

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



65-67 Miranda Street
Stratford 4332

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

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August
2010

**Please note for the Winter months
Meetings will be held at the Branch
rooms on the second Friday of the
month starting at 1.30pm.**

Branch Meeting

August 13th

Family History Fair Report

and more problem solving help.

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

Please note rooms will be closed Saturday
21st August.

10 September –Branch
meeting

“What we can learn
from old photos.”

Dates for
the Diary:

Member Marjorie Armistead
died recently. Our sympathy is
extended to her family.

Conveners Report

The New Zealand Society
of Genealogists
Family History Fair 2010
*"Sharing Your Past for the
Future"*

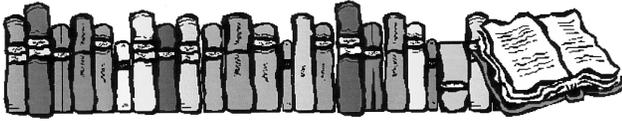
A first for New Zealand
July 16-18 Hamilton



Family History Fair

This event was different from NZSG Conferences I have attended. At a Conference the focus has been on the geographical area of the host area, and most of the resources available have also related to that area. The Family History Fair was different in that most areas of NZ were represented and so the range of resources covered most of NZ as well. In addition there were a number of "pay to view" sites which were free for the weekend. Which do I prefer?....the Family History format. We had the opportunity to showcase our Indexes and I am sure that the publicity will result in a number of enquiries in the future. Next year, there's a Conference in Dunedin at Queen's Birthday weekend to commemorate 150 years since gold was discovered in Otago.

Carol



Library and Resources

Recent additions-

The following CD's have been added

NZ Combined Electoral Rolls 1881, 1893, 1896

-A Return of Freeholders of NZ Oct 1882

- The Jim Pearce Index Obituaries reported in the "Evening Post" (Wellington) 1929-1977

Carol has donated-

Pigot's Directory of Kent,

Lesley has the following Pigot's Directories available for research at the rooms.-

Cornwall/Surrey

Buckinghamshire

Cumberland /Dorset

Middlesex/Norfolk/Suffolk

Derbyshire/Essex

Berkshire/Hertfordshire

Yorkshire

Durham

Westmoreland?Devonshire

Lancashire.

Help Offered.

Lesley is happy to assist any members having difficulty with 'free to view sites' eg. Family Search – Free Cen – Free BMD- Genuki – Papers Past – Historical BDM – Cyndis list etc – there are many others.

Suggest not more than 2 members per session which will be held at her home. Times to be arranged with consultation. If any particular areas are required. Please come to the rooms to discuss it with Lesley

Editor welcomes concise contributions for the newsletter, and regrets she does not have the time to edit long articles. Please leave at the Branch Rooms or e-mail me at groatieburn@xtra.co.nz



Web Sites

London Lives 1690-1800, a digital archive of over 200,000 pages of manuscript records from the archives of 18th-century London (poor relief, criminal justice, health care). It also contains the 18th-century Old Bailey Proceedings and Ordinary's Accounts and a bunch of other relevant datasets. It's transcribed, tagged and fully searchable - and completely free to use.

<http://www.londonlives.org/>

Registration (optional and free) allows wider access to the site's features but is not necessary

We own an extensive collection of "Weekly News" (WW1 and WW2) and "Free Lance" magazines (WW2), with photos and information about those serving. They have been indexed and can be searched at:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~babznz/ww1soldiers1.html>

for WW1 photos

For World War 2 "Weekly News", "Free Lance" and newspapers

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/>

scroll down to New Zealand and World War 2.

Did you Know-

Using computers at Stratford Public Library. Phone the Library (765 5403) the day you'd like to use the computers and you can book a 30-minute time.

Ancestry .com is available for research free at the library.

Westland Pioneer Register

The Westland Genealogy Group has a Pioneer Register. For anyone interested we will do a name search for free, and if name is found a copy of information will be posted. A fee of \$5.00 per copy will be charged, plus a stamped, self addressed envelope should be included. Postal address is:

Mrs Bev Dey,
15 Raleigh Street Extn,
Greymouth 7805.

email: bev.keith@xtra.co.nz

FINDMYPAST.CO.UK MAKES BIRTH RECORDS EVEN EASIER TO SEARCH

100 million fully indexed birth records from 1837 – 2006

Leading UK family history website, findmypast.co.uk has today launched an easier way to find the births of English and Welsh ancestors online. The company has reindexed over 100 million birth records, as a first instalment of a completely new version of the England and Wales Birth, Marriage and Death (BMD) records on its website. Fully indexing these records involved rescanning 170 years of records and transcribing the quarter of a billion names within them. Over 1,000 people have worked on this exciting two-year project.

