

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb



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Registered charity no. CC33988

Newsletter October, 2011

Editors Corner

It would be nice to see members contributing to the newsletter. If you have any items to submit to the newsletter email Sue Greene at sueg-97@xtra.co.nz or tel: 063648196. **Copy closes the 2nd Wed each month.**

Acting Convenor's Comment

Before reporting on some of the Branch activities I would like to express my sincerest condolences to Hanley Hoffmann and his family on the recent passing of his younger brother in Australia. Hanley found it necessary to depart immediately for Canberra and he is still there.

I am still receiving complimentary reports on the address we were given at our last Branch meeting when Tony Loopärg spoke of his life as a young refugee in Estonia and his journey to New Zealand. We can do with more addresses like this.

This leads me on to the next matter I wish to draw to your attention. Last October 2nd a small group met at the home of Kathy Callaghan and had a brain storming session looking for subjects for our monthly meetings in 2012. Many interesting ideas were put forward and I am sure that the result will be an exciting programme for next year. With the APFHC sessions previously dubbed the "Winter Sessions" a new name will be found with 4 sessions running from 6.00p.m. – 7.30 p.m. during April, June, August and October. You will be advised of more details later on. Any ideas for our 2012 programme please let us know.

Before we get there however there is still the question of hosting the NZSG Council Meeting on Friday 25th November at the Kapiti Community Centre and then on Saturday and Sunday 26/27th November at the Lindale Conference centre. See details at the end of this newsletter under NZSG news.

That's all from me for this month. Hope you are all having some success with your research and if you have struck that proverbial "brick wall" bring it along to a meeting. Someone is sure to be able to offer some help.

Bill McKeich
NZSG 18567
Acting Convenor

Branch Notes

Membership at 5 October: 267

We welcome the following members.

Sue CAVE, Rodney FOSTER, Nicola SMITH, Doug STEPHENSON, Bruce THOMSON, Edward (Ted) TURTON, Johanne MCCOMISH, Pam BELDHAM, Dorothy FRANKS.

Programme News Archives

NZ trip Sept 22nd.

16 people went on this trip, which was at the maximum that Archives NZ prefers. There was a mixture of first timers and those that had been before. Another very informative and popular tour.

Rescheduled 'Winter Session' at APFHC Sept 29th:

11 people attended this session, plus 4 committee; Bev, Lorna, Frances, Kathy. We made a great team! Special thanks to Lorna for setting up the data projector and computer and Frances for doing such a great job of leading us in a cohesive and logical way.

November 22 meeting will be our end of year function with drinks and supper with a "show and tell" session. Members will be invited to bring along a memorabilia item and explain its special links with their family story.

Tea makers at September branch meeting. G-L.

Previous Branch Evening Meeting.

Tony Loorpärg's presentation gave us a fascinating insight into his journey, as a very young child with his mother, from war torn Estonia to a new life in New Zealand. Estonia was occupied by Russia, then by Germany, then again by Russia. Tony, his mother and his grandmother escaped Estonia in 1944 and became refugees in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany and Italy. They lived in a Displaced Persons Camp in Augsburg (American Zone) Germany for four years. Eventually they were sponsored to New Zealand by an Estonian "friend of a friend" and arrived in Wellington on the refugee ship "Dundalk Bay" in June 1949. They spent several weeks in the Pahiatua Refugee camp, before travelling to Auckland to begin their new life in New Zealand. His talk was enhanced by many photos taken by one of their fellow refugees, who had kept a diary of the trip. Grateful thanks to Tony for this thought provoking talk.

Meetings

Alison Proctor Family History Centre. (APFHC) Upstairs in the library.

Kapiti Community Centre 15 Ngahina Street (KCC). (near the Paraparaumu Library.) For full details go to the branch web site at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/> Click on programmes.

Meetings coming

up: Branch Meeting.

October Tuesday 25th. - Using UK Census records. A panel discussion with Clive Palmer finding more questions than answers. Researching his paternal ancestors with a starting point in India; Sue Greene will show some of the problems searching the census indexes.

Interest Groups.

FTMUG (Family Tree Maker user group), LUG (Legacy User Group), IIG (Irish Interest Group), CFG (Computer friendly Group), AIG (Australian Interest Group), SIG (Scottish Interest Group).

Tuesday 18th October 10am – Noon: Australian SIG, APFHC upstairs Paraparaumu Public Library.

Saturday 29th October 9.30am - 12.30pm: Family Tree Maker User Group, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu

Saturday 29th October 12.30- 4pm: Legacy Users Group, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu.

