



Kapiti Branch

November 2005

Conveners Comment:-

A great turnout for the AGM in October and hardy faithfuls staying on to hear a presentation of software programmes FTM and Legacy. Lively discussion on the Submission made by Members of the Committee (acting individually), in response to a very short notice invitation by NZSG for input on the future of the Society, its delivery platforms and its Branches. A copy of this Submission may be sighted on our Branch website and for those without on-line access, paper copies of the Submission may be obtained from the Branch Secretary on request. NZSG EO responded that the submission had been well received by the planning meeting participants who were in agreement with points raised. Both the Annual Report and Financial Statement for 2004-2005 are also on the website and provide a rain check on a busy and productive year.

We welcome new Committee Members Trish Mackay and Judy Olsen. All the old timers on the 2004-5 Committee were re-elected. A number of members also offered help off-Committee and we will be sorting out portfolios asap.

The final meeting of the year is on Tuesday 22 November and will be a café evening with drinks, tea and coffee. Please bring something along for supper - "bring a plate" used to be the call, but I often wondered what sort of reception you'd get if you just brought a plate with nothing on it! In between socialising we have one final request to make. During the evening you will be invited to suggest activities for the 2006 programme and a separate flier has been circulated with details. The 2005 programme was largely in response to a similar round robin of members. So this is your chance.

As this is the final message for the year, my thanks to all those in the Branch, Committee Members, Appointed Officers and many others who volunteer for support duty, without which we could not provide our range of services. We resume our ancestral quest in January, so Seasons Greetings - and who knows you might break a brick wall in 2006.

Clive Palmer

COMPSIG,:-Computer SIG

Meetings for next year 2006 will be *monthly* (excluding January), the Praparaumu Library have confirmed that all the 2006 evenings in question are still available, and that they have now been booked for us. They are, in total: 13/2,

13/3, 10/4, 8/5, 12/6, 10/7, 14/8, 11/9, 9/10, 13/11, and 11/12. Your ideas on what subjects you wish to have presented in 2006, should be advised at the "café evening" of sent to the Secretary by email or snail mail

Sue Green

Notices:-

New Committee Members.

At the Kapiti Branch Committee meeting last week, following the AGM you new committee have now taken up their new portfolios, and they are listed [here](#). In the absence of Judy Olsen some portfolios were left open and you will be advised in the near future on those portfolios relating to Judy.

2006 Subscriptions

The Annual General Meeting last month confirmed these to be unchanged as: Single \$16, Double \$27. Some two-thirds of our 2005 Members have already renewed, which is impressive, and for which we thank you. November is the last month of the year for our Monthly Meetings and for our Newsletter, as we recess in December, before springing back to life again in January. If you are one of those who has yet to renew for 2006 (and in particular if you wish to use our Library Resources early in the New Year when our yellow 2005 Membership Card will no longer be accepted by library staff) you are urged to send in your subscription in the next two or three weeks. Please make cheques payable to "Kapiti Genealogy", and post to: Rex Roberts (Treasurer), 117 Weggery Drive, Waikanae 6010

ENGLAND & WALES 1851 CENSUS

Those with access to ancestry.com will probably already know that the 1851 Census is now available for research. National Library in Wellington also gives access (free of charge) via their nine terminals, and should you be unsure how to utilise these, then approach their Information Desk(s) and staff will be pleased to offer you guidance. The 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901, Censuses have been available for quite some time, so this latest one enables us to push back our frontiers of research a further ten years. It has also been announced that the 1841 Census should be available by Christmas but, realistically, I think that perhaps this is more likely to be early in the New Year.

PORIRUA LIBRARY

(GENEALOGICAL SECTION)

Branch members are encouraged to visit Porirua Library sometime to check out their extensive collection of genealogical resources, and to see what they have got that we have not (and, in a number of instances, we never will have). Porirua

Library is situated on the corner of Norrie & Parumoana Streets, and is open *every* day of the week - something, if perhaps not unique, is certainly very rarely encountered. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am-5.30pm, Thursday 10am-8pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, and Sunday noon-4pm. Excellent free parking right outside or, if arriving by train, it is only some ten minutes walk from the station. Non-Porirua Ratepayers pay \$3 for the whole day, at the Front Desk on arrival. There is usually a volunteer from the Porirua Branch NZSG on duty to assist and advise if required. A visit to this library may often be conveniently combined with a visit to Titahi Bay Family History Centre to order/view film(s), if the day and times are chosen with care to synchronise.

