

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

August 2013

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

CREATING MEMORIES

I have clear memories of going to primary school across the road from my paternal grandparents and regularly had afternoon tea with them—a formal affair with pretty cups, saucers and plates and a yummy selection of home made baking before my sisters and I biked home and my grandparents changed into their farm clothes and set off to do the afternoon milking. My children also had grandparents who were farmers and a Spring holiday gave them the opportunity to experience calves, lambs, piglets and chickens.

This week I've created a memory for my grandsons. We travelled from Hamilton to Wellington by train, experienced a few gentle post-quake shakes and other child-friendly tourist events, then flew back to Hamilton. Archives NZ was close to where we were staying.....but no time for any research, unfortunately. One of my grandsons is writing a speech for school about World War 2 and has been asking what his great-grandparents did in the War, so maybe he'll be the one who will continue the genealogy memories in my family. Please read the notices about important events happening on 8th and 11th August. We'd like to see you at one or both events.

Carol

NB The Rooms will be closed Saturday 10th August.

**Next Branch Meeting—SUNDAY 11TH AUGUST,
starting at 1.30pm.**

Afternoon tea at 3pm. This is to provide a daytime meeting for those who do not like to come out at night.. Bring a friend! We would like to know if this would be a suitable time for future meetings???

Branch Rooms

The Stratford Branch Rooms open

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm;

Saturdays 12 noon -2pm.

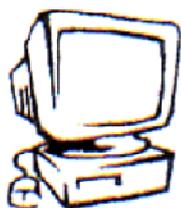
Our Branch Newsletter is now available each month on our web page-

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

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Web Sites

MORE NEWSPAPERS ADDED TO PAPERSPAST WEBSITE

[Hutt Valley Independent \(1911-1919\)](#)

[Lyttelton Times \(1866-1869\)](#)

[Manawatu Standard \(1911-1912\)](#)

[Manawatu Times \(1909-1911\)](#)

[Nelson Evening Mail \(1910-1918\)](#)

[North Otago Times \(1901-1918\)](#)

[Upper Hutt Weekly Review \(1935-1939\)](#)

[Waihi Daily Telegraph \(1904-1909\)](#)

[Waikato Times \(1893-1895\)](#)

[Wairarapa Daily Times \(1879-1901\)](#)

<http://mapco.net>—free access to images of rare and antique maps of London and the British Isles from 18th & 19th centuries.

Another mapping site—www.artus-familyhistory.com/source/early%20maps.html—Old street plans of several cities in the British isles.

www.imagesofengland.org.uk—English Heritage site that shows listed buildings that were still there in the year 2000, and provides links to photos of more on other web-sites.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers>—a collection of newspapers from around the world.

www.innertemple.org.uk/archive/itad— over 14000 records for members of one of the four 'Inns of Court' in London, including Students, Barristers and Benchers, between 1547 and 1920.

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 .

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. There are many interesting articles and items of interest in these magazines, and I have found a couple of family connections so far!
(Phone 762 8837, or email armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

New Zealand Probates and Wills available Free on-line

1. First establish the record number for your relative's probate: Go to www.archway.archives.govt.nz and enter a name in the search box.
2. When you find the entry click "Order details" and note the court and Record no.
3. Now go to www.familysearch.org
4. Click "Search" button to the right of the top menu bar.
5. Scroll down the home page and click the "Australia and New Zealand" link near the bottom of that page.
6. The Historical Records Collection page will open, scroll down to the bottom and click "New Zealand Probate Records".
7. Scroll down to the bottom of the search page and click "Browse through xxxxxx images"
8. A list of regional courts will open – click the relevant court
9. A list of digital folders will open. As an example I looked for Edward Joseph Milverton, filed Palmerston North 1925, number 128/25. Note that 128 is in the second folder for 1925. Also note that this folder covers 101/25 to 162/25, so expect to find Milverton about half way through.
10. Click the digital folder for the year and probate number you are looking for, it will open displaying the first image in that folder.
11. At the top of the image screen, note that you are looking at the first of 892 images. Guess that Milverton might be about 400, so enter 400 in the image box and click "go". There was no probate number visible on image 400, so I moved forward to image 403 and found I was looking at 130/25. Then it was just a case of working back till I got to 128/25 which starts at image 366. [Each probate is 10-20 pages]
- It turned out to be a joint will of two bachelor brothers, Edward and William, leaving their joint estate to whichever would live the longest. William was the survivor, and I believe he in turn gifted the assets to the Milverton Trust.
12. This project is ongoing, so return to the site later if your documents were not available.

