



Kapiti Branch

Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

P O Box 703, Paraparaumu [kapiti\(at\)genealogy.org.nz](mailto:kapiti(at)genealogy.org.nz)

www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/

Registered charity no. CC33988

February 2009 Newsletter

Coming up:

**Tuesday 24 February, 7pm for 7.30 start
Kapiti Branch meeting**

**Military records and deciphering
Speaker: Military historian Howard
Chamberlain**

**Monday 9 March 7.30pm
Computer-Friendly Genealogy
Make your own website (part 1 of 2)**

Looking ahead:

**Tuesday 24 March 2009 7pm for 7.30pm
Kapiti Branch meeting
Writing up family histories
Speaker: Hanley Hoffmann**

***Tuesday 14 April 7.30pm
[Note change of day due to Easter]
Computer-Friendly Genealogy
Make your own website (part 2 of 2)**

**The 2009 programme is available on our
branch website.**

Meeting venues

All meetings are held in the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu unless stated otherwise.

Need a ride to Branch or Computer-Friendly Genealogy meetings? Jackie Holland will co-ordinate car pools. Ring her on 293-2296 if you would like to be picked up or if you can offer a seat in your vehicle.

For your calendar:

Family History month -- March 2009

It'll be all go at the National Library in March

as it is the venue for a host of activities during Family History month. The programme includes these **keynote speakers** on

Wednesdays (6pm to 7pm) in the National Library auditorium:

Week 1: Jan Gow, of Beehive Books and NetGuide,

Week 2: historian and author Jock Phillips,
Week 3: a panel on doing overseas research from New Zealand,

Week 4: writing and publishing your family history.

Workshops in the conference room on

Mondays at lunchtime (12.10pm - 2pm) and

Saturday mornings (10 am - 12 pm) will have a different theme each week.

Week 1: Introducing Family history

Week 2: New Zealand, Australia, Maori and Pacific Islands research

Week 3: England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland Research.

Week 4: Topics to be confirmed.

Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 4pm, a team of family historians will be available in the 'back room' in the Reference Section to assist in a 'Meet the Expert' role.

Tours of the National Library reference section,

Alexander Turnbull Library and Newspaper

Room will be held on **Tuesdays and**

Thursdays at 10 am, and on **Wednesdays** at 1.30pm.

Fridays will be for visits to local repositories and libraries.

Convenor's comment

At our 24 February monthly meeting we welcome back Howard Chamberlain, Military Historian, of Waikanae. He is a regular contributor to branch activities, having been on hand at expos and speaking at meetings. Some members are in direct contact with him

to assist in family history with military questions. His presentation "Military Records

and Deciphering" will be an opportunity for you to bring along documentation and questions to share with him.

One of the great tools at our disposal with internet access is interacting with others through chat groups, facebook and mail lists. My favourite is the Rootsweb family of interfaces, which allow contact across a wide range of sites and reveals a wealth of help, lookups and sharing of information.

Go into www.rootsweb.com home page and into 'mailing lists'. These are divided into surnames, countries, counties, provinces and generic themes such as military, shipping, theatre, ethnic groups and so on. Get a feel for these by searching and browsing with a surname or other keyword, then if you find something of interest enter the site and register (free).

You will find tips as to how best to promote your query and ask questions and what the rules of that particular site are. Post your questions and background to support the query.

You will be surprised at the response. In 48 hours someone came back with the parish records of my grandfather's birth in India in 1872 and I am still getting hits from queries I posted years ago! Also, try the message

boards. These cover wider more generic topics but you can post any genealogy query you like on these, the largest on-line genealogy community with over 17 million postings!

And if you are into chat groups I am told this site is well worth browsing - <http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php> - The Rootsweb home page has a host of other

sites for information and help. We plan to offer a session on using Rootsweb later in the year. Happy browsing.

- Clive Palmer

Introducing . . . Meryl Opie – Magazine round robin coordinator

I became interested in Family History through one of my aunts. She was trying to do her mother's tree – the Smiths. She often used to talk about what she had found out and family stories, some, I have discovered, were not correct.

My mother and Roy's mother each had large

collection of photos (many unnamed), invitations, newspaper cuttings, some certificates, etc. I started sorting out all the collections and it has continued on from there. Later I entered the names into a family tree program (Legacy) and have allocated each family a colour, ie. all Opie information goes in blue clearfiles and folders.

It has been very interesting finding out where family members came from, and the route they took to finally end up in New Zealand.

The main names I research are:

COOK - arrived Wellington 1842, with the CORDINGS from England. The earliest families lived in Wellington and later at Makara.

DUNNING – The first arrivals, Frederick and Alfred, were based in Dunedin and later shifted to Christchurch and Wellington. They used to travel to Melbourne to visit their father and brother.

MCLEAN – William, based in Wellington and his sisters Georgina and Jessie; they came from Scotland.

SMITH – My third great grandfather Benjamin was a gold and silver smith in England. Not an easy one to do.

On Roy's side, John OPIE married Jane COLLINS in Cornwall and settled in Waimate and later Winchester. Also WILSON settled in Waiawa and MOONEY from the Dunedin

area.

HAMILTON and GILMER from Ireland and MARTIN and HOLLOWAY from Kent to Wellington.

