



## Kapiti Branch

November 2003

### CONVENORS COMMENT

Who am I?

I look forward to putting time and effort into being your Convenor. The Kapiti Branch of NZSG has 118 members, so one of the first things I want to find out is what are your genealogy expectations and interests and how therefore can the Branch best help you meet these. We will be surveying member interests in coming weeks in order to plan our 2004 programme and look forward to your input. I'm keen to see us improve our information and communications packages to members. This will include the Newsletter (a new format this month), and development of our own website so that the large number of members with access to PCs, can share additional information. Equally I wish to enhance our non-e information packages so that all can benefit from locally & nationally available resources.

Who am I? My Waka - S.S. Corinthic- arrived in Wellington in August 1948 from England. I was 13 years young & with my parents, brother and sister we settled in L.Hutt. A major change from Sutton Coldfield nr Birmingham. I can remember my father coming home after his first few days at the new job in Upper Hutt saying that the horse hitching posts were still outside the local pub there! My secondary and University education were completed in NZ. I've had a challenging 40 year career in science and technology, working primarily in the University and public sectors, with spells overseas with international agencies. I must just about qualify to be a KIWI. With our offspring largely independent, my wife and I moved from Wellington to Kapiti 5 years ago - and what a wise choice!

How did I get into genealogy? Partly an interest in history -I'm threatening to do a few papers in my 'retirement'; and partly because parental information on those mysterious ancestors and extended families back in England was not particularly forthcoming and at best reserved! And what fun I've had - yes several 'brick walls', but a growing and fascinating tree back into the late 18C thus far, covering India, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Greater London.

My wife is a 5th gen Kiwi, her great grandmother arriving as an 8-year old in Port Nicholson in 1842, her mother and baby brother dying en route. That branch of the family settled in the Wairarapa. Its a large open Whanau, now spread around the country. We've had a great time researching a fascinating mix of Huguenot, Somerset, Yorkshire, Sussex, Ireland origins and branches in S Africa, back into the 17C so far.

Finally, my THANKS to John Glover, Convenor for the past 3 years, retiring

Secretary Valerie Freeman and Treasurer Shirley West, for their loyal and valuable services to the Branch.

Clive Palmer

## **MEMBER NEWS**

We welcome your snippets of genealogy information you wish to share with other members.

**ULSTER LINKS TO NEW ZEALAND** My recent visit to Northern Ireland showed me how close the ties are between us. The group I was with was given a mayoral reception at Limavardy, and, standing outside the Council Chambers, was a prominent statue of William Ferguson Massey, who was born in nearby Keenaught in 1856. He was the son of a farmer and followed in his father's footsteps, though taking an interest in new methods of agriculture.

When he was thirteen, the family migrated to New Zealand, where he became Prime Minister 1912-1925 and the rest is a part of our history. The other link of note was the earlier Prime Minister, John Ballance, 1839-1893, again the son of a farmer. He served an apprenticeship as an ironmonger and worked in Birmingham, where he also studied politics, earning the reputation as a speaker and a journalist. We were taken to visit Ballance House near Glenavy, where he was born, and went around the parlour furnished in the 1850 period. Upstairs was a display of New Zealand items while outside the orchard, replanted, by the All-Blacks rugby team when they were on tour in 1989, were of 19th Century varieties. Has anyone else links with Ulster?

From Alison Procter's Travels

## **Appointed Officers**

The Committee is pleased to have the services of the following members who have agreed to take on specialist support duties. Gerald Twiss - Publicity; John Glover - School Roll Project; Valerie Freeman - Help Desk; George Watson - Name tags & Meeting Attendance; Val Quinlan - Newsletter posting

Research help : Valerie Freeman tel 298 7396

## **NOTICES**

**NEW ADDRESS** Please note we now have a P.O. Box 703, Paraparaumu.

**Wanted Webmaster.** Anyone interested in helping set up and maintain our own website, please contact the Convenor. We believe a dedicated branch website will enhance inter and intra branch sharing of information.

Branches and Interest groups:- Your Committee plans to circulate more detail of activities of other nearby Branches and specialist groups such as the Kapiti Computer Group. We receive Newsletters from several other branches and snippets of interest extracted for our Newsletter before lodging copies in our Library.

Library Resources:- A Working Group has been established under Librarian Debbie Benton to start the long awaited task of security tagging and cataloguing our book resources. This will allow borrowing under the Public Library facilities. We also aim to update our index of microfiche, CDs and other research material and give you access to both hard and website copies.

Subs:- Yes its that time again! \$16 single; \$27 double. Visitors \$2. Payments can be made at our Thurs night meetings or direct to the Treasurer.

Sales Desk:- We seek the help of a member to take on responsibility for a sales desk on the evenings of our monthly meetings. This will include forms, charts, starter packs, & other genealogical items.

National NZSG:-Just a reminder to those of you who are not members of the NZSG of the great benefits of doing so. Research services, unique record collections, a magazine, cost saving services and an extensive library with borrowing facilities. The Secretary has information packs and membership application details. Have a look at their website on <http://www.genealogy.org.nz>.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS Pamela Aitken and Bill & Mary McKeich.

