



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

August 2015

Stratford Community House.

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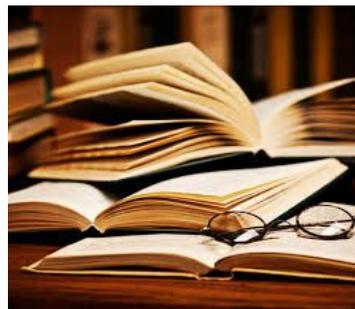
Convener's Comment

We have a very good collection of local district, school, church etc histories, biographies and autobiographies relating to families who have lived or are currently living in Central Taranaki. Sometimes these are donated to the Branch and those we purchase are funded by the income generated from sales of books.

Over the past few months, Roma Jenkins has donated us several boxes of genealogy related books, which have been selling well. Recently Mary Dobson has donated us an updated copy of "The WATKIN family" and we have purchased Shirley Hazelwood's recently published book about the polio epidemic of 1940's-50's and family stories about a variety of children who contracted the disease. Jeff Burgess, a descendant of Stratford Pioneer, Ebenezer Burgess has donated us a copy of the BURGESS family history.

These and our other book resources can be borrowed from our Branch Library.

Carol



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Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 12th August starting at 7.00pm—theme: "The Way We Were".

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

Ancestry.co.uk – new releases

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/dbdbid.aspx?dbid>

=9059 electrical engineers WW1 and 1949. Details include biographical sketches, family details, education & work history, with some photos.

Northampton shire parish records & Bishops Transcripts 1813- 1912—West Yorkshire Estate rental records 1830-1982

www.forces-war-records.co.uk – 1000,000 Military Hospitals admissions and discharge Registers World War 1 collections held at National Archives series MH106). Original records were compiled by doctors in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Searchable by name. Each patient includes name, rank, regiment, unit, age, date of admission/discharge, details of injury/illness.

Burial Records- DeceasedOnline.com Nottingham Basford Cemetery, Gillingham town in Dorset.

Childhood Records

Start with the birth certificate, (and death). Home births were the normal in almost all countries. Nursing homes and later hospitals were opened later. The first home in England for unmarried mothers opened 1890. Babies were then given up for adoption.

www.motherandbabyhomes.com

Many babies were born in Workhouses in England and Wales. Due to dire infant mortality rates in workhouse, it was compulsory by 1778 for all infants in parish care to be sent to foster care outside town. Search

www.findagrave.com.

Adoption in England and Wales started 1926, Northern Ireland 1929 and Scotland 1930. Before that they tended to be informal. Look in the census where they

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-forperson/adoption.htm

Some children in foster care or care homes were sent to Canada, New Zealand and Australia, often without parental consent. Search

www.childmigrantstrust.com.

Canadian site—+www.baclac.gc.ca/emg/discover/immigrationrecrds/home-children-1869-1930/pages/home-children.aspx

Schooling for less well-to-do children was a charity school, or even Sunday schools. Children from wealthy families attended Grammar schools. It was unusual to remain at school after 14 years. Industrial schools were founded in 1857 to provide vagrant children with skills to earn a living, as well as reform them. If your ancestor appears on the industrial school search the census.



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 .

Cleaning a headstone – I part ammonia to 4 parts water. Rinse off with plain water. As per NZSG Society site.

Ethel Belcher:

A couple of months ago the Stratford Press ran a story, with photo, about Ethel Belcher, who grew up in Stratford in the early 1900s. These items had been sent to the Press from a former resident of Stratford who now lives in Australia, and is a great grand nephew of Ethel.

Ethel and her sister Freda were Sunday School teachers in Holy Trinity Anglican Church Parish Hall in Stratford. They were very strict teachers, but punishments for misbehaviour were quite innovative. One was to send the erring pupil outside with salt to dose the dandelions on the lawn—no fun if you went on your own!

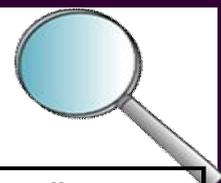
All pupils were drilled in the Catechism, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer etc. until they could recite them in their sleep.

If they could sing they were recruited into the Church Choir. This was compulsory and no one was allowed to dodge practices every Thursday night.

Ethel was born in 1896, one of 11 children of parents Joseph and Louise Belcher, settler farmers who arrived in the Cardiff area of Taranaki in the mid-1880s. She became a teacher at Cardiff School for many years. She never married, and died in 1983 at the age of 87, having lived her later years with her sister Freda in Stratford.

One of her Sunday School pupils says that the Belcher sisters were well-respected, and loved the work they did for the Church. Those who were taught by them never forgot the lessons they learned!

Snippets



30th Anniversary of Rainbow Warrior Bombing - The bombing of the Rainbow Warrior on 10 July, 1985, in the Waitemata Harbour, Auckland, was the first time an act of international state-sponsored terrorism had been committed in New Zealand waters.

