

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

July 2016

Stratford Community House.

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

PO Box 402

Stratford. 4352.

Phone. 06 765 0913 ext. 4.

Branch Contact-

Carol Spragg.



Convener's Comment

When you read June's newsletter, you will have noticed that we aren't having Branch meetings during the Winter, recommencing in September. However, the Rooms are open as usual on Tuesdays, Fridays and most Saturdays at the usual hours.

The Community House is well heated and you can make yourself a hot drink. You are welcome to call in and do some research or just to have a chat.

Currently I'm indexing some Stratford High School "Peak" magazines for 1950's-1960's. We have a number of "peak" magazines, but there are some gaps, particularly 1940's-1960's, so if you have any needing a new home, please contact me. If you are an ex-pupil of SHS, particularly in the 1960's, there is a Facebook page ~ Stratford High School NZ Friends.

Carol Spragg
Convener

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Editor:

Maureen Armstrong

Email:

mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Phone: 06 762 8837 or

027 630 9099

NOTE 1: there will be no Branch Meetings in July or August. Any urgent business that may arise will be dealt with by Committee members.

NOTE 2: We are planning to have a display of wedding photos on the notice board at Community House, in July and invite you to submit photocopies of wedding photos of any era (with the date on the back). We will pay for the photocopying, so bring them in any Tuesday or Friday morning between now and 15th July.

NOTE 3: The rooms will be closed on Saturday 16th July.

Branch Rooms

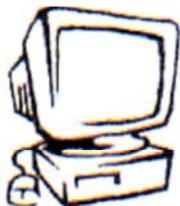
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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

Latest additions to Paperspast (June 2016):

[Kumara Times 1877-1896](#)
[Manawatu Standard 1921-1923](#)
[Manawatu Times 1921-1923](#)
[Nelson Evening Mail 1921-1922](#)
[Patea Mail 1904-1920](#)
[Pelorus Guardian and Miners' Advocate 1890-1910](#)
[Temuka Leader 1878-1932](#)
[Waihi Daily Telegraph 1918-1923](#)
[Waikato Independent 1904-1920](#)
[Waikato Times 1919-1921](#)
[Waimate Daily Advertiser 1901-1919](#)

You will need to use the new Beta version to access these

NB: The Waihi Daily Telegraph 1904-1909 is already on paperspast. However, there is a gap in Waihi newspapers from 1909-1918 as no Waihi papers exist anywhere in New Zealand during that time.

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 .

Congratulations to Robyn Williams elected President of the NZSG at the AGM held on 4 June in Mt Maunganui.

Best wishes also to the new 2016 -2018 Council: Peter Gibson- treasurer, Gill Knox, Julie McDonald, Raewyn Nevin, Mary Shadbolt, Roger Washbourn, Triona Williamson.

Taken from an article entitled "*The Backbone of Genealogy*" in the Christmas 2015 *Family Tree* magazine about the recording of royal family trees. Quote is:

"Following the style developed by Giovanni Boccaccio (died 1375), each ruler's face was shown in a circle, connected by one line to his father and, by a series of radiating lines to his sons, a style that so resembled the imprint of a crane's foot in mud that such diagrams were termed '*ped de gru*', '*cranes foot*' charts - hence the term '*pedigree*'.

Some more helpful websites:

Denise and Peter's site Our stuff has lots of passengers lists
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm>

Ships to NZ is another:

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

Family Search: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792>

New Zealand Bound: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/> is a list of many passenger lists

RootsTech presenter shares tips for using Facebook for family history:
<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865647430/RootsTechpresenter-shares-tips-for-using-Facebook-for-family-history.html?pg=all>

Isn't it strange that princes and kings
 And clowns that caper in sawdust rings
 And common folk like you and me
 Are builders of eternity?

To each is given a bag of tools,
 A shapeless mass and a Book of Rules;
 And each must make 'ere life has flown,
 A stumbling-block or a stepping stone.

