

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

February 2016

Stratford Community House.

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

PO Box 402

Stratford. 4352.

Phone. 06 765 0913 ext. 4.

Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.



Obituary:

On Saturday Life Member, Roma JENKINS' (nee CLEMENT) funeral was held at Stratford. Roma lived all her life in Central Taranaki, mainly in and around Eltham and developed a thirst for knowledge about Eltham, particularly its buildings and the families associated with them. She was a member of the Central Taranaki Genealogy Branch which started in 1979 and a foundation member of the Stratford Branch when the Central Taranaki branch was split into Stratford & Hawera Branches in 1985. She was also a loyal member of Eltham Historical Society.

Her reputation as the "go to" person for information relating to Eltham was well known in many parts of New Zealand. As well as researching for others, she was involved in researching information for family history books about her WOOD and CLEMENT families.

Ten years ago Roma suffered a severe stroke but she didn't let this deter her from her research ambitions. She bought her first computer and learnt to use it effectively to communicate with others and to use on-line sites to add to her research. Although she was no longer able to attend our meetings, she always looked forward to our newsletter arriving and sometimes sent in old newspaper cuttings to be included or to be added to our resources. In recent years, Roma donated many of her genealogy-related books to our Branch to be sold to add to our funds.

Rest in Peace Roma.

Carol Spragg

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McNaghten; Taranaki
Land Wars

Editor:
Maureen Armstrong
Email:
mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz
Phone: 06 762 8837 or
027 630 9099

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 10th February—a picnic meeting at Midhurst Old Cemetery, Beaconsfield Road, starting at 5.15pm. See page 2 for further details.

NB: rooms will not open on Sat 6th & 13th February.

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

Since our last newsletter, two NZSG members who made huge contributions to genealogy in New Zealand have died.

Lily Baker, from Hastings, was the "go to" person for Hawkes Bay research. (There is an article about her in the Feb 2016 "Genealogist", p31.)

Verna Mossong from Auckland was involved in many things genealogical, including a special interest in shipping records.

**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 .**

Cemetery Walk February 10th, 2016

This year our Cemetery ramble will be at the Midhurst Cemeteries. We will meet at the Old Cemetery from 5:15pm for a picnic tea and the ramble will begin at 6pm, with five members speaking about families who are buried there. We will also visit the New Cemetery. There is some parking outside the gates of the Old Cemetery or on the roadside between the two cemeteries. If you need a ride, please phone Carol 765 0465. If the weather is doubtful, phone Carol before 4:45pm. If the ramble can't take place, we'll meet at the Rooms at 7:30pm

**EVERYONE BE AWARE
GET A RECEIPT AND CHECK IT BEFORE
LEAVING THE STORE
A LOT OF SHOPS NOW ASK - DO YOU
NEED A RECEIPT?
WHICH LEAVES IT WIDE OPEN DOESN'T IT
IF YOU DON'T GET ONE
(Have you noticed this lately)
Keep the Receipt.**

This scam can be done anywhere, at any retail or wholesale location

A cash out transaction could be done without you knowing IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE.

The cash can be pocketed by the teller unknown to you

**CHECK YOUR RECEIPT BEFORE LEAVING
THE CHECK-OUT ... CHECK YOUR RECEIPT**

(from Te Puke Nov Newsletter)

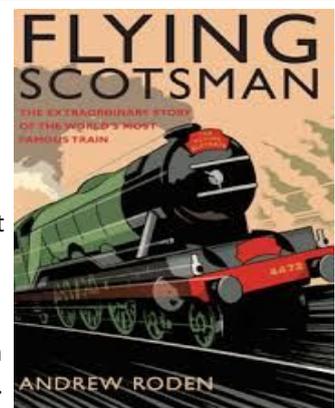
The Flying Scotsman

Earlier this month it was announced that the *Flying Scotsman*, possibly the most famous locomotive in the world, would be returning to service following a 12-year renovation program that is reported to have cost £10 million.

Built in 1923, the engine didn't acquire its distinctive moniker until the following year. In 1934 it was the first steam locomotive verified to reach 100mph (though some consider that City of Truro reached the mark 30 years earlier), and by the time it retired from regular service in 1963 it had covered over 2 million miles.

Sadly this month's return has been delayed - the brakes need some fine-tuning - but this is a minor mishap compared to 1926, when the *Flying Scotsman* was derailed by striking miners. Miraculously nobody was killed. (In the interests of accuracy I should point out that on this occasion the *Flying Scotsman* train was being hauled by a different locomotive.)

(From 'Lost Cousins' January Newsletter)



click - Aurum Press, LTD - 2007

Old handwriting

There's a guide to deciphering old handwriting on the LDS website at:
<https://familysearch.org/indexing/help/handwriting#!=en>

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. **NB:** my new email address is: mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Snippets



An oldie, but a goodie.....some years ago, well before Facebook etc, Hugh Winters continued on with a database of Marriage Witnesses to NZ Marriages, originally created by the late Ted Wildy. Hugh has now created a Facebook page "NZ Marriage Witness Index"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nzwit/>

and the 22,000+ entries can be viewed on the first entry on his page. (You will need MS Excel) and click on "Download".

