

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

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Convener's Comment

We've had a busy time with research enquiries.

A relative of JONES families from Tuna area, who lives in Wales, contacted us by e-mail.

I have responded to the query in last week's "Stratford Press" re William O'KEEFE/O'KEEFFE of Eltham who died 8 October 1918 in France.

In 1905 Richard SMITH and Albert BRAY moved to the Whangamomona area. Richard and his wife Ellen ran a boarding house in the town. Their 3rd daughter Minnie Ada married Albert BRAY and had 10 children.

Buckley & Son, picture framer of Stratford. We have some information but any more would be welcome.

The original occupiers of a house in Falstaff St, built c1958

Our success in being able to help with these queries is largely due to

- a). the resources we've been able to build up over nearly 30 years and
- b). the dedication of our volunteers who freely give their time and talents each week to research these queries.

Carol Spragg
Convener

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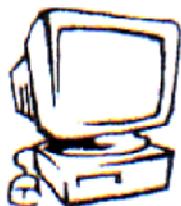
Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 8th October starting at 7.30pm
Programme to be decided

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.timeanddate.com/> allows you to get a calendar for any country and any year between 1 to 3999. It doesn't show school holidays but does give the main public holidays in the country you're interested in. The site is useful for planning future events as well as finding what day of the week ancestors married and such like. *From NZ Roots web list.*

Thank findmypast it's Friday

On Friday 12/9/2014 findmypast added over 500,000 records to their site, including [Dorset Marriages](#), [London Poor Law](#) records, [Northamptonshire Hearth Tax](#) records, and [Archbishop of York Marriage Licenses](#) - and they're promising to add new records every Friday from now on.

A browser tip

Do you ever have difficulty finding a word on a long web page? Simply press Control-F, which will open up a small search box within your current browser window, then type the word or phrase you're looking for.

Note: you could use this to find someone on your My Ancestors page, but remember that you can also sort the entries page in three different ways, one of which is by surname - and this might prove more effective. In general I prefer to sort my entries by household, since this enables me to quickly check whether I've already entered a family.

From 'LostCousins' latest newsletter 16/9/2014: Understanding the 1841 census

The most challenging of all the censuses is 1841: there's limited information about places of birth, the ages shown are mostly rounded down to the nearest multiple of 5, and the relationship between the members of a household isn't shown.

However, there's more information there than you might think - take a look at the instructions that were issued to enumerators, which you'll find Lost Cousins site (thanks to Guy Etchells for making them available). I'd like to draw your attention to this sentence in particular:

At the end of the names of each family draw a line thus / as in the Example. At the end of the names of the inmates in each house draw a double line thus //

In later censuses it's clear where one household ends and the next begins because heads of household are identified; in 1841 we have to make deductions based on the more limited information available. Can we assume that whenever we see the / marker a new household begins?

Unfortunately that isn't always the case. Those of us who were fortunate to hear Donald Davis's presentation at *Genealogy in the Sunshine* in March will know that when Shropshire enumerator Edward Taylor, a farmer, filled in his own census form he inserted / after his youngest child, but before the female servant who was clearly part of the same household (you can see an extract from the form in Don's article in the September 2014 issue of *Family Tree*).

When Edward Taylor copied the information from the household schedule to the enumeration book he made at least one alteration - he changed his occupation from 'Farmer' to 'Relieving Officer' - but the / symbol remained, as you can see at [Ancestry](#) (the entry is at the bottom of the right-hand page).

In this case it's easy to deduce that Sarah Ball worked for Edward Taylor and his family, but it won't always be obvious where one household begins and the next ends. One complication is that in 1841 only one census form was issued per dwelling, even though there may have been several families sharing the accommodation; this may have made life easier for the enumerator, but it makes things more difficult for us because when people are living in the same household there's more likely to be a connection between them. For example, a male boarder who is around the same age as one of the daughters of the household might be her future husband.

However, if we treat everyone in the same dwelling as being part of the same household we could find ourselves on wild goose chase, searching for a connection when none exists. My rule of thumb is to assume that a / marker separates households unless there is convincing evidence to the contrary (as in the case of Sarah Ball).

Snippets



TRIALS OF A COUNTRY SCHOOL MISTRESS

Madam Your Bath is Ready!

The new lady assistant was boarded out at the home of a farmer who had a family of eight children. On the first Saturday night, the copper fire was lit and the hot water carried in buckets to the bath tub. After the eighth child was duly scrubbed, the eldest of the family approached the young lady and said, "Please Miss, Mother says if you would like a bath, the water in the bath is still quite hot and we have all had ours!!!

From Awatuna School Jubilee book, 1958

(PS It isn't recorded whether or not the teacher accepted the offer, or how long she boarded with the family).

LESSON FOR PACIFISTS

Angry Crowd Gathers at Stratford

Abridged from "Weekly News" 10 Jan 1940.

Followed by an angry crowd of more than 200 men and women, 2 pacifists were driven out of Stratford's main street after both had spoken on the question of war and NZ's part in it. Unable to tolerate their views after listening for nearly ½ hr, a group of returned soldiers threw one man down and herded both into a side street.

