

# Stratford Branch

*New Zealand Society of Genealogists.*

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

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Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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## Convener's Comment

At our October meeting, there was discussion on two matters of local historical significance. The first was the closure of Stratford RSA and the future of medals, photos and other memorabilia, many of which have been donated to RSA by local families.

It was decided that a letter be written to the Archivist at Stratford District Council expressing our acknowledgement of the historical value of these, and expressing the hope that the Council will take an interest in their future in a place where they (or copies), can be viewed by the public.

The second is the future of the photos of Stratford shops, displayed by Stratford Camera Club at Percy Thomson Gallery a few months ago. These photos showed shops as they were in 1990 and again this year. It was decided that we write to the Camera Club and enquire if it would be possible for us to purchase copies of the photos.

While we are officially a genealogy source, items of historical value which involve families from the past are also important to us.

Carol

**PS: please note, the rooms will be closed Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November.**

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**Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 11th November starting at 7.30pm.**

**The meeting will be followed by a talk from Dawn Gaskin about her family research discoveries.**

## 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)



## Web Sites

Q: There are many NZ shipping and passenger list repositories available. Is any one of them better than the rest?

A: They all have some good features but it is hard to do a passenger name search on most of them. Here is a list of websites that contain NZ shipping information. For some of them you need to know the name of your ship.

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shipstonz/shipstonz.html/](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shipstonz/shipstonz.html/)

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/)

[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm)

[www.yesteryears.co.nz/homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/](http://www.yesteryears.co.nz/homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/)

[www.cyndislist.com/new-zealand/ships/](http://www.cyndislist.com/new-zealand/ships/)  
FindmyPast passenger lists are good for passengers leaving the UK.

Ancestry passenger lists are good for passengers arriving in the UK

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS -

*(from NZSG Fielding Newsletter by way of Wairarapa)*

If you had a birthday last month between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 14<sup>th</sup> and lived in Britain in 1752 you would have missed out. Britain had fallen out of sync with the world by sticking to the Julian calendar and finally had to catch up by losing 11 days. The average length of a year is 365 days and 6 hours long. Back in 1582 Pope Gregory XIII had decreed that some days would be skipped and it took Britain that long to adopt the new Gregorian calendar that the church and large parts of the world used. Russia didn't change over until 1918. Greece refused to switch until 1923 and by then had to lose 13 days.

**Genealogy**  
without sources is  
**Mythology**

**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 .**

### What's In a Name??

Whilst doing some Scottish research, I came across some interesting names that occur around the Glasgow region of Scotland. It may help someone with naming of ancestors that are elusive. When I was in Glasgow I certainly had to listen very carefully when a local spoke to me but they had to listen just as carefully to understand what I was saying! (Wendy)

**Jimmy** - calling someone 'Jimmy' is seen as a friendly gesture but can be taken as a lack of respect by not calling the person by their correct name

**Mac** - Believed to be friendlier i.e. because so many Scots have Mac or Mc in their surname it is a term that includes you as a 'mate'.

**William** - 'Wullie', 'Huw Wull' or 'Oor Wullie' popular in the Sunday Post cartoon 'The Broons'

**Alexander** - usually shortened to Alex (not 'Alec' as said in Edinburgh) but sometimes called 'Ellick', 'Eck', 'Sandy' or 'Sawney'

**Peter** - (pronounced as 'Pee'er) often reduced to 'Pate'

**Alasdair** - may be shortened to 'Ally'

**James** - can be called 'Hamish' the pronunciation of the Gaelic equivalent of 'Seumas'

**David** - 'Davie', 'Dave' or its old form 'Dauvit'

**John** - 'Jeck', 'Jack' or 'Joack'

**Kenneth** - 'Ken' or 'Kenny'

**Roderick** - 'Roddie' or 'Rory' (from Gaelic 'Ruaraidh')

**Robert** - 'Rab', 'Rob' or 'Boab'

**George** - 'Doad' or 'Joardie'

**Malcolm** - 'Mailkie'

**Norman** - 'Norry'

**Samuel** - 'Sammy'

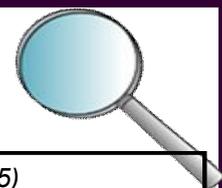
**Thomas** - 'Tammy'

