

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

May 2016

Stratford Community House.

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Inside this issue:

Page 2:

Websites; Newspaper files

Page 3:

Snippets; Nga Tapuwae; DNA Research

Page 4: William & Charles VICKERS

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Convener's Comment

Another Anzac Day has passed. The floral tributes in the Hall of Remembrance, were of the usual high standard and the Hall attracted a large number of visitors. Anzac Day was fine and the services held locally, including one at Kohuratahi were well attended, with groups of children accompanying parents and/or grandparents, plus Scouts, Guides, St John's Ambulance cadets, Air Force cadets etc.

The number of WW2 veterans has diminished and our Life Member, Owen Mander, was one of very few who attended a local service. If Anzac Day is to continue to be a focal point for local remembrance of past servicemen and servicewomen, the young people in our communities must continue to be encouraged to learn and participate.

Carol Spragg

Convener



Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 11th May at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research. This is also our AGM.

Members are to tell about a family discovery made using Papers Past.

NB: the rooms will be closed on Sat 14th May

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 .

<http://www.irelandxo.com/resources/genealogyresources/>

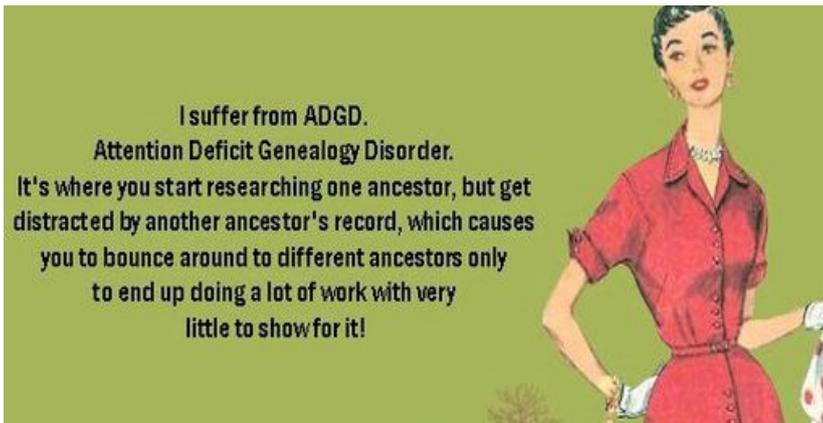
irish-church-records—Ireland Reaching Out, a Guide to Historical Church Records. A short guide to help you understand what church records are available in Ireland, what to expect to find when using them and where to access these records online.

A project undertaken by Waihi Heritage Vision is a Memorial to the NZ Tunnellers consisting of a Monument and a Memorial Wall. For more information about the Tunnelling Company, the Memorial and the Dedication weekend follow these links:

- > NZ Tunnelling Company website: <http://www.nzetc.co.nz/>
- > New Zealand History website: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/arras-tunnels>
- > Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NZTunnellingCompany/?fref=ts>

Papers Past: (March additions)

- Bay of Plenty Times (1872-1875, 1921-1930)
- Hawke's Bay Times (1869-1874)
- Otago Daily Times (1921-1930)
- Waikato Argus (1896-1904)
- Woodville Examiner (1883-1920)



I suffer from ADGD.

Attention Deficit Genealogy Disorder.

It's where you start researching one ancestor, but get distracted by another ancestor's record, which causes you to bounce around to different ancestors only to end up doing a lot of work with very little to show for it!

From Southland Branchlines newslet-

Ancestral history in the making – Our Biographical Newspaper Collection

When Eileen Candy visited Stratford in the early 2000's she found that Branch's wonderful newspaper biographical collection that helped her fill in her own family information. This was also just after the time when the Privacy Act had come into force. Eileen realised that much of the information that had been previously freely available would be locked up. She persuaded the committee to start a collection here in the Wairarapa. The word went out for back issues of the 'Wairarapa Times Age' and it was remarkable how many were found.

Today we have 8 filing cupboards of Deaths and Memorials, Engagements, Marriages, Anniversaries, Births, Birthdays and Acknowledgements. The collection is random before 1996 but consistent from 1997 to the present day. It's been noted that not everyone puts a funeral notice in the local paper but often an acknowledgement at a later date. So it can be seen how important this whole collection is to fill in the gaps.

Most clippings are from the 'Wairarapa Times Age' but from 2010 the 'Dominion Post' is included. The surnames are filed alphabetically. Historical supplements from the 'Wairarapa Mid Week' are together in one filing cabinet. These supplements with old photographs from the past are grouped under subjects, e.g. 'Alfredton's Hockey Team in 1930'.

Today Noeline Cooper and Clare Buchanan continue with this work spending many hours on their methodical system, duplicating names where necessary. Our Branch has much to thank members like Eileen, Noeline and Clare for.

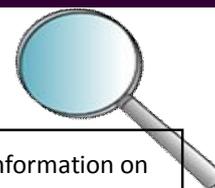
The newspapers of the 'Manawatu Standard' 2010-2015 and the 'Taranaki Daily News' 2004-2015 are Collections held separately in White Folders in the library section of the rooms.

(from The Arboretum, April)

We have purchased two more filing cabinets for our Envelope Collection in Stratford. Thanks to Marie who has re-organised the envelopes.

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 new email address is: mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Snippets



DNA Research Day Sunday 22nd May 10am-4pm.

If you have been wondering what you could learn about your ancestry by having a DNA test done, Gael Riddell, an NZSG expert on the subject, will be able to answer your queries, including the various providers and the types of DNA tests currently available.

The day will be hosted at the New Plymouth Branch Rooms, behind the Moturoa shops (access via the parking area off Whitley Street). Admission to defray expenses is \$5 per person. Please bring food for a shared lunch.