THE A.G.M. is over for another year and we now have a new Committee. Well, most of the former members have agreed to stay on for another year, so you will see many of the old familiar faces carrying on. The changes, however, are at the top. At the AGM, Clive Palmer agreed to take on the Convenor's job, Derek Griffis is the new Secretary and Doreen Heron is the new Treasurer. Welcome aboard!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank John Glover for the work he has done over the past few years. Also we are sorry to lose both Valerie Freeman and Shirley West, who have done sterling work on the Committee for a very long time. They deserve a break, but we will miss them at the top. However John and Valerie have agreed to continue to help us out in the school roll project and help desk respectively.

WATCH THIS SPACE! The Heritage Trust has chosen GENEALOGY as its theme for 2004 and the Lower Hutt Genealogy Branch has been asked to organize events for the whole month of June. They are calling on all Branches in the Wellington region for support. We have always supported the Heritage weekend here, usually through the efforts of Val Freeman and Barbara Humpage (before she went South). Val has now retired from the Committee, but surely we have

members with ideas to take up this challenge? We cannot leave it just to Val if she is willing.

After the NZSG Conference in May next year, one of the speakers, Dr. Johnson will be travelling about the country. While he won't be speaking to our Branch, members will have a chance to hear him somewhere in the neighbourhood. Details to follow.

A group of about 30 people will be in our area on August 14th 2004, presenting a Research Day of interest to those with Australian and/or English connections.

**CAN YOU HELP? LINKS WITH COLONISTS' SHIP** The "Isabella Hercus", which arrived in Lyttleton on March 1st 1851, was the sixth ship of the Canterbury colonists. It was named after Isabella, wife of John Hercus, a ship owner in Scotland. We are seeking diaries, sketches and other records of the ship's maiden voyage. The Canterbury Museum holds a blue and white china teacup featuring a print of the ship. We are keen to trace other cups or china. Please contact: Anne and John Hercus, 8 park Terrace, Christchurch 8001 Phone/fax 377 0116  
Thanks to Deborah Shuker for this item

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN** Brian Mountjoy was contacted by a lady in Waikanae about a year ago who was researching the name 'GREENING" He now has some information and says there is a book available in the U.K. Would that lady care to contact Brian (e-mail [briankm@@paradise.net.nz](mailto:briankm@@paradise.net.nz)) or at our next meeting?

**NZSG FIRST FAMILIES** Sue Greene says there are over 2,000 names online index on the NZSG website. Go to [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz) and click on services, NZSG First Families, arrow down the page to the indexes. Once you find a name or names, go to the online form to submit your queries to the NZSG First Families Queries Officer. Please remember this is the only way you must send your e-mail requests to the officer. Also you must be a member of the NZSG to get this information

## INTERNET SITES

NZ BMD's [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

National Library [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)

Archives NZ [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

Rootsweb mail list <http://listsearches.rootsweb.com>

Userpay England/Wales BDM indexes <http://www1837online.com>

Top useful site England/Ireland <http://www.genuki.org.uk>

England parishes <http://www.parishregister.com>

Free BMD <http://www.ukbdm.org>

Churches England <http://findachurch.co>  
Public Records Office UK <http://www.pro.gov.uk>

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Our resources:- available in our section upstairs at Paraparaumu Public Library during opening hours, on presentation at Information Desk of your Library card and current Kapiti NZSG card (purple colour). Sign in and out for key to our collection. Access to Branch books and borrowing from 7pm to meeting time on Branch nights. The section is manned from 10am -12noon every Wednesday if you want on the spot help and advice.

Upcoming programme:-

Nov 27 Final gathering for 2003. Bring along a small memento or treasure to share with others in your genealogy search while we mix and mingle with a glass of something. Please bring a plate. Introduction of new committee and a brief round robin of your views on what YOU want in the 2004 Branch programme. Items of interest will be raffled, including a Christmas hamper and family history online vouchers.

Jan 29 2004 Tips on publishing your family history. Derek Griffis on the production of his recently completed family book and how to handle all those files, charts, notes and records.

Sunday 1 Feb 12noon. Genealogical Garden Party. Make a note in your diary for a relaxing afternoon with some food, your favourite tippie, and on-site research facilities at a Waikanae venue. Members of the Kapiti Computer Group also invited. Details in our next Newsletter.

MEETINGS : 4th Thursday Jan to Nov at Paraparaumu Public Library, Rimu Rd.  
Branch address: P.O Box 703, Paraparaumu

## FOR SALE

Genealogy items trade and exchange - let the Editor know of any items.

Your contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed, send them to  
Newsletter Editor  
Allison Proctor Tel 904 3229  
[aprocter@paradise.net.nz](mailto:aprocter@paradise.net.nz)

A Merry Christmas to you  
and Best Wishes for 2004

Expect to see you all in the New Year.