

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

July 2014

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

Many of you will know that the Community House Manager, Sherry Lee, left the position some weeks ago. The position was advertised and attracted some excellent applicants. The successful applicant was Mrs Debrah Johns who moved to Stratford from Northland a few months ago.

The countdown is on for the weeks leading up to the Commemoration of WWI exhibition. Carol Spragg

Saturday 12th July—the Rooms will be closed.

Sunday 27th July—Working Bee at Percy Thomson Gallery from 10am to set up the displays.

Monday 28th July

All members and their families are invited to the Opening of the WWI exhibition at 7:30pm.

Wednesday 13th August

Our Branch Meeting will be at the Percy Thomson Gallery

Sunday 24th August

Working Bee at Percy Thomson Gallery to dismantle the exhibition

Inside this issue:

Page 2:

Websites; fibis website

Page 3:

Snippets; 100 years ago; Family Fairy Tales

Page 4: Story of an amazing reunion; rail tragedy in Hyde

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Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 9th July starting at 7.30pm.

Please make an effort to come along. We were unable to hold a meeting in June as we did not have a quorum.

We'll be making paper poppies for the WWI exhibition and also hope that Marie will share the highlights of her recent trip to USA with us.

Branch Rooms

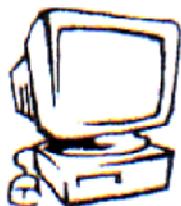
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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

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 .

archive.spectator.co.uk—This is a free to use website containing the archives of the newspaper *The Spectator*, from July 1828 up to December 2008.

www.scan.org.uk Scottish Archive Network Internet projects whose partners are the National Archives of Scotland (NAS), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU). The project aims to revolutionise access to Scotland's archives by providing a single [electronic catalogue](#) to the holdings of [more than 50 Scottish archives](#).

<http://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/all/> Search the Australian War Memorial for pre WWI conflicts, WWI, WWII

PapersPast: additions to 3 local district newspapers,
The Mataura Ensign from 1901-1914
The Clutha Leader from 1901-1920
Tuapeka Times from 1910-1920

I've just noticed that Taranaki Daily News 1900-1920 have been added to Papers Past. Carol

www.nzhistory.net.nz/war-and-society essays and information about NZ in the wars New Zealand has been in-

"NZ Genealogist" magazines

We are going to have past copies of the magazine to give away at the Exhibition.

If you have copies of the magazine you no longer want to keep and would like to donate to be given away at the Exhibition, please leave them at our Branch Rooms, drop them in Carol's letterbox (55c Broadway North), or take them to Exhibition once it opens.

"There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his."

Helen Keller



fibis Families in British India Society

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

Did your European Anglo-Indian ancestors live or work in India or South Asia between 1600 and 1947? This site can help research your family history in British India.

You can:

Search a database of more than 1,258,000 individual names (fibis database) FREE

Find out more about the lives your ancestors lived (fibiwiki) FREE

Connect with other people searching for your ancestors using the FIBIS Social Network (members area)
MEMBERS ONLY

Learn more about researching British India with beginner to expert guides (FIBIS Research and FIBIS Books)

Keep up to date with the latest news in the world of British India Family History by following our blog FREE

FIBIS Database FREE

Cemeteries and monuments; Census; Civil Service Records; Directories; Ecclesiastical & Registry Office Records; Maps; Military Records; Personal Papers; Photographs; Publications; Railways; Schools and Orphanages; Wills & Probates; Maritime; Member Submitted Material; Miscellaneous

A quick search is by surname. I put in the name INGLE and the search results for INGLE and variants in all sources resulted in 35 sources with over 185 matches. From these matches I discovered births, deaths, marriages, job descriptions/occupations, baptisms, cadetships, freemasons.

Fibis is an easy user friendly website for first timers or even experienced genies to use. Membership id optional but the free information is readily available and not limiting like some other sites that after free search, then ask you \$ when you find something.

Barbara Morrell

(from Matamata Branch)

Snippets



The Ashburton District Council recently updated it's Cemeteries page on its website. It now has an advance search page. Which includes searching for some of the following plus much more.

- * Surname
- * Burials Between burial dates
- * Burials with certain death dates
- * Search only one Cemetery
- * Certain Area/Block in a cemetery

Also a camera pops up in the index, if there is a headstone photo available. These photo's have been made available by the Ashburton District Family History Group.

Currently headstone photo's are available for the Hinds, Waterton, and Winslow Cemeteries.

Photo's are currently being added weekly for the Ashburton Cemetery. At the present time they are available for the Old Lawn and most of the New lawn sections up to plot 3200.

Headstone photo's for the RSA sections are being added over the next few weeks, followed by the older parts for the Ashburton Cemetery as time permits.

