



Kapiti Branch

April 2004

Convenor's Comment

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF ROOTSWEB

Enter yea to the world of <http://www.rootsweb.com/> and much is revealed! My major breakthroughs over the last three years have been thanks to this marvelous group of websites, so let me share some whys and wherefores with you. I'm an addict! My morning fix has been to browse through lots of messages (hundreds at times) from all around the world. Many of no specific importance to searches for my rellies, but a wealth of information shared by enthusiastic genealogists and even some healthy arguments from time to time. I recently un-subscribed to all lists pending 3 weeks away in Oz and was bereft of messages - nobody loves me! Anyway I didn't relish the thought of the usual computer generated and unhelpful message from my ISP that my mailbox was full and beware of the consequences.

If you go into the above website you'll find a wealth of options and pages to browse. It's a bit daunting at first but be brave and persevere. You will soon learn the etiquette. My introduction to Rootsweb was through their mailing lists. These are a huge database of surnames, locality and topic at <http://lists.rootsweb.com>. Oral history had my grandfather Samuel PALMER born in India in 1872, orphaned at around 3 years of age after both parents died. G-grandfather from UK (his first name, that of wife & birthplaces unknown) was working on the railroad being constructed from Bombay to Calcutta. So I entered what little info I had into the country list INDIA-L@@rootsweb.com. 48 hours later a respondent in UK with access to Bombay Ecclesiastical Records, sent full details and reference numbers of the birth and baptism of my grandfather and the death details and burials of Henry & Harriet Palmer, my g-grandparents. Subsequent ordering of LDS films provided printouts of the parish records to confirm this. Samuel according to oral history was sent back to England to stay with relatives in Kent and East London and initially trained as a pattern maker.

After some hunting around, I joined the surname list Palmer-Eastanglia-L@@rootsweb.com which included Kent & Hampshire and lo & behold within a matter of days a lady with Palmer links (not mine), had Samuel in the 1881 Census in Otford, Kent, grandson age 8, living with a Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Mary Bye. I won't bore you with the detail but she and FreeBMD helped me discover that Mrs. Bye was formerly Mary Palmer who had re-

married. And guess who were the witnesses of her marriage to Joseph Bye in 1867 in Lambeth - Henry & Harriet Palmer, her son and daughter-in-law! She also looked up county and parish records for me with more clues, which are still being followed up. It's a small world because it transpired this helper had a brother-in-law living in Dunedin and with her husband were planning a retirement trip to NZ. They came and stayed with us and he was an old car enthusiast and owner. So guess where we took them! He reckoned Southwards Museum was better than many he had visited in UK. But where did Samuel go? Into London-L@@rootsweb.com and a request for help from anyone who had access to the 1891 census records. I had already checked he was no longer in Kent. Bingo, living with a family in Plumstead, nephew, age 18, occupation pattern maker. I find this sort of exploring and the interchange of thoughts, ideas and data exciting.

My mother's maiden name was LONGLEY, born in Leeds, Yorkshire. I've used several lists to successfully trace this family line. Surname list Longley-L@@rootsweb.com is dominated by US searchers but nevertheless has led to an ongoing sharing and development of a Longley database in the UK. Further information came from helpful souls on the county list Eng-Yorkshire@@rootsweb.com with folk very willing to look up county, parish and cemetery records - so important at this distance with those vital bits of data that you cant just catch a bus or train to go and search out yourself! One mailster in the town list Eng-Yks-Leeds-L@@rootsweb.com lived a few streets away from where my mother was born at home, took her camera around and sent me a photo of the house, which is still standing and in great order. One day out of the blue a message was received from a living Longley relative in Putney, London who had seen my exchange of messages on one of the lists. We share a common ancestor and have exchanged lots of details. He has sent me wonderful old family photos and records and again what a small world, as he has a Longley line uncle living in Warkworth, NZ. Contact made and more detail about to be exchanged!

