



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

September 2015

Stratford Community House.

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Convener's Comment



As genealogists, we are interested in the history of our families and often, the history of the place where we live. We often research and discuss historical events which have happened where we live but are unaware that events currently occurring, will become part of history. An historical event has just happened in Stratford. A service of thanksgiving and farewell was held at St Stephen's, the Stratford Methodist Church, last Sunday to commemorate the sale of the church building and to formally close the building as a Methodist Church. While it has still been used for weddings and funerals, the parishioners have not used St Stephen's as a base for their Sunday worship for the past five or so years. Dwindling numbers and the general age of the congregation meant very few people attending Sunday services, so the Methodist congregation joined with the parishioners at the Anglican Church and they have been worshipping together for the past few years. So ends 124 years of there being a Methodist Church in Stratford. The Primitive Methodists built the first Methodist Church in Stratford, which opened 4th January 1891. It stood on Broadway where the old Masters building now stands. In 1915, the church was moved to its current site. The current church was opened in 1962. The building has been purchased by Brian Darth Funeral Services and will be used as a non-denominational funeral chapel says funeral director Pamela Reed. She says all of the staff at Brian Darth Funeral Services are excited about the new chapel, as it means they can offer a dedicated space for funeral services and cater for people of any or no faith. (See page 2 for an early photo)

Carol

Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 9th Sept starting at 7.00pm. Please bring WWI photos to be scanned and sent to Auckland for the archives.

NB: the rooms will be closed on the following Saturdays: Sept 5th, 12th, 19th, and Oct 3rd.

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

WWII Casualty Documents to go Online – The Commonwealth War Grave Commission (CWGC) is making available its Second World War Casualty Archive Documents in August this year, to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Victory in Japan (VJ) Day.

The records will be available through the 'casualty search' option at www.cwgc.org and will offer a unique insight into the process of commemoration undertaken by the CWGC after the Second World War. Details will include: personal headstone inscriptions, date of death, rank, regiment and even some documents that show the journey of the deceased to their final resting place.

From Maureen Kelso, Family Tree Magazine, July 2015

Records of English Parish Church

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vht2mMLZkbg

Irish Place Names

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxaQpv5To8k

Google Search Advice (in 2 parts)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUsaxTM7yrw

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HOARtRHv74

(from New Plymouth newsletter)

<http://eap.bl.uk>—endangered archives project.

View collections from: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania. (These are all under 'Collections')

Members of the NZEF 1914 - 1918

with a next-of-kin address in Ireland or who were noted as born in Ireland.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/irish1nzef.html>

Can you please advertise in your newsletters?

Thanks,

Christine Clement, Te Puke

email: cmclement@clear.net.nz

<http://maxwellancestry.co.uk/census/default.htm>

Records from many counties in the south of Scotland. Searching is free although there is a modest fee for a transcription.

<http://familyancestrydetective.com/> - An Australian blog that features articles not just about Australia but also about English parish records, Scottish Coat of Arms, Fleet Street marriages, occupations linking us to our ancestors and more.

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 .

Open Day Saturday 12 September

The New Plymouth branch is holding an open day at their branch rooms, Moturoa

Time: 10 am to 3 pm

Cost: free

This open day will feature information to help people who are beginning with genealogy, as well as resources and assistance for more experience researchers.

Scheduled events include demonstration of the Legacy family tree software, and demonstrations of on line resources such as ancestry.com and findmypast.com.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please tell them about this open day.

Does anyone have this family?

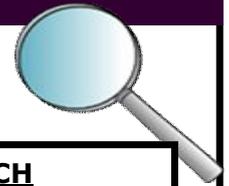
Elizabeth Mary STEEL, nee Patrick brought her nine children to New Zealand in 1870 after the death of her husband at Bendigo.

A friend has some WW1 medals and photos and is keen to give them back to a family member, so I am helping to try and find a living relative who would appreciate them.

From my research so far, the older sons David and Joseph were coach builders and Francis (Frank) was a butcher, younger sons John, Thomas & William also seemed to be involved in the coach building business. There were also three daughters – Eva, Jane & Sarah Anne.



Snippets



Historic Occupations

These unusual occupations are from old UK census.

HACK A person who hires himself out for any sort of literary work

HACKLER or **HACKMAN** or **HECKLER** One who separated the coarse part of flax or hemp with a hackle, an instrument with teeth in the linen industry

HAIR SEATING MERCHANT Dealer in horsehair stuffing used in upholstery

HALBERT CARRIER A soldier or halberdier, armed with a halberd, a combination spear and battleaxe (a ceremonial officer)

HANKYMAN A travelling magician in Victorian/Edwardian England

HARMER BECK A parish constable or beadle
HEDGE LOOKER Supervised repairs of fence and enclosures

HENTER or **HENDER** A person who seizes or gets possession of something. Eg baliff, or thief
HOOFER A professional dancer, especially a tap dancer.

