

# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

[www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)

April 2017

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.



## Convener's Comment

"There are many websites on the internet that contain family trees. Some online family trees are very good, while others have information of questionable accuracy." Anon.

This was proven to me recently when I was helping with a research enquiry, with fortunately a fairly unusual surname. The enquirer had found a family tree on internet. The information was that Joshua \_\_\_\_, was born 1823 (no place given); Married Maria \_\_\_\_ in 1865 in NZ; had one child.

I went onto another internet site and found 2 trees that had him born in Yorkshire in 1846, was age 5 in 1851 England census, married in NZ 1865 to Maria, had eight children, died NZ in 1913.

So we had a dilemma-which information was correct and how could we prove it?

- 1) check NZ marriages ✓
- 2) check NZ births ✓ (7 males 1 female)
- 3) Sent for birth reg. of youngest child-1881 ✓ (parents details confirmed)
- 4) Check 1913 deaths ✓ (Joshua was 89 yrs)
- 5). Check NZSG Burial Locator ✓ (Karori Cemetery)
- 6). Check Karori Cemetery records ✓ (headstone found)
- 7).Check NZ Electoral Rolls & Wises Directories ✓ (Joshua & Maria lived in Wellington from 1865 until their deaths).

The only expense was paying for the 1881 birth printout, plus a subscription to an on-line family history site (which I use regularly, so get good value)..

Helen and Marie at our Rooms can assist you with similar searches.

Happy Hunting!!

Carol

## Inside this issue:

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**LEY Family**

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**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 12th April at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research. Carol will be away. Lesley will explain the use of non-Conformist Records.**

## Branch Rooms

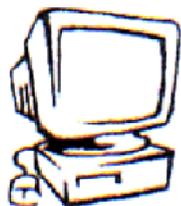
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm;

Saturdays 12 noon -2pm.

Our Branch Newsletter is now available each month on our web page-

[www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)



## Web Sites

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/ww1-abbreviations-acronyms> - It's quite a long list, but the link could be useful.

I also found this: <http://backgroundchecks.org/public-records/the-genealogy-resource-guide>

[www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons](http://www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons)

Records of disbanded Irish regiments online nearly 12,000 after the Irish war of Independence in 1922.

[www.lennonwylie.co.uk/index.htm](http://www.lennonwylie.co.uk/index.htm)

Belfast, Antrim directories covering various years from 1805 to 1951

<https://bdm.psopho.co.nz/> - a tool to help with searching DIA's historical BDM records. It searches birth, death and marriage records at once and also looks for children.

5 Steps to Rock Solid Research, Family Tree, December 2016:

Board of certification for genealogists

<http://www.bgc certification.org/resources/standard.html>

Prairie Roots Research - The Power of GPS

<http://www.prairierootsresearch.com/research-tips/genealogical-proof-standard/>

Family Search - Understanding the Genealogical Proof Standard

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogicalproofstandardpart1/>

<http://www.dustydocs.com>—I was told about this site at Senior Net. I have just been in and selected England as the country. Fontmell Magna as the village, Up came all sorts of bits and records. This may be the answer to your research. AND IT IS FREE!!

Have a Go (from Sth Waikato Newsletter)

[www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk](http://www.freeukgenealogy.org.uk)—a charity dedicated to providing free public access to family history records.

<https://www.londonlives.org/> - London Lives 1690 to 1800 ~ Crime, Poverty and Social Policy in the Metropolis. A fully searchable edition of 240,000 manuscripts from eight archives and fifteen datasets, giving access to 3.35 million names.

**Do remember to save used HP & Canon printer Cartridges and hand them in to the group . They provide an excellent fund raiser. The sales of books on trademe are going well. Thanks to Carol for her efforts .**

### SOME LIGHT RELIEF

This song was written in 1948 by Dwight Latham and Guy Jaffe, which became a hit for country duo Lonzo & Oscar. Ray Stevens recorded the song again in 1987.

#### I'M MY OWN GRANDPA

*Many, many years ago, when I was twenty-three,  
I was married to a widow who was pretty as can be.  
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.  
My father fell in love with her, and soon they, too, were wed.*

*This made my dad my son-in-law and really changed my very life,*

*My daughter was my mother, cause she was my father's wife.*

*To complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy,  
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.*

*My little baby then became a brother-in-law to Dad,  
And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad.  
For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother  
Of the widow's grown-up daughter, who, of course, was my stepmother.*

*Father's wife then had a son who kept him on the run,  
And he became my grandchild, for he was my daughter's son.*

*My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes me blue,  
Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandmother, too.*

*Now if my wife is my grandmother, then I'm her grand-child,*

*And every time I think of it, it nearly drives me wild,  
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw,  
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!*

*Oh, I'm my own grandpa. I'm my own grandpa.*

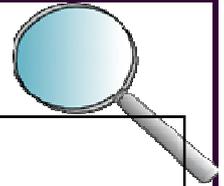
*It sounds funny, I know, but it really is so,*

*Oh, I'm my own grandpa.*

*(From Whanganui Newsletter) (I remember singing this as a child!)*

We receive copies of branch newsletters from all over New Zealand. If anyone would like to see those we have at the moment, please email Maureen and I will send them on to you. If you don't have email let me know and I will get a copy printed for you. **NB:** my email address is: [mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz)

## Snippets



To: Fiona Harvie, Stratford District Council

Hi Fiona...a short while ago, there was a news item on TV about a family (not Taranaki) who went to bury a relative in a family plot and were told that because it had been purchased more than 60 years ago, and hadn't been used, that the ownership has reverted to the local council. Is this applicable to cemeteries in our area? If so, is the legislation nation-wide and what is the name and date of the legislation please?