Mailists have two options. One (L) is where all messages on that list are posted, so you get the lot. The other (D) digest option is a periodic summary of messages. Both databases are searchable and there is a master list search base at <http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/> with a key word search engine. Some of the other useful sites are message boards at <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>; tracing guides and techniques at <http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/> and the World Connect database in which family trees can be shared and searched at <http://wc.rootsweb.com/>. Rootsweb also hosts our Branch website. Happy surfing! Clive Palmer

Notices:

Party Time. This will be our 20th Anniversary celebration and your

Committee decided to hold it at our old haunt, the Masonic Lodge in Tararua Street, Paraparaumu, which will give us more room to spread out. This will take the form of a café evening, so please bring a small plate. Orange juice, wine, tea and coffee will be provided. The theme is "I didn't get where I am in genealogy without" Angela is arranging a raffle, so don't forget your purses. Members are asked to bring a family keepsake for round-the-table discussions.

Our March Speaker, Nick Perrin, an authority on burials in the Bolton Street Cemetery, has offered to help our members researching in this area. His E-mail address is:- n.perrin@@xtra.co.nz

Ivan Johnson the NZSG Conference speaker, who is to tour around New Zealand afterwards, will not now be coming to Palmerston North. However, we have an invitation from the Wellington Branch NZSG who tell us he will be their guest speaker on Wednesday 9th June at 7.30 p.m. speaking on "Church Crawling in England". The church was the centre of all British villages, and it is, of course, significant to the genealogist for finding out information about ancestors, as most of them were baptized, married and buried there. It should be an interesting evening. Cost \$5. Tickets are with Alison Procter. I will be going, Will anyone else join me in car pooling?

Visit to the National Library. It is proposed that we make this visit on Saturday, 3rd July 2004. The Library is open between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Anyone interested?

Starter Packs for New Members These are currently being updated. We will advise you in due course when they are available

Access Radio. Clive made the first 25 minute broadcast on 15th March and plans to make another on 19th April on the general principals of getting started and other matters. We are now working on having a regular slot.

Heritage Month. The local Heritage Society will not be having a display at Southwards this year. In the past we have put on a genealogy display. However, as this year's theme is "Genealogy" we feel honour bound to show the flag. So we are preparing a static display in the Paraparaumu Public Library

One Name Study "Josi" josi@@geoghegan.org has sent an E-mail offering to help any unfortunate researcher of the above name and its umpteen variations. There is a Geoghegan Family Newsletter at www.btinternet.com/~finty/ Thanks to George Watson for sharing this with us

Anyone with South African connections? The Canterbury Branch April

2004 newsletter has an article on South African Archives site, which takes you to, their official records, and, if you type in your person's surname, you will find references to that name. The writer received an E-mail with the South African Government's compliments with an attachment of the original death certificate of a Cornish person who was killed whilst working as a carpenter for the Railway Pioneer Regiment during the Boer War. There is no cost for this service.

<<http://www.national.archsrch.gov.za/sm300cv/smws/sm300dl>>

Also in the above Newsletter Richard & Judith THORPE of Burnt Wood, Staffordshire want information on Charles HODGKINSON who went to Riccarton from Staffs/Derbs. Possibly with Mr. Watts Russell of Mr. Creyke in 1857c and he may have been a sexton at St. Peters Church, Riccarton also a member of the Militia in Christchurch c1860. Anyone able to research this contact, please email <rfthorpe@btinternet.com>

Articles

Rongotai Crescent. Wellington

Member Bill Moore has been researching the demise of Rongotai Crescent, Wellington and those who lived there between 1920 and 1940. Sixty-eight houses were removed or demolished to make way for Wellington Airport, including his parent's home that he grew up in. Bill has given the Branch a copy of his findings and these are lodged in our Library. His introduction begins

"With the construction of Wellington airport in the mid-1950s, the above street ceased to exist. This will be an attempt to record for posterity some of the history and names, with occupations of parents, of the generations I grew up with from about early 1920's to the commencement of my Naval War Service 22 January 1941" Bill lists the names of those that lived in the Crescent during this period and would be happy to assist with any inquiries.

