



Kapiti Branch

May 2005

Conveners Comment:-

We have been successful again in obtaining funds from the Unison Trust to upgrade the Branch research facilities. This time, to cover purchase of a new desktop PC, flat screen and laser printer, for use with our CD-ROM collection at the Paraparaumu Public Library. This follows earlier grants for a laptop computer and data projector, which receive constant use at Branch and COMPSIG meetings. Grants since late last year from Unison Trust total \$4687. We are fortunate that charitable trusts operate gaming machines in NZ, so that all the profits go back to our communities. You may have read recent supplements with our local newspapers, which listed the many hundreds of community organisations that have benefited from funds distributed by the various trusts around the country. We are most grateful to Unison Trust for supporting our applications and in so doing recognising that genealogy brings a huge amount of pleasure to many thousands of people who are, in the words of NZSG, preserving our past for the future.

This has all been part of a major upgrade of our research resources over the past 18 months. The Committee is currently putting together a further list of priority research resources - principally books, microfiche and CDs - which we will purchase over time using a combination of our own resources and further applications to charitable trusts. KCDC District Libraries have also been successful in seeking grants from local pub charities and now have a top of the range A3 microfilm reader and printer at Paraparaumu Library. We have been asked to suggest items for their microfilm collection.

An appeal to YOU! Please, when using the PCs in our research room, do not change the formatting, settings and icons or install programmes. We have an Appointed Officer looking after the PCs who has carefully organised & installed the programmes and published a small guide to users to particularly help those who have difficulty using CD-ROMS. There is nothing more frustrating to find someone has been fiddling, altered these settings and made the guidelines unusable.

NZSG Constitution Problems

NZSG members will be aware that due to a number of compounding errors over a period of years, the Society's constitution is in very poor shape; does not always meet with the legal requirements of the Registrar of Incorporated Societies; nor accords with modern practise and likely changes to IRD regulations. At the most recent local regional Meeting of Branch representatives, new Executive Officer

Peter Nash explained the action to be taken to resolve the issue. As he put it, NZSG is in the throes of evolving from "a boxes under the bed" group to a highly professional organisation. Several motions for discussion at the AGM at Nelson in June, will focus on giving interim cover according to the intent of the 2004 postal ballot on constitution matters and appointing a committee for a total re-write of a short and concise constitution which can be changed by postal ballot; and a set of bylaws which can be changed at AGM's. Watch this space.

Ancestry.com

Changes to the use of Ancestry.com will be demonstrated at our May meeting. In future lookups will need to be more name & date specific and will be restricted to UK and Ireland records. The catalogue is posted on our Notice Board on meeting nights and access is through the research help facility Kapiti Genforum. Forms are available on meeting nights or can be downloaded off our website. Further details from the Convenor or Secretary.

Clive Palmer

Computer SIG:-

The LDS web site <http://www.familysearch.org/>

How many members have used the LDS (Latter Day Saints) web site and only used the search for ancestors?

There is a wealth of other information such as the Catalogue which is well worth searching.

Your research may be more successful if you understand the kinds of records available at the library and its centers. You should know that:

The library and its Family History Centers have access to records from many governments, churches, and organizations. Only a small part of the collection is about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, its members, or their ancestors.

Most documents are written in the language of the country where they were made. You usually do not need to know the foreign language to use the records, but learning a few key terms is helpful.

Many records are handwritten, are in chronological rather than alphabetical order, and are not indexed. Allow plenty of time at the Family History Center or library when searching these types of records.

Below is a list of records more information on these records can be found on the LDS web site.

Ancestral File. International Genealogical Index. U.S. Social Security Death Index.

U.S. Military Index plus some English Scottish military records to name a few Scottish Church Records. Personal Ancestral File. Pedigree Resource File.

TempleReady.

