



## Kapiti Branch, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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[www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsgkb/)

### May 2006 Newsletter

#### Next Meetings:-

**Kapiti Branch:-** Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 7.30pm. The World of Rootsweb – an online presentation, by Clive Palmer. Kapiti Community Centre.

**Winter Meeting:-** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 10am. Help with your research – Research Room, Paraparaumu

**Library Day Meeting:-** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 1pm. (1) Using the Microfilm Viewer (2) Using our Microfiche Collection – Research Room, Paraparaumu Library.

**Computer SIG:-** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of June 7.30pm.

**Fixing photos (Part 2),** by Barry Thomson.

**Legacy (SIG):-** Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 1pm. Sources and Backing up your files

#### CONVENERS COMMENT:-

A few days before I wrote these comments, I had an e-mail from an aol.com address responding to a message I posted on a Rootsweb surname mailing list in 2002! The lady thought she might have info on my mother's extended family in Yorkshire, England. I responded in 20 seconds flat and await the next step of her sending me details. It may prove a false alarm but just goes to show that searchable lists of family history queries posted on the Internet can produce responses long after you think they've been forgotten.

At the May Branch meeting I will present an on-line demonstration of using the Rootsweb.com system and cover the enormous help I have received over many years of searching for my ancestors. There is an extraordinary willingness out there from complete strangers to help you in your quest, even to the extent of going down to the local records office to do a search for you. One lady in Leeds sent her husband to take a photo of the house in which my mother was born and airmailed me a print within 5 days! Many of you will have used this and other sites to post messages and I hope you will come along and contribute to the session, so we can explain the process to those yet to try this path.

We have all but completed arrangements for visits to a number of repositories of research material including National Library, ArchivesNZ, Alexander Turnbull, and an LDS Family History Centre. These are listed elsewhere in the Newsletter. Details of the special day course "Tracing your Scottish Ancestors" on Saturday

30th September are also at an advanced stage and details will be circulated in due course.

The Irish Research Day last month was a great success, so it is timely to remind members of the next series of research sessions. These are planned for the first Saturday of June, July and August, and the first Wednesday of June and October. The first of these is from 10am – 12.30 pm Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June in our research facility, Paraparaumu Public Library. Bring along your challenges, use the help facilities we will have available and share information with others. Then on Wednesday 7th June at 1pm we have a session focusing on using the Microfilm Viewer, followed by a session on using the Microfiche collection.

We are upgrading the Newsletter. Please see the note from our Editor, which explains how and why we are taking this action to further improve a very popular service  
Clive Palmer

#### COMPSIG,-Computer SIG

The Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) is the worldwide standard for online document distribution and sharing. PDF is a universal file format that preserves the fonts, formatting, colours, and graphics of the source document, regardless of the software application in which it was created. PDF files are compact and can be shared, viewed, and printed by anyone with the free Adobe Acrobat Reader

Invented by Adobe Systems and perfected over 15 years, Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) lets you capture and view robust information from any application, on any computer system and share it with anyone around the world. Individuals, businesses, and government agencies everywhere trust and rely on Adobe® PDF to communicate their ideas and vision.  
Sue Greene

#### Notices:-

##### Email delivery of this Newsletter

At the last meeting of your committee it was decided to send the newsletters out to you in Adobe Acrobat Reader format. PDF (portable document file). Many Members have been complaining about the size of the document

and that it takes a long time to download on the email. The April newsletter size was 500kb, in Adobe PDF form it will be 100kb There are several other advantages:-

- Can be opened in Mackintosh or PC with Adobe Acrobat reader. Microsoft Word not required.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader is free to use and is available on most Net Guide book CD-ROM's available from all bookstores and supermarkets, or you can download it from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) for free (takes awhile as it is a big file. I will make it available to Members on CD-ROM (no charge) on request [thobar@@paradise.net.nz](mailto:thobar@@paradise.net.nz)
- Smaller file size, for faster downloads. Microsoft Word RTF file size is 500kb, Adobe PDF file size 100kb.
- Presentation is smarter and cleaner.

The June Newsletter will be emailed to you in Adobe PDF. Following this month's May Newsletter you will be emailed an additional file in PDF format for you to see if you have Adobe Acrobat reader installed on your computer. If you can read the document you will have no trouble with the June Newsletter, if not, install Acrobat Readers as above. Barry Thomson (Editor)

#### Scottish Research

On Thursday 6 July to Saturday 8 July 2006 there is an international conference at the Hunter Council Chamber at Victoria University of Wellington, on subject of Scots migrants in NZ with a history department emphasis, titled "Scots Abroad, the New Zealand Scots in International Perspective" with confirmed keynote speakers being: John Mackenzie (University of Aberdeen), Marjorie Harper (University of Aberdeen), Michael Vance (St Mary's University, Halifax), Eric Richards (Flinders University of Adelaide) and Malcolm Prentis (Australian Catholic University, Sydney), being organised by the Stout Research Centre. For information and registration details please contact: Dr Brad Patterson, Director, Irish-Scottish Studies Programme, Victoria University of Wellington. Email: [brad.patterson@@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:brad.patterson@@vuw.ac.nz)

#### New Members

Welcome to new members: Robin GORING, Jessie VINCENT, Hanley & Doreen HOFFMANN, Patrick O'GRADY, Judith McCALLUM, and Robin & Rama McGEE, who have joined us in the last month.

