



# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

[www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)

June 2016

Stratford Community House.

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**NB: there will be no Branch meetings in June, July or August.**

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## **STRATFORD BRANCH NZSG Convenor's Report AGM 1 April 2015-31 March 2016**

This is the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Stratford Branch and the sixth 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 . 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, Helen , Maureen and Lesley who work at the Rooms regularly. Marie and Helen continue to index school enrolment information and I'm continuing to record information about our Armed Forces personnel. Thanks to Maureen for continuing her high standard of presentation with our monthly newsletters. 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.

Thanks to Kate for her financial skills and for her monthly financial reports. The three new laptops are getting plenty of use. It is 4 years since we purchased the last two filing cabinets and two more are now needed. Selling books through Trademe and recycling computer cartridges adds to our funds. Increasing Branch and NZSG membership is an ongoing goal for the Branch.

We have endeavoured to increase our profile in the local community. Lesley and I attended an Anzac Day function at Stratford Club last year. I was approached to provide photos etc of Central Taranaki War Memorials and Rolls of Honour for a display at Pioneer Village this year. I was also able to display the memorial certificates of those from our area who served and died in WWI. Pioneer Village, Stratford Library, Fiona Harvie, Archivist at Stratford District Council and Puke Ariki forward enquiries on to us and we can usually find some information. In addition they offer us resources which they think are appropriate for us. The Community House Trust installed a large notice board in the waiting area at the House and we have the opportunity to create displays and these attract positive attention. We have our details on the Stratford District Council website and periodically display our signage board outside the House when we are here, for extra publicity. We have maintained positive relationships with the other three Taranaki Branches, Lesley and I have attended the Regional Meetings and we regularly exchange resources which are more relevant to the other Branches.

During the year two of our long-standing members died~ Roma Jenkins and Shirley Watkins. Both, in their own ways, contributed to our Branch over many years. Roma was a foundation member and Shirley delivered the newsletter to Stratford members for many years.

Carol Spragg

Convenor



## Web Sites

### Brick wall - Where can I go next?

"Memlist" could be an option for you. This is a forum for members of the national body of NZSG to discuss or put forward ideas and opinions and to make genealogical requests. You must ask to join by sending in an email to Wendy Howard. Her link is on the web site - [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

### Prisoners of the First World War

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>

In 1914 the International Committee of the Red Cross established a Prisoner of War Agency to which lists of prisoners of war were sent. This is now a major collection listing prisoners from many countries and maps of the camps all over Europe.

### NZ's First Woman Barrister and Solicitor Appointed 10 May 1897

Born into a prominent Dunedin Jewish family, Ethel Benjamin excelled at Otago Girls' High School, where she passed the university junior scholarship examination in 1892.

The following year she became the first woman to be admitted to law school when she entered the University of Otago, the first university in Australasia to permit women to take a law degree.

She proved to be an outstanding student and duly graduated LLB in July 1897.

Following the passage of the Female Law Practitioners Act 1896, on 10 May 1897

Ethel Benjamin became the first woman to be admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

Image:  
Ethel Benjamin



<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/>

*(from Hutt Valley Newsletter)*

**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 .**

### For your information:

#### Hutt Central School Reunion Labour Weekend 2016

To register for the reunion email [admin@huttcentralschool.nz](mailto:admin@huttcentralschool.nz) or Phone 04 566 0059

#### Also: Hutt Valley High 90 Jubilee

**Friday 12 August 5pm - midnight**

**Saturday 13 August 9am - midnight**

More details and registration forms available on the HVHS School website [www.hvhs.school.nz](http://www.hvhs.school.nz)

#### Waikumete Cemetery

Familysearch.org has added Waikumete burial records to its New Zealand collection. These images of the burial registers 1886-1948 have details that are not included in the usual online data. These include: occupation, address, cause of death, where from, native place, years in province, & informant. *(from Hutt Valley Newsletter)*

#### Husband and Wife Joined Beyond the Grave

Picture of tombstone with hands joining – the graves of a husband and wife, one Protestant and the other Catholic, connected above a wall that divides a religiously segregated graveyard.

*(from Canterbury Newsletter)*

#### 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](http://www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com)

## Snippets

**E E AITKEN**—back in April 2015 I put a query in the newsletter looking for family of the above gentleman, whose ashes had come into my possession.

Today, I have finally handed him over to a family member, who has taken him to Wellington, from whence he originated, where the family is planning to hold a proper Service to lay him to rest.

All the research and phoning and chasing up leads has been well worth the effort. I am happy to be able to report a good outcome!

Maureen.

### Middle of the Road

There is a weird sight on a secondary road in Johnson County in Indiana, USA that makes people stop & stare. In the middle of County Road 400 is a marked grave with the road divided around it. The grave belongs to a woman named Nancy Kerlin who died back in 1831. She was the first person buried in this vicinity which eventually became a graveyard for local people. Decades later the area was developed & many of the graves were moved except for Nancy's. When a descendant of Nancy's objected to moving her grave the authorities decided to design the road to go around it. *Coffee News Vol. 182:1 2nd May 2016, David*

(from Canterbury Newsletter)



### Grandma's Laundry

I remember Grandma's laundry with a basket made of cane  
And lines that stretched from wall to wall to hang things when it rained.

There used to be a copper out where Grandma used to toil  
It used to take forever to wash when the water reached the boil.  
There were twin tubs made of concrete with a wringer in between

A wringer in a laundry now is hardly ever seen.