Family History Library Catalog. A catalog that describes the records available at the Family History Library. The catalog provides a guide to family histories; birth,

marriage, and death records; census records; church registers; and many other records that may contain genealogical information. These records may be in a book, on microfiche or microfilm, or in a computer file. Copies of most microfilm and microfiche records can be sent to Family History Centers. The catalog is available on the Internet, on compact disc, and on microfiche.

The catalogue can be search by Place search, Surname search, Keyword search, Title search, Film/Fiche search, Author search, Subject search, Call number search. The place search is worth trying. Type in the name of a county or town in England or any where in the world a list will appear of records held for that county or town many records which you can then order through your nearest LDS to view.

To go to the library Catalogue once the main page has loaded there is a tap with Library click on that tab. A new page will open, click on Family History Catalog. Happy hunting.

Sue Greene.

Notices:-

Welcome to those new members who have joined us since the last Newsletter:
Ian McCallum, Pat McKenzie, Judith McLachlan, and Pam Thornby.

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.

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

Supper Helpers: As announced recently, 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. May: N- R, June: S - Z, July: A - B

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 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 25th June 2005, at the Masonic Hall in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. Doors open @ @ 1.00pm with a 2.00pm start. Subject is "Recording Resources". The entry charge is \$3.00 (For hall hire, tea and coffee). For further details: contact Gerald

Twiss: gero@ihug.co.nz or kapitlegacy@hotmail.com

For Sale: Microfiche Viewer, 5-6 years old. \$60. Phone Ken Oakenfull, 2934483

Reports:-

FAMILYSEARCH TIPS - SEARCHING THE IGI

The International Genealogical Index contains over 600 million birth/baptism, marriage, and death/burial records from all over the world - and fortunately for those of us researching our British ancestors, a large proportion of the entries relate to the British Isles (not only England & Wales, but also Scotland and Ireland). You should note, however, that there are very few death or burial entries - for these the National Burial Index published by the Federation of Family History Societies is a much better source.

Why would you want to search the IGI? Civil registration (ie BMD certificates) only began in 1837 for England & Wales, and in 1855 for Scotland. Prior to these dates parish registers are the primary source of information for family historians, and most of the British entries on the IGI have been systematically transcribed from parish registers (or in some cases from early transcripts of the registers).

These entries are usually highly accurate, though there are inevitably occasional

errors, but you need to be extremely wary of those IGI entries that have been submitted by individuals. Indeed, when no precise date or church is quoted you may do well to ignore the entry altogether, since it could be downright misleading. It's always advisable to check the original register entries whenever you can, not least because they often contain information that isn't in the index. For example, baptism entries from 1813 onwards show both where the family was living and the father's occupation, whilst marriage entries from 1754 show the names of the witnesses - all items of information not included in the IGI. There may also be clues to the identity of the father of an illegitimate child. Most records offices offer a research service and will (for a fee) look up the original entry and send you a photocopy.

If the records for the parishes in which your ancestors lived are amongst those that have been systematically transcribed, then searching the IGI is far quicker than trying to decipher the handwritten registers or microfiche copies. Indeed, if you are lucky enough to be able to visit the records office for the area you're researching, it's invariably better to spend your limited time there searching the records of parishes that aren't on the IGI, and looking in the registers for entries that you've previously found in the index.

TO SEARCH THE IGI go to the FamilySearch site, (<http://www.familysearch.org/>) click on 'Search', and then choose 'International Genealogical Index'. Don't use the 'All Resources' search - you won't get the best results. Always select the 'Region' (British Isles) and if possible the 'Country' and 'County', otherwise you're likely to get far too many results. By the way, if you're searching the London area remember that many suburbs that we now consider part of London were once in Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, or Essex. Enter an approximate date rather than an exact one - specify both a Year and a Year Range. And if you are searching for a baptism, remember that baptisms always took place after the birth (sometimes many years later), and never before!

