details of the tour will be sent on registration.

Feel free to invite non members. This tour is one of the most interesting I have been on. You will get a tour of the modern Supreme Court and the Old High Court. You will need to go through screening of yourself and your bags. There is no storage for bags and coats, so you will have to carry these with you. Wheelchair access is available in the main entrance, but not in the Old High Court.

The plan is to travel down on the train that leaves Waikanae at 9.05am. It is a very short walk to the Supreme Court from the station.

Kathy Callaghan

Agenda for the AGM in May

Annual General Meeting of Kapiti Branch of the
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Tuesday, 28 May 2024 at 7.30 pm

Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa Street, Paraparaumu

Agenda

1. APOLOGIES
2. CONFIRM 2023 AGM MINUTES
3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
4. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024
6. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024
7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE **

Proposer/Seconder

The Committee has the power to co-opt members of the Kapiti Genealogy Branch if required.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

** The Nominees for all positions must be current financial members of the Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Nomination forms may be obtained by visiting our website, or from the Secretary@KapitiGen.org. Completed Nomination forms must be received by hand/post or electronically to the Secretary no later than **5pm Saturday 25 May 2024.**

A Journey into the Past

Have you heard of Peebles?

Well I hadn't until I stayed there a few years ago with Bill Brown, a half 4th cousin 1 x removed to me and his charming wife Val. Little did I realise then that this was my only connection with the town and localities of Posso, Barns, and Dawyck and the small nearby town of Traquair. All within the county of Peeblesshire, Scottish Borders.

My connection is through the NAISMITH family sometimes written 'Naesmyth' or 'Naysmith'. My mother was Mary NAISMITH MCKEICH, named after her Grandmother, Mary Naismith, who arrived at Dunedin aboard the *Peter Denny* on 26 July 1884 with her husband George BURNS and three children. The name survives with two great great grandchildren, Ruby-May Naismith Mckeich and Lynette Naismith Morgan, having the given name.

I had my first contact with the Naismith clan through DNA matches in Ancestry.com.au about eighteen months ago. I joined the clan on the Internet and suddenly the world opened up. I used the hints available on Ancestry but always checked these with official entries from Census and B D & M records before entering names in the Family Tree. I arrived eventually at James Naesmyth of Posso. He was my 10th great grandfather who died at Dawyck, Peeblesshire in 1658. James had married Agnes Burnett, who was born at Barns in 1588. Agnes' father William Burnett of Barnes had married Margaret Stuart of Traquair. She was my 11th great grandmother.

It was interesting to note that Traquair House is regarded as the longest continually inhabited house in Scotland. Some 900 years. The Stuart family had occupied the house continually for 400 years. And yes, I can place Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots on my Family Tree!

The name NAESMYTH had been originally associated with nail making. Today the name survives in Naysmith Ltd, Unit 5 – 6, Polbieth Industrial Estate, West Calder, Scotland. They are the makers of quality walking sticks and a wide variety of umbrellas.

I will call on them if I get the chance to visit the area next year and explore the county of Peeblesshire.

Bill Mc Keich



NZSG News

Scandinavian Interest Group

A Scandinavian interest group will begin meeting via Teams, in mid April, with the NZSG's sole Norwegian member giving a short presentation on naming conventions. Read more on the NZSG Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NZSGFRC> or if you are an NZSG member, from your recent e-Kit

NZSG Online DNA Group

An NZSG Members only benefit, free with your sub to the NZ Society of Genealogists. The next online presentation is **Wednesday 24th April**, 7:30pm on Teams. This month it is a William Williams, a Case Study. If you **have not yet** registered, pop along to <https://genealogy.org.nz/NZSG-Online-DNA-Interest-Group/11380/> to be added to the mailing list for meeting reminders and information on how to access the recordings and resources in the Google Classroom. Each session will also have a short highlight how to use an aspect of the DNA Portal on Google Classroom with its wealth of resources, and the past presentations to watch at your leisure.

Researching Irish & Scots-Irish Ancestors

The Lower North Island Irish Interest Group recently hosted a very successful seminar, in Wellington, on researching your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors, presented by Fintan Mullan (Executive Director) and Gillian Hunt (Research Officer) of the Ulster Historical Foundation. The seminar was part of a 12-city lecture tour through Australia and New Zealand. In addition, at some venues, including Wellington, there was an opportunity for one-to-one personal research consultations.

Although the Foundation's work primarily focuses on the province of Ulster, including the important Scots-Irish community, the seminar provided very good coverage for researching across the whole island of Ireland. The presenters identified the key sources provided by Government agencies, churches and private providers. Increasingly more information is being made available on-line – some of it through subscription services (e.g. Roots Ireland, which Kapiti Branch members can access at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre at the Paraparaumu Public Library).

