



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

November 2016

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

Helen and Marie are working their way through the Stratford Primary School enrolment books, indexing the information, which varies from very basic details to information about previous school, destination etc. Some of the spelling is questionable and our copy of Dollimores Geographical Directory and the birth microfiche are getting a lot of use.....proof that paper and microfiche still have a useful role in this ever increasingly digital age.

Our district, school, church and family histories book collection are used in almost every research search we are asked to do. It has to be said, that indexing them digitally makes it a lot easier to locate information in them.....so digital devices are a very useful tool as well.

We do endeavour to purchase books published about local places and people, so if you know of a publication which is about to be available for sale, please let us know.

Carol

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Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 9th November at 7.30pm.

Rooms open at 7pm for research.

NB: this is the last meeting for 2016.

Bring or speak about an old piece of kitchen or garden equipment used at least 50 years ago.

NB2: The Rooms will be closed Saturday 12th November.

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://one-name.org/> - Guild of One Name studies

<http://worldnames.publicprofiler.org/> - for distribution of most surnames

<https://archive.org/details/okenglishtrad00soutgoog>
Freely downloadable, a large file
Find woodcuts and descriptions of occupations c1827.

<http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/> - Index of Old Occupations

<http://www.thepotteries.org/> - For those with pottery ancestors living and working in the six towns around Stoke on Trent

<http://theclergydatabase.org.uk/> - The Clergy of Church of England database.

www.irishgraveyards.ie - (free) covers 20 counties

<https://manawatuheritage.pncc.govt.nz/>
Palmerston North City Library have created a new resource that is helping to put names to faces for people in the Manawatu and beyond.
Comprising thousands of historical records, including photographs, maps, documents, booklets and more
NZSG Magazine October 2016

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/nz-railways-ww1/roll-of-honour>—“We have linked each name to that soldier's page on Auckland War Memorial Museum's Cenotaph database”.

SORENSEN Family Reunion, 3rd -5th March 2017, Lincoln-Little River-Akaroa. It is for the descendants of Peter SORENSEN of Yding, Denmark, who arrived with his family in Lyttelton, November 1873. Family and descendants lived at Robinson's Bay, Little River, Akaroa, Christchurch, New Plymouth and Whangarei. Family Names also include **KOINO-MOPOLOS, MCCANN, RIDER** and **ALLAN**.
Contact us at email a.degroot@xtra.co.nz, or phone 03 3253320. Over 60 people are already interested in attending.
Adriana de Groot

*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 .*

Attention: Legacy Users

Marilyn Armitstead from New Plymouth Branch NZSG is holding another users session at NP Branch NZSG Rooms on Sunday 6th Nov at 1:30pm. Contact Carol if you are interested in attending.

Electoral Rolls: with Television's 'Chatty Man' Alan Carr

Electoral rolls have been used by genealogists to fill in gaps between censuses, or to trace ancestors in years too recent for census materials to be available. But Alan Carr made a really remarkable discovery in the electoral roll for Crayford.

The family had long believed that Alan's great-grandfather, Henry Carter, changed his name to Richard Mercer, but Alan had found no evidence of this in the records. However, equipped with birth certificates for two of Henry's children in 1916 and 1926, he was able to look up the given address on the electoral roll to see who was recorded there - and it was indeed a Richard Mercer. Thus Alan had proved that Henry Carter and Richard Mercer were one and the same.

By 1926, Henry's wife, Annie, was also listed, and she too was using the name Mercer rather than Carter.

The discrepancy may well have come about because police were likely to check electoral rolls but not birth certificates, and as Henry was on the run, having deserted the army, he was astutely covering his tracks.

Who do you think you are? magazine

Middle names come and go

At the beginning of the 19th century it was rare to have a middle name, but by the beginning of the 20th century it was unusual not to have one. Some people invented middle names, some people dropped middle names they didn't like, and sometimes people simply forgot what was on the birth certificate.

Snippets



VISIT TO OKATO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On a sunny Spring afternoon, several weeks ago, five of our members visited the Okato Historical Society, based at Okato Community Trust Hall at 47 Cumming St, Okato. Their area covers from approx. Pungarehu to Oakura.

They have many resources, relating both to the area and the families who have lived there. By proximity and practicality they have some photos/parish and club records including Rahunu, Parihaka, Koru, Kirihaui and Omata/Waireka, as well as many Family Histories.

These are all available to be researched (on premises) and scanned/copied at a small charge. The room is open to the public every Wednesday morning.

Have you tried using the google version for the country you are searching, rather than your own?

www.google.se [Sweden];

www.google.co.uk [United Kingdom];

www.google.it [Italy];

www.google.de [Germany].

