

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

March 2014

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

Thanks to those who presented biographies of local families at Kopuatama Cemetery for our February meeting. We learnt about a variety of families who made Stratford their home and most seemed to prosper here.

The World War 1 Commemoration planning is moving on, with a new page on our Branch website, which includes information on the competition for teachers and students. The competition is open to Year 5-13 students who live in our geographical area. If members have children, family members, nieces, nephews etc in this age group, encourage them to learn more about their WW1 ancestor and enter the competition.

Information is at www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

Carol

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Megan refuses to get out of bed.

"I can't go to school," she wails. "The kids laugh at me, the teachers hate me, and I have too much work!"

"Megan you have to go to school," her mother tells her. "You're the principal!"

(From Wellington Newsletter)

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 12th March starting at 7.30pm at the Stratford Community House. Bring along your "brick walls" and recent successes to share .

Branch Rooms

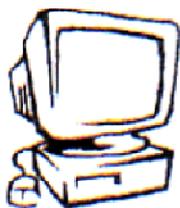
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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

<http://elliottyoung.com/labs/nzpictureshow/v1/> - for family photographs.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2014-page02.html>— Genealogy-in-Time mag's top 100 websites.

<http://www.genealogy.bank.com/gbnk>—pay

<http://www.openculture.com/2013/11/flythrough-17th-century-london.html>—Take a stroll up 17th century Pudding Lane, London as it existed before the Great Fire of 1666.

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm - NZ passenger lists

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>—an equivalent of PapersPast. It is a partnership between Bright Solid and the British Library. Has been going for about 6 months.

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en—Europeana 1914-1918 – untold stories & official histories of WW1.

<http://www.landedestates.ie>

<http://www.nli.ie>

<http://www.proni.gov.uk>—sites for private estate records in Ireland.

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 .

We have a collection of the NZ Genealogist Magazine from 1994 to 2008, mostly complete years with the Indexes. If anyone would like to browse through some of these, please contact Maureen. There are many interesting articles and items of interest in these magazines, and I have found a couple of family connections so far!
(Phone 762 8837, or email armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

Archives New Zealand, January 15, 2014.

The acting Chief Archivist, John Roberts says people should be confident in the progress being made in making World War I records available on-line: "The on-line plan was announced by the Minister in August 2013. No date for completion was stated, but we have been working towards having the information available by the anniversary of the start of the war.

"So far, 73,674 are on-line for public viewing. This is almost half (46%) of the total 160,740 records. A further 65,438 have been digitised, and are ready to go on-line. We are confident this will happen before the August anniversary of the beginning of World War I. 21,628 or 13% of the records are still to be digitised. These records are to be digitised and go on-line before the anniversary.

From Grant Ancell:

Hi just to let others now. Family Search web site now has the following NZ probates and the years available for downloading the files. The update was done on the 11 Feb 2014. No Dunedin as yet, but I would imagine they are getting there, and even Wellington has increased the years covered.

Auckland	1932	New Plymouth	1962
Reefton	1909	Christchurch	1953
Wanganui	1963	Westport	1960
Hokitika	1963	Blenheim	1960
Napier	1962 ? not completed	Gisborne	1962
Hamilton	1953	Nelson	1960
Masterton	1963	Palmerston North	1963
Timaru	1963 (has some of Ashburton)	Whangerei	1959
Wellington	1906 (taking its time but the years are getting longer)		

Thanks, Grant.

100 YEARS AGO—

1. English climber and two guides killed on Mt Cook.
2. *Kaipara* wrecked off Greymouth with loss of 17 lives.
3. World War I erupts.
4. Main body of 1st NZ Expeditionary Force leaves.
5. First Kauri Gum Commissioner appointed.
6. USA and Italy declare neutrality.
7. Pope Pius X dies, Pope Benedict XV elected.

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. At the moment I have—Blenheim, Canterbury, Gore, Matamata, New Plymouth, Wanganui, and Wellington for February.

THOMAS PENN AND FAMILY**Thomas PENN**

b. 1830 Stourbridge, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 11/10/1904 Stratford, Taranaki, NZ

Thomas's parents were Thomas and Mary PENN. Thomas was a Corn Dealer & Malter, and must have been quite successful, as in the 1871 Census he employed 4 men & 1 boy in his business. In 1881 he gathered up his family, wife, 4 of 6 sons and 3 daughters and emigrated to NZ, arriving first in Wellington. In 1882 the family came to Stratford and bought land where Hamlet Street and Pembroke Road meet. Apparently there was a large house on the site, with 8 rooms, and they added 6 more rooms to it, as they would have needed with such a big family. Even though they lost quite a lot of property and pasture in the great fire of 1886, the family established a flourishing farm. Thomas was a founding member of the Stratford Hospital Board, and was involved with several other organizations until his wife died in 1894, when he withdrew from Public life and lived with his son, Charles, until he died in 1904. Both Thomas and his wife were buried in the old Settlers Cemetery on Regan Street. We have a photo of their headstone in the records.

Their family consisted of:**Thomas Harry PENN**

b. 1855 Stourbridge, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 26/9/1933 Stratford, NZ

Sometimes noted as Henry, but always known as Harry, this eldest son became an accountant. In the 1871 English Census he was listed as 'Corn Dealer's Clerk', so obviously helped in the family business before they came here. He became Stratford Town Clerk from 1898 to 1902, and was also involved in many other enterprises, such as sports club committees, and also the Hospital Board. He was also one of those who built the first tracks up the mountain to the Manganui Plateau in 1888, and was one of the first group that climbed by the Pembroke Road route. Harry and Grace lived in Portia Street. They had 2 children – Mary Hope, b. 1903, and Thomas Lane b. 1905.

