

# Kapiti Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb)

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## Newsletter - September 2010

### Meetings coming up

#### **Tuesday 28 September** Kapiti branch meeting

7pm for 7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu  
Speaker: Robert Barnes on FamNet and the New Zealand Genealogy Database

#### **Monday 11 October** Computer-friendly genealogy

7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu  
Demonstration of the top 20 web sites for genealogy

#### **Tuesday 19 October** Australian Genealogy

10am – midday, Alison Procter Family History Centre (upstairs Paraparaumu Library)

#### **Tuesday 26 October** Kapiti branch meeting

7pm for 7.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu  
Research night

#### **Saturday 30 October** Family Tree Maker User Group

9.30am – 12.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

#### **Saturday 30 October** Legacy User Group

12.30pm – 4.30pm, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

#### **Saturday 6 November** Scottish Interest Group

9.30am – midday, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu

**Dates for 2010 branch meetings, interest and user groups are on the branch website.**

## FamNet and the New Zealand Genealogical Database

Robert Barnes, the developer of FamNet and the NZGDB is the guest speaker the branch meeting on **Tuesday 28 September**. All members with an email address have been enrolled for two years in the Kiwi-based FamNet (which includes the New Zealand Genealogy Database), through a grant from Pub Charity. This site allows you to share family trees from your home computer, collaborate with others, swap stories, and search the information pages. <http://famnet.org.nz>

At the branch meeting, Robert will take us on a tour of the site, demonstrating how it works and answering your questions. The next day, **Wednesday 29 September**, he will run two workshops at the Alison Procter Research Centre, upstairs at Paraparaumu Public Library, from 12.30pm to 2.15pm and 2.30pm to 4.15pm. These are hands-on experience using computers and laptops and limited to 12 persons each. Booking is essential through Derek Griffis at [griffisnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:griffisnz@ihug.co.nz) or 293-1092.

## Why You Are You

Make a diary note now. Our final meeting of the year on **Tuesday 23 November** at Kapiti Community Centre will be the 2010 YURU personality presentation. Sue Scott, a former TVNZ weather presenter and now a communications adviser, will lead us through her family history which has been researched by branch member Sue Greene. What secrets will be unfolded!

It's time to celebrate another successful year for the branch, so there will be a light supper and refreshments and the evening will be open to the public. Why not bring along a friend? Bookings will be essential and details of ticket purchase will be announced shortly.

## Lost

A book brought to the Kapiti Community Centre for the Celtic Research Day in August was misplaced on the day. Have you seen it? The title is *Dowd's History of Limerick*, edited by Cian Carroll. It is a paperback A5 size and has a picture of two or three men with guns behind a barricade on the front cover. Contact Hanley Hoffmann (see last page).

## Pioneer index – a message from NZSG Office Manager Marianne Cummins

"I know that many Branches already have a Pioneer Index of some kind in their area and that some are starting to compile information about one, thanks to Jo Wilton contacting everyone earlier this year to ask what resources were available.

"It would be absolutely brilliant to start up a project which looked at where to find information about the Pioneer families who came to NZ between 1800 and 1900.

"It would be even better if we could include information about Maori families in the different geographic areas, although I'm unsure what type of records exist about this.

"In any case, if anyone is interested in assisting me with creating a Pioneer Index, all they need is a willingness to help, their trusty computer and some local records to make a start. There are copies of the Regional Repository Guides available to assist, and any records which your branch may hold also.

"Please hand out my contact details to anyone who shows interest and I will do what I can to assist with the type of index we are looking at, what records may be available and so on.

"It will be a really exciting project which will result in something very useful to family history researchers." Contact Marianne Cummins, NZSG Office Manager on (09) 570-4248, email [office.manager@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:office.manager@genealogy.org.nz) or write to her at NZSG, P O Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland\_1741.

## NZSG AGM and Conference – Dunedin, 3-6 June 2011

150 years ago, in 1861, after Gabriel Read's discovery of gold in Otago, there was **a golden opportunity** for adventure and the acquisition of wealth. Many of our ancestors took up the challenge to come to Otago to make their fortunes. They came from all over the world, and most, as they matured, settled and raised families, first in Otago, and later in other parts of New Zealand.

In June 2011, at the NZSG Conference in Dunedin, you will have **a golden opportunity** to find out about those early adventurers and your Otago forebears.

The venue, **John McGlashan College**, is a very pleasant environment, with a modern building which has computer rooms, classrooms and other spaces suitable for booths to be set up or just to sit and chat. There is plenty of parking. Buses/minibuses will be arranged for those who can't face a 2km walk from the hotel/motel area to the school.

## Family History Fair

By all accounts, the first Family History Fair, held in Hamilton in mid-July, was a great success, with a variety of presentations, exhibits offering lots of help and (in the case of Scotland's People) free certificates, and great food at the hotel. Convenor Hanley Hoffmann and his wife, member Doreen Hoffmann, fielded enquiries about Kapiti branch at a promotional stand.

