



## Kapiti Branch

**March 2005**

### **Conveners Comment:-**

Our membership continues to grow and as of preparing this article we have 164 members. Approximately 55% of these are members of the NZ Society of Genealogists. Membership of the Branch and of our parent body NZSG is separate but complementary. Our research resources and activities add value to those available from the national body. I appreciate there are many reasons why some members do not belong to the NZSG. Some have been members but feel they have exhausted this avenue of research assistance; for others there are financial considerations; some have yet to consider joining. I strongly recommend you have a look at the NZSG website at [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz) or pick up a brochure from our research room at Paraparaumu Public library or at a monthly meeting. The research facilities of NZSG are extensive, and those who were at our Jan meeting will have heard of just a section of those facilities - the Record Collections. Others include research advice, CD-ROM searches, England BDM index search and certificate ordering; UK wills & probate service; NZ Matching Brides & Grooms Service; NZ Schools lookup. The extensive library has postal borrowing of books, microfiche, CD-ROMS; and other resources. Have a look in a recent edition of the NZSG Magazine "The New Zealand Genealogist" in our collection at PPL to read more about these services. The NZSG Family Research Centre is located in Parnell, Auckland and is well worth a visit if you are a member visiting Auckland. The Society has several special interest groups - Australian; Channel Islands; Cornish; East Anglia; East India; European; Genealogical Computer Group; Greater London; Huguenot; Irish; Isle of Man; Maori; Midlands & NW England; N.America; North East England; Scottish; Southern England; Welsh.

Clive Palmer

### **Computer SIG:-**

#### **GEDCOM FILES**

Often when I ask members have you ever done a GEDCOM as soon as I mention GEDCOM files I get that blank expression response or I see that look of sheer horror of talking computer terminology that is beyond some. There is nothing to be afraid of in fact a GEDCOM is easier than using some windows applications. A GEDCOM is an application that allows two different genealogy programmes to talk to each other. You can create a GEDCOM of your genealogy to email to family providing they have a genealogy programme on their computer. It can be used as a backup. You can create a GEDCOM of all your data or you can select

parts of your data to send. Though I will be using PAF to demonstrate how easy a GEDCOM is, all programmes are capable of creating GEDCOM files but the basics are the same. Once you try it you will wonder what on earth you were afraid of.

NZSG web site. When was the last time NZSG members used our web site? Have you thought of using our online catalogue to see what we have in our library and ordered books/fiche online.

When using the catalogue use the key word search only. Keep your search simple, too much info. can result in too little finds.

If you want to see what we have for Derbyshire just use Derbyshire and see what we have, or you can type in England and see what is available for all of England but be prepared to spend some time scrolling through a lot of pages. Once you find a book or fiche of interest you can then click on order. If the items are in, usually you have the items within a couple of days. A great service but under-used by members. While on the web site why not have a look around at the many other services we provide. A word of warning, a little lesson one of our members learnt when searching for New Zealand material, don't use NZ. Type in the country name in full.

#### **Popups, Viruses, and other nasties.**

Have you kept your virus programme up to date? Some don't realize with some virus programmes auto update needs to be activated. With some programmes you may need to do this manually. Sick of pop-ups? Those nasty little adverts that always come up when you're online. A good programme free to download is Pop This. You can download this programme at <http://www.surfapps.com> Also worth having is Spybot search and destroy. This cleans up a lot of rubbish such as hidden dial-ups you may not know are on your computer, advertising you may not be aware of. To download go to <http://www.spybot.info/en/index.html> If you are using an anti virus programme that does not have a fire wall one of the best free downloads is Zonealarm, go to <http://www.zonelabs.com/store/content/home.jsp> All the above will work with all windows operating systems however some may clash with Norton's and MacAfee. Microsoft have their own Beta version out of Spyware, click on here for a free download

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/spyware/software/default.msp>

#### **Notices:-**

Welcome to new members who have joined us since the last Newsletter: John Eller, Colin & Eileen Fleury, Michael King, and Michael Parkin. Also Welcome back to Cheryl Hodges:

**What Offers?** If any member would like copies of NZSG "The Genealogist" for the years 1993-2000 or the loan of the same,

These have some very interesting articles in them

Please contact Rosemary (04) 902-1927.

**Unclaimed** A small pottery "pie dish" which had contained sweets for our Christmas party was left behind. Would the owner please see our hostess, Meryl, to reclaim it?

**Round Robins:** Have you a special area you are interested in? Perhaps there are other members also searching in the same place. Have you thought of sharing resources? Our Club currently subscribes annually to "Irish Roots" and "Australian Family Connections". Interested members pay a small fee to cover the cost and then can read and pass on. The more members interested, the lower the fee. This is one way to gather information without having to pay prohibitive subscriptions. Anyone interested should contact Meryl Opie: email [opiemb@@xtra.co.nz](mailto:opiemb@@xtra.co.nz)

**Supper Helpers:** As announced last month, now that we have kitchen facilities at our Meeting Venue we are returning to the past practice of calling for volunteers (by initials of surname) to assist with supper duties, particularly the serving and the tidying up afterwards. March: G - J, April: K - M, May: N- R, June: S - Z

**GenGuides:** Following January's interesting talk by Sue GREENE on the NZSG Record Collections, all our then existing local stocks of the relevant GenGuides (#41 Strays & More, #43 Pre-1856 NZ Marriage Records Collection, #44 NZSG Certificates, and #45 New Zealand First Families) were exhausted. Local stocks have now been replenished and so those who missed out last month may obtain them this month. They are free of charge.