The degree of feeling in the crowd might have resulted in both men being severely handled, except for the protective presence of a sergeant and 2 constables. There were many cries of "Cowards" and "You are afraid to fight". One woman threw tomatoes, although they cost 10 pence a pound. Finally it became apparent that a group of returned soldiers were not going to tolerate the situation for much longer. One shouted "Form up, returned soldiers". About a dozen men "fell in" and one knocked one of the pacifists to the ground. Separated from the crowd by the police, the two men were marched to a side street. There they were allowed to proceed alone, although several people followed in a car to ensure they did not return.

remember –

If you don't want your descendants to put a twisted spin on your life story, write it yourself!
(from Matamata Genie Newsletter)

Thought this should be reprinted (from our Dec 2012 newsletter) as it's Election year!

The first name on the Suffrage Petition – the Giant Roll – was that of Mary J Carpenter of Yaldhurst. Her will appears in the Kiwi index in 1920 and she was a widow.

WWI Photos Needed:

The onward Project is seeking photographs of every member of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force that served overseas during World War I.

So far they have published two volumes of 8200 portraits and are at present working on a third volume. The project is after portraits of the 97,500 men and women, including nurses, who served.

Photographs can be emailed to –

Onwardnzef.book@gmail.com

Uploaded at –

Onwardproject.co.nz

Or sent to-

Onward Project

12 Kirkdale Place

Torbay

Auckland 0632



Famous or almost famous relatives – how far do we go to claim them??

I have been having fun recently trawling through the distant branches of my tree. I found hanging on a branch – Sir David Wilkie, a famous Scottish artist. In relaying this news to a sister, she made straight for the British Art Gallery when she was in London recently. As she herself was an artist, a grandmother was an artist and a sprinkling more out amongst the cousins; she was delighted to know where her talent came from! Another branch claims Sir Algernon Montagu, known as 'The Mad Judge' in Tasmania in 1850s, who was the son of Lord Montagu - the Earl of Sandwich i.e. presumed inventor of the sandwich! So who said genealogy was boring

(From Southland Branch Newsletter)

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.

Rifleman Harper's War: *(by his daughter, Brenda Glennie)*

My dad was not a willing soldier! He waited to be called up rather than volunteer. He departed New Zealand in October 1917.

He knew how to handle a rifle, having grown up on a sheep station, so he entered the field of battle as a rifleman. They were trained to use the same set up that had been used at places like Waterloo—two rows of riflemen; the first row fired their rifles and then dropped to one knee while they reloaded and the second row fired their salvo over the first row's heads. Unfortunately one of those British bullets lodged in Rifleman Harper's shoulder and his war was over.

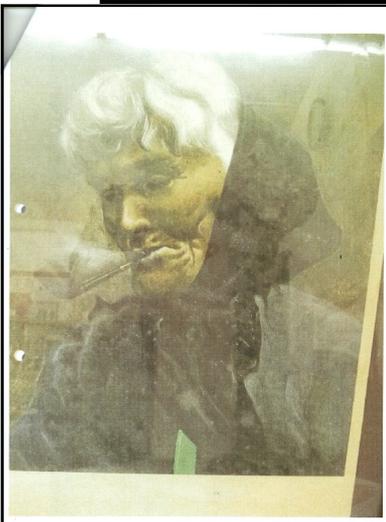
Field hospitals did their best with what they had, but according to the doctors the xray machine told them that it was a button on his pyjama coat, not a bullet! A button on his back?

After hospitalisation back in England, he was eventually returned to New Zealand on board the "Port Melbourne", arriving on 25th Jan 1919. He had served for 1 year and 235 days, mostly in hospitals around London.

As a child I wondered why dad swam over arm with only one arm, but never asked him, of course. He wasn't a friendly talkative father! In later years he developed pleurisy in the winter months: would come home from work, go to bed with a hot water bottle on his chest, and go to work the next morning. By then the bullet had moved forward onto his chest.

My father never talked about the war, which was typical of a lot of servicemen, but did his bit again when called up for service to defend New Zealand the second time around.

He died in Napier hospital, aged 74, after having a stroke, and when my husband Bryce (a doctor) rang the ward the Sister said: "Doctor, this man has a bullet in his chest." No one had thought to tell Bryce. Dad would not accept compensation for carrying around a British bullet all those years. A daughter-in-law applied on his behalf, but he refused to accept it.



A photo framed by Buckley & Son, Picture Framers of Stratford. Any information about the Buckleys would be appreciated.

**Ancestry.co.uk – free offer -**

*Access to the British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards in the featured collections will be free until 31st

December 2014 23.59 p.m. GMT. To view these records you will need to register for free with Ancestry.co.uk with your name and email address. We will then send you a user name and password to access the records. After the free access period ends, you will only be able to view the records in the featured collections using an Ancestry.co.uk paid membership.

Many other WWI collections are available – remember there is free access to Ancestry at your public libraries (ancestry.com library version), and we have our own Ancestry membership at the rooms if you come in during our opening times.

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.