## Genealogy Roadshow

### **23 November 2010, Westpac Stadium, Wellington**

This roadshow is touring Australia and New Zealand, and features a number of speakers and exhibits. Limited information is available now at the Unlock the Past website. <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au>

## New Zealand Illegitimacies – What about the fathers?

During and after his talk on this subject at our June branch meeting, Derek Griffis checked a number of enquiries against his database spanning births c1890-1949. Some enquiries were successful, or gave food for further thought and research, while others were not. With rare exceptions, enquiries were all about unmarried mothers, or their children, with a desire to identify the father.

Perhaps this was to be expected as, to state the obvious, it is the mother who carries the child for nine long months, very visibly so in the final months before it is born, and it is she who appears in the official records as the mother at the time that the birth is registered. Certainly she may have contrived (and sometimes successfully) to conceal the event, by moving elsewhere as confinement nears, but the inescapable fact remains that she is the mother, and she is the one who has to make arrangements for its future.

Enquiries about unmarried fathers are relatively uncommon, for the simple reason that there is no visible evidence of approaching fatherhood. Other people have no reason to suspect the impending event, and sometimes even the fathers themselves are unaware that they have sired a child until very late in the piece.

After the child has been born the father frequently has little or nothing to do with it and for the father, life goes on as if nothing had happened. Generally speaking, other people are totally unaware that a man may be an unmarried father, unless he lets it be known. Yet, to state the obvious, there are just as many unmarried fathers as unmarried mothers.

Derek is just as willing to search his data-base for unmarried fathers, as for unmarried mothers, and the database contains some 15,000 of each. Often these men married someone else later in life, had legitimate children, and kept very quiet about any pre-marital offspring. You may have half-cousins or half-siblings you are totally unaware of.

Enquiries will be treated in confidence, and should be sent quoting the man's full name, and year of birth (to help isolate the correct person and time-period), to [griffisnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:griffisnz@ihug.co.nz), or posted (include stamped self-addressed envelope) to: 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae 5036.

## Novel idea

Kapiti Library has a copy of *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey, a novel about a man's research into Richard III and his reputation for killing the princes in the tower. Deborah Shuker says: "Originally I read it because of the author, and found it appealed to my researcher side. I recommend it to members and their partners who wonder about our genealogical addiction."

## Another brickwall crumbles . . . .

I wrote before about finding Walter Charles SMITH using a simple Google search. More recently I've been trying to find out what happened to his grandson, born in New Zealand, whose name was Walter *George* SMITH. I first learned of the younger man's existence by reading the 1934 Evening Post death notice for his mother, Mary Letitia SMITH. It said he was a journalist living in San Francisco.

The US census, which is available on ancestry.com for every 10 years up to 1930, told me lots about him. Walter George SMITH was on the US census records for 1910, 1920 and 1930. They said he had arrived in the USA in 1903, the same year he married his Australian wife, Kate, that his mother was born in New Zealand and his father was born in England. The couple lived at various addresses in San Francisco, the last one being on Golden Gate Avenue, with his occupation given as reporter or court reporter. Kate did not have any children born alive.

I couldn't find a record of this SMITH's death, but his name disappeared from US voters lists (on ancestry.com) and from online San Francisco telephone directories about 1940. A Google search of his name didn't come up with anything useful. There was a different Walter G Smith who edited a newspaper in Honolulu, but he was born much earlier.

On the Google home page there's an option to search Google Books. Thinking my SMITH might have written something (being a journalist), I searched Google Books using the keywords: "Walter George Smith" and "New Zealand". Google Books include all kinds of publications. Some are free to view. For others, there's a snippet view, which shows only a small section of the text where your key words appear. This peep can help you decide whether it's worth trying to find the book in a library or paying to view it all online.

What I found was part of an obituary in the *Pacific Islands monthly* from 1959. The synopsis said:

"DEATH OF WALTER GEORGE SMITH Mr. *Walter George Smith*, a well-known old member of the American colony in Tahiti, ... Smith was born in *New Zealand*, where he is survived by a brother and other relatives, but became an American citizen...."

It sounded like the right man. Hoping there would be more details, I checked the National Library catalogue to see if they held the *Pacific Islands monthly*. It was in the collection, but a lot of material is in storage while the library is being renovated, so I wasn't sure if it was available. I emailed the library, explaining exactly what I was looking for. The librarian responded by sending me a scanned image of the obituary – so I didn't even have to go to Wellington to read it. I made sure I left a grateful note in their "comments" box.

And yes, it was the right Mr Smith. The obituary said he had moved to Tahiti at about the start of the second world war. There were other details that confirmed his identity and gave me new leads to work on.