**Edward** - 'Ned' in Glasgow can denote a young tough. A 'bunch of Ned's' is sometimes used instead of 'yobos'

Glaswegian slang, like to Cockney, has its own rhymes e.g. 'Pimple' for Dalrymple, 'Smidger' for Smith, 'Stewpot or Stewrabeef' for Stewart, 'Hammy' for Hamilton, 'Speckydoadle' if they wear glasses, 'Puggie' for monkey faced, 'Pudden or 'Tumshy' if they are hefty.

*(from Southland Newsletter: abridged)*

## Snippets



### Locating Your Family's Land

Some suggested resources - modern to old:

1. Telephone Books
  2. Electoral Rolls
  3. Addresses from BMD registrations
  4. Family correspondence and photograph albums
  5. Rural Holdings/Farm Location maps
  6. Town or District Directories
  7. Local Authority Rating Rolls
  8. Maps and plans: cadastral, survey, etc.
  9. District histories and family histories
  10. Probates and wills
  11. Newspapers
  12. School Admission, Progress and Withdrawal Registers
  13. 1882 Freeholders of New Zealand
  14. Gazettes: Land Transfer Notices
  15. Pre-1876 Electoral Rolls
- Pre-1871** ("Deeds System" period) also:
16. Highway Board Assessment Lists
  17. Jury Lists
  18. Deeds Indexes (Archives NZ, online)
  19. Turton's Land Deeds (North Island only)
  20. Old Land Claims records (re pre-1840 purchases)
- Obtain certificates of Title of the land your ancestors lived on. This is Civil Registration. Instruments flesh out the documents. Deeds and Parish registers  
Please note original Deeds are being thrown out by many lawyers offices. The hard copies are no longer available, but are accessible electronically, a [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz)  
LINZ: "How to request a copy of a land record"  
<http://www.linz.govt.nz/docs/titles-andrecords/landrecords/order-records-fact-sheet.pdf>  
NZSG members can request a search to be made from the 'Land Research Service'. Another valuable resource is available from Directories in NZ and overseas.  
Families didn't live in isolation and often had relatives in the same district. NZ Gazettes are available at Hocken Library and NZ FRC. Write to the Research team who will look up any names.  
(from Gore newsletter)

A few months ago I received an email from a researcher wanting to know about **Thomas Gilmore GRUBB**, who was the manager and later the owner of the Coles Music Store in Stratford, (Taranaki) from 1903. I would love to obtain a photo of Mr Grubb, and also, if possible, of the store.  
TG Grubb was also a leading light in the Stratford Fire Brigade from his arrival in Stratford. He may have become Fire Chief?  
Any information gladly received.  
Maureen - [armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

(The Wellingtonian October 1, 2015)

### Plaque mystery unearthed

Puzzled by the discovery of a mystery plaque during a Ngaio clean up, two volunteers have unearthed a remarkable story going back to Lithuania in 1940.

One of the team members weeding in Trellissick Park found a plaque on the ground. It read: "Oser Galler died 14th February 1978".

Bill Hester and Peter Reimann, members of the Trellissick Park Group, said initial research indicated Oser (Ojzer) Galler, from Poland, owed his life to Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese vice-consul in Lithuania.

In July 1940, as the Germans advanced on Lithuania, diplomats were instructed to leave their embassies. The Jews were desperate for passports, but obtaining visas proved almost impossible. In late July, against the rules from his commanders in Tokyo, Sugihara and his wife spent four weeks writing transit visas by hand before they left, allowing 6000 Jews to escape to a Jewish community in Kobe. There, the Polish ambassador got them transit visas for other countries, including New Zealand.

Oser Galler was one of the refugees. He arrived here early in 1942. He married Nina Schenker, also from Poland. They had a son Dennis. All are buried at Makara Cemetery.

Hester and Reimann are still looking for more information on the family and plaque.

