



Kapiti Branch

March 2004

Convenor's Comment

Thanks to those who responded to the Membership Survey questionnaire - 50% of the 2004 membership. Your comments provide valuable suggestions on how we should be organising Branch activities and resources. A brief summary follows.

Members research interests and resources they are willing to share have been collated onto a spreadsheet. This will be available at the Help Desk at monthly meetings. If you find family names, countries, counties or research resources of interest and would like to contact the member concerned, let the Research Officer or Secretary know.

Lots of feedback on the resources held in our collection at the Paraparaumu Public Library. Principle response was for better cataloguing and presentation of both printed and microfiche material, with regular updates of holdings in hard copy form and on our website. This is being actioned and a small working group has tidied up the holdings and will commence cataloguing as soon as linkages to the District Library system have been agreed to. Several asked for sessions on using resources.

Remember they are accessible during normal opening hours of the Library and on Wednesdays 10am to Noon, a helper is there to assist with inquiries. Responses to additions to the collection were as long as a piece of string. We have to be very careful with our limited finances not to pander to the tastes of a few and recognise the availability of resources in other local centres, the National Library and ArchivesNZ, NZSG and those on the Internet.

The format of monthly meetings and suggestions for other activities evoked much comment. The message was clear - more hands-on activities, starter sessions for beginners, open discussions on member's experiences, special interest groups of those with common interests, visits to NatLib, ArchivesNZ, History Collections and LDS Family History Centres. And one member summed up a common response - no talks on people's remote ancestors as my eyes glaze over; please focus on HOW, TECHNIQUES, SHORTCUTS, TRAPS, GOOD INFO SITES!

Lots of helpful comments on information services with support (and suggested additions) for the revamped newsletter and website.

You gave supper at monthly meetings a bit of a hammering with a 50/50 split between the ayes and nos! The new meeting facility is rather cramped and not conducive to socialising. Responses included that every one seems to buzz off before supper and it's a bit putting off when people start stacking chairs! Point taken. We'll work on it.

Clive Palmer

Notices

Wanted: Your Committee is looking for someone among our membership to take up the position of Sales Officer. We don't see it as a difficult job, but this person would be the contact for members wishing to buy or sell items they no longer want. Who will offer to do this? Please see Derek after the meeting, or if you want to think about it first, his phone number is 293-1092. This should not be an onerous task, and can be as much as you care to make it, but it would spread the workload.

NZSG POST CONFERENCE TOUR

As previously advised, Ivan Johnson, keynote speaker at the NZSG, will be touring the country in June. Details are in the latest "The New Zealand Genealogist" On Tuesday, 8th June he will be in Palmerston North speaking on "Constructing the lives of our ancestors in 19th-century England.

The following night Wednesday, 9th June he will be in Wellington with "Church crawling in England"

Details of time and venue to follow

FURTHER to last month's notices, have any of you gone to some of the Interest Groups put on by other Branches? Or gone to one of their meetings when there is an interesting speaker? How about car-pooling? If you are interested in hearing Lynly Yates speak on Military Records, there are two choices:- Palmerston North on 3rd April or Levin on 31st May And for those Irish links, did you think of going to Porirua on 10th March?

LATTER DAY SAINTS CENTRE IN PORIRUA

Rumour had it that this Centre was closing down. They have had problems with having staff on duty there, but are still operating with reduced hours in 2004. They will no longer be open on Tuesdays, but should be there between 9 am. to 2 pm. on Mondays & Wednesdays. As this is our nearest Branch, we are pleased to get this news.

For those of you who are new to genealogy, they hold copies of a number of Mormon records from Salt Lake City, and are able to order films & microfiche, for specific research, for a small fee.

Their address is 48 Ngatittoa Street, Elsdon and phone number (04) 237 5412

SPEAKING of research material available, the Porirua Branch of the NZSG have

a section in their Public Library, in the Arts & Culture Centre, cnr. Norrie & Parumoana Streets, Porirua. Again a small fee is charged for out of town enquirers

ANOTHER SOURCE OF INFORMATION is held at the Hocken Library, which has two OnLine services which may be of interest. One is their Publications Catalogue and the other is Hakena, this latter being unpublished material, such as company records and private papers. Both of these catalogues are available at <http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/libs/hocken/index.html>

Journal articles and significant newspaper reports are also available through the Dunedin Public Libraries NZ News Index through their catalogue:-

<http://www.cityofdunedin.com/library/catalogue/webclient.html> Excellent articles in the Otago Daily Times-(My thanks to the anonymous sender of this item -Ed.)