Thanks to
Mary Skipworth

Snippets

Lincolnshire Family History Society Journal Volume 23 Number 3

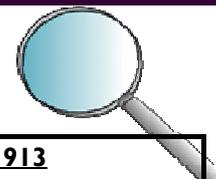
The Twelve Steps for Recovering Genealogists

- 1 I admit that I am powerless over my gedcom and that my life has become unmanageable.
- 2 I believe that there is a greater power other than genealogy and that it will restore sanity to my life.
- 3 I have made a decision to turn my life over to non-genealogists and hope that they will understand me.
- 4 I have admitted to myself and other genealogists that I am addicted to my obituary files.
- 5 I vow to no longer discuss "dead people" with my few remaining friends in hopes that they will remain my friends.
- 6 I promise to take photographs of things other than tombstones.
- 7 My only source of reading material will no longer be census, wills, death certificates and obituaries.
- 8 I will not spend family vacations in out-of-state libraries and courthouses.
- 9 Family picnics will no longer be held in cemeteries.
- 10 My family will no longer be referred to as "the live ones."
- 11 My time spent on the Internet will be limited to sites other than Rootsweb.com, Ancestry.com and MyGenealogy.com.
- 12 I will carry these messages to other genealogists and practice these principles every day.

Richard Brown
(Member B07159)

OLD FASHIONED TRADITIONS:

In the UK 200 years ago, King George was so pleased when a chimney sweep stepped out and stopped his horse from bolting and thus saved his life, that he issued the following Royal Decree: 'from that day on all sweeps were to be considered 'lucky'.
Guests at weddings can purchase from card shops ornaments to present to the bride after the service - usually seen in the wedding photos. Sweeps were often hired especially to appear at weddings, and I believe this is still done.



100 YEARS AGO—1913

The first ship passed through the Panama Canal.
Woodrow Wilson became US President.
The first Ski Club was formed at Ruapehu.
Henry Ford introduced assembly-line production.
The Foxtrot became very popular.
The ballet, 'The Rite of Spring' by Stravinsky was first performed.
Castlepoint Lighthouse began operating.

INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS!!!

Members are invited to attend the Tenants and Trust Board informal "nice to meet you" morning tea from 10:30 on Thursday 8th August. The Trust Board is providing morning tea. Anyone wanting transport can phone me in the evenings.
Carol.

August Quiz: (answers next month)

1. **When were New Zealand's boundaries extended to include the Cook Islands and Niue?**
2. **What landmark in Auckland was opened in 1910?**
3. **Who were the first women to cross the Southern Alps, and when did it happen?**
4. **When and why did 1500 farmers occupy Auckland wharves?**

Answers to last month's Quiz:

1. **The Duke & Duchess of Cornwall & York visited NZ in 1901.**
2. **First traverse of Mt Cook took place in 1906.**
3. **The fourth Maori King, Te Rata, was crowned in 1912.**
4. **The ship wrecked in 1909 in Cook Strait was the Penguin.**

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. At the moment I have July issues from — Canterbury, Dunedin, Hawkes Bay, New Plymouth, Papakura, Tokoroa, Wairarapa, Wanganui.

