

KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
53 Donovan Road, Paraparaumu Beach

Meetings now held in the New Library Meeting Room on the
4th Thursdays of months January to November at 7.30 pm
November 2002



NOTE CHANGE OF DATE & VENUE!

PROGRAMME

Nov 28th Our Christmas Party. Come along and join the fun. Please bring a small plate and \$2 for the raffle. Note: None of our Library books will be available as the Kapiti Librarians will have to process them through their system first.
2003 Jan 23rd The first meeting of the year.

NOTICES

WELCOME to new members: Barry Scott, Barbara Haynes, Maureen Rankin and Clive & Merilee Palmer. Barbara Haynes has also become a new Committee Member along with Jack Burton.

SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due. Single membership now \$16 and double \$27. This slight rise was agreed to at the AGM. Shirley is waiting to collect them

EVERYONE should have been contacted, either by e-mail or by phone, with the invitation to the Grand Opening of the new library on 27th November, and a request for volunteers to help in the Family Research area, both in that first week, or later on throughout the year **THANKS** to all Members willing to take a duty at the Library during opening nit^{1*} aniTfui Lliqjt agreeing to go onto o

ACCESS TO RECORDS Please note that to access our genealogy records in their new home members will need both current Kapiti Branch NZSG membership card AND K.C.D.C. library card.

DO YOU HAVE A TALE TO TELL? The Hutt Valley Branch NZSG is asking its members, who have interesting ancestors, if they would share these stories in their newsletters. How about it, Kapiti? Can we do the same?

SUPPER HELPERS

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper duties, particularly the serving and washing up

NovC-D Jan 2003 E-G

RESEARCH TOUR WITH JAN GOW

For the second consecutive year we decided to join Jan Gow's "Hooked on Genealogy Tour" which she hosted, and co-organised with Sally Mills. The itinerary was "Queen Mary", Salt Lake City, London, Edinburgh. Last year and alternate years we exchanged Ireland for Scotland.

We commenced with a four-day American/English Society conference on board the "Queen Mary" at Long Beach, California. These conferences are a little beyond my comprehension but you always learn something. The ship is still magnificent, where we used the state bedrooms. What interested us was discovering that the amount of timber inside and outside would have used the equivalent of three British forests!! To keep the weight down cabin fittings were veneered. Today handrails and other fittings have been replaced with lighter weight materials. Bill was impressed with having two pairs of taps in the bath, one for salt water one for fresh. We opted for the fresh water shower.

In Salt Lake City we always stay in the 'Salt Lake Plaza' two minutes walk along the road where most of our research is undertaken under one roof and across the road from the Mormon complex where further research is available in the magnificent Josef Smith building. There is usually a pianist at the grand piano here who books well in advance for this privilege.

Whispers were soon circulating that the 1901 census could be available on-line for us. Sure enough it was and several folk benefited from the information available. This was not so for us. Another surprise awaited us in London, where we once again stayed at the Citadines Hotel, Barbizon area. This is central for the various and widespread research areas. First stop as always was the Family Record Centre. Once again they were trialling the 1901 census for one week. We had to book a computer for an hour (or longer if no one else came to claim it) and three of us still could not find Eleen's two sets of Grandparents. Eventually Hodgson Cooper was located under Hodgen. Not surprising when you consider the Geordie accent. No amount of assistance from the roving staff helped our cause, although we did manage to find another family.

A few days later at the PRO, Kew, the 1901 census was again available. This time Jan suggested checking the fiche first, and there was the family very clearly recorded. On to a vacant computer for another frustrating session. However, the answer was to enter every conceivable piece of information except the surname. Remember there is no Soundex facility to this programme as there is on familysearch.com meaning you have to

before the third letter of the name. What a surprise awaited us when up came Mr and Mrs 'Jan' instead of 'Yarr'.

At each of these venues we had tried every conceivable variation of all the names involved. Just as we completed a Correction Form at Kew the 'boss' lady who had travelled the world promoting the CD happened to walk past so Jan handed it to her. I wonder how many more she has received!!

At the Josef Smith building Eleen photo-copied three family records submitted by members. These were shown to our B & B hostess in Glenavy, Ireland who was surprised and delighted to note one of them was her Mother's Parents and siblings! Here we learnt not to assume the spelling mistake of a name, as James Yarr married Jane Fair. Two sons also each married a Miss Farr, one of whom we met. Sue also discovered her Mother's middle name which had never been disclosed to the family. Being a surname gives them another branch to follow. Sue drove us to Deer Park where we feel sure Eleen's Great Grandfather was born. So many ends to tie up here.

From Eleen and Bill Allan, Waikanae

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2003			
CONVENOR	John Glover	902-2486	john.glover@@metservice.com
SECRETARY	Valerie Freeman	298-7396	
TREASURER	Shirley West	293-4438	jasmwest@@xtra.co.nz
MINUTE SECRETARY	Jack Burton	904-4494	jack@@dolomite.co.nz
LIBRARIANS:	Debbie Benton	902-4940	twisted@@paradise.net.nz
	Barbara Haynes	902-0240	bjhaynes@@paradise.net.nz
PROGRAMMES & GRANTS	Angela Milsted	299-0338	amilsted@@kapiti.co.nz
HELP DESK	Valerie Freeman	298-7296	
SALES	Marydell Haddock	298-7254	d.m.haddock@@paradise.net.nz
HOSTESS/SUPPER	Meryl Opie	298-6737	opiemb@@xtra.co.nz
PUBLICITY	Gerald Twiss	902-0926	gero@@ihug.co.nz
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Alison Procter	904-3229	aprocter@@paradise.net.nz
PROJECTS	Marydell Haddock	298-7254	d.m.haddock@@paradisenet.nz

MURPHY'S ANCESTORS

Most scientists and engineers are only too familiar with the fundamental principle of Nature known as Murphy's Law - best known in the form "If anything can go wrong, it will". This applies to such homely experiences as finding that a slice of bread always falls butter-side downwards, whatever the law of averages may say, and extends to such complex matters as servicing machinery - for example, if a machine is held together by ten bolts, 9 of them come out easily, you may be sure that the tenth one is rusted solid, quite inaccessible to any spanner, and has a left-hand thread.

What is not generally known is that Murphy arrived at his law after trying to trace his family tree. His own comments on this are lost, or could not be printed except on asbestos paper, but I venture to list some of his findings.

NAMES 1. In a key position in every genealogy you will find a John Smith from London. If you are lucky you will also have a David Jones from Cardiff, or, as in Murphy's own case, a Patrick Murphy from Dublin.

2. If you have any unusual surnames in your family, there will inevitably be at least three distant cousins with the same Christian name, who, by a remarkable piece of synchronisation manage to have sons on the same day. All of these sons will be called after their fathers, and they will all marry girls called Sarah. (From an article by Terence McLaughlin written for the **Origin*** magazine of the Buckinghamshire Family History Society)

OPEN DAY. How many of you were aware that Archives New Zealand, The National Library and the Parliamentary Library, Wellington held an Open Day on Sunday, 17th November from 10 am to 4 pm? A report on this should be in your next newsletter

A V&K,y M'E'RfKy CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL - LOOXIWQ JO&WA.'K'D TO