The [fully indexed births](#) make finding ancestors much simpler as the revamped records will provide you with a number of new benefits;

- Your search results will be in the form of a list of individual names, so you won't have to check through pages of records to find your ancestors
- You can search the complete 1837-2006 set of birth records in one go or by one or more counties at a time
- The images of the index pages are completely new and very high quality
- We've added smart search features including name variants
- There are clever search results to get around the quirks of the records, including the GRO's procedure of initialising second names, and records of children unnamed at registration (very common in the Victorian period)
- You can now search by mother's and father's name at the same time to help find those elusive births

For more information log on to

www.findmypast.co.uk

Ancestry.com.au launches the Australia Birth, Marriage and Death Index

We're excited to announce the launch of the [Australia Birth, Marriage and Death Index](#), a compilation of the records of those who were born, married or died in Australia between the years 1788 and 1985.

In a project that has taken four years to complete, the online index has been assembled into one fully searchable database from microfilm sourced from state record offices and archives where the records are available online or on fiche, but not in one place or in one format.

A total of nearly 15 million records are included in this new database, which will be an essential starting point for both Australian family historians and those around the world with Australian heritage wishing to learn more about their ancestors' lives.

The database is easy to use and can be searched by any of the following terms:

- * Birth: name, birth year, father's name, mother's name, and birth place
- * Marriage: maiden name, spouse name, marriage year and marriage place
- * Death: name, death year, est. birth year, father's name, mother's name and death place.

The records reveal fascinating insights into Australian birth, marriage and death trends since the First Fleet arrived in Australia more than 200 years ago.

NEW ZEALAND ARCHIVES-

From Tuesday 13 July Archives New Zealand's Christchurch Regional Office will pilot a new online system for ordering records that you wish to view in the department's Reading Rooms. This pilot will affect only records based in our Christchurch office. When ordering through Archway you may notice an order button on the order information page for records based in Christchurch.

To be able to order through Archway, you will first need to go into the Christchurch office, 90 Peterborough Street, Christchurch to register as a reader.

If you are not based in Christchurch, and want to view records in that office, please contact: christchurch@archives.govt.nz

The changes to the online ordering system will be implemented in our other offices in Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington later this year. We will update this message to include dates for each of the offices following the pilot in Christchurch.

References

1. <mailto:christchurch@archives.govt.nz>

REMINDER

This year's Story writing competition

"Childhood Times- Memories from the Past"

Entries must have been included in a branch newsletter to be eligible for the competition

Deadline for last entries October 15th but don't leave it to the last minute or you may miss out on having your story added to the newsletter. Maximum size for each entry A4 (when typed up)

and illustration may be used if they are suitable to be reproduced in the newsletter .I can help with clip art if needed. Entries to the Editor please. e-mail groatieburn@xtra.co.nz or leave at the branch



Thank you Carol for this month's entry.

Show Day

I grew up in Hawkes Bay, the oldest of three girls (until brother Martin joined our family when I was 14),and during my childhood, my parents' continued my paternal grandparents' interest in breeding and showing pedigree Jersey stock.

Every Spring, as the calves were born, we girls each chose one and began covering, brushing, leading etc, preparing them for the A & P Show season, which began with the Hawkes Bay Show in late October. While we were busy with our calves, our mother was busy on the sewing machine, making our new "best dresses"-three different colours of the same pattern made into the same style. The week before the Show, our white cotton "show coats" were bleached and starched and the calves' white halters and leads were cleaned with the same whitener we used on our tennis shoes.

The day before the Show, Mum would be busy baking; Dad would be loading the truck with all the paraphernalia associated with showing stock. Some of the animals were taken to the show grounds that evening and some of the exhibitors slept in the stalls with them for security.

Next morning, long before we girls were awake, Dad had already finished milking and Mum was making piles of sandwiches, filling thermoses and packing the bacon and egg pie, apple shortcake, cakes and biscuits she'd made the day before. By 7:30am we were on our way to the show grounds with the rest of the stock, wearing old clothes. Once at the show grounds there was a frenzy of washing, brushing and oiling the animals ready for the judging which started at 9am. The calf classes were judged later in the morning, so we girls were the "gofers", in the meantime keeping an eye on our calves, then getting changed into new "best dresses", with white coats over the top. At last it was our turn to change the calves' everyday halters and leads for the white ones, receive some last-minute advice from Mum and Dad, and to lead the calves into the judging ring where the judges did their job. Oh the thrill of having my number called to line up for a prize ribbon-sometimes even a special purple one for a champion calf, and some prize money. After judging, white coats off, our parents or grandparents would take us to the sideshows-balls in the clowns' mouths, a ride on the merry-go-round and a choice of toffee apple or candy floss(both if we were with grandparents). Then was it was back to the truck for lunch, usually with relatives and farming friends. Then it was preparation for the Grand Parade. How proud I felt joining the lines of exhibitors waiting to make their entrance into the huge oval and winding our way around the oval and back to the stalls. After the parade, it was pack-up time and home we went to milk and replenish the supplies for the second day of the show.

By the end of the second day, we were all exhausted, but could hardly wait for the next A & P Show. Each year we exhibited at the Hawkes Bay, Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Woodville and Pahiatua Shows.