

# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

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

April 2015

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## Convener's Comment

Treasure Trove -

Recently one of our members was browsing through the books for sale at a school gala and found a little book "Taranaki District Law Society 1879-1979", which is now part of our collection. It gives useful details of lawyers, magistrates etc who served Stratford & Eltham in the past. If you are at a school gala, garage sale, book fair etc, please look out for books that could be of historical interest to the Central Taranaki area.

This last week, I had the opportunity to travel up the river road from Wanganui to visit the settlement at Jerusalem founded by the Sisters of Compassion. This settlement is famous as the location for Mother Aubert's mission and poet James K Baxter's commune, who is buried there. It was a privilege to be there—it's a very spiritual place. Unfortunately our travel plans meant we couldn't stay the night.....maybe sometime in the future. There are many historical Marae between Wanganui and Jerusalem and a lovely little 2-teacher school. If you haven't been there, and have the opportunity—take it.

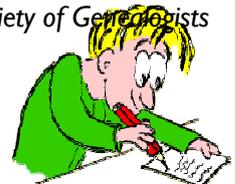
Carol Spragg

**We are unable to open on Saturdays in April. Sorry for any inconvenience.**

NB: we now have a Facebook page—*Stratford Branch N Z Society of Genealogists*

*Check it out!*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**  
13<sup>th</sup> May AGM



**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 8th April starting at 7.00pm**  
**AT THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICES**  
to view their Archives. Come to the front of the building, & Fiona will meet you there.

## 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

<http://www.australiancemeteries.com/>

This site has some very useful information about numerous cemeteries across Australia. They have online data, transcripts and/or photographs of headstones and also some offer a look up service for the cemeteries.

[www.royalmailmemorials.com](http://www.royalmailmemorials.com)

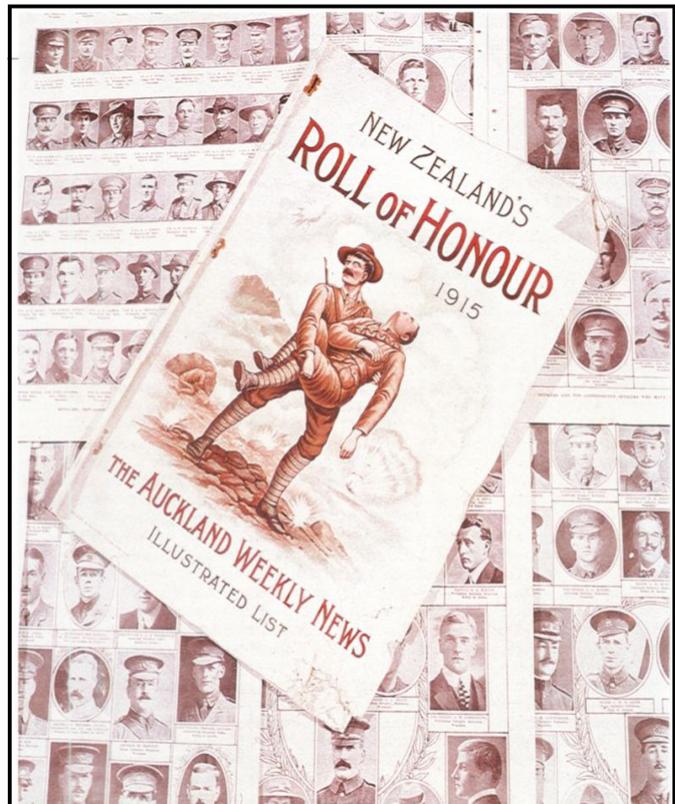
This British website contains details of the more than 300 First World War memorials for Post Office staff who served in WWI and lost their lives. There are photos and transcriptions of the names on them plus details of their locations. You can search for a person's name.

[maritimequest.com](http://maritimequest.com)

This USA website of Michael Pocock could be useful for info and images of wartime vessels. It has received over 6 million visitors in the last 7 years. Its aims include a quest for a photographic history of the world's ships and to record little known tales of the sea and the history behind the world's greatest ships. Worth having a look at for any ship although there is an emphasis on more recent navy ships.



**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 .**



Page after page of photographs of young men who had been killed or wounded impressed the reality of war upon the New Zealand public. New Zealand casualties totalled 7473. Australia suffered 26 094 casualties, including 7594 deaths. There were 119 696 British casualties and 27 004 French. The Allies' Turkish opponents had about 218 000 casualties, including 66 000 killed

Stratford Branch has a large collection of these photographs,

### The Commonwealth War Graves

Owes its existence to the persistence and compassion of Sir Favian Ware. He was 45 when WW1 broke out, so he was deemed too old to fight. He commanded a mobile unit of the British Red Cross and it distressed him the final resting place of graves were being lost forever. His unit recorded and cared for the all the graves they could identify.

By 1915 their work was given official recognition by the War Office and incorporated into the British Army as the 'Graves Registration Commission'. Later Sir Favian Ware was concerned about the fate of the graves and submitted a memorandum to the Imperial War Conference in 1917.

**From this the Imperial War Grave Commission (now CWGC) was established.**

About 80% of those buried Berlin 1939-1945 were airmen from the RAF's and Allied Bomber Command. The men with an average age of 22 played a major role in the strategic bombing campaign against Germany that contributed to the Allied victory. Over 55,000 men were lost in raids over Berlin and other parts of Germany. This was a death rate of 22%.



