

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

November 2014

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

We have just replaced our three aging laptop computers. They are set up with Windows 8.1 operating system, which we will need to learn to use. If any members are already using Windows 8 and can offer us some assistance, please contact me. Our research CDs have been loaded onto the new laptops and are ready for use.

Carol

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IMPORTANT DATES:

The Rooms will be closed on Saturday 15th November.

Last Saturday research day this year will be Saturday 22nd Dec. ,

re-opening 10th January.

The Tuesday and Friday opening hours will cease 12th December to

give our volunteers a well-earned break, and re-open 13th January.

If you have urgent research needs during the period of closure, phone me 765 0465.

The next Newsletter will be late January.

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday Nov 12th starting at 7.30pm
Our Speaker is Fiona Harvie, Archivist at Stratford District Council, who will be speaking about War Cemeteries in France.

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

Editor:

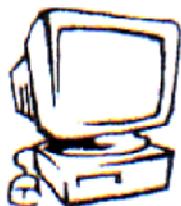
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Web Sites

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 .

Www.worldnames.publicprofiler.org—home to the worldnames Profiler showing where else in the world there are people with your surname.

http://hharp.org—historical hospital admissions records for many of the famous hospitals in London and elsewhere in the British Isles.

Www.historicaldirectories.org—digitised Post Office and trade directories in England, some as far back as the late 18th century.

Www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/burialregisters - registers scanned from 1856 to 1865, possibly even later now (this list was produced 2 years ago)

Www.old-merseytimes.co.uk—birth, marriage, divorce and deaths, bankruptcies, crimes, missing persons and much more from old Liverpool newspapers.

Www.ukmfh.org.uk— UK Military Family History on the internet—a directory to other websites to help you find out more.

Www.castlegarden.org—Castle Garden—recommended database of passenger ships that sailed to the Americas between 1820 and 1913, indexed by passenger name.

Www.fibis.org—Families in British India Society's free database names nearly 1 million individuals.

Www.genealogyworld.net—a South African website listing British settlers.

A new Centre for the Huguenots:

Due to open in Kent in summer 2015, the Huguenot Heritage Centre will tell the story of the flight of the Huguenots to Britain in the 16th and 17th Centuries. The centre will explore issues around refugees, immigration and integration that relate to the Huguenots experiences. Between 60,000 to 80,000 Huguenots settled in England in the South east (Canterbury, Greenwich, Rye, Sandwich), in the West (Bristol, Southampton, Plymouth), in East Anglia (Ipswich, Norwich), and in London (the City, Soho, Spitalfields, Wandsworth, Westminster).

The inspiration for the centre came from the directors of the French Hospital which was founded in London in 1718 as a charity, offering sanctuary to poor Huguenots.

Findmypast have advised that they will be adding a new record set every Friday to their massive collection of online records.

As well as the Taita Lawn Cemetery and Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance, the Hutt City Council has now loaded records for the Old Monumental Cemetery, and other Hutt City cemeteries. In the interim here are two sets of data:

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/en/Services/Cemeteries/Cemeteries-feedback/>

AN ILLUSION OF SILK— in 1942, for those whose stocking coupons had run out, the New Zealand Pictorial News offered a substitute—Stockingless Cream at 8 shillings and 9 pence a jar. This, it said, 'had proved itself able to fill the unprecedented demand for a realistic and safe stocking substitute which stocking rationing has brought about. Simplicity of application, its quick removal, and its effectiveness against rain spots make it the most perfect preparation of its kind.

'A small quantity of the cream rubbed lightly between moistened palms is quickly spread with a circular movement over the leg. The novel and final touch of stocking realism is the "seam line" achieved without difficulty by using an eyebrow pencil.... The illusion of sheerest silk is almost incredible, and only touch will reveal the secret!' (Anyone remember this???)

Snippets



COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING IN NZ

Compulsory Military Training for boys was introduced by the Defence Act of 1909. It was enthusiastically endorsed by Field Marshall Lord Kitchener when he visited New Zealand the next year, and conscription was introduced in 1910-11. All males from the ages of 14 to 20 were to be trained as soldiers.

Exemption from conscription was allowed only on medical or economical grounds. There was no provision made for conscientious objection. In 1911 the Passive Resisters' Union and the National Peace and Anti-Militarist Council of New Zealand were set up to oppose compulsory military training. The Peace Council had branches all over the country.

By the time the first camps were held in March 1912, youths were being fined for failing to register under the Defence Act and being jailed for non-payment. In the first six years of conscription, according to the National Peace Council, 24,490 boys were prosecuted. More than 7000 were taken to court in one year alone. One delegate opposed to the Defence Act said he had visited a military camp and heard bad language used. Another clergyman said the majority of New Zealand youth supported conscription and those who did not were 'the most undesirable elements in the community.'

Opposition came to a head when a youth was sent to Lyttleton jail for 21 days for not paying a fine he had already been imprisoned for not paying. One Sunday in March 1912 a special train took a crowd of 500 demonstrators to Lyttleton. By order of Cabinet, the youth was freed.

MORGAN'S GRAVE IN EASTERN TARANAKI

Joshua Morgan was an early surveyor in Taranaki, and was responsible for some of the road tunnels in the region, as he firmly believed in the Roman way of making roads that went straight from A to B wherever humanly possible.