Contact [peter.reimann@paradise.net.nz](mailto:peter.reimann@paradise.net.nz)  
(From Wellington Group Newsletter)

### Wedding Hitch

"Marriage:- On the 21st Inst. at Brampton, Mr George Stevenson to Miss Ann Siddall. In the short space of one hour the courtship was begun, ended and consent asked and obtained. Off went the bridegroom to Brampton to make the necessary notice, but before he had gone halfway, he had forgotten the name of his betrothed, and was forced to turn back to ask this piece of necessary information."

*The Derbyshire Courier, 25 July 1829*

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.

**FIRE! FIRE!** As we all know, fire was the biggest fear of early settlers, in a time when lighting was by candle or lamp, heating and cooking by open fire or coal-range, and those who camped out sometimes let their campfires get out of hand. The following are some newspaper reports of early fires in Stratford:

***Hawera & Normanby Star, 25th Aug 1882***—at 5am this morning the Stratford Hotel was burnt down. Most of the furniture was saved.

***Manawatu Standard, 7th Jan 1886***—about 29 houses have been destroyed by a bush fire which swept through Stratford yesterday afternoon. Women and children were removed by train while the men fought the fire. The Town Hall was destroyed but the main stores were saved. The railway bridge was charred but is still useable.

***Taranaki Herald, 11th March 1899***—Mr King's Mart narrowly escaped being destroyed by fire this morning. The fire is believed to have begun in damp grass seed.

***Wanganui Chronicle, 6th Feb 1900***—Disastrous Fire at Stratford—14 buildings destroyed, including the Town Hall, County Hotel, Fire Brigade Tower, and Bank of New Zealand. Damages valued at £12,000.

***West Coast Times, 4th Feb 1904***—a six-roomed house at Midhirst, occupied by G Hall, was destroyed by fire this morning. The family escaped in night attire.

***Nelson Evening Mail, 27th July 1905***—fire broke out about 10o'clock last night in the Stratford High School. Two classrooms were badly damaged, but the rest of the school was saved.

***Taranaki Herald, 27th May 1907***—Egmont Clothing Company's premises completely destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. Two adjoining shops, unoccupied, were severely damaged. Stock valued at £800. The buildings belonged to the Curnow estate.

***Wanganui Herald, 1st Nov 1907***—an untenanted 6-room house in Ariel Street, Stratford was destroyed by fire last night.

***Inangahua Times, 22nd Sept 1908***—a fire this morning gutted a shop in Broadway, containing A Jordan's bootmaker, and F Reader, painter & paperhanger. An adjoining shop was slightly damaged by smoke and water.

***Hawera & Normanby Star, 24th Nov 1908***—a fire at lam today did considerable damage to Nurse McQuay's Private Hospital. The patients were safely removed.

***Bay of Plenty Times, 7th April 1911***— a disastrous fire in Stratford this morning destroyed the largest 2-storey building, known as the 'Trocadero', which included Prebble's Private Hotel of about 60 rooms, and a row of shops on the ground floor including the Singer Sewing Machine Agency, a boot-maker, and a land agency. Gould's confectionery, Lane's fruiterers, and Becket & Roberts painters & paperhangers were severely damaged by smoke and water. Three persons were severely injured and admitted to Stratford Hospital, six others were slightly injured by burning, and two were injured by jumping from upper windows.

***Nelson Evening Mail, 12th May 1915***—Mercer's tobacconist shop and an adjoining billiard saloon were destroyed by fire this morning.

***Wairarapa Daily Times, 6th May 1919***—a large block on railway land on the east side of Broadway, Stratford, was destroyed by fire early this morning. Several business premises including Sheehan's Tobacconist, Sladden & Palmer Engineers, Ford Bootmaker. York Chambers next door was also destroyed, including Finnerty Estate Agents, Richardson Grocer, Fargio Estate Agents, Tyrer Solicitor, McCluggage Estate Agents, Cook Tailor, Healy Architect, On Kee Greengrocer, Harris Fishmonger, and Barker Refreshment rooms.

### **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.