If transport is required, please phone me 765 0465.

Carol

BDM records A point to note when interpreting the information on certificates is that when the letter "N" follows a given age it denotes minutes lived, i.e. 10N = 10 minutes, as opposed to 10M which means 10 months. (from *The Arboretum, April*)

10,000 ANZAC soldiers trained as military engineers at Brightlingsea, Essex.

Centenary Weekend 17-19th June 2016. Photos and connections to any NZ soldiers are welcomed.

The coastal town was chosen as a training base for thousands of Australian and New Zealand troops. The location was ideal for training engineers in bridge building, trench digging and general front line military techniques. The Australian Engineers Training Depot (AETD) was established in Brightlingsea in 1916 and records show that from 1916-1919 nearly 10,000 Anzac troops were stationed and trained in the town and surrounding areas, and there was a significant social and sporting legacy from their presence. Sadly many of these young men would perish on the fields of France and Belgium. The legacy of these men and their comrades cannot be forgotten, the centenary of their arrival gives us an opportunity to remember them.

email: margaret@bright97.freemove.co.uk

(from *Branchlines, Southland*)

Ngā Tapuwāe - Follow in their footsteps - listen to New Zealand's First World War story. Captivating audio guides, soldiers' personal stories and historical insights help you to explore Gallipoli and discover the Western Front. *Ngā Tapuwāe Gallipoli* guides you through five trails. Three key trails cover the Anzac landing, Quinn's Post and Chunuk Bair, and the other two trails include the Cape Helles and Hill 60. *Ngā Tapuwāe Western Front* is made up of ten trails, five in Belgium, four in France and one in the United Kingdom.

Ngā Tapuwāe New Zealand First World War Trails is a WW100 legacy project that guides people through historic landscapes and sites of the First World War. Ngā Tapuwāe means following in the footsteps of your ancestors. The trails contain 'ngā tapuwāe' of the ancestors and their descendants – Māori and Pākehā alike.

The trails at Gallipoli and on the Western Front are designed for both the traveller who would like to navigate the trails on the ground, and also as an informative guide for those who would like to explore from home.

Ngā Tapuwāe uses narrative to lead you through New Zealand's First World War story. For those on the ground, the trails are a self-guided tour that provides information for you to visit key sites that are significant to New Zealand. Walking and driving directions are provided and points in the landscape will orientate you through these historical places.

Both *Ngā Tapuwāe Gallipoli* and *Ngā Tapuwāe Western Front* are packed full of features. Soldiers' letters and diaries let you experience the war through their eyes. Fascinating articles by New Zealand historians bring the achievements of the soldiers to life. Helpful planning information, travel tips and driving directions will give those travelling an enriched experience.

There are three ways that you can take the trails: download the smartphone or tablet app, explore the trails on your computer, or print off the paper guides. (What initially attracted me to this great site was this really poignant logo.) <http://ngatapuwaee.govt.nz> (from Fiona in the Canterbury April newsletter,)



The second of our Midhirst Cemetery stories is a tragic one about two young men:

William and Charles VICKERS

William VICKERS (7/7/1857 – 1/3/1885) was the second of Thomas and Sarah (nee KEIGHTLEY) VICKERS'S thirteen children, and his brother, Charles (5/9/1865 – 1/3/1885) was the sixth. William was 18 and Charles 10 when the family immigrated to New Zealand from Alford in Lincolnshire. Ten of the children set out, but the two youngest sons, Henry aged 3 and Frederick aged 1, died at sea on the voyage. Another son, Walter, was born at Anderson's Bay, Dunedin in 1876, and also a sister, Sarah-Ann born in 1879. The thirteenth child, Ellen, was born at Highgate in Dunedin in 1881.

William came up to Taranaki after 9 years, and it is believed it was he who bought the two sections on Radnor Road at Midhirst, where the Vickers farm is still run by descendents of Thomas and Sarah. William rented a house in Midhirst for his parents and the younger members of the family, while he and three of his brothers slept in a tent on the land while they cleared the scrub. Thomas Senior was managing a farm further up Radnor Road, and William and his brothers worked at other jobs, too, to provide the funds they needed to develop the farm and build a house.

Apparently William was the one who wrote letters to the family in England, keeping them up-to-date with the settlers' activities, and was also the one who kept all the family paperwork in order. William and Charles were the ones who worked together the most, as John and Thomas Junior mainly worked in bush-felling and milling.

Sadly, the family had only been here a few months when tragedy struck. Charles, who often swam in the nearby stream, went swimming on March 1st 1885, after telling his mother that he was going to try the next stream, the Te Popo river, as it was deeper, but when she tried to dissuade him as he couldn't swim properly, Charles pretended he was going to check on stock, and didn't take a towel with him so she wouldn't be suspicious or worried. When he didn't come home for dinner, Mrs Vickers felt uneasy and asked William to go and check the Te Popo River. When neither Charles nor William had returned by the evening, two other brothers went out with lights to search, and found the clothes of both missing brothers on a low sandy beach. In their lights they could see a body in a deep part of the river so hurried to a nearby survey camp to get assistance. The body was retrieved and identified as Charles. Early the next morning William's body was also found, where he had apparently slipped down a bank while trying to retrieve his brother's body. He couldn't swim either.

The brothers were buried together here in the Midhirst Old Cemetery. These were not the only tragedies in the Vickers family. In 1903 Sarah Vickers was killed in an accident while out for drive in the gig with one of her sons. It was the first time in about two years that she had been out for a drive. It seems the horse stumbled and Sarah was thrown out and landed on the road on her head, sustaining very severe injuries from which she died later.

Two of William's sisters died comparatively young - Elizabeth Ann at 26, and Mary-Jane at 40.

Maureen Armstrong

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.