



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz)

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

March 2008 Newsletter

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday, 25 March 2008

Kapiti branch

LINZ reference room: old original land and deed registers

Speaker: Bill Carter

7pm research facilities and help available

7.30pm main session begins

[Wednesday 2 April](#)

[Day meeting 1-3pm](#)

[upstairs, Paraparaumu Library](#)

[Help with your research](#)

Monday, 14 April 2008, 7.30pm

Computer-Friendly Genealogy (formerly known as COMSIG)

Military records and websites

[Looking ahead:](#)

[Tuesday 22 April 2008](#)

[Kapiti Branch](#)

[Research night](#)

[Family Tree and Key Identification factors](#)

[Facilitator: Margaret Brown](#)

[Monday 12 May 2008, 7.30pm](#)

[Computer-Friendly Genealogy](#)

[Using Legacy](#)

[Speaker: Gerald Twiss](#)

Meeting venues

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu unless stated otherwise.

Need a ride to Branch or Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings? Jackie Holland will co-ordinate car pools. Ring her on 293-2296 if you would like to be picked up or if you can offer a seat in your vehicle.

Dates for 2008

The complete list of meeting dates and topics

for 2008 is available on the Branch webpage,

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

[For your calendar:](#)

[2008 Expo\(at\)Kilbirnie](mailto:2008Expo(at)Kilbirnie)

EXPO 2008 KILBIRNIE BRANCH

Saturday 19th April 2008, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

St Patrick's Parish Hall, Rongotai Road, Kilbirnie, in the heart of the Kilbirnie shops, on bus routes, with cafes and shops across the road. Stalls, displays, bookstalls and workshops, featuring Beehive Books and Jan Gow, FRC Books and Peter Nash, Irish, Scottish, Australian, London interest groups, computer and other help desks, participation by Findmypast. \$2 door charge.

[NZSG Conference](#)

Queen's Birthday Weekend, 30 May to 2 June 2008 in Christchurch. Registration forms can be downloaded from the NZSG Website www.genealogy.org.nz or email [2008conference\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:2008conference(at)genealogy.org.nz) or write to PO Box 20 506 Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543.

Convenor's comment

The first of our day meetings for the year starts on Wednesday 2 April at 1pm upstairs at the Paraparaumu Public Library. The theme for each will be "Help with Your Research" and facilitators will be available to assist you, so bring along your notes and queries. This is also an opportunity to have guidance in using our research facilities, including on-line access for those who wish to gain experience searching the internet.

Put the series of six dates in your diary now! They are: Wednesday 2 April, Wednesday 4 June, and Wednesday 1 October from 1pm to 3pm; also Saturday 5 July, Saturday 2 August, and Saturday 6 September from 10am to 12 noon, all at our Alison Procter Family History Centre, Paraparaumu Public Library.

A reminder that the family history centre,

Paraparaumu Public Library mezzanine floor, is open seven days a week during library opening hours. Here is our extensive collection of books to borrow, reference volumes, magazines, newsletters from other branches, microfiche and CD-ROMs. Our two PCs are connected to the major international genealogy website ancestry.com and will shortly be linked to the NZ Gazette Archive, the NZ Government Official publication which commenced in the early 1840s. We will be sending out more details of this latter feature once the linkages to the Paraparaumu, Otaki and Waikanae Libraries are complete, hopefully in early April.

Access our collection by presenting your membership card and KCDC Library Card (free if you don't have one) at the Information Desk, ground floor, then signing for and obtaining the key for the storage cupboards. If you want to use the PCs and printers, a small information booklet will be found in the microfiche/CD cupboard. Don't forget every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12 noon a facilitator is on hand to help you.

Full details of our research collection will be found on our website. Use it and enjoy!

- Clive Palmer

Introducing Derek Griffis

It was the death of Mum's Dad in 1975 that first set me wondering. Dad had deserted Mum and myself for another woman at the brink of WW2, and apart from meeting him as an RAF officer a couple of times in a war-torn London of sandbags, bomb-sites, air-raids, and barrage-balloons, I had neither seen nor heard anything of him since. Did I still have a Dad alive and well somewhere out there?

