

# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

Stratford Community House.

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## Convener's Comment

Welcome back to genealogy for 2014. Thanks to those who have already been busy at the Rooms.

2014 is going to be a busy year for the Branch, with the WWI Commemoration at Percy Thomson Gallery from 28 July. I am contacting local schools to advise them of the research competition for their students, with research contacts information to be made available to them. It is a great opportunity for us as a Branch to increase awareness of how we can help members of the community to research their families.

During the holiday break I had several more research enquiries from Australia. We've had two couples visit from Australia in the last few months and more have indicated that they are keen to visit Taranaki in the near future.

Last year's February meeting at Kopuatama Cemetery was very successful and we have a number of locals profiled again this year, so do come and join us.

Carol

## Inside this issue:

**Page 2:**

**Websites;**

**Page 3:**

**Snippets; Quiz;**

**Page 4:**

**Book Review**

**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 11th February starting at 5.30pm, will be a B.Y.O. picnic tea at Kopuatama Cemetery. At 6.30pm we will begin a walk around and discussions about various Stratford people of interest who are buried there.**

**If anyone needs a ride please contact Carol at 765 0465.**

**Please come and join us. It's a fun evening.**

**(If weather doesn't oblige we will meet at the Community House at 6.30pm)**

## 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)

**Editor:**

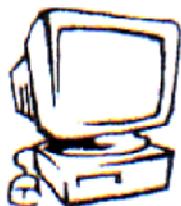
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## Web Sites

**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 .**

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) has announced that it has added three new databases to its free website which comprise an index of more than 140 million Civil Registration events from England and Wales from 1837 to 1920:

Welsh Maps

<http://welshfamilyhistory.ning.com/profiles/blogs/online-parish-maps-for-wales-finally>

And while I am at it - maybe some of you haven't heard about the FREE Welsh newspapers online - like paperpast and trove: <http://papuraunewyddcymru.llgc.org.uk/en/home?>

Or if you are starting out this old page from the BBC Wales is still useful for links and naming conventions.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/family.shtml>

[www.armyservicenumbers.blogspot.co.uk/](http://www.armyservicenumbers.blogspot.co.uk/)

this military website covers the period 1881-1918 and has lots of information on the British Army. It enables you to find out which regiment a soldier joined from his regimental number

[probatesearch.service.gov.uk](http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk)

the Government Probate Service in London does not yet have an online index to most of their wills, but has recently put online at this website an index to soldiers wills. Although the period covered is stated to be from 1850 to 1986, so far the index includes mainly only wills made around the time of the First World War. For a payment of 6 a digital image will be made available for you to view and download.

[www.missingyou.net](http://www.missingyou.net)

This British website (for those such as adopted people) wishing to find lost family or friends.

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!

**Government Gazettes - Australia** - Seems the Victoria Government has put a number of government gazettes available online and unlike their BDMs - these are free

<http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/>. A search for 'Zealand' results in 1,151 found items, including the death sentence passed on Edward Doyle for burglary in 1837.

As so many of our ancestors came via the Victoria Goldfields, thought this would be of interest to many of us, just the thing for a wet afternoon.

*Michelle Patient*

• **Scottish Highlander Photo Archive (SHPA)** - This archive will eventually see almost 60,000 portraits accessible online, along with the basic information that is available identifying the individuals. Photos are being continually added so go have another look.

<http://www.scottishhighlanderphotoarchive.co.uk/>

### How to obtain an Irish certificate of birth, death or marriage.

Registration began in Ireland in 1864. However, registration of Protestant marriages had begun earlier in 1845. If you do a google search for Ireland birth certificates, you will find that there are several websites that allow you to order online, however they charge rather a lot for this service.

**Go to the official Government registration website, as their charges are more reasonable, it is [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie) The charge for a photocopy is 6 euro, so not too expensive.**

Basically you need to download a copy of the relative form, (contact Carol if you can't find it on the site), then you can only either fax the form to them or mail it, but you can order using a credit card.

A death certificate for death in 1864 gave the following information: Date and place of death, name, sex and status eg married, age last birthday, occupation, cause of death, name and address of informant, date and place of registration.

Carolyn Williams

.....or you can try [www.irishgenealogy.ei](http://www.irishgenealogy.ei) and come up with church records, which you are able to print off the info for free. Not all records are available but each time I go in there are a few more. Kerry Protestant & Catholic.

## Snippets

### **Beware! Be Aware!**

Scottish women never lose their maiden names after marriage, and in virtually every document, are recorded with them. The exception tends to be the census, but even on these, widows often reverted to their maiden names in entries made



**HINTS:** To enlarge a certificate I found on Mundia, I went to "tools" on my laptop, then to "zoom." There it shows that using Ctrl + or Ctrl - will make the image bigger or smaller. Some sites have their own system of enlarging but this works best for me. *Thanks to Elaine Scott, Canterbury Newsletter*

Use F11 to eliminate 'rubbish' on the screen prior to

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 we are awaiting the first newsletters for 2014.