#### Supper Helpers

We are continuing in 2006 with the practice of calling for volunteers (by initial of surname) on the night to assist with supper at our Monthly Meetings at the Kapiti

Community Centre. In particular this calls for assistance with the serving, and with the tidying up afterwards. May: G – J, June: K – M, July:- N – R Please make yourself known to Meryl, the Supper Organiser.

#### KCDC Library Hours

As some of you may have noticed in the local paper (26.4.2006 "Kapiti News" page 12), the Kapiti Public Library hours are to be extended. For Paraparaumu Library the week-end hours are to be: Saturday 9am – 4pm, and Sunday 10am – 2pm. This is particularly good news for those of our members away at work Mondays-Fridays, as it means that they now will have up to 11 hours per week-end to access our Branch Resource collection. It is not known exactly when the new times will come into effect, but it is understood to be sometime within the next couple of months

#### Genealogical Research Directory (GRD) CD

The Branch recently received its copy of the 2006 GRD which, for those not familiar with it, is a publication detailing the research interests of fellow genealogists from all over the world. This CD has already been installed on both our computers at Paraparaumu Library so, on the usual process of producing your KCDC Library Card + Kapiti Branch Membership Card at the Information Desk, the way will be clear for you to view these and check out your own personal lines of research to see if they overlap with anyone else's. The Library's own paper copy GRDs are on the shelves in front of you at the foot of the stairs, should you wish to actually borrow copies to take home

#### 1841 England & Wales Census

A few weeks ago the 1841 Census appeared on ancestry.com. This may be accessed, free of charge, at National Library, Porirua Library, and the Mormon Family History Centres. Those members having difficulty in getting to those locations may request a specific look-up via the Branch GenForum service by completing one of the Forms available either at Monthly Meeting nights or by downloading it from our Branch web-page. Please be sure though to complete these Forms \*clearly\* and \*concisely\*, and allow for several weeks processing time

#### Family Tree Charts

A very limited number of large-size paper wall charts are on hand and available for sale, and will be available at the May Monthly Meeting:

- 7-generation (1) \$2.50,
- 8-generation (1) \$3.00, and
- 9-generation wheel (1) \$3.00

There are also a small number of "shop-soiled" charts available which, whilst not "pristine" and suitable for display purposes, can still serve as useful working sheets: 7-generation (4), and 9-generation wheel (1). All these are \$1.00 each.

**KBNZSG 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, Feb-Dec in the Paraparaumu Public Library (meeting room, downstairs)

**Kapiti Legacy Users SIG:**

The next meeting will be on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>  
"Sources and Backing up your files"

To be held at the Masonic Hall, in Tararua Street Paraparaumu. (off Hinemoa St). Doors open at 1pm meeting starts at 2pm. Entry charge has been kept to a minimum and will include hall hire, tea and coffee and any presenter's costs. For further details: contact Gerald Twiss: [gero@ihug.co.nz](mailto:gero@ihug.co.nz) or phone 021 151 6714.

The Kapiti group is an "informal" one. Anyone with an interest in the Legacy programme can attend the meetings. The full years programme is on the [web site](#).

**NZSG ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND  
AGM Friday 2nd to Monday 5th JUNE 2006  
Sacred Heart Girls College Hamilton East**

NZSG Hamilton Branch will be hosting an Exhibition of Family Histories at Conference 2006. We invite Members of all NZSG Branches, Interest Groups and those attending the conference to submit for display, an aspect of their family history.

There are four categories:-

- Stitched (Embroidery, Quilting, Cross-Stitch, Weaving)
- Hand-drawn (Charts, Trees, Calligraphy)
- Computer-generated (Books, Charts, Photographs)
- Mixed Media (Models, Metal Items, Paintings)

A brief written explanation of the genealogical and historical significance should accompany each exhibit - for the benefit of genealogists viewing the exhibition. If you are interested in submitting an exhibit please contact: Elizabeth Heaphy.

[weheaphy@@amcom.co.nz](mailto:weheaphy@@amcom.co.nz)

An Application Form and the Conditions of Entry will be forwarded to you. For further Conference 2006 details check NZSG Web page [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

**Reports:-**

**Library Report**

I must admit I have been concentrating on the books, but the big growth area in our collection has been in the additions to microfiche and CDs, which may only be accessed to our readers in the library. The complete list, which Webmaster Barry, keeps up-to-date, can be found on our website. However, if you do not have a computer and are unable to download this list, please let me know and I can run off a copy for you.

In the microfiche, there is a wide selection covering New Zealand, some Australian, with a certain amount of information from Britain and Ireland and a bit from the

**International Genealogical Index on the U.K. Europe, USA and the Pacific Islands.** The maintenance of some of the microfiche readers has been a concern to those who use them, and you will be glad to hear that action will be taken. It has been a question of finding the right person to do this.