**Ink Cartridges:** A periodic reminder that we are collecting used printer cartridges for recycling and to raise funds for the Branch. Any inkjet or bubble cartridges are wanted: e.g. Canon, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Epson. There will be a small box at Meetings, in front of the Notice Board, into which these may be placed. Alternatively, there is another box located in the central part of our locked cabinet upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, which may be used at any time.  
Derek Griffis

### **Meeting Dates & Times**

**Kapiti Branch:-** 7.30pm, 4th Tuesday, Jan-Nov at Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (near Paraparaumu Library)

**Computer SIG:-** 7.30pm, 2nd Monday, of every second month in the Paraparaumu Public Library ( meeting room) -Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec

**Note:-** The 2005 Programme of Activities is on our website [Click here](#)

Our search facility which allows us to access Ancestry.com is underused. This is a huge database of international genealogical records including Census info. Fill in a Kapiti GenForum Form off our website or pick up a copy at monthly meetings.

You can get free access to the catalogue index by going into the <http://www.ancestry.com/>

**Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:**

The next meeting will be on Saturday 30th April 2005, at the Masonic Hall in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. The entry charge is \$3.00 (To pay for hall hire, tea and coffee) For further details contact Gerald Twiss 021 151 5714 or email: gero@ihug.co.nz or kapitilegacy@hotmail.com

### **Reports:-**

#### **A Gentleman.**

We may have been brought up to believe that it defines a man with certain moral qualities. In sixteenth and seventeenth century England it served rather to indicate a man's position in society. On a high level were the noblemen, and inferior to them were the knights. Below them came those entitled to be called esquire. A man so called was one eligible for knighthood who had not, so far, received the accolade. He was eligible because his income, derived from the land he owned, came to something like £200 or £300 a year. That figure is significant in revealing the value of money at that time. A rough estimate in today's terms, £200 = \$350,000.

In 1597 William Shakespeare paid £60 for New Place, a large house in the centre of Stratford-on-Avon. To have £200 a year, therefore was to be a man of some consequence. Many esquires had a great deal more than that, as we know, but some £200 per annum was their minimum level, below which they could not support the dignity which went with their title.

Below the esquires came the gentlemen. In a letter or on a tombstone they had not "Esquire" but "Gentlemen" or "Gent" after their name. Experts in protocol actually subdivided "gentlemen" into nine different categories, the highest being gentlemen of ancestry, the second being gentlemen of blood and so on down to categories which were only marginally superior to yeomen.

This was a period when people in society were related, more or less, to everyone else. The world of those to be regarded as gentlefolk was relatively small and early death allowed the survivors to marry two or three times, thus widening their circle of relatives.

So if you come across a "gentlefolk" In your family research, bear this In mind  
LJB L/Hutt newsletter 1986

#### **Review of Pallot's Baptism Index 1780-1837**

Unbelievably, Mr Pallot originally made handwritten slips for some 12 million selected parish baptismal register entries, but most were destroyed in WW2. The remaining nearly 202,000 entries from 22 parishes in London and Middlesex, 27 other parishes and "several records" from counties in Wales, have been issued on CD-ROM by Ancestry.com. Online viewing of the original slip (not the original record) is possible - no subscription is required.

Deborah Shuker kindly lent me the CD-ROM to try my luck. Installation is no problem - full instructions are given in case the CD does not auto-run. It should work on most computers still in use (Win95 or better).

Once installed, you are left with an AncestryView 2.0 icon on the desktop. To run the program click this icon after you have put the CD-ROM in its drive (I got an error message each time I did it the other way round)

It took me a short while to get the hang of the procedure (when all else fails, read the instructions - 12 small pages). In the Simple Search window enter the name you are after (forename first) and click Go or press Enter. Entering just a surname for search may result in a display in the left hand panel of a list like this: 3 + G, 26 + H, etc. Click on the + sign to expand the list to show the surnames of entries containing 'your' name. A click on one takes you to the beginning of those names and you have to scroll through to find the one with 'your' name highlighted somewhere in the entry. A click in the box will highlight all the entries under that initial containing 'your' name.

I did not find anyone on my search list but I tried the online viewing option for four names at random. The Pallot slips are small but you can enlarge the screen (essential). His writing is clear; however his abbreviation of names is inconsistent, but (apparently) fairly obvious. Given that his writing is so clear the likelihood of a difference between his slip and the CD-ROM should be negligible. Nevertheless, you need to remember that each slip is only one person's interpretation of a parish register entry (though I guess he would have become proficient at reading a variety of handwriting long before he had done 12 million).

While it was of no help to me, this CD-ROM may prove useful to others and Deborah is willing to lend it to anyone interested.