New Zealand B.D.Ms

Members may have noticed in last month's Newsletter (top left of 3rd page), reference to on-line access from June to BMD data for the periods - Births 1848-1904, Marriages 1854-1944, Deaths 1848-1954. Whilst perhaps not too much should be read into the Identity Services announcement, the end-dates quoted (100 years, 60 years, and 50 years, respectively), do tend to suggest that registration details for events after those dates may not be as readily available to the public in the future, as they are at present. Against this possibility therefore, members are recommended to make application in the very near future for any outstanding relevant events in their personal research, that fall after those end-dates. Don't keep on and on putting off ordering those certificates, or photocopies of register entries, that you have

been meaning to get for months (years?), as you may be left regretting that you did not do so when you had the opportunity. The NZSG President makes the self-same point in "The New Zealand Genealogist" September 2003 issue, page 302, closing paragraph.

Branch members have access, via our microfiche resources at the Paraparaumu Library, to indexes for: Births 1840-1990, Marriages 1840-1960, and Deaths 1848-1960. National Library in Wellington, and Porirua Public Library, each hold sets of fiche to the cut-off year of 1990. To the best of my knowledge, the only public access to index data 1991-1997 is at the Auckland Public Library. To non-Auckland residents a daily fee of \$10 is payable to that library, and whilst the principle is seen to some as being contentious, it is not a large amount if it is going to give you access to the information that you need. The Auckland Library is open: M-F 9.30-8.00, Sat 10-4.00, Sun 12-4.00, is very good, the staff very helpful, and if you start early in the day a very great deal of research can be carried out for your money. You get a plastic entry card for your \$10, and can come and go at will during your research day. Births include mother's forename, Marriages include spouse's surname, Deaths include date of birth

Kapiti Branch Library Resources

This is the first in a series of occasional articles on the various research resources available to Branch Members, and that are held in our collection located upstairs at the Paraparaumu Public Library. Access is granted on production at the Information Desk on the Ground Floor, of a current KCDC Library Card + a current Kapiti Branch Membership Card. After then signing in to the Attendance Book, keys are issued to our locked cabinets upstairs, and must be returned when you leave and sign out of the Book.

Video Collection

We have a small (5 only), but very useful collection of videos available for Branch Members to borrow. These videos are located in the middle locked cabinet. At present these are not security-tagged, so in the meantime they may be borrowed by simply taking the one(s) of interest, and entering your name + date + title of video into the yellow Log Book, also located in the middle locked cabinet. Of course, once they have been security-tagged, the process will be different. These are available free of charge, and although there is no defined time limit on borrowing, a maximum of two weeks is suggested. If the Record Cards are to be believed, these resources have rarely been used.

(1) There are three videos by the late Janet Reakes (of Queensland), all produced circa 1991, and each of about 3 hours duration. These are

excellent presentations, and work through the research processes and resources in a very clear and understandable manner. Although somewhat dated, this is not a problem, once allowance is made for the fact that the names & addresses of some of the resources have changed over the years and, of course, you accept that all the fees and charges quoted are long out of date. All that aside, these videos still contain a wealth of information, and shouldn't be scorned merely because they were produced 13 years ago

[Vol 1] "How to Trace Your Family Tree" Australia (and NZ) for Beginners

[Vol 2] England & Wales

[Vol 3] "How to Trace Your Family Tree using Other Resources" - including Wills + Mormon IGI + Monumental Inscriptions + Newspapers + early Australian Convict records + much much more.

For those relatively new to genealogy, and wanting to know how to progress, Volume 1 is a must, and is a painless way of building up your knowledge of the basic principles, in the comfort of your own home. Obviously, for those with Australian, English, or Welsh, connections, both Volumes 1 and 2 should be viewed, whilst Volume 3 takes you beyond the basics into a whole range of additional resources. (Unfortunately we don't possess Volume 4, which covers Scotland and Ireland). I enjoyed viewing all three of our videos, and picked up some useful tips for myself along the way

(2) "National Archives: A Guide for New Readers". 1994. 16 minutes. Once again, slightly dated, but the only difference between then and now, that I could see, is that back in 1994 they had a system in place for displaying on an illuminated board your Reader Number once your requested item had become available, whereas nowadays they don't. Apart from that, the processes, and the lay-out of the place, appear to be unchanged. Now known as Archives New Zealand, if you have never been there, at 10 Mulgrave Street, Wellington (for old Wellington hands, it is in what used to be the Government Print Office & Bookshop), it could be worth the effort to view this video before you do go.