Since then, I've made a point of searching Google Books for missing ancestors. I haven't found any more yet, but you never know where they'll turn up. I wouldn't have thought of looking in Tahiti.

**If you have a story to share** about how you broke down a brickwall, contact the newsletter editor. Your experience may give other members useful ideas to try in their own demolition attempts.

## Branch notes

### August branch meeting report

"Heroes and villains" was the theme for the August meeting, and a number of members stood up to talk about ancestors of interest. Most chose to talk about heroes rather than villains, and each speaker shared a bit of the social history of the time. Connections were made as some listeners discovered areas of mutual interest.

### Evening Post obituaries

The new branch copy of the "Jim Pearce Index of Obituaries Reported in the Evening Post 1929-1977" CD has now been installed on our PCs at the Alison Procter Family History Centre, upstairs at Paraparaumu Library.

### Donations gratefully accepted

Thank you to Brian Mountjoy for his recent donation of books, maps, fiche and CDs. Donations of this nature and relevant to family history are always most welcome, as the material can either supplement our existing resource collection, and/or provide saleable items for our future book sales. If anyone else has material they would like to donate to the branch, please contact Derek on 04-2931092 or at [griffisnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:griffisnz@ihug.co.nz). Please note though, that we definitely **do not want** back issues of *New Zealand Genealogist* as there is no demand for these.

### New members

Welcome to Rose DEMENECH, Adele DAVIDSON, Jude YOUNG, Roland HERMANS, Warren HOLCROFT, Peter GARROD, Bernard McMANUS, and Ron and Margaret WILSON, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

### Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **S to Z** please be at the September branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In October it will be someone else's turn.

### Used ink cartridges

The branch collects used ink and toner cartridges for recycling to raise funds. Please pass your old cartridges to Derek at a Branch Meeting, put them in a box in the locked cabinets at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC) upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, or leave them in Derek's letter-box, 94 Ngaio Road, Waikanae. We can recycle Canon, Lexmark, Hewlett Packard, Epson, and Brother cartridges.

### GenCom News

We have a run of these quarterly magazines from March 2000 onwards in our reference collection at APFHC, but are missing some of the most recent issues. We would be grateful if anyone is prepared to donate all or any of the following to us: June and September 2007, September 2008, and all of 2009 plus 2010 to date. Please contact Derek on 293-1092 or at [griffisnz@ihug.co.nz](mailto:griffisnz@ihug.co.nz) if you can oblige.

### Interest and User groups

Meetings taking place before the October branch meeting are listed on the front page. For all interest and user group dates, and the full list of branch meetings, see the website. [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb/)

## On the web

### Genealogy New Zealand blog

Read Lyn Dear's wide-ranging genealogy blog about researching in New Zealand and looking for people who came here from further afield.

<http://genealogy-new-zealand.blogspot.com/>

### 101 best websites for 2010

This comes to you from *Family Tree* magazine. There are lots of old favourites in the list, but with any luck you'll find something new that helps with those brickwalls. \_

<http://media2.fwpublications.com/ftm/101Best2010Flyer.pdf>

### Facebook

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists now has a page on Facebook. This link lists upcoming events hosted by branches around the country.

[www.facebook.com/NZSocGen](http://www.facebook.com/NZSocGen)

### Australian births, deaths and marriages

Ancestry.com has added Australian birth, death and marriage indexes to its collections. You can access these at all Kapiti libraries and at APFHC.

### Dorset parish records

Findmypast.co.uk has added Dorset parish records provided by the Dorset Family History Society. Included are baptism records from 1549 to 1812, marriages from 1560 to 1839 and burial records from 1651 to 1795.

### Committee for 2010-2011

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	<a href="mailto:hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz">hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz</a>	904-3276
Secretary	vacant	<a href="mailto:kapiti@genealogy.org.nz">kapiti@genealogy.org.nz</a>	
Treasurer	Lorna Henderson	<a href="mailto:lornamoa@@gmail.com">lornamoa@@gmail.com</a>	293-7771
	Clive Palmer	<a href="mailto:c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz">c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz</a>	293-7631
	Jackie Holland	<a href="mailto:jtholland@@xtra.co.nz">jtholland@@xtra.co.nz</a>	293-2296
	Bev Chappell	<a href="mailto:chappell@@paradise.net.nz">chappell@@paradise.net.nz</a>	904 1860
	Bill McKeich	<a href="mailto:yanakie@@clear.net.nz">yanakie@@clear.net.nz</a>	905-6952
	Lyn Lee	<a href="mailto:ldolly6@@gmail.com">ldolly6@@gmail.com</a>	293 1610
	Liz Matthews	<a href="mailto:liz.matthews@@xtra.co.nz">liz.matthews@@xtra.co.nz</a>	293-8553
	Derek Griffis	<a href="mailto:griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz">griffisnz@@ihug.co.nz</a>	293-1092
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