Reviewed by George Watson

### **Old NZ Newspapers:**

Click here for details of old newspapers from the National Library of New Zealand

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/data/#THD>

### **New Irish Interest Group Lower North Island**

A great day dawned 6th Feb with the sun out and a promise of soaring to the mid 20c. (Which it did)

Researchers were so keen, that everyone started arriving early at 11am for what was to prove a very busy day. We started off with a welcome from Jenny Martin, who then passed the meeting to Geraldene O'Reilly (Hamilton) for election of the convener and committee members. Jenny was duly elected as convener, amidst a lot of

laughter when it was put to the floor, "Were there any further nominations?" The committee of four were then elected.

Thanks were extended to all those willing helpers in setting up and those who worked on the day to help it be so successful.

Gwen Reiher (Auckland) was then asked to officially cut the ribbon to launch us, followed

by an Irish blessing or two, from Father Paul Shannahan. (Wellington)

Gwen then gave us a most informative talk on Ireland, which was followed by Irish

dancers aged from 5 to 14. These were met with great delight and enjoyment by all present.

Then followed a delicious pot luck luncheon and once cleared, a most enjoyable afternoon of research.

We had a raffle of a carafe with the Celtic cross engraved on it, and several free give away draws of booklets on Ireland throughout the afternoon. The raffle was won, by Mary Porter and it sits in pride of place in her lounge. We also had a stall from the McPhee Celtic shop in Tawa It was delightful to hear that low hum of voices deep in soft conversation around the room all day.

There were seven trestle tables spilling over with research material from NZSG Auckland, Irish Group Auckland, Irish Group Hamilton, Wellington Branch NZSG, books already gathered for the new Irish Group and research data from Jenny's own personal collection. Plenty for everyone, and many went home with a smile on their face after doing a wee genealogy dance at finding an ancestor or being directed in the right direction.

The day, concluded at 4pm with an attendance of 64 (including helpers) of which 41 joined the new group.

A most successful, and rewarding day. This being the forerunner to this new group in its travels around the North Island from Wellington to New Plymouth, Wanganui, Taihape, Napier, Palmerston North, Wairarapa and all the places in between. Bookings are coming in already, so if you would like this group to visit you for a research day contact the convenor Jenny Martin  
jenmartin@@paradise.net.nz 46 Middleton Road, Johnsonville, Wellington 6004.  
Ph/Fax. 04 478 7621.

### **Dates to Remember 2005**

#### **Need a Helping Hand???**

We have a series of Starter Courses during 2005

**Course I** : Saturday April 9th, 10-4, \$20, is enrolling. For details, phone: Rex Roberts 9056570, or, click:

<http://rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/resources/StarterCourses2005.htm> 4th-6th June  
NZSG Conference in Nelson

Post Conference David Webster in Wellington

**Branch Library Report** We are now ready to go. Thank you, members, for your patience while our books have been re-catalogued and checked. It has been a longer job than expected. All our books are now security tagged, whether for loan or Reference Only. Those books that have the label "This item is the property of the Kapiti Branch NZSG.." followed by instructions on procedures can be taken out through the normal Public Library system downstairs, but you will need to show both your Public Library card as well as your KBNZSG membership card before taking the books out. You will be asked for your name to go on our list. Your "Return by" date will be stamped on a special yellow strip (similar to the one the Public Library had before their books were computerized. Please note, as books can now be accessed during the library hours, we have shortened the period they are available to 3 weeks in line with the Public Library system. Overdue books will

incur fines to be paid to our Branch - extension of lending will have to be done either through me, your librarian, or our Branch Secretary, Derek Griffis  
This procedure is a temporary measure until the Public Library can enter all our books onto their catalogue.

We have returned to having a member on duty upstairs between 10 a.m. and noon on Wednesdays. If you would like to help, please contact me. This can be a regular commitment or just a one-off morning.

Alison Procter

### **Our CD Collection**

The PC in the Library has been upgraded and the CD collection up and running on it. A booklet will be available for those who have any problems with access. Brian Mountjoy has offered to help those who would like a run through of the process. Please call him on 9022432.

### **Report on Southern North Island Regional Meeting**

The NZSG President, Graeme Constable and Vice President, Lily Baker presented the GRINZ diploma to Father Paul Shannahan who has passed his final exam with an A pass. His work will be published in the next copy of "The Historian".

Lily, as NZSG Education Officer, gave a short outline of coming courses. Most of these are held at the Family Research Centre in Auckland, so Kapiti Branch is fortunate in getting Lily down here early next month for the first of our Starter Courses. She touched on the major points of business at the last NZSG Council Meeting (details on the NZSG web site). Wairarapa Branch, who had their own premises alongside the Archives in Masterton, may have to move as Archives and Public Library reference are looking at "their" space., Wanganui Branch is preparing for their 30th birthday celebrations; Levin Branch have almost completed their school records and the 1910-1914 Chronicles are at the National Library for filming. Through the generosity of one of their members, they have doubled up on a number of fiche and are prepared to negotiate prices from anyone interested. The list will be displayed on our notice board. Hutt Valley Branch have found a real live USA Red Indian as a speaker.