New additions to our books to our library: "A High Point of Vantage" by Margery A. Smith , a history of the Waimahaka, Pine Bush and Fortification Districts and thanks go to the donor. Also we have bought a copy of "Find Your Family on the Internet" by Ros Henry. These will be available once they are put through our system.

Those of you who visit our library will note that we now have a bigger register for users, with a column asking what your areas of interest are. This will help with the planning of adding new material to our collection  
Alison Procter

**WANTED: Sales Officer.** We still need someone to fill this important portfolio to set up and run a sales desk of genealogy items at our Branch meetings and other functions. This position may be carried out by a co-opted Committee member, who will also have to be an NZSG member, or, as one of our members as an Appointed Officer Off-Committee. Please contact the Secretary.

#### **Land Records in Ireland**

<http://www.irishabroad.com/yourroots/expert/landrecords.asp> Landholding in Ireland

Many of our Irish ancestors were tenant farmers who rented or leased their land directly from a landowner or indirectly from a "middleman." Only a small proportion of people in Ireland (perhaps about 2% in the nineteenth century) owned their land outright (referred to as holding your land "in fee."). They consisted primarily of the nobility and landed gentry. There could be several layers of middlemen engaged in subleasing, between the individual who actually owned the land and your ancestor. Tenants' arrangements with their landlords were vitally important in the tenants' lives. Land holding arrangements affected economic prosperity, the nature of farming, inheritance and emigration patterns.

One type of lease that was common in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, having great potential for genealogical information, was the "lease for lives." A "lease for lives" remains in effect as long as the specific person(s) named in the lease are still living. As soon as all of the "lives" named in the lease have died, the lease ends. Alternatively, a lease could be granted for a set number of years (such as 31 years, 100 years, or 999 years). A tenant could also rent from year to year without holding a lease of any kind.

The "lease of lives" was also important because if you held such a lease and your land was of enough value, you had the right to vote as a "freeholder". You can find

extensive information about freeholders, freemen, and voting records on this web site: <http://ireland.progenealogists.com/freeholders.htm>. Also, available there is an inventory of many of the freeholders, freemen, and voting records that survive and are available to researchers, for each county in Ireland. During the period of the penal laws in the 1700s, Roman Catholics in Ireland were restricted in terms of the kinds of land holding into which they could enter. They were restricted from purchasing land or taking out leases longer than 31 years. They were not, however, restricted from continuing to own land that they had in their possession prior to the institution of the penal laws. In the chronology below, you can find some of the important dates in the history of the penal laws.

The Registry of Deeds was set up in Dublin in 1708 for the recording of deeds, although it was not compulsory to register them, so many went unregistered. The Land Commission assisted many tenant farmers in purchasing the land they occupied from the large landowners, through the various Land Purchase Acts, 1881 to 1923. In 1892, the Land Registry was established to provide a system of compulsory registration of land titles. Once under the jurisdiction of the Land Registry, records of a particular plot of land are no longer found in the Registry of Deeds. Many unregistered deeds (pertaining to ownership and leasing) from the eighteenth and nineteenth century, in addition to rent rolls and other materials, can be found in the private papers of the landowners of Ireland, many of which have been deposited in various repositories in Ireland and Britain. By Kyle J. Betit

**Church Register Index a taonga for researchers**  
The Church Register Index was set up in the early 1980s by the Christchurch City Library. Richard Greenaway, a librarian in the New Zealand Room (as it was called at that time), began the project to transcribe information from original registers onto cards.

Richard devised a system whereby cemetery records were transcribed onto cards by PEP workers. These details were also typed up as transcriptions and bound into volumes.

About that time genealogy was becoming more popular. The Library approached churches around Christchurch, including Methodist Churches, to lend marriage and baptismal registers from about 1840 up to the 1920s for this project. Information from these records was much sought after and it wasn't too long before the Canterbury Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists offered their assistance to help design the layout of the cards.

When the PEP scheme tapered off Richard Greenaway supervised the keen volunteers who continued to write up cards at the Library. Others worked at home from these cards. After they checked them for correct details, they

Kapiti Branch NZSG Newsletter May 2006

typed them into transcripts. I can remember visiting the library in those early days where there were two or three tables pushed together with five or six volunteers poring over huge registers trying to decipher the writing of clergymen.

The area covered by the Church Register Index stretches from North Canterbury to the Rakaia River including Banks Peninsula and inland to the mountains. The wording on the cards is exactly what was written by ministers and priests.

Events, especially prior to 1880, do not have a great deal of information but everything that was recorded on a certificate has been written on a card. Additional information like a baby's death may also be recorded on the card, if an infant died shortly after birth or the date of a divorce recorded for the second marriage of a person. Richard Greenaway is still involved with this project and is enthusiastic to see as many as possible completed soon. Over the past 35 years Methodist, Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Congregational, Baptist and Lutheran denominations have had registers transcribed for the project which is still in progress. So if you've 'lost' a forebear in Canterbury it may be worthwhile checking the card index from time to time

Rae Wilson Published in Touchstone April 2006.

#### **COMMITTEE 2005/2006**

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