Charles PENN

b. 1857 Stourbridge, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 1943 Stratford, NZ

Charles was also a 'Corn Dealer's clerk in England, and became County Clerk in Stratford from 1900 to 1931. He was apparently quite shy but still appeared frequently as a violinist in orchestras. He was also a keen Volunteer Fireman and was awarded a long service medal in 1899. They had no children.

William Rainsford PENN

b. 1858, Shenstone, Staffordshire, Eng
d. 17/9/1931 Auckland NZ

William was a civil engineer in England, but became a successful accountant in Auckland for many years, working for Alfred Buckland and Son. He had no children with Nellie. There were no children mentioned on his Obituary notice.

John Herbert PENN

b. 13/12/1859 Shenstone, Staffordshire, Eng
d. 19/11/1919 Apia Western Samoa

John was also a Corn Dealer's Clerk in the English Census, but I haven't found out what he did when they came out here. I don't know if he married somewhere else – no records here. He may not have come to New Zealand with the family.

Henrietta Mary Rogers PENN

b. 1861 Shenstone, Staffordshire, Eng
d. 1897 Gisborne, NZ

They had 1 child, Henrietta Heywood b. 1887

Walter James PENN

b. 1862 Belbroughton, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 1936 New Plymouth, NZ

Walter was a merchants clerk in England, but became a well known journalist in New Zealand, and was the Editor of 'The Taranaki Herald' for several years. He had 4 children, Edith Eileen b. 1890, Kathleen Mary 1892, Leslie Rainsford, b. 1895, and Constance May b. 1896. He and Edith must have married elsewhere as they are not on our records. Found a marriage for Walter James Penn in April 1891 in Petworth, Sussex. Perhaps he didn't come out here with the rest of the family. The bride's name was listed as Ellen Brambley,

Elenor Lucy PENN

b. 1865 Belbroughton, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 18/6/1904 Stratford, NZ

Had no children.

Arthur Valentine PENN

b. 1867 Stourbridge, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 17/9/1935 Auckland, NZ

Arthur was a Customs Officer. He had 1 son, John Rainsford, b. 1893.

Ellie Fowler PENN

b. 1870 Stourbridge, Worcestershire, Eng
d. 9/6/1951 Auckland, NZ

Ellie's husband, Harry Liardet became the first mayor of Stratford when the Stratford Borough Council was first formed in 1898, and T Harry Penn was his Town Clerk. They had no children.

m. 1853 in King's Norton
Worcestershire

Henrietta Hope RAINSFORD

b. c1828 Cape Town, Sth Africa
d. 1894, Stratford, Taranaki, NZ

m. 1896 NZ

Grace MARTIN

b. d. 1936, Stratford, NZ

m. 1896 NZ

Lucy Sarah WOOLDRIDGE

b.

d. 1949 Stratford, NZ

m. 1. 1887

Nellie Madeline KINLOCH

b. 1859 Hatfield, Hertfordshire, Eng

d. 1909 Auckland, NZ

m. 2. 1914

Emily MARSHALL

b.

d. 1962 Auckland, NZ

m.

Edith Ellen ?

b.

d.

m. 1886 Stratford, NZ

William George MALONE

b.

d. 1915 Gallipoli

m. 1893 NZ

Mary Agnes RUSSELL

b.

d. 1922 Auckland NZ

m. 1887 Stratford NZ

Harry Norman LIARDET

b.

d. 1922 Stratford, NZ

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLDING A FAMILY REUNION—printed here by permission from Michelle Patient
(Part 1)

We had a reunion back in 2007 to celebrate the arrival of the eldest sibling (3 others followed later and all their descendants were included), so here are some of the tips we learnt. Allow lots of time and space for attendees to talk with each other, many long lost cousins came together who hadn't seen each other for years and wanted to reminisce. In other words don't organize too many things to fit into the day.

Many wont have the energy to do anything at night so I would advise against it. Others wanted to make time together with just their smaller crowd, so not having something at night gave them space to do so. We had a children's corner with colouring in and a paper based quiz sheet to complete (family tree things of course) and space for them to play outdoor cricket so they weren't bored and the family could stay all day.

We found a place that had family significance and held it there. One room was dedicated to family trees - the tree printout was 58 metres long and went round the room twice! We had free standing boards in the centre of the room, arranged in groups for each child of the original couple with lots of biographical and historical info and pictures on them. We colour-coded each child so all name tags for those attending had the relevant colour. This meant that those more closely related could meet each other and get to hear each others stories.

We did four talks during the day - all short half an hour - the first one being about the families life in the home country before arrival and pointing out that ALL of us in the room were here because of them rather than just being descended from the grand parent they knew. Does this make sense? Hard to explain but many folk don't see themselves as related to those people over there, when actually they are all related if you just go back one or two generations!

We had a sheltered spot outside - here we had larger family descendant sheets and attendees were asked to correct and update them.

Food, I often think food is the second rule of genealogy, morning and afternoon tea as well as lunch. We hired a caterer to come along and cook a BBQ lunch, so no work for the rest of us and had after lunch entertainment with a local period group of performers doing dance from the time period. The morning and afternoon tea was easy enough to self serve - we had two spots for this to avoid long queues.

We gave certificates of attendance to all the children, can't remember what age we cut off at but somewhere around 15 I think. We gave certificates to the oldest and youngest present (these people were also marked on the huge tree so people could see where they were in the scheme of things). Certificate presentations were done in front of everyone.

(Part 2 next month)

Hope this helps, do ask away if you have more questions.

BFN

OOROO

Michelle

Family History is Cool...pass it on!

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.