Alison Procter Family History Centre – what's on

Open 7 days a week, Paraparaumu Public Library, Mezzanine Floor during Library hours. See our website for details of the extensive book, microfiche and CD collection plus access to 4 PCs and several microfiche readers. This is the core of our services to members. Access is by presenting your membership and library card at the Information Desk on the Ground Floor. Check out the User Guide in the drawer unit for computer access codes and other information. FREE access to ancestry.com, findmypast.com, New Zealand Gazette Archive and heaps of other web based sites.

Help Sessions.

Every Wednesday 10am to 12noon – help with your research, volunteers on hand to give guidance. Dates for **October, Wed 19, 26 November, Wed 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.**

Thursday 20th October 2-4pm: WEA Course #1166 “Online Family Trees” by Lorna HENDERSON, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Pram. \$30 (KapGen Branch Members \$25). Enquiries to: Kapiti Coast WEA, 5 Aputa Place, Waikanae, 2938077 10am-1pm Mon-Fri or online bookings to www.kapitiwea.org.nz

FamNet.

Go to <http://www.famnet.org.nz/> and log in.

This site is free to use to all Kapiti Branch members until 2012.

When I mention the word GEDCOM to members I see a glazed look come over their eyes.

FamNet has a very good FAQ database which can answer all your questions. For instance you can learn all about GEDCOMs. Robert also gives a step by step guide on how to import and export from the most popular genealogy programmes.

Go to the above site, you don't even have to log in, on the left click on [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Guided tour](#)

New Daytime Interest Group

A daytime interest group has been established by the Waikanae Chartered Club and will focus on getting started in genealogy. Its first meeting was held September 22 and next sessions are from 9.30am to 12.30pm, Thursday October 27 and November 24 at the Club in Elizabeth Street, Waikanae, commencing with morning tea. All welcome. Enquiries: Hanley Hoffmann, tel 04 904 3276.

The NZSG Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington.

Will be holding a research afternoon with some of their resources at the Porirua Public Library, Porirua, on Sunday 13 November 2011 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, charge \$2, all welcome.

Contact Pen Brown, 389 7211.

Introducing Committee Member Frances Braddick

For the last few years of my father's life, before he died in 1991, Dad would talk about his grandparents every time I visited him, often writing names and places on the back of an envelope and almost pleading with me to find out more. His sister, my Aunt Mollie, had written to a researcher in Devon for him, and had received information about where the Braddick family had come from, Culmstock, near Honiton, in East Devon, up the road from Exeter as he put it.

Dad's grandfather, John Braddick, had come to Timaru in 1865 on the sailing ship, Tudor, another brother Samuel had come in the early 1870s but died of typhoid a couple of years after he arrived, and other sisters and a brother James had also come and settled in South Canterbury during the 1870s. There had been a falling out between the brothers and Dad's grandfather had uplifted the family and moved to the Wairarapa..

While sorting out Dad's home and effects after his death, I came across an old photo album, his black notebook of his early days working in Wellington, the papers Aunt Mollie had given him, various other pieces of paper with names of family members on them and a newspaper cutting of the write up of a Braddick funeral in Bideford, Devon.

I decided I would use some of the money he had left me and take a trip to England to see what I could find out about the family, the trip that my dad didn't take but should have.

I visited the small village of Culmstock in Devon, walked on the land where the Braddicks had farmed, went into the church and saw the font where the children had been christened, viewed the lovely tapestry preserved behind glass (which I've recently found out was created by some of the extended family members) and then travelled across Devon to the northwestern town of Bideford, where I met descendants of the Braddick family mentioned in the newspaper cutting. They gave me beginnings of family trees of their side of the family.

This was where it all started and it wasn't long before I was hooked. I started asking questions of my mother and Dad's sisters who were still alive. I searched photo albums, found out who the people were in the old Braddick photo album, and generally tried to get as much information from these older family members as I could. I'm so pleased I did so, as only one is still alive.

My Braddick ancestors were farmers. Way back they owned a lot of land but due to family circumstances (including not being the eldest of the family), the several generations I have proof of were agricultural labourers. If you were the eighth or eleventh son in the family you had to move to find work so each generation of my forebears was in a different parish. As most of these parishes haven't had their records filmed by the Mormon Church, I've needed to search them myself in the record office in Exeter, Devon, after I have visited my son and his family who live in Denmark.