Progress was very slow in those days, well before microfiche, and computers weren't even on the horizon. There were no UK records in NZ, so one had to read books, and write letters then wait a long time for a reply. Two years later I found him - in Southport, Lancashire, married to the "other woman". Contact was made and was well-received. In 1979 I went over to visit them, on my first return visit to the UK since emigrating back in 1956. Since then my family research expanded greatly, mainly into my own GRIFFIS line, together with RUTLAND and EASTMENT, with the inevitable accumulation of vast amounts of

information, charts, photos, and memorabilia. In an endeavour to preserve the best and the most important, in 2003 I published my Family History (*I'm not Welsh* – see our Resource Collection). This includes my autobiography – after all, we spend so much time and effort into trying to find out about those who have gone before, it seemed only reasonable to create a record of myself to leave for those who come after – which for me currently is three children and seven grand-children.

For the first eight years of my research I belonged to neither NZSG nor any of its Branches. In 1983 I decided to join NZSG, and later that year joined Wellington Branch and remained with them until 1994 when we moved up to Kapiti Coast, and have been a member of that Branch ever since. For five years was on Wellington Committee as Sales Officer, and am now in my fifth year on Kapiti Committee as Secretary.

My career, such as it was, was in life assurance administration, and I was to rise to the dizzy heights of Middle Management. After three years in London (plus two years' National Service in the RAF), I joined Government Life (now known as Tower) on arrival in NZ and, aside from a four-year diversion to Sydney, stayed with them until early retirement in 1992. Work as such, never appealed greatly, and I saw it as a means to an end, rather than as an end itself. My sport is long-distance walking.

Computer Corner with Sue Greene

At the February meeting some other free PDF converters sites were mentioned (see below) plus a few other sites worth having a look at. <http://www.pdfforge.org/products/pdfcreator/download>

<http://www.pdfcreator.de.vu/>

<http://100-downloads.com/more.php?c=4>

<http://www.intel.com/personal/computing/emea/eng/digital-life/home/tools.htm>

<http://www.softempire.com/system-tools-and-utilities-optimization-and->

[diagnostic-6.html](#)

At the branch meeting I demonstrated the LDS familysearch website. If you have problems using the site, email me [sueg-97\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:sueg-97(at)xtra.co.nz) and we can make a time to go through the details over the phone. If you're on Broadband we can go through the steps while online.

Branch notes

New members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the previous newsletter: Anne O'Callaghan, Colleen Diggins and Margaret Fitzgerald.

Branch meeting report

In February, Sue Greene showed how the LDS www.familysearch.org website could be used to locate the source call number for old parish records (OPR) for England and Wales. This reference number is used to order microfilm of the OPR for viewing at the National Library or Family History Centres. She pointed out that although the IGI doesn't include many death records, they can usually be found at the end of the OPR film.

Sue showed how by entering only the parents' names in the search fields, in some cases children can be found. When a batch number for an OPR is found, entering only that number in the search field will allow you to see all the other entries in that record. You can narrow down the search by entering the batch number and a surname to get all the births (or marriages if that's what you're searching) of that name in that set of records.

If you know the town or county you want records for, you can use the tab called library catalogue and search by place. Specify that it is England or Wales to avoid a list that includes identical town names from around the world.

You may wonder why you can't find a record for someone that the census says was born in that place. Not all families stayed put, and if they moved soon after a child was born, the census informants may have forgotten that the child wasn't born there. In this way, census information can sometimes be misleading.

Family tree charts

There will be a full range of NZSG Charts available for sale at the 25 March branch meeting. Please see our Sales Officer, Sandy

White, who will be happy to sell you these: seven generation \$3, eight generation \$3.50, nine generation wheel \$3.50, 12 generation \$4. See her after the meeting.

Meeting format

We are up and running for research help from 7pm to 7.30pm at our monthly meetings with facilitators on hand, on-line access and our CD collection available for viewing.

If you want to raise issues in a more collegial way then a Q&A session will be held in open meeting from 7.30pm to 7.45pm. This is also an opportunity to raise Branch related issues you would like to bring to our attention.

Library news

Each month we receive newsletters from other genealogy branches, which are kept in printed form in our library cupboard. They often contain interesting items that are too long to reproduce here.