I have had some interesting finds at Archives NZ, Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library and Papers Past. I have discovered a lot of information, but there is still a whole lot

more research to be done. Anyone else who is researching these names can contact me at [opiemb\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:opiemb(at)xtra.co.nz).

LINZ access changing

Land Information NZ (LINZ) is closing its public counters at offices in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin on 23 February. Limited counter services will be available at Hamilton and Christchurch.

Who do you think you are?

Now showing: one repeated series on Mondays at 7.30pm on UKTV (again on Tuesday morning), and repeats of another series on Fridays at 8.30pm on Prime.

Branch notes

More computers and books at APFHC

Two more personal computers are on order to go into the Alison Procter Family History Collection, upstairs at Paraparaumu Library. They will help meet demand during our regular research sessions when members and non-members seek assistance in accessing data.

Fifty-four books, as well as maps and journal issues, were donated to our resource collection in 2008 from the personal collections of long-term members Mary Mclean, Brian Mountjoy and John Weston.

The book collection is kept in our locked cupboards in the Alison Procter Family History Centre upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, and the books are now arranged according to the Dewey decimal coding system. You can refer to these books in the library or borrow them.

Borrowing books

Use your branch membership card and library card to get the key to the cupboard from the information desk, and take books you'd like to borrow to the issues desk.

The books are listed in the Kapiti Coast District Libraries' online catalogue. Select Kapiti Genealogy Society in the format option to see the list. There is a link to the library catalogue on our branch website. Exploring other format options in the online catalogue is worthwhile for locating family history information held in the Otaki, Paraparaumu and Waikanae libraries.

Signed the register?

Do you sign the register when you're using the resource collection at APFHC? It's kept in the cupboard, so if you just use the computers you mightn't remember to do it. Signing in does help us know how many people are using our collection. In 2008 there were 350 entries in the register, indicating the resources of the APFHC are used frequently.

Newsletter files

Joy Lamb copies the monthly newsletters received from other NZSG branches and files them in folders located in the cupboard. These newsletters are an excellent source of genealogical information.

Thanks for help on Wednesdays

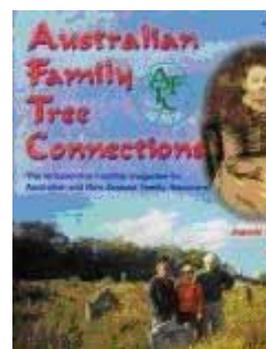
A big thank you to the regular volunteers who

covered the Wednesday morning sessions in 2008: Valerie and Ray Davison, Jill Craig, Harry Gilgrist, Hamish Turnbull, Deborah Shuker, Diana Marvell, Lyn Lee, Gerald Twiss and Bev Chappell.

A special thank you to John Weston who has given sterling service but is unable to continue in 2009.

Can you help?

If you can spare time on Wednesday mornings from 10am to midday to help others with genealogy research, please contact Bev Chappell.



Magazine Round Robins

Kapiti Branch subscribes to three good genealogy magazines: *Ancestors*, *Australian Family Tree Connections* and *Family Tree* magazine. You can join the circulation list by paying an annual sub (\$15 for 12 issues of *Ancestors* or *Family Tree* magazine, \$10 for 11 issues of *Australian Family Tree Connections*). For about the cost of one magazine, you'll get a year's reading. Contact Meryl Opie to join the round robin, on 04 298 8737 or [opiemb\(at\)xtra.co.nz](mailto:opiemb(at)xtra.co.nz).

Library news

Interesting topics in the **Dunedin Family History** group newsletter includes: Kelso school, war; Quarantine Island, Otago Harbour, cemetery and burials; Seacliff

Hospital fire, 1942 deaths; Drybread cemetery and school; Blackstone Hill cemetery, school, war; Kyeburn-Kokonga cemetery, school, war; divorces in New Zealand, old medical terms.

Wellington newsletter: old cookery terms.

Kilbirnie: Pandora's Box

Porirua: interesting UK websites

Other newsletters received: **Wanganui,**

Bishopdale, Levin.

Raffle – “Explorer” sub to Findmypast

The last of our three 12-month Explorer subscriptions to the UK website www.findmypast.com will be raffled at the February branch meeting. This very useful website includes military, census, births, deaths, marriages, parish burial records and the passenger lists of ships leaving the UK for anywhere in the world from 1890 to 1960.

The subscription is valued at \$240, and tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10. A minimum of 25 tickets will be sold before the draw.

Branch meeting report - January

The first meeting of the year was a research night, which saw a good turnout and a number of visitors seeking help with family history research.

New members

Welcome to Di BURTON and Edith HALL, who have become members of the branch since the last newsletter.

On the web

Those members hunting Irish records may find long-sought information is now available at www.familysearch.org. **Irish civil registration indexes** have been added to the LDS website, with marriages from 1845, and births and deaths from 1864. The entries are not linked to full registrations, so you have to apply to Dublin or Belfast for photocopies, transcriptions or certificates. Using the indexes is free, however, and may turn up elusive birth, marriage and death dates.

Start at the usual www.familysearch.org address, and under the heading **What's New** select **See prototype for searching millions of family records**. This new way in links to records from other parts of the world too, including some scans of original documents.

Looking for a headstone?

Try www.findagrave.com.

Committee to April 2009

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