The presentations were supplemented by a good set of notes, which were emailed to participants. These notes provided tips on researching as well as links to useful websites.

A key message was that some very useful records for counties in the Republic of Ireland are held in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, while many important records for the counties of Northern Ireland are located in Dublin, especially at the National Archives and the National Library.

While researchers often regret the loss of public records in the Easter 1916 uprising in Dublin, the presenters highlighted possible alternatives. These include the Griffiths Valuation and subsequent revisions, tithe applotment books, the 1901/1911 census, estate papers, early Irish newspapers, and street directories. As well, other sources, for example the 1796 Flaxgrowers List, may provide useful fragments of information.

A couple of attendees had attended the Foundation's courses in Belfast, and I had participated in their on-line course, but many people cannot afford the time or expense of these longer presentations. Instead, in part thanks to financial support provided by the hosts and the Irish Interest Group of the NZSG (Auckland), the two-day seminar (over a Friday evening and all-day Saturday) was great value for a modest cost.

I am sure the 70 people, who attended the workshop, were, like me, well satisfied with the information provided.

Pat McCabe

Family Tree Webinars

How many of you tuned in for the 24 hour Webinar marathon on 12th/13th April? Available free to view until 30 April, so there's still time to catch some of them if you hurry. Or you can take up the offer to subscribe and gain access to a huge number of helpful videos on a wide range of topics.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/>

I didn't make time to watch many live, but did catch the following (plus of course a DNA one!):

I particularly enjoyed Dr Bruce Drurie's talk on the Scottish Genealogy – Are we a Clan or a Family and must get around to reading his book(s)! <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/scottish-genealogy-are-we-a-clan-or-a-family-and-can-we-have-a-chief/?category=places>

Michelle Patient's talk on the Wilson Collection, <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/the-wilson-collection-for-new-zealand-researchers/>

See also DNA News for a few more of possible interest. *Lorna*

Researching New Zealand Records

And a promo for our “How To Sessions”

If you are getting frustrated searching New Zealand historical records you are not the only one. Read on and do explore the following three free research websites. They will help with your New Zealand research and get rid of many of those frustrations.

Two of the sites have been developed by Luke Howison, a freelance web developer with an interest in genealogy and the third by Diane Wilson, an avid genealogist, who over forty years has compiled her New Zealand research resources and findings onto her website.

I will explain each website separately and encourage you to discover what they have to offer.

Howison, Archway website

<https://archway.howison.co.nz/>

In 2022 Archives New Zealand put in place their new search software and called it “Collections Search”. While this new search software introduced by Archives brings with it all sorts of modern updated search processes there have been a few problems with its introduction which have caused us genealogists frustrations. It seems with any new software there are bugs (ask Mr Bates and the UK Post Office) that need to be ironed out. No doubt over time Archives will get these issues sorted. Added to this, it is human nature to resist change and this too will be no doubt be adding to our frustrations in using the new Collections Search.

To address these issues and indeed improve the searching experience Luke Howison developed a web site specifically to help search the Archives data. To use his words “have written a few home-brew tools to assist with research” Well done Luke!

So in non-computer language, we can use Luke’s website to search New Zealand **Archives'** records, as an alternative to using the Archives “Collections Search” website itself.

In using the Howison website, you enter what you are searching for, e.g. a person’s name, the “website” will search all the Archives data and display the results it finds.

Howison, NZ Ancestor Search

<https://ash.howison.co.nz/>

Luke Howison developed this website to make the searching of New Zealand historical data much simpler. It enables you to search all the key New Zealand data bases from this one site. For example rather than searching the individual sites for Papers past, Find a Grave, Births Deaths and marriages, Cemetery records to name a few, you simply put what you are looking for into NZ Ancestor Search and the site will search the various sites and summarise the findings for you.

In addition to just searching a name there are many ways of focussing the search and tailoring the results to your specific needs.

Another clever feature allows you to search for references under two names, for example, entering a married woman's full name in the search box and her maiden surname in the second will give you references for both.

The Wilson Collection

<https://wilsoncollection.co.nz/>

This free collection compiled and coordinated by the late Diane Wilson includes records from many varied sources. The website is an index only search. That is, from your search criteria it will identify many sources of the information you are seeking. From these results you can then go off and search the specific websites that have been identified.

Best you go try these websites and have a play. I found them outstanding, exciting and fun!

Researching New Zealand Records cont.

Now to the How To Sessions

You maybe asking yourself how did my enthusiasm and knowledge of these websites come about. Yes I joined up on Lorna's last month's zoom 'How to' session. I have to admit that I have not been a regular on these monthly Zoom sessions and I am going to be quite blunt here, but wait there is a solution.