So what have they got that we have not? - quite a lot! Space and time prohibits detailing everything, but a few items in particular are mentioned here to arouse your interest and to whet your appetite. Fiche: NZ Electoral Rolls (1919, 1922, 1928, 1938, 1943, 1949, 1951, 1957, 1963), GRO England & Wales Births, Deaths and Marriages Indexes (they still call them by the old name of "St Catherine's") 1837-1930, Divorce Information from The New Zealand Truth. CDs: 1881 Canadian Census, Indexes of Irish Wills 1454-1858, The Navy List August 1914, Rookwood Sydney Cemetery Transcriptions (235,000). Microfilm: Wellington Evening Post 8.2.1865-Dec 1900. Books: There is also a very wide range of publications that may be freely accessed on open shelf.

They have only 6 microfiche viewers, so it is best to go just as individuals unless special arrangements have been made in advance.

INK CARTRIDGES

Very many thanks to all those people who have been letting me have their used printer ink cartridges. Last financial year we collected 210, of which 180 were re-usable (exclusive of a few damaged or obsolete) and for these we got \$301 - a very useful boost to our Branch Funds. This is a continuing fund-raising exercise, so please keep letting me (Derek Griffis) have those used cartridges (particularly Canon, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Epson), on Monthly Meeting evenings, by leaving them in the cardboard box in our steel cabinets upstairs at Paraparaumu Library or, if more convenient for you, by placing them in my letter-box at 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae. Thank you.

Lower North Island Irish Interest Group AGM

The Inaugural AGM for the Lower North Island Irish Interest Group, will be held at.

St Giles Church House"

Sunday 4th Dec 2005 1pm - 4pm

Cnr, Kilbirnie Cres and Vallance St,

Kilbirnie, Wellington.

There will be research data available to search away afterwards. So bring along your research problems.

Early Xmas Present. No Door Fee For This Session.

Contact: Jenny Martin Ph (04) 478 7621. jenmartin@paradise.net.nz

KBNZSG 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 month, except January in the Paraparaumu Public Library (meeting room)

Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:

The next meeting will be on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th of December 2005, at the Masonic Hall in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. Doors open at 9am both days. Jan Gow is coming down from Auckland to present 4 sessions. Entry charge has yet to be determined, but will be kept to a minimum and will include hall hire, tea and coffee and the presenters costs. For further details: contact Gerald

Twiss: gero@ihug.co.nz

Reports:-

Library Report

First, and most importantly, I would like to thank all those volunteers who have given up a Wednesday morning to be on duty at the Public Library over the past year. Hopefully they don't think that my non-appearance means lack of interest on my part and that on those quiet days they have been able to do some of their own research. A big "Thank You" to you all. A special thanks goes to Carol McDonald, who has regularly done the first Wednesday of each month since February. With Christmas coming up I propose finishing these duties for 2005 on 14th December starting again on 25th January 2006. So those willing to volunteer again for next year, or anyone new prepared to spend a Wednesday morning at the Public Library, please contact me.

The second important thing is the number of books that have recently been donated. Bill Moore has given us several books that belonged to his late daughter, as well as some of his own surplus stock. Bill, we do appreciate this, and I am sure members will make good use of them. Also Shirley Foster has donated some books as well as some Isle of Man Journals as well a number of Lancashire Journals. These still have to be put into our system and security tagged so it is time your librarian got cracking.

Alison Procter

Report on the Genealogical Computer Group Roadshow.

I am surprised that many Kapiti Members don't take advantage of NZSG outreach programmes. After all each team comes down from the Family Research Centre with plenty of material and the recent offering from the Genealogical Computer Group in Feilding had plenty to offer. The morning started at 9 a.m. with six presentations: Shipping, by Robyn Williams - Photo enhancement (how to restore your photos) by Rex Wood - Using the Internet, by Neville Thomas - Short cuts, by David Bryant - Legacy 5 de luxe, by Pam Mare and Using non-genealogical sites by Mark McKinney. They fitted a lot into their short allowed time. The information was put on a wide screen, so all could see and a microphone ensured that all could hear what was being said. While the next speaker was setting up, Robyn held a quiz session with prizes offered to the winners. After lunch each speaker set up their own corner where those interested could go into depth on one particular aspect. As I was interested in the shipping side, I went to Robyn's corner, where she was looking up information for us in "The New Zealand Gazette", as she had told us that professional people, including nurses, were sometimes there. Alas, my grandmother was not, although she and her friend ran a private hospital in Wellington in the mid 1890s. Well, I suppose it was before 1893 when women were allowed to vote!

Alison Procter

Deciphering Old Handwriting

For the last four months I have been working steadily through the transcription of a piece of the 1861 English census returns for Lancashire. Eventually it will be incorporated in an index for the whole of the 1861 census. But the real challenge comes in deciphering the handwriting.

