

Kapiti Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



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Newsletter February 2010

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlsgkb

Registered charity no. CC33988

Meetings coming up

Tuesday 23 February, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

**Researching Parish Chests
(England and Wales)**

**Speaker: Marlene Sayers, Kilbirnie
branch**

Monday 8 March, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

**Using, ordering and paying for
certificates through registrars in
Australia**

For meeting dates of special interest and user groups, see page 3. You can see the year's programme on our website.

Looking ahead

Tuesday 23 March, 7pm for 7.30pm

Kapiti branch meeting

**Tall stories and true: my wild west
ancestors**

Speaker: John Dods

Monday 12 April, 7.30pm

Computer-friendly genealogy

Military research

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu.

Research the Parish Chest in February

What's a parish chest and what's in it for my family history research? Come and find out at our February meeting, where Marlene Sayers will tell us all about it. Marlene is convenor of the Kilbirnie Branch.

Membership renewals

Thanks to all those who have already renewed their branch membership for 2010-2011. You are helping to spread out the workload for the Membership secretary, making it easier for her to process memberships promptly. If you haven't renewed yet, you can send a \$20 cheque (per person) payable to "Kapiti Genealogy". Address it to Membership secretary, Kapiti Branch NZSG, P O Box 703 Paraparaumu 5254. Be sure to write your name and address on the back of the envelope. Include your NZSG number if you belong to the national society.

You can also pay by internet banking to account number 03 0732 0263025 00. Put your surname in the first field, and if you have an NZSG membership number (for the national society), put that number in one of the other code or reference fields. Please email lornamoa@gmail.com to say you've paid online so she can match names with payments. New yellow membership cards will be available at the February meeting.

New branch resources

Victoria Outwards to NZ 1852-1923 – Search the passenger lists by passenger name, ship and port of arrival. Contains all data from four published sets of fiche plus remaining data transcribed up to 1923. It's available on computer at the Alison Procter Family History Centre, upstairs at Paraparaumu Library. Look in the Australia resources folder on the desktop.

2009 Cemetery update – 55 fiche of recent New Zealand burials and updated cemetery handbook fiche.

More Papers Past coming

Over the next few months, the National Library will be adding to the already extensive historic New Zealand newspaper collection on the Papers Past website. You can search for your ancestors by name or browse the issues. It's a great way to find out what was going on then.

www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz

- **Coming in March 2010**

Ashburton Guardian (1890-1895, 1897, 1899-1909, 1911-1920), Manawatu Standard (1883-1886), Manawatu Times (1877-1881, 1883-1884), Ohinemuri Gazette (1891-1892, 1896-1921), Thames Star (1874-1900), Waiapu Church Times (1907-1908), Waiapu Church Gazette (1910-1920).

- **Coming in May 2010**

Poverty Bay Herald (gap: 1902), Lyttelton Times (1851-1862), Evening Post (1916-1920), Thames Star (1901-1920).

- **Coming in June 2010**

Albertland Gazette (1862-1864), The Colonist (1857-1888), Evening Post (gap: July-Dec 1871), Otago Daily Times (1861-to be confirmed), Waiapu Church Gazette (1921-1945), . . . and another title yet to be confirmed.

Family History Fair, 16-18 July, Hamilton

Registrations for the Family History Fair are open from now until 12 June. The registration form and the seminar programme are in the February issue of *New Zealand Genealogist*. Online registrations should be available soon at www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz.

Full registration of \$180 gives you entry to the AGM on Friday, dinner and entertainment, entry for both Saturday and Sunday. This including lunches, morning and afternoon teas and reserved seating for unlimited seminars. Accommodation is extra.

If you're going for one day only, and want to book a place at certain seminars, register for a daily special. For \$35 you get entry for the day and reserved seating for unlimited seminars. No food included in this one.

Door sales are available on the day. It'll cost you \$25 to get in. Seminars are \$5 extra each or three or more for \$15 extra, with no bookings.

Another brickwall crumbles

I do so hate it when I cannot find someone who has to exist. Last sightings were a marriage in Ontario, Canada in Peterborough in 1893, followed by the births of two daughters, Edith and Gertrude, and death of wife Sarah (1899).

His name was supposedly Harry FAIRBAIRN, and he (they) should have appeared in either the Ontario deaths, or 1901 and subsequent 1911 census records. No joy. Casting the net wider to outside Ontario, and even into the States still didn't come up with any likely candidates. So I worked backwards to figure out which FAIRBAIRN family he belonged to, and quickly found that he was more usually known to his family as James Henry, and enumerated variously as Jas H, or James H with the surname as FAIRBAIRN or FAIRBURN. This latter is easily overcome

by doing exact searches using wildcards, eg FAIRB*, but the forename variants are a little harder to cope with.