<http://infoservices.adc.govt.nz/Cemeteries/>

Regards
Michael Sheate

100 YEARS AGO—

World:

WWI erupts; USA & Italy declare neutrality.

British protectorate over Egypt declared.

Pope Pius X dies; Benedict XV elected.

NZ:

Kairaka wrecked off Greymouth with loss of 17 lives.

Main body of 1st NZ Expeditionary Force leaves.

First Kauri Gum commis-

Family Fairy Tales:

In line with the many good warnings from expert Genealogists about not taking anything for granted and not believing anything you are told until you have checked it out, I give you my own story.

After some time researching my father's family, I was contacted by a previously unknown cousin who told me that my grandfather's grandmother, Mary Ann ATKINS, who was a convict in Tasmania, was born in 1824 in the West Indies, at a place called Liberia. Looked up Liberia and found two in what could very loosely be called West Indies, one in Costa Rica, one in Colombia. Then got another message that it was West Nimba, Liberia. More research on Google - I discovered that 'West' is a large town in the province of Nimba, in the state of Liberia, West Africa!

This led to a lot of wasted research trying to track down Gt Gt g'mother's birth (Liberian records were mostly destroyed in the civil war during the 20th century) Her father's name was a very common one, Joseph Atkins, and I theorised that perhaps he was one of the African Americans who were sent to colonise Liberia in the early 1820s, of whom there were several Joseph Atkins's! After a lot of hunting I gave up!

Two years later I was contacted by another previously unknown cousin, who told me GGM was born in India, not the West Indies; that her father was in the Army, and that possibly her mother was an Anglo-Indian by birth! She sent me a copy of GGM's Convict records showing her parents names, her siblings, and her birthplace and baptism. It all tied in with the information I had been able to find about her in Tasmanian records, which are very good.

It seems the story about the West Indies was started by someone who read the entry on the convict records and thought 'the Indies', as listed there, meant 'the West Indies'. I've learned a lot since then!

Maureen

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.

Twins separated at birth reunite

DNA tests have proven that two women given up for adoption in South Korea but who reconnected 26 years later via the internet, are identical twins.

In a storyline that is straight out of Hollywood, Anais Bordier contacted Samantha Futerman by email in February last year to say that the Los Angeles-based actress looked very similar to her. And the coincidences did not end there. Ms Bordier, who grew up in France, but is now a fashion designer living in London, discovered that both women had been born on the same day, in the South Korean city of Busan, and had both been adopted.

Ms Bordier grew up with her adoptive parents in a suburb of Paris, while Ms Futerman was raised in New Jersey - both completely unaware that they had a twin sister.

"I got a message on Facebook from a girl in London," Ms Futerman said in an interview on Good Morning America, "it said she has seen me in a YouTube video, then after looking my name up online, saw that we were both adopted, and born on the same day, in the same city.

"When I saw her profile, it was crazy," she added, "she looked just like me."

The women have travelled to both of their adoptive countries, and finally decided to carry out a DNA test to confirm what both of them believed already. They decided to launch a Kickstarter campaign to raise the \$80,000 required to produce a documentary following their reunion and the final confirmation that they are sisters.

"It was weird, but I feel like there was a strange calm and comfort as well, and something that I can't really explain," Ms Futerman said.

The two women have discovered they are both big fans of Harry Potter, the arts and many of the same television programmes, but both expressed a sense of lacking an unidentifiable part of their lives as they were growing up.

"I did feel like I missed something," Ms Bordier said on the TV programme, "I had an imaginary friend when I was a kid ... and she was called Anne. "I needed that comfort, I guess," she added.

The Telegraph Newspaper

(from Wellington Newsletter)

This Month in History - Rail Tragedy at Hyde - 4 June 1943

At 1.45 p.m. on Friday 4 June 1943 the Cromwell–Dunedin express, travelling at speed, derailed while rounding a curve near Hyde in Central Otago. Twenty-one passengers were killed and 47 injured in what was then New Zealand's worst-ever rail accident. The driver was later found guilty of manslaughter.

The train was carrying 113 passengers, many of them bound for the Winter Show in Dunedin or the Wingatui races (it was King's Birthday weekend). When locomotive Ab 782 left the rails, all seven carriages followed and several were smashed to pieces. Help did not arrive at the scene for an hour and a half, and rescue work continued through the night.

The board of inquiry into the accident found that the locomotive had entered the bend at perhaps 70 miles (112 km) per hour, more than twice the speed limit for that section of track. It ruled that the engine driver had committed a 'serious dereliction of duty'. He was subsequently found guilty of manslaughter in the Dunedin Supreme Court and sentenced to three years' reformatory detention. Some, though, have argued that John Corcoran was a scapegoat and that the Railways Department, operating under great strain during the war years, was only too happy to absolve itself of any blame.

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.