What happened? - The Rainbow Warrior was the flagship of the international environmental organisation Greenpeace. It was visiting Auckland before leading a fleet of vessels to Mururoa Atoll to protest against the French nuclear testing in the South Pacific. Just before midnight on 10 July, 1985, two explosions rocked the harbour, sinking the 40-metre Rainbow Warrior. Underwater charges had been placed by frogmen on her hull, blowing two holes in the ship. The Rainbow Warrior sank almost immediately. All the crew managed to escape, apart from photographer Fernando Pereira, who drowned.

Napoleon's Getaway Ship 'Found' - A Queensland shipwreck hunter believes he's finally found the getaway ship Napoleon Bonaparte once used to sneak back into France and famously confront *all the king's horses and all the king's men*.

Underwater film-maker Ben Cropp claims he's found the final resting place of the *Swiftsure* (formerly named *Inconstant*) in shallow waters off far north Queensland, in a find of international significance that will be noted by historians in France. The significance of the find dates back to 1815 when Napoleon was living in exile on the island of Elba, off Italy, following a crushing military defeat during his march on Russia. He commandeered the ship and confronted the soldiers of King Louis XVIII, ultimately forcing the monarch into exile. England later seized the ship as a war prize, renamed her and put her on the England to Australia run.

Irish News:

The entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms, almost 400,000 images, held by the National Library of Ireland will be made available online, for free, from **8th July 2015** onwards.

Eastern Hutt School is celebrating 100 Years at Labour Weekend 23 & 24 October 2015.

All past pupils, teachers and past Committee members are cordially invited to join us over this weekend when we can look back and celebrate our proud history of 100 years in schooling. For information go to www.easternhutt.school.nz

Belmont School Reunion:

Belmont School Reunion 2015 planning is now underway. The dates are: **Thursday 19th November – Saturday 21st November 2015**
Email: reunion@belmont-lowerhutt.school.nz for information.

RAEKOHUA—THE LAST SCHOOL:

This was the last school established in the Tangarakau district of Whangamomona County, and for several years was one of the largest. As the railway construction works moved further east, the workmen and their families moved with it. The provision of educational facilities was essential, and to meet the needs of a continually moving school population, moveable classrooms were provided and shifted from school to school as required.

Mr J V McMahan was the first and sole teacher when the first moveable classroom was opened in February 1926, with a roll of 15 pupils. In August that same year the 100th pupil was enrolled, and by then there were three teachers. In 1931 the highest number of pupils was recorded—148, and there were four teachers.

The classes were very crammed for some time, until the promised and very necessary extra four classrooms were installed.

With the completion of the railway in 1932, the population fell rapidly in Tangarakau, and by 1940 the roll had dropped to about 30. As it was deemed that this would be the stable roll from then on, the Taranaki Education Board provided Raehokua school with an up-to-date building, and also, for the first time, a teacher's residence.

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.

The last in our 2015 series of Cemetery visit reports: The NASH Family**Obediah and Martha NASH**

Obed was born about 1840, possibly in Buckinghamshire, England. Nothing is known about his early life. He died in Stratford on 20th August 1923, aged 83 years. He married Martha CABLE, daughter of William Pinbrook/Pinhorne CABLE, on 24th November 1869 at the home of Mr William HUGHES of Puketapu. Mr Hughes was Martha's stepfather, and her mother was Harriet BICKNELL.

Obed and Martha had a large family of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, between 1870 and 1893. Martha died at Stratford on 24th January 1899, aged 49.

The children were:

Alfred Owen	born 1870	Reg'd Auckland,	died 2 July 1943	buried Stratford
Amelia	" 1870	" "	" 1920, buried Norsewood.	Marr. 1906 Henry HUNT
Ida	" 1873	" Wanganui,	" 1964,	Marr. 1894 Alexander STEWART
Thomas	" 1874	" Kai Iwi	" 1957,	
William	" 1877	" Patea	" 14 Nov 1958	buried Stratford
Edith Jane	" 1878	" "		Marr. 1911 Frederick John HARVEY
Mary Elizabeth	" 1879	" "		" 1924 Henry HUNT (widowed Brother-in-law)
Albert	" 1881	" "	" 1916, buried Stratford	Marr. 1914 Edith WELLS
Mabel	" 1885	" Hawera	" "	" 1907 Ernest COLD WELL
Lillian	" 1890	" Stratford	" 1953, buried Te Awamutu	unmarried
Sydney Norman				
Garfield	" 1893	" "	" 1966	" RSA, Stratford

The family were living in Stratford in 1882, where the children were enrolled at the Primary School. Obed farmed on the road named after him on the southern outskirts of Stratford, which he sold in 1913. The farm was later owned by Ian and Geraldine McDONALD.

Obed also served on the first Board of Directors of the Stratford Farmers' Co-operative Society.

In his obituary in the Hawera and Normanby Star, he was described as 'an excellent type of pioneer settler, who was respected and esteemed by all who knew him.'

Lesley White



An early farm in Stratford

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.