

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

January 2015

Stratford Community House.

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

PO Box 402

Stratford. 4352.

Phone. 06 765 0913 ext. 4.

Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.

c.spragg@xtra.co.nz



Convener's Comment

FEBRUARY MEETING

Some of Stratford's pioneers will be the focus of our February meeting. We will meet from 5:30pm at the **Pioneer Cemetery, Regan St.** Bring a picnic tea or join us at 6:30 for a cemetery ramble and learn more about our early settlers. If it's wet, we'll meet at the Community House at 7pm.

FACEBOOK PAGE

We now have a Facebook page ~ Stratford Branch NZ Society of Genealogists. Check it regularly to find out what is happening at the Branch. Hawera Branch have one too ~ Hawera Genealogy Group, South Taranaki

Inside this issue:

Page 2:

Websites; Snippets

Page 3: History of Ko-

huratahi in Taranaki

Page 4: Please help

identify these people



Pioneer Cemetery

Regan Street West, Stratford

This was Stratford's first public cemetery and was opened in 1886.

The last recorded burial was in July 1910. On closing it was turned into a Pioneer Memorial.

**Next Branch Meeting—
Wednesday 11th February start-
ing at 5.30pm with a picnic tea.
See the details above.**

Editor:

Maureen Armstrong

Email:

armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz

Phone: 06 762 8837 or
027 630 9099

Branch Rooms

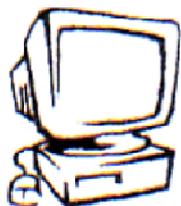
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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

In case you don't know Papers Past has loaded new content for:

[Bruce Herald \(1906-1920\)](#)
[Bush Advocate \(1910-1912\)](#)
[Hot Lakes Chronicle \(1895-1897\)](#)
[Inangahua Times \(1907-1919\)](#)
[Wairarapa Age \(1906-1920\)](#)

<http://www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz/collection/search.do?view=lightbox&keyword=Glass+plate+project&db=object>
 some of you may be interested in this site.

It is the glass plate photo collection on line from the Nelson Museum which house one of the largest photograph collections in the country. It is still a work in progress digitising its collection of 169,000 photographs.

Hutt City Council has advised that the cemetery search is now online at:

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/en/Services/Cemeteries/Cemeteries-feedback/>

www.libertyellisfoundation.org—This is the new name of the Ellis Island website for searching for passengers and crew on ships to New York for the period 1892-1924.

Website www.cemeteries.org.nz has info on

I have recently done research for a descendant of William & Margaret GILL of Whangamomona, but have had great difficulty finding much information about them. If anyone can help with any little snippets at all, please email to Maureen at the Editor's address on the front page.

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 .

Armistice day 1918—casualties:

Did you know, that even though the Generals knew the Armistice had been signed and fighting was to end at 11am on the 11th November 1918, over 3,500 American troops were killed after being sent 'over the top' on that morning. They weren't the only ones! Many other Allied soldiers lost their lives that morning, one at 10.59am. This doesn't even count the many who were wounded on the 11th and died later.

HOT TIP!!! If downloading digital WWI records, use Google Chrome as your browser, rather than Microsoft Explorer

What Lies beneath London?

By Andy Dangerfield BBC News, London (Parts of article)
Ghost Tube stations - There are more than 20 abandoned stations on the London Underground network
 London Post Office Railway - 23 miles (37km) of track remains under London with plans afoot to develop them into a tourist attraction

- **Lost rivers** - Dozens of rivers including the Fleet and Walbrook were buried beneath London's streets more than a century ago
- **Camden catacombs** - Beneath Camden lies a network of catacombs used as stables in the 19th Century.

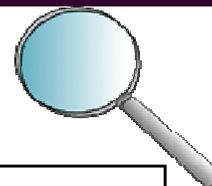
- **Pindar** - A bunker beneath the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, where Henry VIII's wine cellar can be found.

