

KAPITI BRANCH N.Z.S.G.
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
P.O. Box 6, Paraparaumu



Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms,
Taranua Street, Paraparaumu
4th Wednesdays of months January to November at 7.30 pm
October 2000

PROGRAMMES Oct. 25th A.G.M. also
some of our own members will speak
about their own research
Nov. 22nd Our last meeting for the year. Come and join the fun
for our "Last of the Christmas Wined Up!"

NOTICES

A.G.M. There are still a few vacancies on the Committee. Your
help is needed. *Don't miss it! Don't miss it!*

RESEARCH WEEKEND You will remember that this was postponed
from the end of August to **28th - 29th October**. Volunteers will be
needed to set up the venue, monitor resource material and answer
questions. If you can help, please see Valerie Freeman. The
venue and times are still the same, i.e 10am to 4pm at the Scout
Hall, Te Kupe Road, Paraparaumu Beach. Entrance fee \$5 per day
or \$7.50 for the two days. Bring a friend to learn more about tracing
their ancestors - or yours.

GOING DUTCH - Te Papa currently has an exhibition in their
second Community Gallery focussing on the Dutch Community in
New Zealand. It was developed with the assistance of the Royal
Netherlands Embassy, the Dutch Community and the New Zealand
Netherlands Foundation. It will be on show at least until the New
Year.

Supper Helpers

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper
duties, particularly the serving and washing up. Oct. E - G Nov.
H.J.

THE LEVIN NZSG BRANCH held a very interesting meeting in September at which British genealogists, Richard and Marjorie Moore were guest speakers. Two Kapiti members were there.

Richard gave us an update on places in London where records are located, and said that practically no records are now held in parish churches in the British Isles, as they are now deposited in County Record Offices or in the Public Record Office. He spoke on where to find information in the Family Record Office Centre in London, but said if someone wanted to get copies of Wills by post, the address is>

Postal Searches and Copies Department, Probate Registry,
Duncome Place, York YO1 7E United Kingdom. The fee is £ 5 stg.

Marjorie then spoke on the English Poor Laws, and how they changed over the years. She whizzed through a number of documents on the overhead projector, deeds of settlements, what happened to unmarried mothers and their children, a paper that looked like a passport description, it was so detailed, and how unemployed men had to return to their parish of origin to obtain Poor Relief, while their wives were also returned there, away from their own kith and kin who might support them. Never take it for granted that a relative did not leave a Will, she said. It might not be money, but often it could be the tools of their trade, or, perhaps, a small plot of land. She covered too much information in such a short time that in her hand-out she recommended a number of books. At the meeting there was a great display of these together with maps. We could have brought up large. However, a modest two will have to suffice.

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1881 BRITISH CENSUS Before about 31st March 2000 there were some deficiencies in this CD set. Apparently some of the Scottish localities were transcribed as similar English localities (i.e. Sutherland/Sunderland, Lanarkshire/Lancashire etc) and in consequence they appear in the English CDs instead of the Scottish. These errors have now been corrected since the 31st March and those who are holding the deficient Scottish CDs may obtain replacements, free of charge, by writing to their supplier and quoting details of the original purchase (date, cheque number etc.) to get their replacement. **It is essential to claim, If you don't ask you won't get!!** (Thanks to Derek for this information)

CLAREVILLE CEMETERY:- At our last meeting, Debbie Shuker spoke on a newspaper article by Mary Shanks, who is interested in locating anyone with family buried in the above cemetery, as she has taken on the job of clearing it of weeds, trees and branches. She is looking for permission from these people to tend *their* family graves (*Kapiti Weekly News* - 23rd August 2000) Apparently Mary Shanks was not the person to contact, as there was a follow-up in the *Kapiti Weekly News* - 11th October 2000 saying that there had been two responses giving local history also, which has delighted the Carterton Districts Historical Society, as they already have an historical display and hope eventually to open a museum. If anyone has further information the person to contact is> Adele Graham, Secretary of the Society of Carterton Districts Historical Society. Dakin Cottage, Neich's Lane, Clareville, Carterton.

SURNAME VARIATIONS. Debbie Shuker has also come up with information on Surnames, which she has found in "Musters of NSW" by C. Baxter. "A surname only had **proper** (and consistent) spelling, if the person holding that surname was literate and could spell their surname to someone else. If they spoke their surname to a clerk, the interpretation into a surname depended on the speech and accent of the speaker and the hearing of the listener" If the person is illiterate they could not check if it was spelt the same way each time.

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FALSE START IN SEARCH FOR THE OLDEST PERSON was the headline in a previous issue of *The Weekly Telegraph*. The quest was underway in nursing homes around Britain. Apparently the *Guinness Book of Records* had it wrong in claiming a woman aged 107 from Brechin held the title. Within hours this was challenged when Margaret McHowat died and another Scotswoman, Agnes Kinnear was 108 and still going strong. But even as she marvelled at her claim to fame, the title moved on. *Guinness* researchers said that a new contender, Elizabeth Abbot at 109 was born in September 1890 and had been authenticated as the world's oldest person. Another challenge occurred. Lottie Elliot was born in June of the same year, and staff of the residential rest home where she lived, said they had her birth certificate to prove it.

The title of the world' oldest authenticated living person became vacant on December 30th (1998? 1999?) with the death of American woman, Sarah Clark Knauss at 119

ANYONE MISSING? Entries in parish registers were originally done once a week, provided three keyholders came to the church! Entries not done at the time of the event are unreliable, or forgotten. *From information received*
Oh dear! !

mmmmmmmm

ODD COMMENTS:-

"Information we want is looking for a needle in a haystack. Indexes burn the haystack leaving only the needles" *Gandy*

"Tea attracted prohibition like pamphlets including the Scotsman who said if you HAD to drink it, alleviate the problem by adding whisky"

"I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap"

"Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts and a few bad apples"

"Am I the only person up my tree? It sure seems like it"

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONVENOR	Rosalyn Smaill	299-7395
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