



Kapiti Branch

June 2005

Conveners Comment:-

By the time you read this edition, the updated version of our member research interest profiles should be on our website. Thank you for the excellent response. Just under half of our members are now so recorded and as you will see if you search the site, it shows the great diversity of our ancestry and the depth of collective skills and interests across our Branch. If you find something of interest on the pages and would like to contact the member concerned, contact either the Secretary or myself and we will put you in touch. You will appreciate that we do not publish names of members on the website for privacy reasons. It's never too late to submit your interests if you wish to do so. Download a form from the website or pick one up at a Branch meeting.

Indeed I believe we should be using these interests more pro-actively and perhaps be looking at small groups with similar interests to get together from time to time to share and progress their research. We have tried research evenings in the past as part of a monthly meeting - with limited success in my view. It is difficult to orchestrate for a couple of hours in an evening. Q & A sessions at the start of Branch meetings are surprisingly almost a non-entity! Another alternative is a research day with more time and some outside interest and input. Should we start a regular round robin series in the newsletter where members can raise queries and seek response? Our Kapiti GenForum and Helpdesk facilities are also under utilised. You may care to give this some thought as we look ahead to the 2006 programme.

The interest shown in the May meeting presentation of the Latter Day Saints research resources and the full house on our visit to the Upper Hutt Family History Centre, has encouraged us to book another visit - this one on Saturday July 30. So if you missed out on the first visit make a diary note now. We will circulate details shortly.

We've done a bit of fine-tuning to the monthly meeting programme for the remainder of the year to reflect your interests. Check the website for details but in sum these are as follows. July is Nigel Murphy of National Library as advertised. From the questions at meetings and site visits it is clear that some members are having difficulties with Internet searching. Consequently, the LDS website demo has been transferred to August 26 when we will devote the entire evening to a wider on-line presentation of the major genealogy websites. The demonstration of different genealogy software programmes has been transferred to the October

meeting, after the AGM. The final meeting of the year in November will be a social evening but with a more serious twist- a forum on the 2006 programme of activities. Your chance to have your say!! And there are a few places left in the July 9 Starter Course, enrolment closes July 1.

Clive Palmer

NZSG News:-

The NZSG Annual conference at Nelson has been and gone. The Nelson branch put on a well organised weekend for everyone including the weather which we could not fault.

The results of the AGM are as follows.

Subs increase vote went for, constitution vote went for, vote for a Maori name vote went against. Figures will be printed in the magazine.

NZSG Collections.

Council submitted a grant of over \$13,000 for a scanner for scanning our records collections. The grant was accepted by the Lottery Board.

We intend to start scanning all our collections. The first one is the Obituaries Collection.

Once the collection is scanned onto CDs it will be indexed. We hope to be able to sell this collection to members.

We will then scan the First Families and our other collections these will also be put onto CDs but will not be able to be purchased by members. We hope with this new equipment we will be able to scan other documents that the NZSG has and sell those to members.

The purpose of this equipment is mainly for preservation but other possibilities are worth exploring.

We are working on a new search facility for the First Families Collection.

The index will include the surname, Christian name and reference number.

Members will search the index by name first. Once you have found the name you're interested in you will then search the collection by the reference number.

You will then see all the names related to that sheet.

For example if you are looking for John Smith and you know John had a father John and a mother Mary and perhaps a sister Mary and the sister married Joe Brown you will see all those names submitted on that sheet and can then write for the name and address of that contributor. This will save you having to write to 30 or 40 contributors that have submitted John Smith to the collection.

I have a bit of work to do on the index but I hope within the next couple of months we will have the entire collection of over 230,000 names on our web site.

The collection will remain at Pre 1901 any submissions dated after 1901 are to be removed where there is no date of death.

At this stage only the Strays & More Collection and part of the First Families are

on the NZSG web site. Once we see how this works out with members we may look at doing something with our other collection indexes so any updates are always on the NZSG web site.

Sue Greene.

Notices:-

New Member. Welcome to new member Rev Hector DAVIS-BRAUND who has joined us since the last Newsletter

What Offers? If any member would like copies of NZSG "The Genealogist" for the years 1993-2000 or the loan of the same, These have some very interesting articles in them Please contact Rosemary (04) 902-1927.