The following is the final in our series of articles following our February Cemetery Walk:

ANNE KIRKWOOD—bn. 1849, Dunkerran District, Birr Co, Ireland; d. 17 Dec 1920, Stratford, NZ.

Anne was the daughter of Thomas and Anne (nee MAHER) MARA. It is not known when she came to New Zealand, but in 1867 she married William KIRKWOOD at the 'Golden Age' Hotel in Hokitika. BDM Records show her maiden name as 'O'MARA'. William's occupation is given as 'hotel cook'.

After their marriage they moved several times—always managing hotels. First they went to Greymouth, followed by Christchurch, Wanganui, Napier, and finally Stratford, where Anne was the proprietor of the County Hotel until her death. She and William lived apart for many years, and he died in Rotorua on 8 July 1913, and is buried there. Their marriage produced eleven children, all of whom lived, at some time, in Stratford.

The children were:

1. Mary Ann, (known as 'Annie') bn. 28 May 1869 at Greymouth, d. 28 Aug 1928 at Ryde, NSW, Australia, where she moved to housekeep for her brother, William, who had business interests in Sydney.
2. William Patrick, bn. 24 Dec 1870 at Greymouth. Never married. Became Head of the household after his parents separated. He served as Mayor of Stratford from 1912-1915 and was involved in many local organizations. He died in 1943 in Sydney, NSW.
3. James George, bn. 13 Aug 1872 at Greymouth. Joined the British Army and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. He was wounded in WWI and awarded the DSO. He retired to Kenya where he served on the Legislative Council and was awarded the CMG. He died as the result of a traffic accident 20 Mar 1955 at Nyeri, Kenya.
4. Thomas Joseph, bn. 11 Dec 1873 at Christchurch; d. 27 May 1951 at Stratford. He was a member of the founding group of the Stratford Mountain Club in 1914 and remained very involved. He was also a keen professional cyclist and for many years an executive member of the Taranaki Centre of the NZ Athletic, Cycling and Axemen's Union. One of his main hobbies was breeding gun dogs. He was also a skilled photographer. He married Catherine Bennaman Allan WOOD in 1922.
5. George, bn. 13 June 1875 at Christchurch, d. 21 April 1883 in Wanganui. He was accidentally shot and killed by his father while hunting pigeons.
6. Francis, bn. 7 Dec 1876 at Christchurch, d. 8 Jan 1964 at Stratford. He was a jersey breeder in partnership with his brother, Edward. He married Rose Harriett GOFFIN in 1896. He was survived by a married daughter, his son having been killed in WWI.
7. Agnes Mary, bn. 6 April 1878 at Christchurch, d. 22 Jan 1953 at Stratford. Agnes spent about ten years at a Convent in Waipawa before returning home to assist with the running of the hotel. She never married.
8. Edward, bn. 17 April 1879 at Christchurch, d. 19 July 1954 at Stratford. Member of the Jersey Breeders' Association, and one of the guarantors for funds to develop the Stratford Racing Club. Edward served overseas in WWI. He was a member of the "Stratford Parliament", with his brother-in-law, Alfred COLEMAN.
9. Isabella Mary, bn. 21 June 1880 at Christchurch, d. 16 Aug 1966 at Wellington. Isabella married Gilbert Percy THOMSON and had two daughters.
10. Georgina, bn. 1883 in Wanganui, d. 1962 at Feilding. She married Alfred COLEMAN in 1911.
11. Henry Joseph, bn. 1885 in Wanganui, d. 8 Nov 1975 at Stratford. He was a publican. In 1910 he married Elsie SLIPPER. Their only child, Henry Russell, was married in 1936 to Elizabeth Mary McMILLAN, daughter of James McMILLAN, who appeared in an earlier newsletter. Their only son's descendants are the only ones bearing the KIRKWOOD name, from this large family. The daughters, Isabella and Georgina have descendants still living in New Zealand. I am indebted to Georgina's son, the late Desmond COLEMAN, for much of the family information.

Lesley.

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.