I thoroughly enjoy the detective work that goes into searching one's ancestors, but I also enjoy placing the people in their social settings. I have walked on the land where most have walked before me. I have found the little stone cottage, the big house with its servants quarters and stables, the three hundred year old farmhouse with its half a metre thick walls, seen the land that had to be divided up when a man died without a will in the time of the Monmouth Rebellion, walked into churches, one even built by

my 2x great grandfather in 1828, seen fonts where children were christened, seen wonderful carved wooden angels with their instruments up near the ceilings, special wagon wheeled roofs, found old tombstones with ancestors names on them, and those that are just huge piles of stones about two metres tall, walked in a cave where stone for a cathedral has been cut from the limestone, and found cousins I didn't know I had, corresponded with them but more importantly have met and stayed with them. The people whom I have met along the way have been wonderful, so interested and keen to help.

So who am I? You could say I'm a third generation New Zealander but I also like to think of myself as four eighths Irish (with a bit of Australian thrown in), two eighths English (with a bit of Australian thrown in), one eighth Scottish and one eighth Nova Scotian. An interesting mix!

My great grandparents all came to New Zealand in sailing ships between 1856 and 1880, some as adults and some with their parents. Four were of Irish descent. Bridget O'Rourke from Co. Kerry, Eliza Cody from Co. Longford, William McGruddy from Co. Donegal, and Hugh Louis Zephyr Downey, born Tasmania but his parents were from Co. Down. Two were of English descent, John Braddick from Culmstock, Devonshire and Rebecca Eagle, born Belfast, near Melbourne (now Port Fairy), Australia, but her parents were from March, Cambridgeshire. One was of Scottish descent, Annie Robertson from Livingston, Linlithgow, whose father became a sawyer in Sawyers Bay, Port Chalmers, Otago, New Zealand, and one from Nova Scotia, Canada, William John Smith, a miner. My mother used to say there was family comment that the name had previously been Schmidt. There were Schmidt families in Nova Scotia as well as Smiths, but with Christian names of William and John he is at present too hard to research.

I am lucky enough to have all their photos up in my hall, together with photos of some of the houses the families lived in, either in New Zealand or in Ireland.

All this because my father wanted me to find out about the Braddicks and where they lived in Devon before they lived in Culmstock. How lucky I am to have this wonderful hobby that has given me so much pleasure. Thank you Dad.

Post script

Sometimes we become frustrated when we can't find answers quickly. Be patient as often the answer takes years to be found.

I was in Devon, in August 2010, searching for a christening for my 5x great grandmother Ruth Waters who married as a sojourner in Luppitt, Devon, to my 5x great grandfather Joseph Braddick in 1755. I found her christened in 1726 in a little village called Payhembury in Devon, England, sister to three brothers, John, Henry and Robert. On the record was their father Christopher. No mother mentioned! Sixteen years was a long time to wait to find this!

And where is Payhembury? It's over the hill from the B&B where I always stay, only about 5 miles away. Payhembury would be about 10 miles as the crow flies from Luppitt, but I'd never thought of looking there for the family. I have been to a nearby village several times, but never to Payhembury ...

Who will I be looking for next time I'm in Devon? Their mother, because she'll be named somewhere! Where did they get married? ... And so it goes on .

NZSG News. For more information about the NZSG and the latest KIT go to <http://www.genealogy.org.nz/>

Cost of Postal Borrowing for Members has Halved!

Postal Borrowing cost has halved for members - From 1st October members will be able to enjoy a reduction in the cost of borrowing from the NZSG Library, as they will not be asked to refund the outward portion of the postage. This means that library borrowing will be sent from the Library and members need only fund the return postage.

I hope to see many members take advantage of this fantastic service. You can get to the library system via the NZSG website. If you have any difficulty logging into the library system, please contact me directly on library@genealogy.org.nz for assistance. Christine Hurst, Library Supervisor, NZSG.

November NZSG Council Meeting

Council will next meet in Paraparaumu on the 26/27 November. NZSG members are welcome to meet informally with Council on the evening of Friday 25 November.

NZSG Council Kapiti Hosting

- (1) Friday night 25th Nov, social get together with Council members at KCC, 7-9.30pm, (all NZSG members welcome not just committee) Supper coffee/tea & biscuits
- (2) Saturday 26th Nov 9am to 6pm Council meets at KCC, members can observe all the proceedings unless meeting should go into committee.
- (3) Sunday meeting of Council and LNIR at Lindale Lodge 10 am to 12 noon – Councillors then depart for trips home, LNIR continues with its business through to 3pm.

Kapiti Branch Contact details:

Acting Convenor Bill McKeich <mailto:yanakie@clear.net.nz>
Tel: 9056952

Lyn Lee, Secretary

kapiti@genealogy.org.nz tel. 293-1610.

Lyn is also the branch contact for FamNet.

Lorna Henderson, Treasurer/Membership Secretary lornamoagmail.com

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Full details of other Committee members and their responsibilities can be found on our website.

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