Round Robins: Have you a special area you are interested in? Perhaps there are other members also searching in the same place. Have you thought of sharing resources? Our Club currently subscribes annually to "Irish Roots" and "Australian Family Connections". Interested members pay a small fee to cover the cost and then can read and pass on. The more members interested, the lower the fee. This is one way to gather information without having to pay prohibitive subscriptions. Anyone interested should contact Meryl Opie: email opiemb@@xtra.co.nz

Supper Helpers: As announced recently, now that we have kitchen facilities at our Meeting Venue we are returning to the past practice of calling for volunteers (by initials of surname) to assist with supper duties, particularly the serving and the tidying up afterwards. May: N- R, June: S - Z, July: A - B

GenGuides: Following January's interesting talk by Sue GREENE on the NZSG Record Collections, all our then existing local stocks of the relevant GenGuides:- (#41 Strays & More, #43 Pre-1856 NZ Marriage Records Collection, #44 NZSG Certificates, and #45 New Zealand First Families) were exhausted. Local stocks have now been replenished and so those who missed out may obtain them this month. They are free of charge.

Ink Cartridges: A periodic reminder that we are collecting used printer cartridges for recycling and to raise funds for the Branch. Any inkjet or bubble cartridges are wanted: e.g. Canon, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark, Epson. There will be a small box at Meetings, in front of the Notice Board, into which these may be placed. Alternatively, there is another box located in the central part of our locked cabinet upstairs at Paraparaumu Library, which may be used at any time.
Derek Griffis

Meeting Dates & Times

Kapiti Branch:- 7.30pm, 4th Tuesday, Jan-Nov at Kapiti Community Centre 15

Ngahina Street (near Paraparaumu Library)

Computer SIG:- 7.30pm, 2nd Monday, of every second month in the Paraparaumu Public Library (meeting room) -Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec

Our search facility which allows us to access Ancestry.com is underused. This is a huge database of international genealogical records including Census info. Fill in a Kapiti GenForum Form off our website or pick up a copy at monthly meetings. You can get free access to the catalogue index by going into the <http://www.ancestry.com/>

Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:

The next meeting will be on Saturday 25th June 2005, at the Masonic Hall in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. Doors open @ @ 1.00pm with a 2.00pm start. Subject is "Recording Resources". The entry charge is \$3.00 (For hall hire, tea and coffee). For further details: contact Gerald Twiss: gero@@ihug.co.nz or kapitilegacy@@hotmail.com

Reports:-

Library Report:-

KBNZSG LIBRARY REPORT JUNE 2005

This month we are busy rearranging the library shelves, putting books into the catalogue order under sections, and labeling the sections:- NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, UK etc. which I hope will make it easier for members to locate them. Due to unforeseen circumstances this has not quite been accomplished as soon as I had hoped. Please bear with us.

The second thing is that we can now look at adding to our library books. Have any of you ideas in which this needs to be done? My preference is for the North of England, but I know there is little done in specific European material and some British areas. Do we need more for Irish resources? Your ideas are welcome.

The new PC Computer is now up and running at the library for you to use with the Branch CD-ROM collection

New Books, not processed as yet. They are "Gregorys maps of Sydney 2001" donated by Rex Roberts. "Fishers of Pukerimu" compiled by A. Kay Carter and donated by Kay Carter. "Warm Milk and Apples" by Evered H. Goodall and donated by Kay Carter. "Letters from Gunner 7/516" and "The Colours of the Second Battalion - (Canterbury Nelson West Coast) Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment". Donated by Deborah Shuker
Alison Procter

KAPITI BRANCH LIBRARY RESOURCES

(PART 3) (by Derek Griffis)

This is the third in a series of occasional articles on the various research resources available to Kapiti Branch Members, and that are held in our collection located upstairs in Paraparaumu Public Library. [The first article, on videos, appeared in the April 2004 Newsletter, and the second article, on fiche: New Zealand Births Deaths & Marriages, appeared in the August 2004 Newsletter. These Newsletters may be accessed via our website]

Access to our collection is granted on production of a current KCDC Library Card + a current Kapiti Branch Membership Card to the Information Desk on the Ground Floor.

FICHE COLLECTION (NEW ZEALAND CEMETERIES)

Two boxes located in the top left corner of the right-hand steel cabinet. A total of 1046 fiche, and includes the very recently received 2004 Supplement. The cemetery holdings are detailed on fiche #1, and also in the blue A4 soft-cover booklet entitled "New Zealand Cemetery Records - a List of Holdings" (2004) that is usually to be found somewhere on the top shelf. The collection consists of a comprehensive listing of monumental inscriptions (MIs), with some burial records and memorials. Whilst it is impossible to say just how many entries there are in total, it seems likely that it is in the general order of a million. There is not, as yet, any "Grand Index", although that proposition is on the distant horizon. Searching therefore, has to be on the basis of checking all the individual cemetery indexes for the most likely localities.