R.L. Sharp 1809

From Canterbury June 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. **NB:** my email address is: mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Snippets

BOOKS TO SELL

Our major fund raising in past years has been the sale of (mainly) genealogy/family history-related books via Trademe. Many of these books have been donated by members who were down-sizing their personal collections. Our supply of suitable books is low at present, so if you have books you'd like to donate (including district, school and church histories-not necessarily local), please leave them at our Branch Rooms or phone me and I'll pick them up.

Carol

DOUGLAS, Taranaki East

Douglas is a lowly populated locality and a rural centre in east Taranaki, surrounded by dairy, sheep and beef pastoral farming. It is situated 18 km east of Stratford on SH 43, the Forgotten Highway as it is known, at the intersection of East Road (the other name for SH 43), Ohura Road, Douglas Road South and Bredow Road.

Douglas, called *Oruru* by Maori after the native owl, is said to have been named for a member of the Crown's surveying party. The settlement and its hinterland was opened up and cleared for pastoral farming at the turn of the 20th century. A hall was established in 1905 and a primary school in 1906. Through the first half of the century Douglas was a lively village with a productive brick kiln, a milk factory, a railway station, a store, a church, and a number of other businesses.

In the 1930s the Douglas saleyards had the greatest turnover of all Taranaki saleyards, particularly in Jersey cattle for cream and cheese production. The Douglas Boarding House, which still stands today, served as an important stopping point for those making the long and treacherous journey east to Whangamomona or Tamarunui.

Like other rural settlements, Douglas went into decline in the mid-to-late 20th century. Its primary school closed at the end of 2005 in its 100th year, and pupils were transferred to nearby Toko School. The community hall and tennis courts remain in the possession of the community.



To Stratford

To Whangamomona

Bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck?

The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem....how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.'

Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

(From Tokoroa Newsletter via Hutt Valley)

Local History:

We have recently acquired a copy of the book, "The Dean Cup", detailing the history of this Rugby Cup competed for by those with connections to Toko, Strathmore and Whangamomona.

It was written to commemorate 100 years of the Cup, 1907-2007. It comprises 81 pages of photos and recollections of the history of the competition, with more than 1200 names.

The book has been indexed and the names can be searched by using the BOOKS index on Computer 3.



The famous Douglas Boarding House

The fourth of our five history lessons from the Old Midhirst Cemetery:

THE ASKEW FAMILY OF MIDHIRST:

Aaron ASKEW was born on 25th January 1840 in Fulstowe, Lincolnshire. He married Eleanor GOODHAND on the 18th May 1874 in Louth, Lincolnshire, and came out to New Zealand in December 1878, where he began farming on Denbigh Road, Midhirst.

Aaron made available a building to be used as a school on Denbigh Road, and his children all attended this school. They were:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Ida Hannah | bn 26 Sep 1881 |
| Sarah Fanny | bn 1 Oct 1883 |
| Martha Mary | bn 25 Aug 1885 |
| Harriet Eleanor | bn 17 Aug 1887 |
| Frederick William | bn 24 Aug 1889 |
| Arthur Robert | bn 21 Jul 1893. |

There was also George Herbert, bn 3 Mar 1880, who did not appear on the school rolls. Perhaps, being the eldest, he had to help on the farm? George married Catherine Tougerest FROST in 1902. He died in 1918.

Ida Hannah married John Peter WILLIAMSON in 1899 and had 6 Children
 Sarah Fanny Married James Patrick Power KELLY in 1902 and also had 6 children.
 Martha Mary married Charles Frederick Albert VOLSKE in 1903. They had no children.
 Harriet Eleanor married Henry EGARR on 26th Jan 1909 at her parents' residence. They had at least 2 children.

At a meeting for the Manganui Road Board, on Saturday 4th Oct 1890, it was voted that they ask Messrs HENWOOD and ASKEW to remove the gate across Denbigh Road within one month, at which time the board will consider the application from Mr COUDLAND for an access track to his section. The Board also voted to ask Mr ASKEW to desist from using the road as a stockyard for his cows!

Aaron died 17th May 1912, and Eleanor on 6th November 1912.



A BUSH SCENE IN MIDHIRST HILL BUSH, DENBIGH ROAD, TARANAKI

Marpatrood, Photo.



Denbigh Road, then and now!

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.