NZSG POSTAL VOTING ON THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES.

At the end of last year, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists management proposed certain changes to the Constitution, and members of the Society were given the opportunity to vote on these by post. Voting closed at the end of January 2004 and, on the weekend 14/15 February 2004 the 1552 valid voting papers received were counted. For Constitutional changes a two-thirds majority had to be achieved for each alteration.

Advice has just been received that all eleven proposed alterations have achieved the required level of support. Percentages vary slightly, but Votes For ranged from 86.6% for Vote Number 5, up to 95% for Vote Number 10. Full details of these results will appear in the next issue of "The New Zealand Genealogist"

My Life

I am married to Bob and we have three wonderful children. They are all independent and making their own way in the world. We are very proud of them. We have lived on the Kapiti Coast for the past eighteen years. I did not have any interest in Genealogy until my Father-in-law Alexander Thomas Heron produced a small document which was printed in 1988.

His intention was that each of his four children and eight grandchildren would receive a copy with the hope that someone would take the trouble to add to the tale as it unfolded. It all began because of several queries from our son, Sean, on various aspects of his grandfather's life. His grandfather Alexander Thomas Heron began to write about his family history. Then followed a request from his Granddaughter Tracy Lee. The document became larger and goes back to 1851.

During one winter several years ago I decided to produce a family tree from the information that my Father-in-law had produced. I decided to put family photos in order and have a rogues gallery. I then joined the genealogical society. One thing led to another as we all know and contacts were made. Bob's family tree began to

grow. So far they are in Australia, Britain, United States, and Australia. A world trip last year to see two of our children enabled us to make contact with family in Britain. Still have Australia and the States to get to. It is so nice to be able to keep in touch. Thank goodness for e-mails.

As for me. Well I had never really felt the need to find my roots. My adopted parents gave me a wonderful warm and caring upbringing. My children have not been very inquisitive re my background as they loved my parents, their grandparents. Each year on my birthday I did think of my birth mother. I would wish her well and hope that she was alright. I know I was. Early in 1999 after much soul searching I decided to try to open the door. In June 1999 I took the plunge and began the search. In quite a short period of time I made contact with my birth mothers family. I am glad that I did it. I see my mothers family from time to time and the door remains open.

Where to from here? Well across the board we have made wonderful friends and as time goes on hope to make more as I find out who is who in the scheme of things. One concern is that one would get so wrapped up in the search that little time is left to keep in touch with those that are still here.

Doreen Heron

Reports

REPORT ON REGIONAL MEETING

Three Kapiti Committee members went to the recent Southern North Island Regional Meeting (NZSG) in Levin. These quarterly meetings are attended by representatives from NZSG Branches from between Wanganui & Hawkes Bay down to Wellington. Apart from a shared lunch, ideas are also exchanged and we are updated on what is happening at NZSG headquarters. There is an indexing team that is trying to match up New Zealand Brides and Grooms, and finding that there are over 6000 they have been unable to pair up. It has been suggested that Wellington Branch, with help from other branches might be able to work through the Intentions to Marry in the National Archives. The NZSG is to produce a CD of Matching Brides and Grooms, together with the NZSG Pre 1856 Marriages. Release date not available, but the CD will be sold to members and the general public.

On the subject of CDs, NZSG version 4 CD is in the pipeline. Further notification when it is due to come out.

Regarding Public Internet Access to Births, Deaths & Marriages, Identity Services (formerly Registrar of BDM) has asked NZSG Council for feedback on the plans associated with the above. Council has recommended that the search criteria be as follows:- Select an event (birth, death or marriage) and enter a surname (first name is optional) and the date range and the system will return a list of matching names, listing those criteria. All being free of charge Identity Services wanted to have this

fee based. The only free search they recommend was with surname and approximate date. When the BDM online project is launched in June 2004, customers will have on line access to BDM data from the following periods:- Births 1848-1904; Marriages 1854- 1944; Deaths 1848- 1954.

