

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



P O Box 703, Paraparaumu

Kapiti@genealogy.org.nz

Newsletter January 2010

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 26 January, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Research night

Resources and advisors on duty

Monday 8 February, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Using Irish resources and ordering

Irish certificates

For meeting dates of special interest and user groups, see page 3. You can see the year's programme on our website.

Looking ahead

Tuesday 23 February, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

Researching Parish Chests

Speaker: Marlene Sayers, Kilbirnie branch

Monday 8 March, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu.

Kick start your research at our January meeting

Made any resolutions to get stuck into your research in 2010? Our Tuesday 26 January meeting is a good place to start. It'll be a research night with microfiche, CDs, books and the New Zealand Gazette available, and experienced researchers to call on. Sometimes the best way to get ahead is not sifting through the records but asking questions of others. As a group, the members of Kapiti Branch possess vast experience in family history research and detailed knowledge of many of the places your ancestors lived. Ask around at the meeting and you're likely to come up with some new ideas on how to proceed.

National Library access and Archives renovations

Have you visited the National Library's temporary reading room yet? If not, there's good news: it's probably closer to Archives New Zealand than you expected. If you can cope with stairs, there's even a short cut. When you come out the archives front door, turn right. At the end of the building take the steps down to the staff carpark and walk through to Thorndon Quay. You'll be able to see the library sign just along the street at number 77.

Coming in July: NZSG Family History Fair Hamilton

A Family History Fair is being organised for 16-18 July in Hamilton. The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is planning seminars, exhibits, online access and help desks to provide plenty of interest for everyone from beginners to experienced genealogists. The AGM, formal opening and entertainment are on Friday 16 July, with exhibitions and seminars continuing all weekend.

Digitisers wanted

A small band of volunteers has been digitising the 1911 electoral roll for all New Zealand, and

more help is wanted. All you need is access to a spreadsheet programme such as Excel, Open Office or Microsoft Works. You will receive instructions and a disk of images. Contact Diane Wilson diane@@wilson.gen.nz.

New Zealand Police Gazettes

With the passing of the Clean Slate Act 2004, access to the New Zealand Police Gazettes became subject to a 100-year embargo (it used to be 70 years), and so the latest Gazettes that had been publicly available were those for 1933, with no prospect of viewing the 1934 Gazettes until 2035.

However, it's been confirmed that access via Archives NZ has reverted to the earlier 70-year embargo. Registered readers can order them at Archives by quoting: Agency AAZC, Series (leave blank), Accession W2542, Reference (year you are interested in).

Research help

For members who've hit a brick wall, the branch offers a special service – Kapiti GenForum. If you send a query in writing, the branch research officer will endeavour to provide you with some leads.

Details should include: who you are looking for (with the SURNAME in capital letters), when they were living (at least approximately), where they lived and the specific thing you want to find out. Please show all dates in day/month/year order and provide as much information as you can. Say what resources you're tried already.

Remember to include your own name, phone number and/or email address. Allow several weeks for your enquiry to be researched and processed. The service is only available to current members of Kapiti branch. An application form is available on the branch website (go to **services**, then **research services**, and scroll down to **Kapiti GenForum** for the link. Or you can just write a letter. Email it to kapiti@@genealogy.org.nz, or post it to Sue Greene, 31 Freemans Road, Otaki 5512. Sue will also accept written queries delivered to her at Computer-friendly genealogy meetings.

Branch notes

New member

Welcome to Margaret KAY and Karen JONES, who have joined the branch since the last newsletter.

Why you are you

In 2009 we introduced our own version of the UK's *Who do you think you are*, called YURU or *Why you are you*. Locals Kevin Milne of Fair Go and Anna Kenna, tv/radio producer and book author, were our subjects. We did their family research with them and they made presentations at our expo and branch meetings. We plan to invite two more local celebrities to YURU in 2010 and welcome your suggestions for candidates. Send your ideas to Sue Greene or Clive Palmer – contact details on page 4.

New projector, better view

Pub Charity has continued to support us with a further grant of \$ 4900 to buy a new data projector. The new projector is designed for larger lecture rooms such as our Kapiti Community Centre venue. The older machine was not really suitable and members were having difficulty seeing presentations. The new one is double the strength and has lots of special features. To improve presentations, we have also purchased a projection screen for our meeting room, and we've got a new media trolley to hold all the gear.

Help using our computers

A new Help Booklet at the Alison Procter Family History Centre tells how to access and use the PCs, the internet sites and CDs. It's in the bright orange folder in drawer 5 of the wooden cupboard. Please return it to the drawer after use.

Password changes

And now for the bad news. Non-members may be using our computer facilities. As a result, we'll be changing the password at random from now on, and to find out what it is, members will have to sign in at the information desk and pick up the keys. We regret the inconvenience. Each new password will be in the Help Booklet. Please don't reveal it to anyone.

