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Kapiti Brandt

JANvAny 2000

EDITOR. DENNIS HICKS

Mrrtinj; Information

PROGRAMME

- Jan 26. "My Dear Fanny" Part 3. Pauline Neale.
Feb 24. "Soames Island" Richard Anderson.
Mar 23. "War Graves" Margaret Marks.
Apr 27. "Alexander Turnbull Photo's" Joan McCracken.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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New Zealand
Society
of
Genealogists,
Kapiti Branch
P O Box 6,
Paraparaumu.

Meetings held at
Masonic Lodge
Rooms,
Tararua Street,
Paraparaumu.
4th Wednesdays
of months
January to
November.
7.30pm.

Branch Library
opens 7.00pm.

This the January 2000 Newsletter is
kindly sponsored by:

**Pam & Dennis Hicks Golden
Coast Motel
42 Raumati Road
Raumati Beach.
Phone 04-902-6131**

Supper Helpers JHE

*To assist the committee,
they are asking members
to please help with
supper, particularly the
serving & washing up.*

Jan - A - C Feb - D -
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Book for Sale

Local author "Jean Dobson" of Levin has for sale her book entitled "**MacLean of Scottish Lock and Kapiti Coast**". If you wish to purchase a copy of this book telephone Jean on 06-368-7851. The book costs \$32-00 or \$39-95 with postage and handling.

Millennium Tube

Contributors were Barbara Humpage, Bill Moore, John Glover, Lloyd Jordan and Debra Shuker.

Items that were included in the tube were as follows:

Newspaper picture of Kay Carter and her book; Photo's from Barbara & Lloyd; Postcard of Paraparaumu Beach; Kapiti Group Annual Report 1998-99; History of Kapiti Genealogy Group by D. Shuker; 2x newsletter's October & November 1999 and the Crossword used at the 1999 Xmas meeting.

Christmas Meeting

What a poor response we had to the last meeting of 1999. After all the hard work that Debra Shuker had put into the Crossword Puzzle and the time and effort that your committee had given, not only to this meeting, but throughout the whole year and then about 20 people out of a total membership in excess of 100 turned out. At least those that did take the time to attend had a thoroughly enjoyable night and would also like to give a big thank you to both Debra Shuker and John Glover for running the evening.

Welcome Back

The Committee welcomes all new & old members back after the break and hope you all had a very merry Christmas and happy, safe and prosperous New Year and hope that no one lost all their Family History in the Millennium change over.

BDM Records Conversion Project

You may be aware that Births, Deaths & Marriages is undertaking a gradual programme of computerisation. The first major phase was the computerisation of all new registrations from 1st January 1998. BDM has just begun the second phase, the conversion of six million registration records from paper to electronic format. The records that will be converted are;

- Birth & death registrations 1935 - 97 and
- Marriage registrations 1951 - 97

How to get your certificate.

There are several options for getting a certificate;

- You can send your certificate request and fee directly to Central Registry at PO Box 31-115, Lower Hurt
- You can phone 0800-22-52-52 toll free (operators will send out certificate order forms or accept certificate requests with credit card payment)
- You can leave your certificate request at your nearest BDM office, and ask them to send it to Central Registry for you.

If you are ordering a number of certificates please post your request.

Resume of "My Dear Fanny; Part 3.

The research for "My Dear Fanny" is a joint project by Pauline Neale, NZSG Wellington member, researcher and copyeditor, and Adrienne Simpson, writer and theatre historian. It began with the Clifton papers, a collection of letters held in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

The story so far;

Fanny SARA (1849-1885) was the stage name of Fanny MATHER, an English variety singer. Her parents were Robert MATHER - Scots-born, baptised in a remote rural Presbyterian Church - and Esther, nee ISAACS - London-born, practising Jewish. As a young performer, Fanny worked in the theatre company of Isabella PAUL, an outstanding and very famous singer-actress, but in 1872 joined the Royal Magnet Variety Troupe, to tour Australia and New Zealand. Letters from her family in London followed her across the seas ("My dear Fanny, we are all well But have not heard from you").

In Australia, the troupe recruited other entertainers; and thus Fanny, 23, met Englishman Fred CLIFTON, comic singer and raconteur. But the troupe lost its manager and promoter, Mr MOORE. Just why is not clear, though Fanny's father in London seems to have had an inkling ("My dear Fanny ... ever since I saw Mr Moore's name in the racing papers I have been concerned").

A few months later (1873), Fanny wrote from New Zealand that she had left the company and married Fred Clifton. Her family were very distressed ("My dear Fanny These theatrical liaisons are notoriously short-lived"). Fanny and Fred formed their own small company (Clifton's Merry Moments, based in Dunedin), to entertain the small towns and goldfields of the southern South Island.

In 1875, Fanny and Fred moved to Invercargill and became respectable. They got married (truly!), Fanny joined St John's Anglican Church choir and ran a public house, while Fred drove a half-hourly return omnibus service between the pub and the town centre. Children were born, and Fred and friends put on entertainments to make extra money for themselves, but mostly to raise funds for good causes - in the days before public welfare aided the injured, the sick, the widowed, and the orphaned.

Both Fanny and Fred died in middle age; Fred in 1882, aged 49, of a stroke, and Fanny in 1885, aged 36, of heart disease. Their three surviving children were adopted by neighbours.

My dear Fanny; Part 3 will look at Fanny's celebrated employer, Mrs Isabelle Paul; fill in some details of the Clifton's' Invercargill life, and come up with an explanation for Mr Moore's disappearance.

Pauline Neale. January 2000.