### **100 YEARS AGO—**

1. Christchurch receives power from Lake Coleridge.
2. Rail service to Arthur's Pass begins.
3. NZ offers UK an expeditionary force to go anywhere 5 days before war is declared.
4. NZ Contingent captures Western Samoa.
5. Sulphur works at White Island overwhelmed by volcanic debris—11 men killed.
6. 43 men killed in explosion and fire at Huntly Mine.

### **1st November 1898: Old-Age Pensions Act**

A world first, the Act gave a small means-tested pension to elderly people with few assets who were "of good moral character". Chinese were specifically excluded. It was one of the major achievements of Richard Seddon's Liberal government. The reforms of the 1890s attracted international interest and seemed to symbolise New Zealand's egalitarian ethos. The groundbreaking legislation of 1898 was based on the principle that the state had some responsibility for elderly citizens who were not able to provide for themselves. The Old-Age Pensions Act was the first of its kind in the British Empire and marked the birth of social security. Applicants had to meet certain criteria to qualify for a pension of at most £18 per year (equivalent to \$3000 in 2011). Proof was required that the applicant was aged at least 65. Only those with an annual income of £34 (\$5800) or less and property valued at no more than £50 (\$8500) received the full amount. Applicants had to have lived in NZ for the previous 25 years, and if not British subjects (including Maori) they needed to have been naturalised for at least 5 years.

### **Whangamomona & Raglan—you are not the first!!!**

First republic in NZ – under the presidency of James Livingstone, a local farmer, Hawera declared itself a Republic on 23 June 1879. However, without proper borders it was doomed to collapse, and the republic lasted only until the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1879 – a mere 18 days.

### **Book Review: Nick Barratt's Guide To Your Ancestors' Lives**

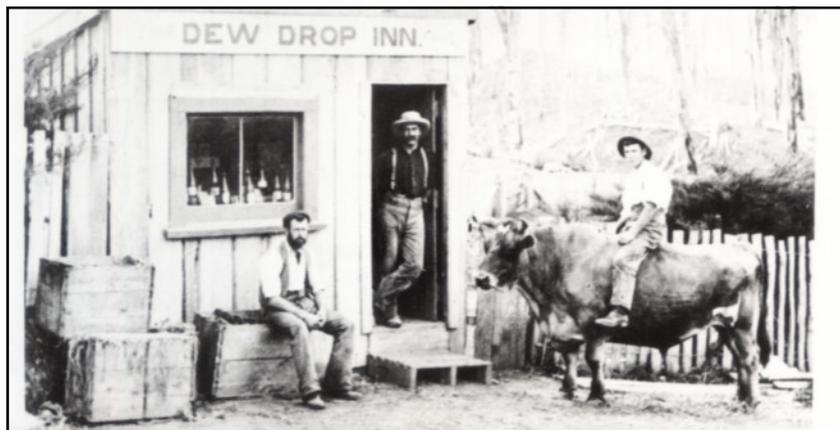
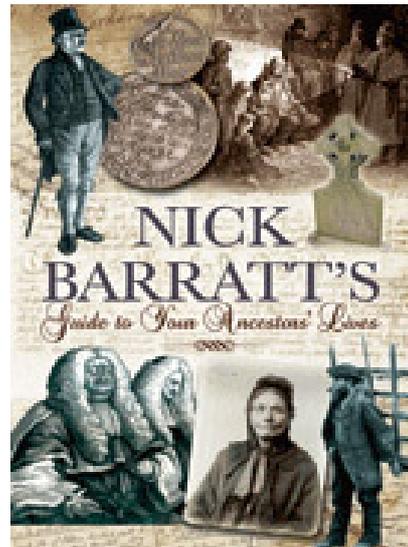
This book, written by the well known and respected genealogist and television presenter, takes you on a unique journey back in time, looking back at the houses, streets and communities that have shaped the world around us, and in particular the precise circumstances that made us who we are today.

Furthermore, this book will not just explain how and where to undertake this personal detective process - it shows you how to organise and shape your findings, and create your own personal archive using the latest technology and online resources. Also how to add your store of knowledge to the emerging social networks that allow us to create and tell the forgotten story of the past, which never makes it into the textbooks.

For those wishing to trace their ancestors, this guide will explain how and where to find information, and how to organise your findings. It begins with clear steps on where to begin your detective work, from the personal accounts of living relatives to the census, civil registration, parish registers and more. Also, explanations of the terminology of family history research is given, along with the relationships within a family, for example, cousins, second cousins, etc., and a glossary of abbreviations. Some of the most popular genealogy software is also discussed, and there is a comprehensive section on the major archives which includes website addresses and what may be found there.

This is an easy to follow comprehensive guide, illustrated and indexed.

*(From Wellington Branch Nov 2013 Newsletter)*



The Dew Drop Inn— well placed on the Douglas Saddle to give Refreshment to the traveller between Whangamomona and 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, and many books and archives of local interest.