To find any particular locality you first have to go to the back of the List of Holdings, where you will find an alphabetic index of cemeteries listed both by place and name. Alongside each cemetery is a Cemetery Number (eg Waikanae Public = L06.09 and L06.12) which will take you back to the appropriate page in the main List. [NB When the Cemetery Numbering system was created, Waikanae was in Horowhenua County]. From the example it can then be seen that there have been two transcriptions made of the MIs in that cemetery, with the second also including Burial Records. The first transcription is on fiche #00207 and spans 1909-1975, whilst the second is on fiche #00550-1 and spans 1909-1988. At the front of each cemetery when transcribed you can expect to find an introductory brief of some sort, a sketch/plan/diagram of the cemetery lay-out, and an alphabetic listing of those buried in the cemetery to take you to the specific interment, cremation, and/or MI.

Being the good genealogist that you are, where there has been more than one transcription carried out, you wouldn't be content with checking just any one transcription, but you would check them all. There may be inconsistencies in the transcriptions, tombstones may appear, disappear, or be replaced, new names may appear on existing tombstones, and new tombstones may appear for related persons. Check, check, and check again.

As an example of a larger transcription exercise, we need go no further than Pukerua Bay (Whenua Tapu) which is Cemetery Number M01.39-41, spans 1975-1990, and is to be found on fiche #00864-00879. This was a major integrated undertaking, including MIs, Burial Records, cremations, a Memorial Wall, and a Master Index. The hard work was done by a small band of dedicated workers, many of whom were members of Kapiti Branch at the time, and one or two still are. Being a local project, there is also a full hard-copy set of these particular transcriptions in the ten or so hard-cover books on the top level of the open shelves.

MIs are invaluable in that they can not only give you that exact date of death that you may have been seeking, but they can often lead you into learning the names of previously unknown spouse(s), siblings, and issue. This in turn can take you to newspaper death notices, to probates, and so it goes on. It is all grist to the mill.

The real beauty of the NZSG MI collection though, is that you can enjoy the fruits of the labours of numerous volunteers over the years. You don't have to travel to remote and distant parts of the country at both expense and inconvenience to yourself, or to have to pay someone else to do it for you. You don't have to wander aimlessly around vast and confusing cemeteries looking for tombstones that may not be there anyway. You don't have to stand out in the extremes of weather, maybe surrounded by swarms of sand flies and mosquitoes. You don't have to prowl nervously around urban cemeteries wondering if at any minute you are going to get mugged. No, in the comfort and security of your own library, you've got it all there - well, nearly "all". Enjoy.

Major differences among genealogists seem to be:-

" Understanding that it is not whether our information is correct, [even primary official records contain incorrect information], but recording where we obtained our information, and not being defensive when someone questions where we got it.

" Whether or not to share and/or publish our trees as we go (with or without including our sources) or wait until it 100% accurate.

" Mistakenly thinking we "own" our ancestors and genealogical facts pertaining to them and can claim copyright to discovery of same;

" That being related somehow is a prerequisite to compiling a family's genealogy or in obtaining any information about the family.

" Being unreceptive or hostile to learning how to create a quality family tree to leave for our families -- one like a fine piece of furniture that will be a treasure to pass down for generations.

(from the Editor Roosweb Review 8 June 2005)

Web Sites:-

UK TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS

(or 5,000 ways to earn a living).

A list of trades and occupations compiled from parish records and census lists in England.

<http://www.hevanet.com/gladhaus/tradeslist.html>

Where were your ancestors in 1861!

Kapiti Branch NZSG, can do look-ups for you - England & Wales Census 1861 to 1901. Fill in a KapitiGenForum request (website or at monthly meetings) or contact the Convenor.

<http://rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/services/kapitienquireyform.htm>

New Zealand War Medals

These websites might be able to help you name the medals, failing that the museum at Waiouru might be able to help you.

<http://www.nzcollectorservices.co.nz/> <http://crash.ihug.co.nz/~phil/>

<http://www2.piperpat.co.nz/nz/history/wars.html> <http://www.armymuseum.co.nz>

Dates to Remember 2005:

Need a Helping Hand???

We have a series of Starter Courses during 2005

Course I1 : Saturday July 9th 2005, 10am-4pm, \$20, enrolment. For details, phone: Rex Roberts 9056570, or, click:

<http://rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/resources/StarterCourses2005.htm>

Irish Research Day - Irish Interest Group and Levin Branch. Saturday 2 July at Thomson House, Kent Street, Levin. 10 am to 4pm. Irish research material, fiche, CDs, books and help desk. \$3 door charge. There have been inquiries about Irish research at recent Branch meetings, so here's your chance! Further information contact John Dixon 06 368 3221