My reluctance to link into these Zoom sessions was initially influenced by my limited knowledge on how to actually use Zoom on my computer. I guess the thought of looking and talking into my computer screen was also possibly a factor. However I pushed on and now am a frequent user and participator on Zoom calls for various clubs and associations I am involved with.

So here is what you do!

Step one, if you are not sure how to use "zoom" reach out and get help. Being able and confident to use Zoom on your computer will be fun and add a tool to your learning skills.

My second reluctance was, and I doubt I am alone on this one, that my knowledge and level of understanding on the topics being discussed on the Zoom calls would be inadequate and the discussions and learning would be above me. Maybe some hesitation also that I may ask a dumb question.

Step two. You will not be alone in having these thoughts.

Our Lorna has an outstanding knowledge of genealogy having devoted most of her life to family research. Add to this her background in computing and we have a recipe for disengagement.

Believe you me, Lorna wants to help, so ask the questions, bring the discussion down to a level that you do understand. Push hard on this. I know Lorna yearns for greater participation and will love the interaction at a level where you understand and learn from the Zoom 'How To' sessions.

I look forward to hearing how you get on with these three websites and seeing your participation in our regular zoom call sessions.

Ian Barbour

'How to' Monthly Zoom Session - May 6th at 8pm

Lets Explore the privacy options on Wikitree

How many of you have explored WikiTree?

The free, collaborative tree that, unlike FamilySearch, allows you to record and share information about living people.

I strongly recommend that you do NOT ever enter living people unless you have their permission and have explored, and fully understood, the implications of each of the privacy options to choose the most appropriate.

Two of the 7 coloured privacy symbols are pictured on the right

The May "How to.." will explore what each Privacy level means and learn how to distinguish the difference between what you can see and what others can see about a profile, for each setting.

Lorna



Interest Groups

Roots Magic User Group

These sessions are **on Zoom**, third Saturday of every second month, March to November, from 2-4pm.

Next meeting May 18th. All versions covered. All welcome. Free to all.

Pre-registration link sent to those on our mailing list nearer the time.

If you wish to be added to our mailing list for these online meetings, please use the contact form at

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/rootsmagic/>

This link can also be used to request a particular topic to be covered at a meeting.

DNA Interest Group

The next 2-monthly meeting is on Saturday June 8th

Waikanae Baptist Church cafeteria 2-4. Doors open 1:30pm.

All welcome. Visitors \$5 entry please.

If you're not a member of Kapiti Genealogy, why not join? Go to <http://www.kapitigen.org/membership/>

If you are interested in joining this DNA Group, please use the contact instructions at

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/interest-groups/dna/> and ask to be added to our mailing list.

Reminders are sent to those on our mailing list. and often notes on the topics covered are sent out afterwards to those attending or putting in an apology.

DNA News

The recent FamilyTreeWebinar 24 hour marathon included some talks of DNA interest.

Those working with DNA will often hear about Clustering as a technique to help you make sense of which matches connect with each other. One of the original proposers of a clustering technique, known as the Leeds Method, was Dana Leeds. Read about that here: <https://www.danaleeds.com/the-leeds-method/>

In the 24 hour marathon Michelle Leonard gave a talk demonstrating Clustering with MyHeritage Labels, <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/clustering-with-myheritage-labels/>

It is always interesting to watch someone else's approach to grouping up your DNA matches into clusters that make sense to you, and have something in common to aid your analysis.

One recent DNA oriented talk I've yet to watch is Diahan Southard's "What's Your DNA Problem? Too Few Matches? Too Many?" available until 19th April for free at <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/whats-your-dna-problem-too-few-matches-too-many/>

That's enough on Webinars, what else is happening in DNA-land?

23andme has quietly, ie without notice, shifted many of our smaller matches out of DNA Relatives into Your DNA Connections. 23Andme limits your match list, where the limit used to be able to be extended by actually contacting a match to keep them in your DNA Relative comparisons. So now those shifted no longer show up under your shared matches to aid your analyses of where a match might "fit". They have however brought back the Relatives in common, but not yet the chromosome browser & triangulations.

Looking forward to Ancestry's promised future addition ("first half of the year") of showing you how much DNA a match shares with your mutually shared matches. Unfortunately, it appears to be promised as part of the Pro-Tools addition to a sub, AND will be rolled out in the States first.

Lorna

Branch information

Branch meetings:

Evening meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January to November.

Daytime meeting is on the following day, usually the fourth Wednesday, from January to November. Attendance is free to members of the Branch, Visitors \$5 to help cover expenses.

Help with Research

Wednesday mornings 10-12am, at the Paraparaumu Library. Open to the public. Volunteers required, please. Contact Bev on RoundRobin "at" KapitiGen.org if you can to help.

First Saturday in the month 1-3pm.

To book an appointment for individual assistance phone Lorna on 04 293 7771 so you can be directed to the person who can help you.