The Porirua representative was most surprised to hear their branch was included on our Web page.

THE LIBRARY Clive is meeting with the Paraparaumu Head of the Library to discuss the entering of our material onto their system. We are sorry it has been taking so long, but it's the "getting it right that counts", and we thank you all for your patience.

HENRY HUME'S VISIT. Eileen, and Bill Allan and I went down to Porirua for their meeting to hear Henry Hume speak. In his introduction, he said he was the only one in his class who knew where New Zealand was, so, when the class was asked "Who discovered that country" they chorussed "Henry Hume"! He told us he is an historian and not a genealogist, so he spoke on the changes in Ireland over the years, of how parishes were divided into "townlands" and how boundaries changed over the years, of the many migrations caused by potato famines and the various Scots arrivals. One thing that interested me was the fact that the Huguenots took their skills at linen-making to Ireland, as when I visited Northern Ireland last year, someone told us how hard the soaking and stamping on the flax fibres had been when she was young.

Articles

WHAT'S YOUR LINE? Did you read the article in the Kapiti Observer of January 19th entitled "Telling the story of Kiwis online?" Did you do anything about writing your story (or that of your ancestors') migration to New Zealand? It would appear that shipboard diaries or letters of actual voyages or personal memories is what was asked for It is just a pity it was not published sooner, as the deadline was the end of January 2004, but as a challenge to all genealogists, I hope some of you took it up and, perhaps, will be chosen to appear in Te Ara, the Online Encyclopaedia of New Zealand. Details can be found on the InterNet:-
www.teara.govt.nz/your-story

Revocation of the Edict of Nantes

A sequel to last month's article "What is "Nantes"", and its relevance to British genealogical research)

The Edict of Nantes (1598) followed a period of persecution of Protestants in France, the most extreme example of which was the slaughter of over 100,000 people in the Massacre of St Bartholomew's (1572), and granted a measure of tolerance for many years. As time passed, that tolerance was steadily lost, until came "The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes" (1685). These Protestants were known as Huguenots.

To quote from Mark Herber's "Ancestral Trails" (1997), pages 215 and 216: "The Huguenots were Protestants, mostly from France About 45000 Huguenots settled in Britain in the late 17th Century alone, mainly around Spitalfields and Soho in London, but also in Bristol, Southampton, Canterbury and Norwich. By 1700 there were 23 Huguenot churches in London alone". Some also settled in Dublin

"Cassell's Illustrated History of England" tells us that the bulk of them were weavers of silk and brocades, hatters, and "artificers of various kinds", whilst others brought with them the art of making the finest kinds of writing-paper. They settled in Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, where some of their descendants yet remain, bearing their French names. France's loss, was England's gain.

For those with British origins, but with a French surname amongst their ancestors, a Huguenot connection may well be the explanation, especially if they are to be found in any of the places mentioned above. From a quick on-line check of the Mormon Family History Catalogue, just of the London districts of Westminster and Spitalfields alone, some 20 churches with obvious French Protestant associations are revealed. Once one or more "hot prospect" churches have been identified, it is then simply a matter of ordering in the appropriate films from the nearest Family History Centre (in our case, Porirua) and, when they arrive, working steadily through them looking for the surnames relevant to your research.

The National Library in Wellington also holds a useful collection of Huguenot books and fiche, held under their reference: GBR/REL/HUG. These include a sequence of Huguenot Society Proceedings up to 2003, and a large 1998 Master Index to Proceedings Volumes I to XXVI. Also on shelf is a very useful general reference book, "Huguenot Heritage", 2nd edition, (2001), 261 pages, by Robin Gwynn.

For NZSG Members, there is also the Family Research Centre in Panmure, Auckland, although their holdings appear to be very similar to those of the National Library here in Wellington. At the moment there is no Huguenot Special Interest Group operating, but for members seeking advice or guidance, the Society contact is: Marion G. Heap, Huguenot Research Officer NZSG, 78 Parr Terrace, Milford, Auckland 1309 or e-mail huguenotSIG@genealogy.org.nz

Finally, for the more intense researcher, there is the prospect of joining the Huguenot Society itself (write to: Secretary, The Huguenot Society, The Huguenot Library, University College, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, England). It has to be said though, that the Membership Fees are very high. For those with internet access, it is worth visiting their website: <http://www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/>