HOOKER A worker that hooks or uses hooks e.g. In woollen or cotton industry

HOWDY or **HOWDIE** A midwife (chiefly used in Scotland)

HURRIER One who draws a corf or wagon in a coal-mine. A young boy or girl employed in a coal mine to drag baskets or small wagons full of coal from the coal face, up to the surface.

HUSBANDMAN A tenant farmer

HUSH SHOP KEEPER Person who brewed and sold beer without a license (usually as a side line)

(from New Plymouth August Newsletter)

"Bush Advocate" 20 July 1906

Eltham has just had 26 successive days upon which rain fell, the measurement being 6.01 inches. Mount Egmont was not visible for a month from Eltham.

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.

THE YORKSHIRE WITCH

Mary Bateman (also known as The Yorkshire Witch) is one of Leeds' most notorious villains.

In 1803 Mary poisoned three people living in a draper's shop near St Peter's Square in Quarry Hill. As soon as they were dead she robbed the house and shop.

Six years later she was hanged at York for the murder, by poisoning, of Rebecca Perigo, the wife of a Bramley clothier.

Mary's body was dissected in public to raise funds for the Infirmary. Her skeleton is now kept in the Thackery Medical Museum.

Don't Let Mythology Guide Your Genealogy Research!

August 14, 2015

How can you tell if the information posted by individuals on internet genealogy sites is correct? Some sites have sources but others don't. How do you know what, and when, to believe what you read online?? A good rule of thumb is....*Don't trust anything you find on the internet (or elsewhere) if it doesn't have sources.*

This Month in History - 7 August 1908 - First train runs length of main trunk line

The first train to travel the length of the North Island main trunk line, the 'Parliament Special' left Wellington on the evening of 7 August. On board were Prime Minister Sir Joseph Ward and other members of Parliament heading to Auckland to greet the American navy's 'Great White Fleet'.

The train travelled over a temporary, unballasted track in the central section of the still-unfinished main trunk line. It was hauled in turn by locomotives from the Wellington & Manawatu Railway Company, New Zealand Railways, the Public Works Department and New Zealand Railways again. The trip took 20½ hours.

The main trunk line was not formally opened until 6 November, when Ward drove home a final polished silver spike at Manganuioteao, near Erua. Regular services began soon after, and an express train introduced in February 1909 made the trip in 18 hours.

Toko

is a small rural settlement 10 kilometres east of Stratford, New Zealand, at the intersection of East Road (State Highway 43—The Forgotten Highway) and Toko Road. It is located on a railway, the Stratford–Okahukura Line, the western portion of which was operated as a branch line known as the Toko Branch prior to the line's completion. Sadly, the line has now been closed to rail traffic, except for the tourist venture – using golf carts to travel over quite a large stretch of the line. The Toko Stream flows through the area to join the Patea River.

Toko is surrounded by extremely fertile land, being located on the periphery of the Taranaki ringplain and adjacent to the Patea River. The area is drained by the Toko Stream, and its tributaries the Manawaiwiri and Waiwiri Streams. Once covered in wetlands, since settlement the area has been drained to take advantage of the fertile soils. Dairy farming predominates the surrounding land use, with some sheep and beef farming in the steeper hill country.

Toko was established in the 1890s, and served as an important centre for the developing hinterland. The settlement took on the nature of a village, containing a railway station, a dairy factory, a church, a hall, a hotel, a sawmill, a trucking depot, a playcentre, a sports facility, and a number of other businesses and numerous dwellings. Toko School was established in 1893, and located on a site approximately 2 km east of Toko at the intersection of East Road and Waiwiri Road.

Like other rural centres, Toko went into decline in the latter part of the 20th century. The railway station, dairy factory and sawmill all closed. However the factory buildings are now used for an engineering business, and the church, hall, domain, hotel, trucking depot, and an automotive workshop are still being used for business and social activities.

Born in Toko

John (Jack) Walter, All Black and Taranaki rugby football representative
Toss Woollaston, New Zealand painter (1910–1998)

Other notable residents

Sylvia Ashton-Warner, (as a child) New Zealand writer, poet and educator

Education

Our School is a well-established full primary school with five classrooms, library and school hall (built by the community in 1953). During 1992 the school completed a planned E.D.I. (Education Development Initiative) with neighbouring Huinga School. This was a first in New Zealand and was largely funded by the Ministry of Education and involved a major upgrade of the administration area to include a school and Principal's office, enlarging the staffroom, along with the relocation of four buildings (junior classroom block, hall, A/V room) to cope with the school growth when the 20 children from Huinga School joined the Toko School community. In 2006 children from neighbouring Douglas School came to Toko School. In 2007 children from neighbouring Matau School joined Toko School. The school celebrated its centennial in 1993. It has been noted for the academic, sporting and musical achievements of its pupils over a large number of years and our goal is to ensure that all pupils achieve to their full potential.

The Library, which was upgraded in 1999, was originally the old Post Office in Toko Village. In 2000 the school went through a substantial property upgrade of the hard court and parking area. We have a lovely environment and work hard to keep it that way! In 2009 a large safe bus turnaround was developed.

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.