Next session **Saturday May 4th**

'How to' Monthly short Zoom session

First Monday of the month for 1 hour.

Next meeting is **Monday May 6th at 8pm.**

Topic: Lets Explore the privacy options on Wikitree

Host: Lorna

More information on **page 7**

Members only. Free. Registration link will be sent with the email attached to the April newsletter. Or you can register at <http://www.kapitigen.org/programme/online-how-to/> and follow the instructions.

Reminder please about the procedure for the key to the library cupboard containing the keyboards.

When you sign in at the library desk to get the key (see above in next column) **you are responsible for returning it**, even if someone else is still researching when you leave.

Please take the **remaining person** to the desk to get them signed in as the person responsible for returning the key when they leave.

Facilities at the

Alison Proctor Family History Centre

The APFHC is located at Paraparaumu Library. Turn right inside the library entrance to the area containing six computers, microfiche and library. The cupboard on the right hand side of the area contains the red folders mentioned below.

Members need to get the cupboard key from the library Welcome Desk, when you will be asked to sign for the key and show your membership card for the current year.

Computer Password at the APFHC

The APFHC computer password changes regularly: check the red Computer Help folder in the top drawer.

Please sign the red signing-in book found in the top drawer.

Keyboards are in the lowest drawer.

Replace the cover on the computer when you leave and lock the keyboard in the cupboard.

All six computers have subscriptions to Ancestry, FindMyPast and access to The Genealogist and Roots Ireland as well as free sites like FamilySearch. (Use your own log-in to FamilySearch).

NB. Please do **NOT** sign out of RootsIreland, FindMyPast or TheGenealogist.

Please **do not switch off** the printer.

A microfiche reader is available and there are books on a variety of topics that can be borrowed. Boxes of copies of 'Who do you think you are' and 'Family Tree' are on the shelf.

You are encouraged to save the results of your searches on a USB memory stick or send them to your own email address.

We have a printer if you wish to print a hard copy. Please put 10c per copy in the honesty box on the cupboard door.

All Kapiti Branch events are in the programme on our website, on the calendar.

Log in and explore, update your details and find information on our user groups.

<http://www.kapitigen.org/programme> gives full details of all meetings in the calendar and is easy to negotiate.



Branch Officers

Convener: On rotation
Convenor "at" KapitiGen.org
Secretary: Jenny Wilson
Secretary "at" KapitiGen.org
Treasurer : John Miller
Treasurer "at" KapitiGen.org

Branch responsibilities

Membership:

Lorna Henderson: Phone: 04 293 7771
Membership "at" KapitiGen.org

Programme & Activities:

Ian Brooking
Programme "at" KapitiGen.org
 Denice Mc Carten

Librarian: Beverly Chappell

Members: Ian Barbour
 Bernard McManus
 Graeme McVerry

Daytime co-ordinator:

Denice McCarten
daygrp "at" KapitiGen.org

Magazine Round Robins:

Bev Chappell
RoundRobin "at" KapitiGen.org

Website: <http://www.kapitigen.org>

Webmasters:

Lorna Henderson & Ian Brooking

Meeting registrar: Evening: Judy Olsen
 Daytime: May Redmund

Audio/Visual Support:

Ian Brooking and Lindsay Olsen

Newsletter Editor: Sheila Jolley
editor "at" KapitiGen.org

Trip organiser: Kathy Callaghan

Publicity: Maureen Robb

Computer/Equipment Support: Ian Brooking

Catering: By roster

Raffle: Jenny Wilson

Interest Group Facilitators:

DNA: Lorna Henderson

Irish: IrishSIG "at" KapitiGen.org

Roots Magic: Lorna Henderson

RootsMagic "at" KapitiGen.org

Portfolio descriptions and current holders are listed on our web site - in the **Who Does What** section
<http://www.kapitigen.org/home/who-does-what/>

Email links

Throughout the newsletter email links are clickable. Remove the extra @ symbol before sending.

Kapiti Genealogy Venues

APFHC: Alison Procter Family History Centre,
 Ground Floor, North West Corner,
 Paraparaumu Library

Coastal Community Church, 57, Hinemoa Street,
 Paraparaumu

Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe,
 286, Te Moana Rd, Waikanae

Membership -

\$30 for the year 1 April to 31st March. You can use your current membership card to access our resources at the Paraparaumu Library.

New members always welcome. Please register first at https://www.kapitigen.org/membership/apply_online/

Renewals Payment may be made to BNZ 02-0591-0040701-000 with your membership number and phone number in the payee fields
 Further details on <http://www.kapitigen.org/2024/01/renewals-membershipsfor-the-2024-25-year/>

Branch Meetings in May
 Evening Meeting
 Tuesday May 28th

AGM at 7.30
 40th Birthday celebration

Daytime Meeting
 Wednesday May 29th