Thanks

Carol Spragg

**Reply:**

**Hi, Carol!**

The legislation covering this is the *Burial and Cremations Act 1964* ... section 10, #4 (page 11 of the attached copy of the Act).

The way the legislation is written, it is applicable to all cemeteries under Council's control. However, it is not something we practice ... there are reserved plots in Kopuatama Cemetery that date back to 1907! If the council had decided to follow this when the legislation came in, these plots would have been used long ago.

I hope this clears things up a little!

Fiona

(Members: Just be aware of this legislation if your family holds a plot somewhere else in the country.)

### 5 Golden Rules of Genealogy:

Leave no stone unturned, unless it is a headstone.

Handwriting legibility is inversely proportional to a document's importance.

The further away a cemetery or library, the more awkward the opening hours will be.

The relative you most need to talk with is the one whose funeral you are currently attending.

Wherever you find two or more siblings there also will you find two more surname spellings.

*Hawkes Bay Twig Newsletter*

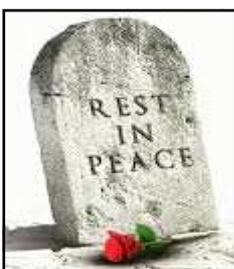
*Hand Writing*



### How to start your day with a positive outlook

1. Open a new file in your PC.
2. Name it "Housework."
3. Send it to the RECYCLE BIN
4. Empty the RECYCLE BIN
5. Your PC will ask you, "Are you sure you want to delete housework permanently?"
6. Answer calmly, "Yes," and press the mouse button firmly....
7. Feel better?

Judy Berntsen  
New Plymouth Branch



### Marion Wellington QSM 1939-2017

Marion's depth of knowledge of the Waitara District and families will be sadly missed by genealogists in Taranaki and around New Zealand. Her husband Keith has family roots in Central Taranaki and Marion was very willing to share family information.

Rest in Peace Marion.



Unfortunately the weather caused the cancellation of our picnic meeting at Midhirst Old Cemetery last month, but we presented our reports at the later meeting in the rooms. The following is the first of our reports:

### KEIGHTLEY Family

John Keightley was born 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1835 in Ulceby, Lincolnshire, UK. He married Ellen White in 1854 and they lived in Grimsby before sailing for New Plymouth on “Chile” in 1875, with their children, arriving 11 June 1875. They settled first in Midhirst and later, on Radnor Rd on land that was still bush. They had 13 children in all—Ellen, John, Francis, Askew, Sarah-Ann, Askew, Charles, Harry, Ellen, Maria, Tom, Elizabeth and Kate . Kate was the only one born in New Zealand. She never married and is buried with her parents.

The family were Wesleyan Methodists and were part of the group responsible for the building of the church on Egmont St, Midhirst (behind the current Midhirst Hall). Ellen was one of the foundation pupils of Midhirst School. Ten other KEIGHTLEY children also attended the school.

Three of the next generation were killed in World War I:

Tom Francis Keightley, born at Midhirst 7 November 1888, killed 1 September 1918.

Frank Keightley was born at Midhirst in 1894. He was working at Matamata when he enlisted for WWI. He was killed in action 14 Sept 1916, during the Battle of Somme.

Ernest Keightley, was born at Midhirst 13 July 1889 and worked as a farm hand; moved to Glenbrook, Auckland and enlisted for WWI from there. He was a Prisoner of War in Turkey for 14 months before dying of sickness at age 25. These three are commemorated on the Memorial gates at Midhirst School and in the Stratford Hall of Remembrance.

Two other sons, Harry & John were wounded and invalided home. At least one of the next generation of the family, Claude, was killed in WW2. The children of John & Ellen married into other Midhirst families-VICKERS, BROWN, DICKENSON.

Ellen died 9 January 1906 and John died 10 July 1910 and both are buried in Old Midhirst Cemetery. Other KEIGHTLEYS buried there are Emma, Francis, Hilda ,Kate and Mary Jane.

#### **Members' Queries:**

Do you have any brick walls with which you need help? Don't know where else to look? Well, come along to the Rooms at Stratford Community House, Juliet street, next to the Anglican Church. We are there on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm, and Saturdays 12 noon to 2pm. We'll do our best to help you find answers. We have a lot of local school, Church and cemetery records available, also Electoral Rolls for several years.