"The shelter could hold up to 8,000 people with facilities including toilets, a nursing point and a canteen, where jam sandwiches were served. But it was never used to its full capacity. "A big concern of the government was of a troglodyte society forming if people got used to living underground," says LU's Philip Aish. "Cowering in holes in the ground wasn't seen as the British thing to do in the Blitz spirit."

(from Tokoroa Branch Dec Newsletter)

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.

Snippets



From "History of Whangamomona County" (1940) - Kohuratahi Settlement:

The first settlers, part of the group of pioneers that were settled on the Seddon Government's special settlement extending from Whangamomona to Tahora along the East Road, as it was then, arrived in the Kohuratahi district in 1895. Many of them had worked on the road from Stratford inland, but when they acquired their sections there was no road formation past Pohokura. Their only access was by a blazed survey track through the dense bush. Today it is difficult to imagine what that entailed. Some of the pioneer settlers were married men with families. Everything had to be carried, including the young members of the family. Temporary shelter had to be provided, first by tents, later to be replaced by slab whares. Provisions were a problem, for after being packed from Stratford to Pohokura, a distance of 30 miles, the provisions had to be carried by the settlers to their homes.

They were people of stout hearts and great courage, these early pioneers, making light of the difficulties and disabilities with which they had to contend, and buoyed up with hopeful anticipation, though in some cases hopes were not realised.

"Lack of experience and lack of capital handicapped the settlers, and taking into consideration the hilly nature of the land, the sections were too small, the main road land having been cut into 100acre sections," remarked Mr J D Law, a prominent settler of the district. However, as time went on settlers bought out their neighbours until in 1940, not many of the original 100acre farms remain as separate farming units.

Of the first settlers, only three—Messrs W Gleeson, W Gill and J Roughan, remain in the district. Many have passed away, and a few are living in other parts of the Dominion, but they all played their part well; laying the foundation of what today is a progressive settlement.

From about 1898 onwards surveyors were busy surveying the land in the Marco, Kohuratahi, Putikituna, Whitianga and Mangaowata Valleys, leading off the main road. These sections were larger than the main road ones, ranging from 300 to 900 acres. Some of the roads were opened up as bridle tracks in 1899, and all were widened into dray roads in the next two or three years.

An early idea was to use the Tangirakau river as a means of transporting goods and stock and the river was cleared of stumps and logs for this purpose by the Wanganui River Trust. On some occasions the landing on the Kohuratahi Road was used for this purpose, up until 1904. However, a huge flood in that year, ended the river service as the river became clogged with logs again.

For some years there was considerable rivalry between Kohuratahi and Whangamomona as to which would be the chief centre of the District. There is no doubt that the river transport from Wanganui would have had a great bearing on the outcome, both for Whangamomona and Taranaki. However, the flood put an end to this—the cost of clearing the river again was too prohibitive.

* * * * *

In May 1902 the Taranaki Education Board notified the Kohuratahi Valley settlers that it was willing to start an aided school, and asked what assistance the settlers were prepared to offer. In June 1904, Mr J Harre applied for the position of teacher, and the following year the settlers petitioned for a new school, which was opened in a building on the property of Mr F McCartie on Kohuratahi Road. Mrs F McCartie was appointed teacher in 1905, holding that position for 23 years till the end of 1928, when the present school building, removed from Hurimoana, was erected on the present site, and opened on February 4th 1929 with a roll of 12 pupils.

←—To Stratford——Whangamomona——Kohuratahi——to Taumarunui——>



SURNAMES WANTED

I have some pages from a photo album, labelled "Stratford 1921-1922". There is a family group "Em, Mother, Kate and Betty". Another photo has Ian and Betty (Ian is older). A third photo has two houses. The one on the left is labelled "Kate's" and the one on the right "Hannah's". Currently 31 Portia St is very similar to the one on the left, but 31 Portia St has a creek to the right of it so can't be the correct house. I would like to find the surname/s. There are more photos which I could show anyone who has any clues to who these people could be.

Carol



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.