The index can be searchedon a computer do control F (PC) or Apple F (Mac), for each of the Surname columns.

Every entry contains the names of witness, groom, bride, and the date and place of the marriage as well as the name and address of the genealogist to whose family the couple belong. Genealogists are advised that it is extremely unlikely that a search will reveal a specific marriage, for that would imply that a genealogist is researching YOUR family and has sent in their data for the index. He/she would therefore be your cousin or other relative. Searches are therefore best requested by specific surname. For the more common surnames a geographical area should be quoted to avoid lengthy lists of that name from areas remote from your own research, eg smith, brown.

Hugh welcomes further additions to the Index.

If you have been a contributor and your details have changed, please email me at

hugh@xtra.co.nz.

Due to the age of the index, some contributors will have passed away; however all entries are valid NZ Marriage Certificates.

Carol

The Hearth Tax – The nearest we have for a UK census in the years 1662 to 1689

Hearth tax returns are important sources of population records before 1801. Although not complete they list householders names, the number of hearths and amount paid. They also show occupations and locality. Records around London are good taken just before the Great fire of London in 1666

The hearth tax was introduced in England and Wales by the government of Charles II in 1662. The Act required householders who paid more than 20 shillings a year in rent, to pay one shilling for each fire hearth and stove. The Act had many amendments but the tax was paid twice a year once on Michaelmas day -29 September and again on Lady Day – 25 March.

There were exemptions such as Paupers, Charitable institutions and hospitals and industrial hearths such as kilns and furnaces but not Bakers.

This unpopular tax was repealed by William III and Queen Mary in 1689.

The website <https://www.hearthtax.org.uk/> based at Roehampton University London, has searchable lists for;

☑ London and Middlesex

☑ County Durham

☑ Essex

☑ Surrey

☑ Westmoreland

☑ Worcestershire

☑ Yorkshire – East Riding, North Riding and West Riding.

And maps for

☑ County Durham

☑ Essex

☑ London and Middlesex

☑ Surrey

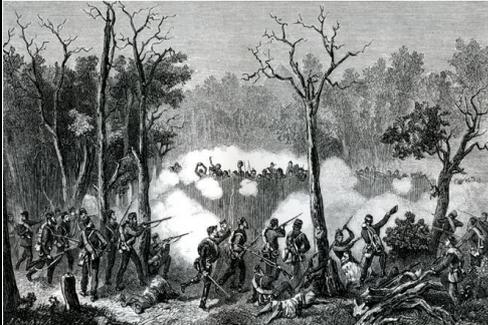
☑ Yorkshire –West riding

☑ Westmoreland

(from *Arboretum*—Wairarapa Nov Newsletter)

Mcnaughten (Mcnaughten)—there is an interesting article in the Dunedin December Newsletter about Lieutenant Edmund C Mcnaughten, Royal Artillery, who fired the first artillery round in the Taranaki War on 17th March 1860 at the site of the Waitara battle, known as the North Taranaki War. Exactly one year later he was killed, aged 23. He was buried in St Mary's (Taranaki Cathedral) cemetery, and his headstone is one of those that have been preserved.

The article was written by John R Mcnaughtan, a family connection of the Lieutenant, and may be read in full from the Dunedin Magazine.



The 65th at Waitara,
Painted by Lieut. Col
Charles Gold 1860



BRITISH ARMY AND COLONIAL
FORTIFICATIONS IN NORTH
TARANAKI, 1865-69 Nigel Prickett
Abstract.

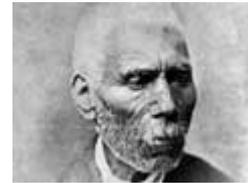
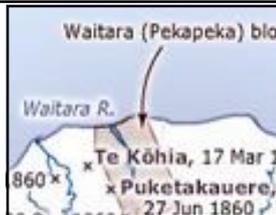
Brief History of the Taranaki Maori Land Wars

In 1859 the minor Te Ātiawa chief Te Teira Manuka offered to sell land at Waitara in north Taranaki to the Crown. The government accepted the offer and Pākehā settlers looked forward to expanding their small enclave around New Plymouth.

However Wiremu Kīngi, a more senior chief, denied that Teira had the right to sell the Waitara land, and war broke out there in March 1860. Taranaki experienced a series of conflicts over the next 21 years.

Many in New Plymouth had been itching for an opportunity to take action against Te Ātiawa and other local iwi who they saw as obstructing the progress of the settlement. British troops were brought in and local volunteers mobilised. After a year of inconclusive fighting that also involved Kīngitanga warriors from Waikato the countryside was devastated and the local economy in tatters.

More than 230 people had been killed or wounded and another 120 had died of disease in the besieged town of New Plymouth. A truce in March 1861 ended the military conflict but did not resolve the underlying issues. Fresh fighting erupted in 1863.



Wiremu Kīngi te Rangitaake



Painting of Te aro Pa 1847

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.