Upon a shelf a little box of starch called "Silver Star"

Kero tins for buckets, remember back that far?

A dipper with a handle to help our Grandma cope

And a little wire basket with a piece of Sunlight Soap.

She used to have a washboard for scrubbing out the clothes

You must be getting on in years if you used one of those.

A saucer on the windowsill with bags of Reckitt's Blue

To make the white clothes whiter still and good for bee stings too.

Some sand soap and a scrubbing brush, for scrubbing all the floors

And some firewood for the copper in a box behind the door.

A tin roof and some guttering with a funny sort of sag

And a heap of wooden dolly pegs in a homemade hessian bag.

And out the back a clothes line not the kind that spins around

But a clothes prop held the clothes up high from dragging on the ground.

I wonder what Grandma would say if only she could see

That wash-a-matic marvel where the copper used to be

The dryer in the corner the tubs of stainless steel,

Hot water pouring from the taps - I wonder how she'd feel.

I think that Grandma would approve the changes made and yet

There were things in Grandma's laundry that I simply can't forget.

*Nelson Branch March Newsletter /Hutt Valley Newsletter*

**Researchers believe they have found the wreck of HMS Endeavour** - Cook commanded the *Endeavour* on his first voyage of discovery, to Australia and New Zealand, from 1769 to 1771. It is now 230 years since that historic vessel was sold, sunk and forgotten.

The last sighting of the *Endeavour* was around 1778, when it is believed the ship was sold. After being renamed the *Lord Sandwich*, it was used to transport British troops during the American Revolution. Archaeologists now believe they have found the scuttled remains of the *Endeavour* in Newport Harbour, Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP) made the discovery, saying the ship was scuttled there by British forces in the lead-up to the Battle of Rhode Island in 1778. The *Endeavour* was found alongside 13 other ships after an investigation which combined hi-tech mapping of the seabed with analysis of historical shipping documents.

In a statement, the project team said: "RIMAP has mapped nine archaeological sites of the 13 ships that were scuttled in Newport Harbour in 1778 during the American Revolution. "One group of five ships included the *Lord Sandwich* transport, formerly Captain James Cook's *Endeavour*." "The next phase of the archaeological investigation will require a more intense study of each vessel's structure and its related artefacts."

Otago University historian professor Tony Ballantyne said the news was interesting but Captain Cook's ship was not as significant to Kiwis as other aspects of the explorer's story. "*This potential discovery is a useful reminder that Cook's career, like the pathway of the Endeavour itself, was a global one, and that Captain Cook's history connects to many important aspects of the global history of the British empire.*"

*The Press, 3rd May 2016*

(from Canterbury Newsletter)

The next report from our February Cemetery Walk at Midhirst Old Cemetery:

**John JAGO (by Carol Spragg)**

John JAGO was the son of Isaac and Jane JAGO, born in Cornwall in 1868. John JAGO came to Taranaki from Bodmin, Cornwall. They all settled in Tuna for a start. Willie HOSKING took over John's Tuna farm and all the relations except Fred WELLINGTON moved down to Wharehuia. John's farm was purchased in 1905, south of the school and hall, and they called their 100 acre farm "Merleswood", which it is still called today. John's sister Bessie married John WELLINGTON, also a Cornish migrant. Charlotte MERRIFIELD, also born 1868 in Cornwall, came to New Zealand with her family, and they were married in Stratford on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1896.

Their family: 1899~ James Courtney who died 14 June 1905 age 6 years; 1900~ Florence Edith died 1950. Buried in New Midhirst Cemetery (Did not marry); 1902 ~ Thomas died 8 Oct 1902 age 14 days; 1907 ~ Walter John died 1957 (no record of marriage). Buried New Midhirst Cemetery; 1911 ~ Leonard Charles Timaru

John JAGO died when Len was only four, so the family had to move. His mother leased the farm to Tom BELL for five years. When the depression came, Len was 14 years old and the family was forced to go back to the JAGO farm for financial reasons. Gwen JAGO planted many daffodils in the garden around "Merleswood" about 78 years ago and every Spring daffodils are still a living tribute to her along with the giant spreading elm which Gwen nurtured in the 1930's.

The Wharehuia Methodist Church was opened 17<sup>th</sup> April 1911 and three babies were christened that day. One of them was Len JAGO who was to maintain an association with that Church throughout his life. Len married Mary Gwendolyn (Gwen) BELL in the Church in 1935. The two of them were involved in many community organisations in Central Taranaki. Len was called up to serve in WW2 in 1942. Len died in 1999 and Gwen in 2006. They are buried in the New Midhirst Cemetery.

Len & Gwen's family: Shirley, Betty, Maurice (Maurie), John, David, Alan and Trish. Maurie JAGO married Erica RICH and she has continued the gardening experience at "Merleswood". Maurie & Erica's four daughters, Phillipa, Jenny, Vicky and Helen were excellent swimmers, athletes and academics. Jenny is now Dr Jenny JAGO, who along with another ex-Stratford resident, Dr Kendra DAVIS is well known for research into changing the traditional twice a day milking pattern, robot milking and cup removal trials.

There was another JAGO family - Jane Prudence & Charles who also settled in the Midhirst area. Their children were: ~ Alfred born 1903, died 1904; ~ Laura born 1897 married Henry Thomas FOX; ~ Olive born 1901 married Leslie JONES.

There are two un-matched JAGO births in this Cemetery~ a Baby JAGO, stillborn in 1897, Leonard JAGO age 1 month in 1899.

**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.