

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

June 2014

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

NZSG are calling their WWI commemoration projects "We will remember them", so we have adapted the same title for ours.

Progress to date includes assistance for Stratford High School students who are corresponding with a school in France. These French students requested names of local men who were killed in the Somme region and on 25th May they visited some Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries in their area and placed poppies on them.

- advertising for the students' competition is underway
- assistance for school students who are researching a WWI service person
- Updating the WWI Commemoration page on our website which includes information for teachers and research sites for students
- Our application for funding from Department of Internal Affairs has been approved
- Meetings have been held with Fiona Harvie from Stratford District Council, Sue Morton retiring Director of Percy Thompson Gallery, Maree Wilson the new Director of the Percy Thompson Gallery and a phone conversation with an artist, Evelyn Stone, who is going to be displaying some paintings of war scenes at the same time we are having our display.
- Further information has been sent to the Stratford RSA.

The Mayor, Neil Volzke, has been invited to be a speaker at the opening of the display on 28th July

Carol

**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 11th June starting at 7.30pm
Carol will share more information about our WWI Project**

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

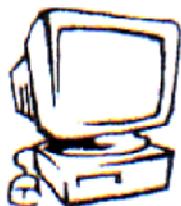
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Web Sites

Injured soldiers returning home - the NZ connection is interesting.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ostcolonial/2014/may/26/broken-gargoyles-the-disfigured-soldiers-of-the-firstworld-war> (*That's complicated!*)

www.emelbourne.net.au

This Australian website is based on the original printed text volume, The Encyclopedia of Melbourne, which was published in 2005 by Cambridge University Press. However, the website has had additional material added. Excellent for background material on your Melbourne based families.

archive.spectator.co.uk This site is a free to use website containing the archives of the newspaper The Spectator, from July 1828 up to December 2008. Can be searched by entering any works or names and then images of the pages can be viewed.

PapersPast additions to 3 local district newspapers:
 The Mataura Ensign from 1901-1914
 The Clutha Leader from 1901-1920
 Tuapeka Times from 1910-1920
 (from Canterbury June Newsletter)

Just read this in a closed genie group in facebook, the NZ BDM microfiche have been indexed and are up on ancestry:
 New Zealand Birth Index, 1840-1950
<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?bid=8949>

New Zealand, Marriage Index, 1840-1950
<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?bid=8950>

New Zealand, Death Index, 1848-1980
<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?bid=8952>

There are no images, just the index, no more looking up the district keys as it includes the registration location. Yeah! (Not sure who sent this in!)

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 .

Hi everyone

Just wanted to let you know if you haven't already heard, Whakatane District Council now have their cemeteries online.

Good news, have been waiting for a long time for this.

Regards

Judy Berntsen
 New Plymouth

On this site you will get all the cemeteries that are currently on line in New Zealand.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

ANOTHER TYPE OF ELECTORAL ROLL:

A poll book is different from an electoral roll and in most areas poll books predate electoral rolls. In the United Kingdom, poll books go back as far as the late 1600s. Basically a poll book is a list of people who actually voted. In addition to showing how a person voted, a poll book lists the address of the person and their qualification for voting. Early poll books are rare.

(From Blenheim May Newsletter)

A good source for passengers is via

www.familysearch.org

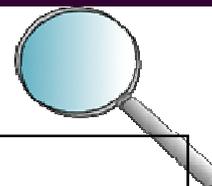
Click on the search button on the first page, then scroll down to countries and click on Australia and New Zealand. Then scroll down the list until you come to Passengers to NZ. which is I think about 4th from the bottom. They have passenger lists up to 1973 and seem to be quite accurate and also have the added blessing of covering the whole country. You never know what you might find.

Marjorie.

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, 52 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. Lots of other helpful records too.

Snippets



STRATFORD BRANCH NZSG

Convenor's Report AGM 1 April 2013-31 March 2014

This is the 27th Annual Report of the Stratford Branch and the fourth since we moved to the Community House. In many ways this past year has been very similar to the previous year.

Research enquiries are received almost every week. There has been an increase in the queries received from overseas and a number that are for families which we have previously researched. Our databases of school, church, war personnel, biographical entries, surname envelopes and book entries have continued to grow and are an invaluable source when we receive research queries. Our subscription to Ancestry often helps us to get the clues we need to add information for an enquirer. One advantage of having our rooms here at the Community House is the reliable internet access to Ancestry, Papers Past, Archway, Family Search etc. The review of the contents of the Envelope Collection has been completed, with another filing cabinet being purchased to store this valuable resource. BDM notices from "Daily News" are being glued into scrapbooks. Thanks to all those who assist in any way with additions to our records. Special thanks to Marie who works at the Rooms on Tuesdays and Fridays. We wish her well with her overseas trip in a few weeks.

Thanks to Maureen for continuing her high standard of presentation with our monthly newsletter. The majority of our members don't attend monthly meetings and the newsletter is a valuable source of contact with those members and with other NZSG Branches. Maureen is also the person to thank for keeping the Minutes of meetings for us.

