

# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

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## Convener's Comment

The NZSG Council are considering

changes to its constitution that will impact on us as a Branch.

The Draft Rules proposed for adoption at the NZSG's annual meeting will include a clause that Branches of NZSG must have 100% NZSG membership and of course we don't. Currently there are only 3 Branches who fulfil this requirement. The rest of the Branches will have the option of becoming Affiliate Members of the NZSG. Obviously NZSG Council will be very keen for us to do this...an organisation comprising 3 Branches would have difficulty remaining viable. As a committee, we will keep you informed of developments. Any decisions about a change in direction for our Branch will only be made after a full discussion at a special Branch meeting which will be publicised beforehand. Any changes are not expected to change the way our Branch currently operates its research facilities.

Carol Spragg

**APRIL MEETING 10th April from 7pm. The meeting will start at 7:30 with an Anzac theme. Please bring a piece of military services memorabilia.**

**MAY Branch Annual General Meeting—Wednesday 9th May, at 7pm. (Note earlier starting time)**

**Guest speaker—Phillip Brown—an expert on military medals etc. Please bring photos of your military ancestors—he can identify medals, units, etc from your photos.**

## Inside this issue:

New Websites 2

Papers Past 2

List for West Coast & Marlborough

Snippets 3

British Isles Naming traditions 3

It Pays to advertise 4

First entry, New Story Competition 4

## Branch Rooms

The Stratford Branch Rooms open

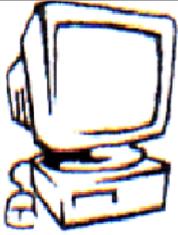
Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm;

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)

**The Rooms will be closed Good Friday and Saturday 14th April.**



# Web Sites

<http://www.antiquemaps.co.nz>—Paul Arnold sells antique and reproduction maps of New Zealand, Antarctica, the South Pacific, and the world from his Beckenham home.

<http://www.vcbrowne.com/VCBHome.aspx>

The "V.C. Browne and Son NZ Aerial Photograph Collection" contains approximately 27,000 images. The collection spans a period of over 50 years, commencing in the early 1930s through to the late 1970s. The majority of the images it contains are black and white aerial photographs which provide a unique perspective from which to view the evolution of society in New Zealand.

Although most photographs are focused upon the New Zealand South Island and the Canterbury region in particular, the collection also covers most New Zealand cities and towns.

*HISTORICAL VIDEOS - Archives NZ have some historical videos on line you all might find worth checking out. "Ziln- NZ Memories On TV" [www.ziln.co.nz](http://www.ziln.co.nz).*

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/index.htm> **NZ Bound Shipping**

<http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/> **India Office Family History Search** - 300,000 births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials in the India Office Records; biographical notes from a variety of sources; for mainly British and European people in India c1600-1949; for people in other countries connected with the history of the British in India. Dictionary explains abbreviations, references and unusual terms.

We have a collection of the NZ Genealogist Magazine from 1994 to 2008, mostly complete years with the Indexes. If anyone would like to browse through some of these, please contact Maureen.

## Papers Past

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>

(The last of the South Island Newspapers)

[Marlborough Express \(Marlborough, 1868-1920\)](#)

[Grey River Argus \(West Coast, 1866-1920\)](#)

[Inangahua Times \(West Coast, 1877-1900\)](#)

[West Coast Times \(West Coast, 1865-1909\)](#)

Do look up these sites—its amazing what you can learn! I've recently found out all sorts of interesting things about my friend's great grandfather, who was a constable in the Armed Constabulary based at Alexandra (Pirongia) in the 1870s. Of course its easier if you have an unusual name to work with—you don't even have to select a region—just enter the name and search!

**Do remember to save used printer Cartridges and hand them in to the group . They provide an excellent fund raiser. The sales of books on trade me are going well. Thanks to Carol's effort .**

**Hints for Beginners:..... (as written in NZSG Mag vol 31, no 265, Sept/Oct 2000, compiled by Noeline Vehey-en)**

## Some practical hints ...

Recording information accurately is one of the most important skills a researcher can acquire. If you follow the recommendations below consistently, you will have confidence in your research. This will mean you will not duplicate research because of uncertainty.

**SOURCE:** Always record the full reference details of your research, so that if you need to go back and refer to the documents again you can find them, and so that other researchers can verify your findings — e.g. National Archives Ref: BBAE 1570 6870/1876 Probate, John SMITH.

**NAMES:** Write given names first, with known names in brackets, followed by the surname in capital letters; e.g. Harold Brian (Harry) SMITH.

**UNCOMMON NAMES OR SPELLING:** Underline any uncommon names or spellings to indicate that you have recorded them accurately; e.g. Ellspeth FRASSER.

**DATES:** Dates should be recorded as — date (two digits), month (first three letters of the month with the exception of January and June which should always be written in full to avoid confusion), and year (four digits); e.g. 04 June 1867, 09 Oct 1963.

**PLACES:** Places should be recorded in the following order with commas between — town, village or city; province, county or state; and country; e.g. Hamilton, Waikato, New Zealand or Abbotshall, Fife, Scotland.