I have been surprised at the extent to which some of the old 17th century Secretary Hand had survived the double s using the long s followed by a small s -- the incredibly complicated form of the capital F -- the curious form of k which looks at first like lb. I have no trouble now that I'm used to it, but at first I had to use a magnifying glass to sort some of it out. Perhaps a few who read this may be tempted to have a go at transcribing -- it's interesting work and will help future genealogists.

The following links pertaining to handwriting can be useful to genealogists struggling to decipher documents:

Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting, 1500-1800, a practical online tutorial is available at the UK's National

Archives.<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/EnglishHandwriting>, 1500-1700. An online

course.<http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/eres/ehoc/index.html>

Need help with Scottish handwriting? See the "Online Tuition in the Palaeography of Scottish Documents, 1500-1750."<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

By Stan Bayne in New Zealand

I

**Information from LostCousins October
Newsletter <http://www.LostCousins.com>**

HINTS & TIPS - DEATH CERTIFICATES

In the next of our series of articles adapted, with permission, from "The Family Tree Detective" by Colin D Rogers, we look at death certificates. The book and the information which follows are relevant only to England & Wales.

Although death certificates are generally of less importance than birth and marriage certificates, they can still provide useful information. Age at death can provide an indication of the year of birth, and the address shown can help locate the remainder of the family. Even when death occurs away from home the usual residence should be shown. From 1866 onwards the age at death appears in the indexes of deaths, with 0 being shown where a child died below the age of one year (from April 1969 the date of birth is given instead). Thus if the only purpose of locating the certificate is to confirm the year of birth, it isn't necessary to buy the certificate.

The name shown should be that by which the deceased was known, and this may not be the same name as shown on his or her birth certificate. The term 'otherwise' indicates an alias. Normally the name of a dead woman's husband is shown, and in the case of a legitimate child under school-leaving age the name of the father should be given in the occupation column.

If an inquest was held, then the coroner should be shown as the informant. Otherwise, where the death occurred in a house or public institution, the informant should be (in descending order of priority) a relative present at the death, a relative in attendance during the last illness, a relative who lives in the district where the death occurred, any person present at the death, the occupier of the premises, any other inhabitant or inmate, or finally the person arranging the disposal of the body (often a local authority representative).

Until 1874 entering the cause of death was not a legal requirement, but since then a doctor's certificate has been necessary. Between 1858 and 1874 the entry should show whether or not the cause had been certified. Since 1875 it has been necessary to register a death within 5 days (except where the coroner is involved).

Before 1874 no certificate was required for the burial of a stillborn child (and compulsory registration of stillbirths began only in 1927). Finally, it's important to remember that deaths are registered in the district where the death occurred, and this may not be the district in which the person lived.

"The Family Tree Detective" by Colin D Rogers is published by Manchester University Press. Dr Rogers also runs Rogers & Rogers, which carries out genealogical research, and traces missing persons.

New Zealand Cemeteries

Currently a project is underway to produce a CD index of burial details for all NZ. The database is not ready yet for research but hopefully the North Island will not be too much longer in production. If anyone has any burials which are not on the NZSG fiche I would be delighted to hear from them. I would like source, Name, age, and year of burial and of course the cemetery or place of burial.

We are having a lot of fun getting this index ready and although we know it can not be complete (Symonds St cemetery alone is a large stumbling block not to mention all those unmarked graves) it should help research.

Diane Wilson diane@@wilson.gen.nz

FROM ScotlandsPeople Newsletter

We hope you have had a good summer and welcome to our autumn, or fall as it is know in North America, newsletter. As we strive to keep ScotlandsPeople website informative and interesting for our customers we have made some additions and amendments, and have more planned for the near future. We hope you find this newsletter helpful and as always we appreciate your feedback.

As you will know we now have wills and testaments dating back to 1513 available at ScotlandsPeople, proving to be of huge interest and we would like to offer a warm welcome all new customers who have come from Scottish Documents. In our bid to make your visits to ScotlandsPeople enjoyable and successful we continue to make positive changes where possible. The following list of upgrades will inform you of our latest improvements which we hope you will find beneficial.

Upgrades:

The ActiveX viewer window is larger and therefore clearer to see. Free 'View census header pages' reinstated. 'Finish viewing' button added to all viewer pages. For ease the enter button will now execute a search on the search forms.

There is a new forename search option on all search forms. If the box/button is checked the search will return all forenames that begin with the forename characters entered.

1881 census print facility added. Previous searches can now be deleted if required.

1861 Census:

We are delighted to announce that the 1861 census will be available to ScotlandsPeople customers within the coming weeks, and we will advise you of the launch date nearer the time. <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/famrec/hlpsrch/searchin.html>