

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

May 2017

Stratford Community House.

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James ODDIE

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Convener's Comment

I came across the following on an internet posting. "A lovely military man selling poppies stopped me today and asked if he could re-position mine - while doing so he told me that women should wear their poppy on their right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War One formally ended. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. " I haven't been aware of this. I think it is important that children and young people are aware of what the poppy represents . It is encouraging to see parents and grandparents attending Anzac Services with their children and grandchildren and this is important because the younger generation are the future of Anzac Day. "Lest We Forget".

Carol

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday May 17th at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research. (note date) This will also be our AGM.

NB: rooms will be closed on Sat 13th May.

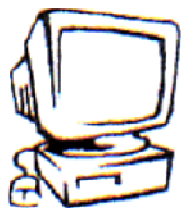


Branch Rooms

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

<http://passengersinhistory.sa.gov.au/about> -

A passenger database developed by the South Australia Maritime Museum, and a list of ships' logs and diaries, titled *Log of Logs*.

<http://www.gazetteer.org.uk/> Gazetteer of British Place Names

<http://www.liverpoolmaritime.org/index.html>—
worth looking at for your Liverpool family

Papers Past: NEW RELEASE IMMINENT!

Southern Cross Newspaper 1893 – 1908
is due to be released by the end of April.

Legacy Help

The next in Marilyn's series of Legacy sessions will be on Sunday 7 May 2017 at 1:30pm in the NP Branch Rooms. Future meetings are planned for every second month; 9 July, 10 September and 12 November.

Please note that there is a \$2 door charge. Please contact Marilyn Armitstead for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 757 2599 or email g.armitstead@xtra.co.nz
New Plymouth

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 .

Ancestry: New additions or updates include-

- NSW Index to Deceased Estate Files 1859-1958
- Victoria – Wills and Probate Records 1841 – 2009
- Australian Births and Baptisms – 1792 – 1981
- Victoria – Police Gazettes 1855, 1864 – 1924
- NSW Criminal Court Records 1830 – 1945
- NSW - Sydney Cemetery Headstone Transcriptions 1837 – 2003
- Tasmania Passenger and Crew Lists 1834 – 1837, 1841 -1887

Find My Past:

All Australian and New Zealand records are FREE to access from 21-25 April 2017.

FamilySearch:

- Australia, NSW – Deceased Estate Files 1880-1923
 - England Births and Christenings 1538-1975
 - England, Derbyshire, Church of England Parish Records 1537-1918 and more.
- (from *Southland Newsletter*)



Recently I visited a group in Hastings whose purpose is to digitise Hawke's Bay records. Exciting for those of us with HB connections.

Carol

Dept Internal Affairs, NZ have announced that new fees will come into effect on 22 May 2017 eg Electronic printout of any document Birth/Death/Marriage –
From years 1848 to 1874 Currently \$26.50 New Fee \$25 Post 1874 Currently \$20.40 New Fee \$25 GST included.

A full list of the new fees is available at

<https://www.govt.nz/.../Doc.../BDM/BDM-2017-Fees-Change-List.pdf>

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

STRATFORD PRESS

Labour of love honours war dead

By Ilona Hanne, Editor of "Stratford Press" (Edited)



A Stratford woman has hand-made 866 wooden crosses to be placed on the graves of returned service men and women for Anzac Day this year, but brushes off praise for her work saying "Someone needed to do something, so why not me? I am not doing it for myself, I am doing it for them". Every year she and her husband take a walk through the Kopuatama cemetery on Anzac Day. "We started talking about how it would be nice to see the graves in the general section have a poppy or something if the person there had served in the armed forces."

While there is an RSA section of the cemetery, and poppies are placed there for Anzac Day each year, many returned service people chose to be buried in the main section, she says. "Originally, wives couldn't be buried with their husbands in the RSA section, so many people chose not to be buried in that part as they wanted to be laid to rest with their family. The rule was relaxed, but for many years, the wife's name couldn't be on the headstone unless she also served, so many people chose not to be buried in the RSA section.. "Starting last May, she says she can't calculate how much time it takes to do one cross, as she does them in parts. "First I buy the wood and get it cut to size, then it gets painted, then the crosses are assembled, then the posies of flowers are made up, the poppies added then it is all attached to the cross." "When she approached the Stratford RSA about her idea, they thought it was great, she says, and gave her the poppies to use. Everything else is purchased by her. "It's my way of giving, of doing something." Her husband also gave "a good number of his days off work" to help paint and assemble the crosses. A friend in Auckland sent her \$200 to go towards the cost. "Her father is buried here, so she wanted to contribute." While she isn't willing to be recognised herself, the woman is quick to recognise the help of others. "Carol Spragg from the Genealogy Society has been so helpful. We have spent hours going through records, identifying graves in the general section that should receive a cross on Anzac Day."

With the recent decision of the Stratford RSA to liquidate, a technical hitch was hit. "I realised I now needed to get permission from the Stratford District Council as they were taking over the Anzac stuff. They said the idea was fine, but then someone raised the fact that not every ex-service person might want something placed at their grave. Not everyone in the armed forces enjoyed their time or wanted to do it. The idea was that a box of crosses was placed just inside the cemetery on the Sunday before Anzac Day and left there until the day itself. If people wanted to take a cross and place it at their loved one's grave to recognise their service, they could do so. If they couldn't come themselves to do it, they could call the Council and tell them the names. We placed crosses on those graves the Sunday before Anzac Day." Volunteers were welcome to help distribute the crosses and to collect them afterwards.

Midhirst Old Cemetery– James ODDIE

The headstone for James Oddie is no longer there, but was in Block 25, plot 62, and was engraved:

“In loving memory of James Oddie, late of the 57th Regiment, who died 23rd April 1905, aged 64.”

Little is known of James Oddie. He probably arrived in 1861 with the 57th Regiment, known as “The Die Hards”. They had been stationed in Bombay where they had been fighting the Indian Mutiny. On arrival in New Zealand they were directed to assist in the ‘Maori Wars’ in Taranaki. The regiment left New Zealand in March 1867 but James remained here. In a letter to The Agent General in London dated 10th May 1894, he applied for his discharge papers.

He appears in the 1896 Electoral Rolls as living in Waitotora as a labourer. There is no record of a marriage in New Zealand, or any children, however, newspapers reported he was married, and his widow lived in Onehunga. The shipping notices record someone called Oddie arriving in New Plymouth from Onehunga in May 1902.

James’s death was recorded in the Taranaki Herald on 27th April 1905. Mr Templer, Lay Reader of All Saints Church Midhirst, read the burial service at the graveside. The account of James Oddie’s death as recorded in the Herald, was as follows:

‘A man named James Oddie, aged 64, a labourer on the Mount Egmont branch railway, was found dead in his tent on Monday morning by Mr Frank Heard. Deceased had recently been discharged from New Plymouth Hospital, where he had been under treatment for heart trouble. He told his fellow workers the doctors said they could do nothing more for him, and he could live for years, or ‘pass out’ at any time. It is understood that Oddie was married, and his widow resides in Onehunga. The Coroner, on hearing the facts of the case, decided an inquest was unnecessary.’

The 57th Regiment in New Zealand



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.