



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

April 2016

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

In the last few weeks I have been involved in 3 quite different queries:

1.) A query received via our web page from England. In late 1950's a young married couple migrated to Eltham. In early 1964 the husband was killed in a car accident and as the years went by, family in England lost contact with the widow and her children. The query asked if I could find out what had happened to the widow and 3 children. Fortunately it was an unusual surname and a quick search of our extensive Surname Envelope Collection revealed that the widow had stayed in Central Taranaki and remarried. By coincidence I knew of the son's daughter-in-law and was able to contact her via Facebook, exchanged details of the family contact in England and now the two families are reunited.

2). A query from Fiona Harvie, Archivist at Stratford District Council about a legacy received from a Douglas Seton BELSHAM, comprising a set of reference books. The Library staff were keen to find out about this person. A search of Electoral Rolls showed that in 1981 he was living in Whitcombe Tce, Midhirst and occupation was teacher. There was also some information in ancestry.com. He left Taranaki and spent the rest of his life in Bay of Plenty, dying in 2014. Please contact me if you have any further information about him.

3). Pioneer Village have contacted me regarding War memorials and Rolls of Honour for an Anzac display they are preparing. Thanks to our Armed Services Project, I have been able to supply them with the photos they were wanting.

Carol Spragg
Convenor

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research. Topic for April meeting: Bring a photo or memento of a returned serviceman or woman to share.

AGM

The May meeting will be the Branch AGM. Kate (Treasurer), Maureen (Secretary) and I (Convenor) have held Office for some years now and we'd welcome some new input from other members.

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



Web Sites

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Additions to Papers Past

Recent additions to Papers Past (December 2015) include these publications:

- Aotearoa : he Nupepa ma nga Tangata Maori (1892)
- Aotearoa, or the Maori Recorder (1861-1862)
- Cromwell Argus (1869-1920)
- Dunstan Times (1866-1948)
- Kopara (1913-1921)
- Lake County Mail (1947-1948)
- Lake County Press (1872-1928)
- Lake Wakatip Mail (1921-1947)
- Maori Record : a journal devoted to the advancement of the Maori people (1904-1907)
- Mt Benger Mail (1921-1941)
- Pipliwharauoa (1898-1913)
- Press (1936-1945)
- Star (1918-1920)
- Toa Takitini (1921-1932)

*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 .*

DNA TESTING

Some of our members gained some knowledge of what is involved in DNA testing when Christine Clement visited recently. The four Taranaki Genealogy Branches are combining to invite DNA guru Gail Riddell to New Plymouth on Sunday 22nd May, thanks to the initiative of Hawera Branch. Gail will be presenting from 10am-4pm, with a break for lunch. We don't often have the opportunity to hear speakers/experts of the quality of Christine and Gail, so please mark the date on your calendar. Phone me for more information or look for a notice in our May newsletter.

Free Online Genealogy Courses – check them out

www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy1

www.familysearch.org

Legacy family tree webinars

YouTube – genealogy

www.genealogy.com/articles/learn

www.cyndislist.com/education/online-courses

Old handwriting – English, Latin, German

www.many-roads.com

Dear Ancestor,
I may not have
found you today,
but?
It's a 3-day
weekend &
I bought snacks.

Family History Daily

Family History Daily offers research help, news, personal stories, tools and resources for genealogy enthusiasts.

Use the site to explore new ideas and connect with other family historians.

Go to <http://familyhistorydaily.com/about/> and subscribe to their free weekly newsletter.

TARANAKI PIONEER VILLAGE ANZAC COMMEMORATION THE WAR YEARS

To be held 17th April 2016 10am-4pm.

There will be displays, models, vehicles, a fly-over from Stratford Aero Club...and more.

Watch the "Stratford Press" for more details.



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 new email address is: mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Snippets



Toko is a small rural settlement 10 kilometres east of Stratford, New Zealand, at the intersection of East Road (State Highway 43) and Toko Road. It is located on a railway, the Stratford–Okahukura Line, the western portion of which was operated as a branch line known as the Toko Branch prior to the line's completion. The Toko Stream flows through the area to join the Patea River.

The population of the Toko statistical area was 1164 in the 2006 Census, unchanged from 2001. The statistical area covers a large region to the east of Stratford, not just the settlement of Toko.