Unless you enter a 'batch number' (of which more later) you must enter at least the first name or last name of the person whose baptism you're seeking - or else the father's full name and the mother's first name. As with census searches you shouldn't be too specific - otherwise you might miss the very record you're looking for. It's hardly ever advisable to tick the 'Use exact spelling' box, as the spelling of names varied so much before 1900.

Once you've found the right entry try searching again, this time specifying just the names of the parents. You may well discover brothers and sisters that you didn't know about!

Whilst you will often want to search the records of a particular parish there's no drop-down box that lets you choose the parish. Fortunately you can achieve the same result using the batch number, because generally the records for a particular parish were batched separately from those of other parishes.

How can you find out the batch number for the parish you want to search? There's a very useful site run by Hugh Wallis showing which parishes are included in the IGI and listing each of the batch

numbers:<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers.htm>

Once you've found the right batch you can just click on it to search the IGI - though you'll have more options if you go to the FamilySearch site and enter the batch number there. Previously published by LostCousins in their newsletter. <http://www.LostCousins.com> info@LostCousins.com

Library Report:-

The following new books for our library have now been security-tagged and put onto the shelves. I have spoken to a couple of the Public Librarians re putting labels on the shelves, instead of trying to keep the books in their original order and am to get back to them later when they can let me have the dymo labeller to do it myself
The new material is as follows:-

KAPITI BRANCH NZSG LIBRARY ADDITIONS

For lending

- 200 Genealogical Research Directory 1997
- 201 Genealogical Research Directory 1998
- 202 Genealogical Research Directory 2000
- 203 Family Feuds An Introduction to Chancery Proceedings Susan T. Moore
- 204 Rangiora High School 1884-1984 Centennial History David Gunby
- 205 The New Zealand Genealogist's Family Historian ed. Richard Stedman

Reference

- Genealogical Research Directory 2005 Twenty-fifth
- Atlas & Index of Parish Registers Phillimore
- New Zealand Cemetery Records List of Holdings
- Northumberland & Durham Family History Society Spring/Summer/Autumn issues
- 2004

Recent additions to our resource collection

- AGCI (Australasian Genealogical Computer Index)2004 on CD-ROM.
- Alison Procter

Dates to Remember 2005

Need a Helping Hand???

We have a series of Starter Courses during 2005
Course II : Saturday July 9th 2005, 10am-4pm, \$20, enrolment. For details, phone: Rex Roberts 9056570, or,
click:<http://rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/resources/StarterCourses2005.htm>

Irish Research Day with Lower.North Island Irish Interest Group and Levin Branch

NZSG. Saturday 2 July, Thompson House, Kent Street, Levin 10am to 4pm. \$3 door charge. Lots of research material. Further information contact John Dixon 06 368 3221

NZSG Conference in Nelson 4th-6th June

Post Conference David Webster in Wellington

Ireland Web Sites of Interest

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/galleries/roots/irish/irish.htm>

Tracing your Irish Roots - use items in left hand

column.<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/galleries/roots/irish/tracingirishroots/tracingirishroots.htm>

http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ua-free_MarriageLicenceBonds.html

An alphabetical index with names of both bride and groom and year of marriage for the Diocese of Kilmore

This database contains 2,940 marriages between the years 1700 and 1856

<http://www.weareirish.ca/home.php> Hundreds of Irish resources to be discovered.

Discover Your Irish Roots Let our Irish Ethnic Toolkit help you get started tracing your ancestors back to the auld

sod.http://www.familytreemagazine.com/ethnic_cat.asp?

<http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ShowFreePage.php?id=94>

A fragment of the 1851 census relating to the Parish of Aghagallon in South Antrim

<http://www.portaferry.freeserve.co.uk>

Welcome To Portaferry An entrance site for the village of Portaferry, County Down, Ireland. Music, History, local information

Digital Cameras and Genealogy

Members interested in this, should have a look at this site for a full comprehensive review the subject <http://www.rideau-info.com/genealogy/digital/>