

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



Meetings held at Masonic Lodge Rooms,
Tararua Street, Paraparaumu 4th
Wednesdays of months January to November at 7.30 pm
May 2001

PROGRAMME

May 23rd Cafe Evening: Theme Grandparents Traditions
Jun 27th Presenting your own history - Gerald Twiss

NOTICES

WELCOME to new members Glen & Robert Reddiex and Hamish Tumbull, and welcome back to former member Mae Blackburn. We hope we can assist you in your research.

REMINDER to all those wishing to re-join (or join) the Round Robin genealogical magazines, the annual subscription is now due. The Irish one is \$4, the Scottish is \$4 and the Australian is \$7. Please see or phone John Glover (phone 902-2486)

SCOTS GLEANINGS. A regional meeting is being held in the Plunket Rooms, 4 Campbell Street Wanganui between 10.30 am and 4 pm on Saturday 23rd June 2001 for anyone with Scottish roots. Bring your own lunch. Morning & afternoon teas provided. Door charge \$3. Contact: Wendy Pettigrew - phone (06) 347-2575

OUR KAPITI BRANCH OPEN DAY. This year we are just holding one day and not a full weekend. This will be on Saturday 11th August, 2001. Please note it in your diaries.

Supper Helpers

To assist the Committee, will members please help with supper duties, particularly the serving and washing up.

May U-Z Jun A-B

THE STANDARD OF LIVING IN BRITAIN IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION -Arthur J. Taylor

I found this book in our library recently, and while it includes many statistics of the history of the time, the debate I thought was most interesting was that on the Rising Standard of Living. The Industrial Revolution developed over a period of about 100 years from 1750 when machines were being developed to take over many tasks done by hand. I had believed that this meant the loss of jobs for the workers, but apparently this was not so. For although the machines were less labour intensive, they were additional to, and not replacement of, the work force. For example, the railways replacing canal barge traffic, were more labour intensive. So there was a bigger demand for industrial workers while fewer were required on the farms. This meant a move to towns as craftsmen and agricultural labourers were transformed into factory workers, instead of pursuing their crafts from home.

With the increase of opportunities and skills, came greater productivity and bargaining powers developed. More goods produced meant cheaper prices, so they became available to a wider number of people, not just the rich. Wages improved so the government of the day set up savings banks and friendly societies to encourage. Legislation followed reducing hours of work, and giving a minimum age at which children could begin work. Factories were supposed to provide educational facilities

We talk about all the changes we have seen in our lifetime, but those that went through the industrialisation period must have faced some traumatic times. How did your ancestors cope?

"The following is a sad, but interesting, newspaper account of the death of one of my grandmother's sisters. It occurred in 1897 in a Lancashire cotton weaving town and for those wish ancestors in this trade, it gives an insight into cotton manufacturing methods.

The newspaper article is headed *'Dismissal from Work - a Girl's Suicide'* 'On Thursday morning the dead body of S.E., a young woman aged 23 years, was discovered in the Mill Lodge. The girl, who was well-known in the town, was a weaver at the Mill, where she had been employed for five

weeks. On Wednesday she was discharged from her work and went home about 9 o'clock. Her younger sister, aged 14, was at home and the deceased told her to go and tell her mother that she had been discharged. She also said that they were going to put her into court. The girl went and told her mother, and when she returned, the deceased had left, leaving her hat and working articles on the table. As she did not return at night, the mother went in search of her. She went to the Lodge, near where they used to live and found the deceased's shawl on the wall. An Alarm was at once given and the police found the body the following day.

The inquest was held at the Town Hall yesterday by the Coroner. Evidence was given in accordance with the statement above. Mr. E.R., manager of the Mill, said the deceased had worked for them for five weeks, and her weaving had always been satisfactory. During the last year several complaints had been made about inferior gold being used in the heading of pieces of cloth and notices warning weavers against using any gold thread other than that supplied from the Firm were posted in the Mill informing the weavers that if the offence was committed, they would be liable to a penalty and instant dismissal.

During the deceased's absence on Tuesday, the cloth-looker went round the looms to see if he could find any bobbins that did not resemble those sold by the Firm, and the one produced was found on the deceased's shuttle. The weaver bought the good bobbin in the warehouse at 3d. each, which was afterwards allowed in the place. The one produced which the deceased was using would cost about 2d. It was inferior to those sold by the Company. It was a very serious matter, because the "inferior" gold spoiled the cloth. He tested one of the deceased's pieces and found that an inferior thread had been used. A piece of cloth, containing the proper character of thread was worth about 15s., but a piece containing inferior thread was only worth 6s.6d.

'A verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind was returned, the Foreman remarking that the girl seemed to have been afraid of being prosecuted and it had affected her mind.'

"I found this report after becoming curious as to what would have caused a young girl's death. So it pays to look at the Family as a whole and not just your direct ancestor.

"It should be explained that a Lodge is a reservoir for holding large quantities of water. Each Mill has its own Lodge - water being used extensively in the Cotton industry. To prevent threads from breaking, weaving had to be carried out in a humid atmosphere" *Thanks to Valerie Freeman for this interesting article*

{My family were involved with the cotton industry in Lancashire - I can only hope they were not the managers involved - Ed.}

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONVENOR	Rosalyn Smaill..... 299-7395
SECRETARY	Valerie Freeman 298-7396
TREASURER	Shirley West 293-4438
MINUTES	John Glover 902-2486
LIBRARIANS	Debbie Benton 902-4940
	Meryl Opie 298-8737
PROGRAMMES & GRANTS	Angela Milsted 299-0338
HELP DESK	Valerie Freeman 298-7396
SALES	Barbara Humpage... 902-4979
MICROFICHE	Barbara Tunley 298-6531
HOSTESS / SUPPER	Doreen Heron 902-1918
PUBLICITY	Gerald Twiss..... 902-0926
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Alison Procter 904-3229
PROJECTS	Marydell Haddock ..298-7254

FOOT & MOUTH UPDATE It sounds as though the scare is abating in the U.K. now, but members travelling to the UK & Europe in the near future are advised that some Cemeteries are closed to the public until further notice which may restrict some research. 21 war cemeteries in Belgian are affected, but those in France are currently not. A list of 16 banned cemeteries is available if required. Your Editor has full details.

*CRYPTIC COMMENTS: Documentation: The hardest part of genealogy.
Many a family tree needs pruning*