Some tidbits from February: Canterbury branch: NZSG's index of 58,000 'unrelated certificates' and in March: Kilbirnie branch: three books about names; up-to-date news from Ireland and lost sheep found.

Fundraising

We are looking at two new sources of funds for the Branch, beyond what we take in from subs, community trust grants, raffles and sales of ink cartridges. The first is books, on genealogy or otherwise, for our sales table. Please bring any you'd like to donate to a monthly meeting or ring the Sales Officer to arrange collection.

The second is more of the white elephant variety. If you have something in good condition that you would like to donate, contact the Sales Officer or the Convenor and we'll sell it on Trade Me, with proceeds to branch funds. Your help would be appreciated.

Used ink cartridge round up

Towards the end of this month the next batch of used ink cartridges will be taken in to the dealer as part of our continuing fundraising efforts.

In particular we wish to receive Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, and Epson cartridges, and these may be brought along to monthly branch meetings or left in the labelled cardboard box in the middle one of our locked

steel cabinets upstairs at Paraparaumu Library. Not only do we make money, but we save the environment!

Kapiti Branch help desk

Valerie Freeman runs our "Help Desk" at our branch monthly meetings, but those seeking basic advice and guidance on Family History research may also ring her at home (298-7396) at any time, within reason!

On the web

Wellington City Archives

Searchable indexes at the WCC archives website include Rate Books for the city (Thorndon-Newtown area) 1863-1866 and a page of resources useful to family historians.

<http://wellington.govt.nz/services/archives/#Aa>

The Scottish War Memorials Project

Many of you maybe already aware of this "forum style" website, in which people post photos and details taken of War Memorials in Scotland, and those outside Scotland featuring Scots. It is organised by county, and then broken down to Civic, School, Church and Regimental memorials. The URL is:

<http://warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com/warmemscot.html>

If you have problems with that, search Google for "warmemscot".

More burial records

www.findmypast.com has added another 1.2 million National Burial Index Records to its online collection, bringing the total to over 11 million. The new records cover the counties of Somerset, Dorset and Essex. The National Burial Index (NBI) is a finding aid for burials that took place in England or Wales between the years 1538 and 2005. Searching is free but for details you need to pay-per-view or by subscription.

Special Interest Groups:

Family Tree Maker Hanley Hoffmann
phone 904-3276
hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz

Australia until further notice contact
Hanley Hoffmann (as above)

The Master Genealogist Lorna Henderson
phone 293-7771
lornah@paradise.net.nz

Death notices in Australian newspapers

<http://userdp.rootsweb.com/aus/>

Sydney Morning Herald

Archives for this newspaper can now be browsed or searched online from 1955-1990. Searching is free, but there is a charge to view articles. <http://archives.smh.com.au>

Passenger lists

The passenger lists from 1884-1910 inwards from Britain [SS1] are online at <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/sheila.jones/> Go to Emigration and select England to New Zealand. The file is in separate parts and in total is over 650 pages. This was indexed by Suzanne Hamilton and it is free. Also on this website is a file of assisted immigrants into Auckland from 1859 to 1872.

Committee 2007-2008

Convenor Clive Palmer

c-mpalmer@xtra.co.nz phone 293-7631

Secretary & Branch Research

Derek Griffis griffisnz@ihug.co.nz
phone 293-1092

Treasurer & Membership

Lorna Henderson
lornah@paradise.net.nz
phone 293-7771

Computer-Friendly Genealogy and Projects

Sue Greene
sueg-97@xtra.co.nz
phone 06 364-8196

Programme & Activities

Jackie Holland
jtholland@xtra.co.nz phone 293-2296

Hostess

Judy Olsen
cuppatea@paradise.net.nz

Round Robins

Meryl Opie
opiemb@xtra.co.nz

Sales Sandy White tersan@xtra.co.nz

Appointed off-committee:

Help Desk Valerie Freeman
phone 298-7396

Publicity/Marketing & Editor

Liz Matthews phone 293-8553

[liz.matthews\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:liz.matthews@xtra.co.nz)

Webmaster Barry Thomson

Computer Support Lindsay Olsen

Library Support Bev Chappell and
Joy Lamb

Meeting Registrar Dave Muirhead

Programme Support Kay and Bill Carter