In 1888, Morgan began surveying the road over the Whangamomona Saddle with a chainman and a small team of labourers. Early in 1893 while surveying the road line through the Tangirakau Gorge, Joshua Morgan became extremely ill with what was later believed to be acute appendicitis, although at the time the fact that he had eaten some very green apples growing wild in the bush was blamed for his extremely painful death.

His chainman, Fred Willison, and the rest of the team tried everything they could to help him, and two of the men made epic treks of over 50 miles through the bush to fetch medical help, but by the time they returned Morgan had died.

Morgan was buried where he died, and his grave can still be seen beside the road through Tangirakau Gorge on the Forgotten Highway. SH43 to Taumarunui)

PRIME MINISTERS WHO DIED IN OFFICE

Four New Zealand Prime Ministers died in Office in the 20th Century.

They were Richard 'King Dick' Seddon in June 1906; William Massey in May 1925; Michael Savage in March 1940; and Norman Kirk in September 1974.

New Zealand National Symbols (as of 1984):

New Zealanders are nick-named 'Kiwis', but that flightless bird has never been an official national emblem. Only the Southern Cross and the silver fern have official blessing. The Southern Cross has been a symbol since the flag of the Independent Tribes of New Zealand was selected in 1834. The stars on that flag may have been intended to symbolise the four countries of the United Kingdom, but they were quickly accepted as the Southern constellation, minus its faintest star.

The silver fern leaf first appeared as the badge of the New Zealand Native rugby team which toured Britain in 1888. It has been used as the emblem of New Zealand representative sporting teams ever since.

In 1908, the British Colonial Secretary approved a proposal to substitute fern leaves for the laurel wreath in the Governor's ensign. In 1963 fern leaves appeared in the revised New Zealand coat of arms.

Fern leaves distinguished New Zealand servicemen in both World Wars. In World War I, New Zealand troops were often personified as Tommy Fernleaf.

The kiwi first made its mark as the cap badge of the 2nd South Canterbury Regiment in 1911.

MILK IN SCHOOLS All the present fuss about free milk in schools is surprising to those of us who remember the first time around. New Zealand was the first country in the world to introduce this to help improve the health of children after the Depression. Children vied to be 'milk monitor', and almost everyone declared the milk was the best-tasting ever. The scheme was abandoned in 1967. The milk in the new scheme comes in 200ml recyclable cartons and a fridge is supplied to each school.

SYMBOLISM OF OLD HEADSTONES—from a talk presented by Lynda Seaton at Riccarton Branch

Anchor: does not necessarily mean that deceased was a mariner. The anchor is symbol of hope and faith in resurrection.

Anemone: a symbol for sorrow.

Angels: these come in many forms. They can symbolise messengers or be an escort of the souls of the worthy dead to heaven, babysitters

Birds: can mean the soul or the messenger which carried souls to heaven.

Book: the Book of Life in which the name of the dead are inscribed.

Butterfly: signifies the brevity of life or can mean resurrection.

Chains: can mean the items that bind a family together or can be the fetters of sin broken by Christ.

Compass: if accompanied by a set square then means the deceased was a member of a Masonic Order.

Cross: the Celtic cross, with a circle lining the 4 arms, symbolises eternity.

Cross: the Greek cross, with 4 equal arms, symbolises the Church.

Cross: the Latin cross symbolises the Passion of Christ.

Cross: the Calvary cross on a plinth of 3 stamps means the 3 virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity.

Crown: a crown is the reward of all good Christians.

Column: a broken classical column means a life that has been cut short.

Dove: symbol for the Peace of God; but two doves with touching beaks symbolises marital love.

Eagle: symbol for resurrection.

Faith: the symbol for Faith is a woman with a cross of a Bible.

Flag: if carried by the Paschal Lamb means victory over death.

Flowers: can mean the fragility of life or the joys of paradise.

Gates: portals are symbols of the transition between life and death.

Hands: the hands of the deceased and of the living clasped in farewell.

Heart: a heart in the palm of a hand can mean the deceased was a member of the Oddfellows Lodge.

Hope: the symbol for Hope is a woman with an anchor and one had pointing towards heaven.

Hour glass: symbolises the passing of time.

IHS: this monogram means Jesus Christ.

Ivy: means eternity, attachment and undying affection.

Lamb: often used on a child's grave as a symbol of innocence.

Lamp: a burning lamp means the immortality of the soul.

Lily: symbol for purity and a blameless life.

Obelisk: a four sided tapered column symbolises everlasting life.

Olive: means at peace with God.

Peacock: a symbol for eternal life.

Pelican: the symbol for piety.

Phoenix: symbolises resurrection.

Poppy: the symbol for sleep (i.e. death).

Rose: means the deceased person is now in a state of bliss.

Rosemary: the symbol for fidelity; or can mean the deceased will always be remembered.

Ship: symbolises the Church.

Sickle: the symbol of the Grim Reaper or Father Time.

Snake: can mean eternity, or resurrection or wisdom.

Stars: signify a new age or represent Christ as the Star of Dawn.

Trees: are a natural symbol of rebirth.

Tulip: a symbol for true and enduring love.

Violet: stands for humility.

Willow: a symbol of grief.

Winged globe: a symbol of the Sun God Horus, a protection against evil

Wreath: intended to signify honour to the deceased.

Yew: the symbol of immortality.

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.