Genealogical Codicil to My Last Will and Testament

To my spouse, children, guardian, administrator and/or executor: Upon my demise

it is requested that you DO NOT dispose of any or all of my genealogical records, both those prepared personally by me and those records prepared by others which may be in my possession, including but not limited to books, files, notebooks or computer programs for a period of two years. During this time period, please attempt to identify one or more persons who would be willing to take custody of the said materials and the responsibility of maintaining and continuing the family histories. [If you know whom within your family or friends are likely candidates to accept these materials, please add the following at this point: "I suggest that the persons contacted regarding the assumption of the custody of these items include but not be limited to" and then list the names of those individuals at this point, with their addresses and telephone numbers if known]

In the event you do not find anyone to accept these materials, please contact the various genealogical organizations that I have been a member of and determine if they will accept some parts or all of my genealogical materials. [List of organizations, addresses and phone numbers at bottom; include local chapters, with their addresses, phone numbers and contact persons if available as well as state/national contact information and addresses]

Please remember that my genealogical endeavours consumed a great deal of time, travel, and money. Therefore it is my desire that the products of these endeavours be allowed to continue in a manner that will make them available to others in the future

Signature _____

Date _____

Witness _____

Round & About

THE PALMERS' GARDEN PARTY

Well, the weather was not up to much, but those of us who gathered up Huia Street on Sunday the 29th February had an interesting time. Clive and Derek had brought up some of the Branch microfiche, together with readers, which were all set out waiting to be used.. Sue Greene came down from Otaki ready to help anyone with their computer programmes, Clive had tacked a map of London districts onto the wall, so all was ready to go by the time members arrived for lunch. Interestingly enough very little actual research was done, although a few looked at the microfiche. Instead people mixed and mingled with some brave souls venturing into the garden. All admired the view. The atmosphere was relaxed and informal. Thank you, Merrilee and Clive for a very pleasant day

WAIMATE JUBILEE

Waimate began in 1854 when young pioneers, Michael Studholme and Saul Shrives, first arrived with their families and a bullock team to settle in the area.. One hundred years later the town celebrated the event with the formation of the

Waimate Historical Society. This Society is now 50 years old, and, to mark this auspicious event. is holding its Jubilee between February and June with "A Celebration of Weddings 1869 -2003; April Anzac; July to October "Showcasing Women's Art"; 23rd to 25th October "Book-a-Rama" and in November "Music, Print & Paper".

The Waimate Historical Museum was formerly the Waimate Courthouse (1879-1979) which sits in a fine garden setting and is now home to an extensive range of exhibits of interest to young and old.

For further information contact:- wtemus@xtra.co.nz or

www.waimate.org.nz/museum

ANOTHER MUSEUM is the Maniototo Early Settlers Museum in Central Otago, which was built in 1878 as the County Council Offices. With the coming of the Central Otago Railway to Ranfurly in 1898 many businesses moved there. The Council sold their offices to Maniototo Early Settlers for £75 in 1936. It has four rooms, which show

" Chinese Gold Diggers

" Replica Old Grocery Shop

" Early Family Portraits

" Historic Photographs

The Jubilee Museum, part of the complex, opened in 1990 to recreate the businesses on the actual site as at the turn of last century and has a watchmakers shop and displays of gigs and buggies together with forge.

WEB SITE FOR LOCATING OWNERS OF PHOTOS WITHOUT NAMES

An item from the Wellington Branch NZSG give the following article:- "My name is Barbara, I live in Christchurch New Zealand. Genealogy has been a passion of mine for the last 18 years. I have been researching on the Internet for the last 6 years. The Internet has made genealogy a lot easier, though it can be a frustrating tool. This is why I decide to put this site together to help other fellow genealogists in their quest for information. I have tried to put the websites in categories to make it a lot easier to find the information. It is my intention that all the sites listed are free sites, as I don't believe in paying for information. If you find any site that is not, please e-mail me immediately. Feel free to e-mail me if you have any problems" E-mail address:- www.homepages.paradise.net.nz/barbgreg/
(Thanks to the Wellington Branch for this)

The Taupo NZSG Newsletter "Branch Whispers" Feb 2004 has quite a bit to say on Irish research.