For the 1901 Ontario census, I eventually resorted to simply leaving the name blank but putting in a birth year with +/- 5 years, and the township where I thought he would be, and scanning the entire 400 names for anything that could conceivably be a mis-indexed FAIRBAIRN. Still no joy.

By now I'd found that he had remarried (1899), as James Henry, to a widow Amelia COUTTS nee HUNTER, so it really seemed unlikely that he would be missing from both the 1901 and the Ontario deaths. But nothing anywhere in Canada to an Amelia with husband James or Jas or Henry or Harry, nor in the States. I don't give up easily, so decided to try the known children. Gertrude had died at age 1, so it had to be Edith.

No Ediths found in the census either. However, she did provide the missing link I required. At age 17, in 1911, she had married in Renfrew Co, Ontario, "with parental consent", and gave her place of residence as Port Huron, Michigan, and her parents as Harry FAIRBAIRN and (incorrectly) Amelia HUNTER.

Working from the known to the unknown, always a good maxim, 1910 Michigan census finally provided what I'd been looking for, but even then only by putting in Edith with father Harry born Canada in the right timeframe, no surname. They were indexed as RAIBOURN. By 1920 Harry is indexed as "H FOUNTAIN", but as they still had son Percival aka Percy who was with them in 1910, with them in 1920, they were more easily found. Even son Percival/Percy, supposedly born Ontario, I had missed in the birth registers first time through. His mother had been indexed as Ammelin, and father recorded as Henry J. And was he Percival? No, John P.

Those we chase around the records don't make it easy for us, nor do the transcribers. How many forename variations? Jas, James, Henry, Harry, H, Henry J Coupled with FAIRBAIRN, FAIRBOURN, RAIBOURN, FOUNTAIN, FAIRBURN as surnames, which makes striking the right combination of both names a bit of a challenge.

- Lorna Henderson

Have you broken down a brickwall recently? Email the editor with details to include your story in a future newsletter. You may give other members new ideas for tackling their own.

Branch notes

Cartridge World opens in Paraparaumu

Over the years the branch has collected used ink cartridges from computer printers and redeemed them for recycling at Cartridge World in Porirua. This has added more than \$2000 to branch funds. Dee Fisher, the director who has been so helpful to the branch in the past, has now opened an office in Paraparaumu at 46 Te Roto Drive.

Wednesday help with your research

Every Wednesday morning from 10am to 12 noon, volunteers from Kapiti Branch help other members and the public with family history research. If you'd like to find out what resources are available, need some ideas on how to make progress in your research, or are available to help others with theirs, come along to the Alison Procter Family History Centre, upstairs at Paraparaumu Library.

Tea makers

If your surname begins with the letters **A to G** please be at the February branch meeting by 7pm to help prepare the hot drinks. In March it will be someone else's turn.

Interest and User group meetings

Legacy (database software)

meets: every two months
next meeting: 27 February, 12.30 to 4.30pm
contact Gerald Twiss 902-0926
gero@ihug.co.nz

Family Tree Maker (database software)

meets: quarterly
next meeting: 24 April, 9.30am to 12.30pm
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see committee list)

Scottish interest group

meets: quarterly
next meeting: Saturday 1 May
9.30am to 12.30 pm
contact: Trish Mallia 293-3966
tmallia@xtra.co.nz

Computer friendly genealogy

meets: monthly, second Monday
next meeting: 8 March 2010, 7.30 pm
contact: Sue Greene (see committee list)

Irish interest group

meets: quarterly
next meeting: Saturday 8 May, 10 am APFHC
contact: Hanley Hoffmann (see committee list)

Australian interest group

meets: monthly, third Tuesday, 10am to 12pm
next meeting: 16 March, APFHC
Contact: Deborah Shuker 905-2238
shuker@xtra.co.nz

APFHC = Alison Proctor Family History Centre
(upstairs at Paraparaumu Library)

On the web

Online environmental history forum

Find out about the history of our natural environment. The environmental past shaped our history, and what we do will affect the environment of the future. Dr Catherine Knight, based in Kapiti, is the main contributor to this site, so many of the articles focus on the Kapiti area.
<http://envirohistorynz.wordpress.com/>

Headstone photos for Karori and Makara

More than 32,000 photographs of headstones are now available on the Wellington council's cemetery database. These cover all 8500 headstones at Makara and about a third of the ones at Karori cemetery. Volunteers are needed to carry on this project. Contact Jeff Paris at Karori Cemetery on 04 476-6101 if you can help.
<http://www.wellington.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/search/search.php>

Committee

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