## Snippets

**100 years ago... from the South Taranaki Star (formerly the Hawera Star)**

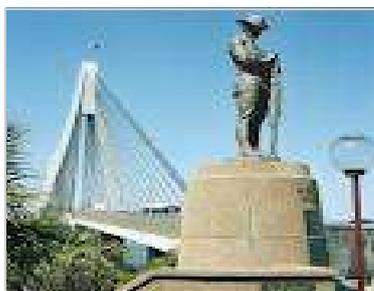
**'Two Irish tourists fishing for 41 days at Taupo, caught 990 fish, weighing 2 tons 11 cwt.**

**A meeting was convened by Mr L Goodson to consider the advisability of forming a Horticulture Society in Hawera.**

**Wanted at once, a good hand milker; wages 32s 6d per week (\$3.26!)**

*From the March Issue of the Wairarapa Newsletter—The Arboretum*

Between 2014 and 2018 no doubt there will be commemorations of many battles, campaigns and events as each reaches its centenary. The French no doubt will remember the miracle on the Marne and Verdun, both victories; the British the miracle of Mons (the 'miracle' being that the BEF was not annihilated) and the Somme, both defeats; Australians and New Zealanders will remember Gallipoli standing alongside their enemy the Turk, which itself must be unique; the Canadians will remember the destruction of Halifax, Nova Scotia where more than 2,000 civilians were killed following a munitions explosion; the Germans will be a bit miffed at not being invited; and everyone will remember Armistice Day.



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 (see back page) and I will send them on to you. At the moment I have Blenheim, Canterbury and Sth Canterbury, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, New Plymouth, Wairarapa and Wanganui Newsletters. If you don't have email let me know and I will get a copy printed for you.

### Naming Traditions in the British Isles



Clues in your ancestors' given names could help you identify earlier generations. Just because your first-born British ancestor was named John doesn't prove his paternal grandfather shared that name, of course. But once you have a name to investigate, you can research possible connections.

First name patterns in the 18th and 19th centuries:

- the first son was named after the father's father
- the second son, after the mother's father
- the third son after the father
- the fourth son, after the mother's father
- the first daughter, after the mother's mother
- the second daughter, after the father's mother
- the third daughter, after the mother
- The fourth daughter, after the mother's eldest sister.

There are still some copies of the book-

### "Family History Notebook"

Available at the rooms. Cost \$7.00 each.

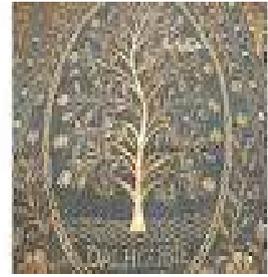
Please have a look at this book—it's a very useful one to have handy when doing your research. If necessary we can order more.

# Story Writing Competition 2012

## **'The Most Interesting Item I Have Found'**

Fact or fiction, relating to Genealogy.

Our first entry, from Dawn Gaskin



A fabric family tree

### **Do you remember the song—'He's His Own Grandpa'?**

In my research, I've been interested to find the number of inter-relationships within our extended family. Here are just a few examples:

Dad's youngest uncle on his mother's side married Mum's youngest aunt on her mother's side. Mum and Dad first met in their home. (Incidentally, at the time Mum was not impressed by this Gaskin fellow!)

One of Dad's cousins through another member of his mother's family married one of Mum's cousins through another of her mother's sisters.

The most interesting relationship happened this way: my earliest ancestor to arrive in New Zealand in 1841—Matthew Gaskin—married Charlotte Waller. They had one child, a son named George. While George was still a toddler, his mother died, and within twelve months Matthew married Susan Ings Daysh. Susan's sister, Elizabeth Daysh, was married to William Southee. They had two children—Esther Jane and Alfred—before William died. Elizabeth then married John Rayner. (The Rayners were connected by marriage to my father's mother's family.)

When Matthew Gaskin's son George grew up, he married Esther Jane Southee. This meant that Matthew's second wife—Esther Jane's aunt—became her step-mother-in-law also.

George and Esther Jane were my great Grandparents!

*Dawn Gaskin*

Thank you for breaking the ice, Dawn. I don't even want to start working out the relationships!

### **It Pays to Advertise>>>**

We told you about Lesley finding out some new information for her family research after someone read one of her articles in our newsletter.

Well, now I have just had the same experience: a cousin in Tasmania read a newsletter from a couple of years ago where I wrote about my Elusive Evans's. She emailed Carol to ask me to contact her. We have since exchanged heaps of new information. She has filled in some of the puzzles for me—I now know that my great, great grandmother, Mary Ann Evans nee Atkins, was actually born in India, not the West Indies or West Africa, which I had previously been told. Her father Joseph Atkins was a private with His Majesty's 13th regiment of Foot, based at Fort William, and he and his wife, Mary, had three other children in India, one of whom died, and then two more children when they returned to Staffordshire a couple of years after Mary Ann was born.

So come on folks—don't be shy! You, too, could have the same kind of results, just for writing something about your research for our newsletter!

*Maureen*

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