2010 programme

This year's programme is now on the website and on notice boards at the Alison Procter Family History Centre (APFHC) (upstairs at Paraparaumu Library) and at our Kapiti Community Centre meeting room. As well as monthly branch meetings, there are visits to Karori Cemetery and Archives NZ, a Celtic (Scottish and Irish) research day, and continuation of the autumn and winter meetings at APFHC.

We now have six interest and user groups – Family Tree Maker, Legacy, Australia, Scottish, Irish, and Computer-friendly genealogy. Programmes for these groups will also go on the website and notice boards. See page 3 for an overview.

Wednesday help with your research

Every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12 noon, volunteers from Kapiti Branch help other members and the public with family history research. If you'd like to find out what resources are available, need some ideas on how to make progress in your research, or are available to help others with theirs, come along to the Alison Procter Family History Centre, upstairs at Paraparaumu Library.

Tea makers

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

Interest and User group meetings

Legacy (database software)

meets: every two months
next meeting: 27 February, 12.30 to 4.30pm
contact Gerald Twiss, gero@ihug.co.nz

Computer friendly genealogy

meets: monthly, second Monday
next meeting: 8 February 2010, 7.30pm
contact: Sue Greene (see page 4)

Family Tree Maker (database software) Irish interest group

meets: quarterly
next meeting: 30 January, 9.30am to 12.30pm
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see page 4)

meets: to be confirmed

next meeting: to be confirmed
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see page 4)

Scottish interest group

meets: quarterly
next meeting: Saturday 6 February
9.30am to 12.30 pm
contact: Trish Mallia
fmallia@@xtra.co.nz

Australian interest group

meets: monthly, third Tuesday, 10am to 12pm
next meeting: 16 February, APFHC
Contact: Deborah Shuker 905-2238
shuker@@xtra.co.nz

Another brickwall crumbles

Would anyone choose to have SMITHs in their family? It certainly makes for research challenges. Looking for the parents of Walter Charles SMITH, (born c 1830, London?) I tried just doing a Google search on his name. It came up in the National Archives (UK), listing him as the executor of the will of Eliza Sally Townsend SMITH, who died c 1865. The other executor's name was John Frederick WEIPPERT. I didn't know either of these names, but from past experience with wills, I suspected that WEIPPERT might turn out to be an in-law of some sort.

I searched www.freebmd.org for a marriage of WEIPPERT and SMITH and discovered a wife called Sidney Ann SMITH. Consulting the IGI for Sidney Ann showed her christening, with parents Walter SMITH and Eliza Sally Townsend FLACK. I checked the IGI for any other children of this couple, and there he was: Walter Charles SMITH. Then I googled FLACK and was overjoyed to find a well-documented one-name study, which showed generations of FLACKs, going back to a couple born in 1710. My Walter Charles wasn't mentioned, but his parents were.

The lesson: try a simple Google search, and keep your fingers crossed. Follow up any clues on the maternal line, especially if the paternal line has a common name. Information on siblings may lead you back to the person you really want to find.

Have you broken down a brickwall recently? Email the editor with details to include your story in a future newsletter. You may give other members new ideas for tackling their own.

On the web

Wills from Wales

The National Library of Wales has pre-1858 wills online, which can be viewed free as pdf files. The most useful to family historians are those of people with no children of their own but lots of other relations, where they distribute their goods in all directions, naming everyone and identifying how they are related. "To my sister, Elizabeth Owen, and my brother-in-law, John Owen, and their children John Owen, Thomas Owen and Richard Owen, and my sister Mary Thomas, and her husband Thomas Thomas, and their children Thomas Thomas, Owen Thomas and Richard Thomas, etc." From the home page, select **Family History** and then **Search Archival Databases**.

www.llgc.org.uk

Scotland's people add latest records

The latest vital records for Scotland are now available at the pay per view site, Scotland's people. These are births for 1909, marriages for 1934 and deaths for 1959.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Committee

Convenor	Hanley Hoffmann	hdhoffmann@@paradise.net.nz	904-3276
Secretary	Dave Muirhead	kapiti@@genealogy.org.nz	905-3170
Treasurer/Membership	Lorna Henderson	lornamoa@@gmail.com	293-7771
Deputy Convenor	Clive Palmer	c-mpalmer@@xtra.co.nz	293-7631
Research/CFG	Sue Greene	sueg-97@@xtra.co.nz	06 364-8196
Programmes/Activities	Jackie Holland	jtholland@@xtra.co.nz	293-2296
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Hostess/Programme Support	Judy Olsen	cuppatea@@paradise.net.nz	
Librarian	Bev Chappell	chappell@@paradise.net.nz	904 1860
Newsletter/Publicity	Liz Matthews	liz.matthews@@xtra.co.nz	293-8553
Communications Assistant	Derek Griffis	grieffisz@@ihug.co.nz	293-1092
Sales	Sandy White	tersan@@xtra.co.nz	293-6975
Alison Procter FH Centre	Bill McKeich	yanakie@@clear.net.nz	905-6952