## Snippets



### What is meant by 'the United Kingdom'?

There is often confusion about the difference between the terms England, Britain, Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles.

Until fairly recently the term England often referred to England and

Wales, however, England and Wales are more correctly described as

Britain, a term that derives from the Roman name Britannia. In 1801 Great Britain and Ireland became the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Ireland following acts passed by both parliaments (although the Irish parliament was far from representative of its population).

In 1922 the Irish Free State was created, so from that point onwards it was the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The British Isles is a geographical term for the islands of Ireland and

Great Britain, together with thousands of smaller islands. Some specific examples which have caused confusion for genealogists in the past:

- The England & Wales censuses include the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands;
- The Britain subscription at findmypast.co.uk does not include Ireland, not even Northern Ireland (although there are some exceptions, such as passenger lists and army records);
- The Premium subscription at Ancestry.co.uk includes Irish records.

*From Wellington Branch Feb Newsletter*

**100 YEARS AGO Jan 1** Off Bastion Point, a flying boat piloted By Vivian Walsh makes the first seaplane flight in NZ. It is the first flying boat to be designed and built in the Southern Hemisphere.

**Feb 3** NZ troops join the Indian Brigade to defend the Suez Canal from a Turkish attack. Private William Ham died of wounds 2 days later to become NZ's first casualty of the war.

**Feb 14** A Maori Contingent of 500. Among them Peter Buck, departs from Wellington. The men form the core of the Pioneer Battalion that swells to 2,000 men including 410 Cook Islanders and 148 Niueans. *From Tokoroa Newsletter*

### **HELP!!** I am trying to track any relatives of **Edward Ernest (Bluey) AITKEN**

Who died, aged 70, at Taranaki Base Hospital on 20/6/1987, and was cremated on 23/6/1987

If anyone can help please email me at: armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz, or phone: 027 630 9099.

Many thanks.

Maureen

### **FROM "THE HISTORY OF WHANGAMOMONA COUNTY: HURIMOANA SCHOOL**

The Hurimoana School, first known as the Whitianga School, was opened in 1904, Mr John Harre being appointed teacher at a salary of £35 per annum. In 1906 Miss Evelyn Crawford was the teacher.

From 1907 to 1912, Hurimoana was a half-time school with Tahora. When Hurimoana resumed as a full time school the roll number was seven, Miss S M Browne being teacher.

In 1916 a new school was erected at Hurimoana, the roll then being 35, with Mr A H Jones as teacher, and Miss A Graham as assistant. In 1918 Miss McCutchan was appointed teacher, being followed in 1920 by Miss Emma Norris, who held the position until 1926, when she was succeeded by Miss Grace N Kopke.

The school was removed to the Kohuratahi Valley in 1929.

The first committee comprised Messrs. F H Symons (Chairman), T Browne, J Ostler, E Curlin, W Symons.



An old school of the same era as the Hurimoana school.

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.

### LIARDET FAMILY

In the Stratford Pioneer Cemetery lie the bodies of two little girls~daughters of Stratford's first Mayor. Harry Norman LIARDET and his wife Effie (nee PENN) ~ Maisie Hope who was buried 20 September 1897, age 2 weeks and an unnamed daughter buried 13 August 1906. Both are buried in Block 2, Maisie in plot 205 and her sister in 255. Neither child had a headstone. Harry was born in India and arrived in New Zealand age 21 yrs, in 1883, son of Henry Maughan LIARDET, Harbour Master of Liverpool and formerly the East India Company. He went to sea after leaving school and spent several years on vessels trading between Liverpool, Australia and India. About 1881 he took up sheep farming in New South Wales and in 1883, came to New Zealand, acquiring a farm near here. On 14 September 1887, he married Effie, the daughter of Thomas and Lucy PENN. Thomas PENN was later The Town Clerk when Harry became Mayor. There was no Anglican Church in Stratford at that time, so the marriage took place at St Mary's, New Plymouth. They were parents to six children ~ Leonard, Geoffrey, Maisie, Marjorie, the unnamed daughter and Norma.

In 1887, Harry went into business as an auctioneer, later selling out to Mr Newton King. He then established himself as an auctioneer in a building on Broadway, for the next ten years. After a trip to England, he returned to open a wine and spirits business, and an aerated waters factory in Fenton Street. He was the first Mayor of Stratford, also a member of the first Stratford Council and the Stratford Town Board. He was one of the first presidents of the Stratford Racing Club and the Ngaere Road Board, Chairman of the Stratford School Committee and president of Cricket and rugby clubs. He was a Captain of the Stratford Mounted Rifles.

Two of their sons served in WWI. Geoffrey survived the War, but Leonard, who had qualified as a solicitor was killed 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1916, from wounds to his back legs and abdomen, age 25 years. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, which isn't far from Calais in North-West France. He wasn't married. Augustus POTROZ of Midhirst is buried in the same Cemetery. Harry died 14<sup>th</sup> November 1922, age 61, in Wellington from Cerebral Thrombosis and exhaustion, leaving his wife, one son and two daughters. He is buried at Karori Cemetery. Effie lived to be 81 years old and died in Auckland where she had been living with one of her daughters, in 1951. She is buried at Waikumete Cemetery.

The three children who survived to adulthood all married and I assume there are descendants somewhere.....but that's a story for another day.

Carol Spragg



#### **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.