(3) "Kapiti Genealogy". 1994. 17 minutes. A locally produced video, introducing the subject of genealogy in general terms, and mentioning some of the resources and the Kapiti Branch Meeting details as they were at that time. Two or three members are being interviewed, with numbers of other members moving around in the background. Of little practical use to current researchers, but of some historical value to the Branch itself. Has some entertainment value to those wishing to see themselves, or some earlier fellow members, as they were ten years ago, and therefore ten years younger than they are now.

Re: Wellington Provincial Government in early 1850s

In answer to the question "Who was entitled to be named on the electoral roll?" The answer came from Hugh Tohill, member of the NZSG Males of 21 and over, owning freehold land with an equity value of 50 pounds or more, or tenure of leasehold property for a term of at least 3 years to run having an annual rental value of at least 10 pounds, or a householder occupying a tenement for at least 6 months previously, having an annual rental value of at least 10 pounds in the town, or five pounds in the country. Aliens and felons, or persons convicted of treason or infamous offence, were denied the vote. Hugh Tohill has an article on this in "The Genealogist" magazine of May/June 1994, page 166 et seq. He can be contacted on E-mail: hugh.tohill@xtra.co.nz

Someone else sent the following:- Exceptions were (but did not involve Wellington Province) at one time for gold miners in Otago and army pensioners in Auckland

In Gen-Guide No. 102 "New Zealand Electoral Rolls" by Anne Bromell sets out the qualification required for being on an Electoral Roll. It lists the changes from 1853 to 1985 in an easily understood way. This booklet is obtainable from NZSG Bookshop for \$3.00

From the Past

Patently Preserving the History on Headstones "Kapiti Observer" 23rd January 1996, by K. Gurunathan

A blustery cold wind puts summer to shame and whips across the open, well laid out Whenua Tapu cemetery as Carol Prockter and Deborah Shuker clutch their note files and examine the headstone of a burial. Together with Mark Scherf, another member of the Kapiti Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogy, these people have put in time over four years patiently transcribing data from headstones recorded from cemeteries which have serviced and are still serving the Kapiti Coast. They are nearly finished. Whenua Tapu is the last one.

The Kapiti group is just one of several small groups from the society scattered across the country, quietly freezing history for the sake of posterity. "The aim of the society is to have as complete a collection of the whole country as possible", says branch convenor, Deborah. The only one the Kapiti Branch has not done is the private cemetery of the Parata family. The Takamore Maori cemetery at Waikanae has been completed, so has the private one of the McKay family. "There have been the odd headstones like the two found during subdivision work at Waikanae and another Maori one

at Kauri Street, Waikanae which has a magnificent tree growing through it", says Carol, who works as a draughtsperson at Electra, Levin.

Taita cemetery was vandalised but luckily genealogical records were available to help restoration work," adds Deborah to explain part of the value of the work they do. But recording headstone is only one project of the society. Others in the pipeline include school rolls, church records and newspaper records of births, deaths, and marriages.

Their commitment to such projects is a personal one. "Most of us started with a desire to know about ourselves by tracing our family connections. But building a family tree leads to all kinds of other things. So, from a personal individual start, you develop an understanding of the social, economic and cultural context within which the family existed and grew. In short, it becomes a journey into history", explains Deborah.

Deborah's own journey in 1994 took her back to Cardington village in Shropshire, England, where her husband's great, great grandfather, the one who came to New Zealand, was born. Carol herself has just returned from a tour of Salt Lake City, England and Ireland.

A quote from the Branch's December 1995 newsletter gives a glimpse of the excitement members' experience from this exercise. "She left us gasping at her descriptions of floors and floors of records and books, just waiting to be explored, not to mention the vastness of the computer facilities.."

The Kapiti Branch, which has now developed a computer arm of its own in learning the use of the latest research and storage tools, will be welcoming new members with the topic "Starting at the Beginning". It is geared to introduce newcomers to methods of researching family history.

A Comment in the Wellington Branch newsletter of March 2004 has got me thinking. "WHERE will all your carefully researched family papers go when you die? This is quite important when you consider how many hours you have put into research - you don't want it ending up at the tip or sent to a second-hand shop". Food for thought