The NZSG Council asked Branches who have Tenancy Agreements to submit a copy of those agreements to the Society's Honorary Solicitor as Council had become aware that some Branches had agreements that were unsatisfactory. We have submitted ours twice and will be having further discussions with Community House Trust to clarify some further points before we sign a Tenancy Agreement for the next two years.

The Taranaki Regional meetings have continued over the last year. We are hosting the next one on 23rd May. Sadly, the Waitara Branch decided that they were unable to attract enough members for them to remain affiliated with NZSG and the Branch closed on 31 March. The good news is that a group of members have formed an independent Group, to be known as Waitara Districts History and Families Research Group, and we wish them well for the future. I am serving my third year as the Tenants' representative on the Community House Trust.

We are grateful for the grants from TSB Trust and Taranaki Electricity Trust. We have recently been advised that TET have funded our rent at Community House for the next two years. Other fundraising—the sale of used cartridges and books has helped us buy new resources for the Branch. Thanks to Kate for her efficient book keeping skills and ability to successfully apply for grants. Our three laptops are now four years old and replacements will need to be funded sometime in the future. An extra backup device was purchased during the year and the laptops are backed up weekly, so that should a laptop cease to work, its contents will be able to be transferred.

We are commemorating the start of WWI on 28 July, with a display at Percy Thomson Art Gallery, which will include a competition for school pupils on a WWI service person. The Archivist at Stratford District Council, Fiona Harvie and Director of Percy Thomson Gallery, Sue Morton have been very supportive. We applied to Department of Internal Affairs for a Grant to assist with expenses associated with the commemoration and were successful in being awarded \$1076. I have been updating and adding to our Armed Forces records and it is hoped that the visitors to the display will also be able to add to our records.

This is my last Convenor's Report. Since we started as a Branch in February 1987, we've seen many changes and with your new Convenor, a new chapter will begin. The demise of Waitara Branch is a reminder that we need to be aware of the need to maintain, then increase our Branch membership if we are to remain viable in the future.

Carol Spragg

STRATFORD BRANCH AGM—14th May 2014

Officers elected were as follows:

Convenor—Carol Spragg (Carol intended to let someone else have a go this year but as there were no other takers she agreed to continue for the time being)

Deputy Convenor—Helen Love

Secretary/Treasurer—Kate Payne

Minutes Secretary/Editor—Maureen Armstrong

Librarian—Marie Walker

Committee—Marie Walker, Lesley White

The members thank those who have stepped up this year.

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.

As I don't have a Cemetery Walk report for this month I thought I'd share this with you from 'Mocavo':



Three Pivotal Mistakes Genealogists Make

[Michael J. Leclerc's Genealogy NewsResearch Tips](#) 31 May 2014

Genealogists are no more immune from making mistakes than anyone involved in any other pastime. With practice, we can move past many of them. But even experienced genealogists can fall into bad practices. These are three major mistakes (all avoidable) that genealogists commonly make. Watch out for them!

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1. Believing Without Seeing.

The internet age has brought with it many new methods of publishing. Online trees are ubiquitous. Many genealogists publish their research on blogs or personal websites. The problem is that many of these are not sourced. Without knowing where the information came from, there is no way to know how accurate it is. Even information that has source citations should be verified for accuracy, especially when it comes from a source with which you are unfamiliar. After all, anyone can make up sources to lend an air of accuracy to their work. Take the time to go back and look at the original sources, and don't believe the compilation until you see them. When it comes to genealogy, the old Russian saying "Trust, but verify" is the way to go.

2. Speed Reading and Assuming.

Reading and understanding documents is key to successfully finding your family. But one must be careful when reading and analyzing records. It is very easy to read through them too quickly and miss critical information. Even worse, though, is not carefully reading and scrutinizing exactly what the document says, as well as what it implies. All too often, we do not take the time to carefully analyze the information, and we jump to assumptions. Does that will really prove who the mother of the children is, or is she simply named as the wife of the decedent along with this children? Taking the time to carefully read and think outside the box. What are all the possibilities for relationships outlined in a document? Once you think of all the possibilities, then you can rank them in terms of probability, and continue the search for additional evidence to confirm your theories.

3. Trying to do it All Online.

Back in the 19th and early-20th centuries, genealogical research required a lot of travel and correspondence to examine and obtain copies of records. As the twentieth century progressed, microfilm copies of records became more readily available. No longer did one have to flip through the pages of original census volumes, reading page after page while looking for one's target family. Now it could be done on microfilm. And many records were abstracted and published in books and periodicals. Materials were easier to examine, and copies could now be widely distributed at many different repositories. Unfortunately this also brought with it a mentality that one would only look at books and microfilm to research, greatly limiting one's options. This mentality has easily transferred to websites and online resources. But the ready access to so many online materials has made this mentality worse than ever before. Despite wide access to a variety of resources, it is currently simply not possible to trace all of your ancestors with online resources only. The amount of material available online is only the very tip of an enormous iceberg of information available in original government and private repositories. The most successful researchers are wise enough to use a combination of online and original materials to identify and verify their ancestors.