There are many more, just search for google [name of country]. Result will vary from what you see in your native google [New Zealand in our case]. *Cambridge Genealogy Group N/L*

Elderly New Zealanders build their own coffins

None of us likes to be reminded of our own mortality, so I was quite surprised to learn that in New Zealand elderly people are joining together to form 'coffin clubs' where they can make new friends and build their own caskets! - *From Lost Cousins*

DEATH NEW ZEALAND HERALD, VOLUME LXXI, ISSUE 21856, 19 JULY 1934

ANCIENT CHIEF'S DEATH TANGI NEAR PUTARURU

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

PUTARURU, Wednesday

The tangi for the 112-year-old chief of the Ngatimahana tribe, Kauia Tapuke, is now in progress at the Whakarata-maiti pa, near Putaruru. Maoris from the adjacent tribes of Tapapa, Tarukenga, Waiteti and Ngongotaha are present to pay a tribute to a leading figure and a faithful administrator among his people. The present Maori "king" is a relative of Tapuke, not a descendant.

This gentleman would have been born in 1822 and so would have been witness to nearly the whole of European interaction with Maori. It would have been wonderful to have had a record of his interactions and impressions.

(from Sth Waikato Newsletter)

Scotland permitted probationary or temporary marriages (also known as 'Handfasting')

"It was an ancient custom in the Isles that a man take a maid as his wife and keep her for the space of a year without marrying her; and if she pleased him all the while, he married her at the end of the year and legitimized her children; but if he did not love her, he returned her to her parents." Sometimes Temporary Marriages had disastrous results.

Gore Branch Newsletter

You're looking for the wrong father

Often the best clue you have to the identity of your ancestor's father is the information on his or her marriage certificate. Unfortunately marriage certificates are often incorrect - the father's name and/or occupation may well be wrong. This is particularly likely if your ancestor never knew his or her father, whether as a result of early death or illegitimacy. Not many people admit to being illegitimate on their wedding day - and in Victorian Britain illegitimacy was frowned upon, so single mothers often made up stories to tell their children (as well as the neighbours).

THE INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX

One of the most valuable resources for family historians is the International Genealogical Index (usually referred to as the IGI). Compiled by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS), it is online at the free FamilySearch site. The British Isles is particularly well represented - not just England-Wales, but Scotland and Ireland too. <http://www.familysearch.org>

There are two types of entry, and it's important to distinguish between them. Many were transcribed from baptism and marriage registers by volunteers as part of a systematic project. These entries were carefully checked and are almost always accurate. Other entries have been submitted later by individual members of the Church, and usually appear with the note "Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church ". Such entries are sometimes no more than speculative guesses, and this is most obvious when no precise date and location are given, or a place name appears instead of a church name. In these circumstances it is best to completely disregard the entry.

It is very important to note that the IGI is a partial index - some parishes are not covered at all, perhaps because the registers were lost, or otherwise unavailable, or because permission was not granted for them to be copied. Other parishes are included only for certain periods. For many parishes the transcriptions end when civil registration began (1837 in England & Wales, 1855 in Scotland).

However, even if the parish is included, the entry you're looking for may have been omitted. It has been discovered that very occasionally as many as half of the entries for a year are missing, so the fact that you can't find your ancestor in the index doesn't necessarily mean that the record isn't in the register (though it is usually a strong indication).

Once you have found an entry in the IGI it's always a good idea to get a copy of the source record if you can - which may mean a trip to the records office or archives holding the relevant register. But there are also hundreds of LDS Family History Centres around the world which can usually obtain microfilm copies of registers on your behalf at a very low cost. http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHC/frameset_fhc.asp

These centres are open to all researchers, not just members of the church and wherever you are in the world there's a good chance you'll find one near you! One reason for checking the source is that the IGI doesn't usually give the entire register entry. For example, after 1813 baptism registers for England & Wales show the father's address and occupation - but you won't see this information in the IGI. Similarly, from 1753 onwards marriage registers in England & Wales show the signatures of all the participants, including the witnesses. Knowing if someone could sign their own name can be a valuable clue, especially when the surname is a common one.

The IGI is an incredibly valuable resource, one that it's well worth getting to know. (We'd recommend reading the help information - click "Tips on How to Search the International Genealogical Index" on the IGI Search page.) For example, when you've found the baptism of one of your ancestors, it is very easy to search for other children of the same parents. Do bear in mind, though, that the mother's maiden name is only shown in a minority of entries. Last, but not least - when you're using FamilySearch always search the resources individually. Though tempting, the "All Resources" Search never delivers the best results.

(from Lost Cousins web site)

NB: we have some CDs of IGI records at the 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.