Toko is surrounded by extremely fertile land, being located on the periphery of the Taranaki ringplain and adjacent to the Patea River. The area is drained by the Toko Stream, and its tributaries the Manawaiwiri and Waiwiri Streams. Once covered in wetlands, since settlement the area has been drained to take advantage of the fertile soils. Dairy farming predominates the surrounding land use, with some sheep and beef farming in the steeper hill country.

Toko was established in the 1890s, and served as an important centre for the developing hinterland. The settlement took on the nature of a village, containing a railway station, a dairy factory, a church, a hall, a hotel, a sawmill, a trucking depot, a playcentre, a sports facility, and a number of other businesses and numerous dwellings. Toko School was established in 1893, and located on a site approximately 2 km east of Toko at the intersection of East Road and Waiwiri Road.

Like other rural centres, Toko went into decline in the latter part of the 20th century. The railway station, dairy factory and sawmill all closed. However the factory buildings are now used for an engineering business, and the church, hall, domain, hotel, trucking depot, and an automotive workshop are still being used for business and social activities.

Two well-known New Zealanders who were born in Toko were John (Jack) Walter—All Black and Taranaki Rugby Rep, and Toss Woollaston, Artist. Sylvia Ashton-Warner, writer, poet and educator, lived here as a child.



NZSG Revised Rules - Postal Ballot

NZSG members will receive a document relating to the postal ballot for a revised set of rules with their April issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* magazine.

This documentation will comprise a covering letter from the President and the revised rules. In addition there will be a Question and Answer document on the Society's website, along with copies of the President's letter and the rules themselves.

Our existing rules have been widely acknowledged as being no longer fit for purpose. Legal advice also points to inconsistencies between the rules and the by-laws and recommends amalgamation. Applications for funding and sponsorship are becoming more dependent upon evidence that the Society is operating in a business-like manner, in surplus, and within rules that are appropriate for purpose. We cannot continue to operate as we have in the past, and revised rules are part of the necessary change.

It is appreciated that a large proportion of the Society's members just wish to get on with their research and that rules may be of little interest to them, and I understand that. However, please do read the documents and then cast your vote. It is vital that all NZSG members take the opportunity to participate in this postal ballot as a two-thirds majority of valid votes cast (existing Rule 9.1) is needed for the new rules to be adopted.

Voting papers are due back to the Returning Officers by 4pm, Friday 20 May 2016.

Thank you.

Peter Gibson
NZSG Councillor & Facilitator, Rules Review Working Group
March 2016

Dignity Restored to Tokanui Hospital's 'Lost Souls'



The unveiling of the Tokanui Memorial Wall held on Saturday 20 February 2016 for those who were once resident at the Tokanui Psychiatric Hospital and were buried in the hospital cemetery between 1914 and 1964.

This curved black granite wall lists the names of 457 former psychiatric patients buried on the sloping hill. Some of those originally buried at the site have since been exhumed.

Hamilton man Maurie Zinsli began the project to erect the memorial wall back in 2014 after discovering his great aunt, Maria Zinsli, was buried at Tokanui.

Back then, a corroded plaque set in a concrete block beside a farm gate was the only reminder of those buried there.

"I remember standing there and thinking, bloody hell, this isn't right," Zinsli said. "It was so bloody heart-breaking it almost made me cry. You could see cows and tractors had been in the paddock. It was as if nobody cared."

Since then, each plot has been located and the name of the person buried there identified.

(see Hutt Valley March Newsletter for the rest of the article.)

The above article from the Hutt Valley Newsletter rang several bells for me! About 3 weeks ago I met Maurie Zinslie, who came to the Stratford Genealogy rooms one Saturday when I happened to be there. He was trying to find out more about his family who came from Switzerland to New Zealand, arriving in Wellington in 1887. Some of them came up to Taranaki, and Maurie's ancestor, Richard Zinsli, had a saddlery shop in Stratford for several years. Another family member, Solomon, either an elder brother or cousin of Richard, also had a saddlery shop in nearby Eltham. I believe Maria Zinslie was one of those who came in 1887.

Another twist to the story is that while doing some research for Maurie, I found out that Richard actually bought an already established saddlery shop in Eltham from one of my family, by the name of Duxfield. After a few months there Richard sold the shop and came to Stratford.

I'm still hunting for information for Maurie and would welcome any snippets from members about the Zinslie family.

Maureen Armstrong (mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz)

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.