

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

2016

Stratford Community House.

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Convener's Comment

We continue to be busy at the Rooms, indexing and helping with research enquiries, either from visitors, a new member, or by e-mail. After a 3 month break from evening meetings, we're back in business again, on 14th September. If you need a ride to a meeting, please phone me.

Carol

PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

Our Wedding Fashions photographic display at the Community House drew many positive comments. If you have an idea for a future display, please let me know.



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Next Branch Meeting—Wednesday 14th Sept at 7.30pm. Rooms open at 7pm for research. If anyone has an idea for an activity to follow the meeting, please let Carol know.

NB: the rooms will be closed on Saturday 10th September.

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 .

Gerard Hindmarsh broadcasts on Radio Live every Sunday night at 11pm in a series called "Outsiders" telling stories of interesting New Zealanders in the past. In order to listen to past episodes go to:

www.radiolive.co.nz/WeekendHosts/WeekendVarietyWirelesswithGraemeHill/Outsiders.aspx

<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/new-zealand-cemeteries-436> - complete list of NZSG holdings of NZ Cemetery records on fiche.

<http://www.dunbrody.com/> - Irish Emigration to USA database.

<http://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/> - a site dedicated to the history of Canterbury and Christchurch.

'Collage, The London Picture Map' is available at <http://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/londonpicture-map>.

Charles Brown came to the infant settlement of New Plymouth in 1841 to set up business with his father, Charles Armitage Brown, a friend of the poet Keats. Charles Brown senior died soon after, but his 21-year-old son remained and became a well-liked and respected member of the community.

At 33 he was elected the Provincial Government's first superintendent in 1853. In 1859 he helped establish the Taranaki News, becoming its owner. At the outbreak of the Land Wars in 1860, he found himself a soldier, eventually rising to the rank of major. Parliamentary honours followed and in 1901, at the age of 81, he was still serving the community as a Maori interpreter.

The day he died, Brown had been walking to the horse-drawn bus for Fitzroy when he noticed the fishmonger had set up his stall on the Huatoki Bridge. He turned back to buy some fish and then absentmindedly crossed the railway line a second time. The train whistled but it was too late and he died under the wheels of the Hawera-bound afternoon train.

Brown's death, seen by many on the busy main street, deeply shocked the community and was a catalyst to eventually removing the railway line from the middle of the town.

Family history discovered inside a wall at Trentham Military Camp - Kevin Bird received a piece of family history from Trentham Camp Commandant Major Toni Duffield. Caleb Bird probably didn't think a message he wrote during a 1941 visit to Trentham Military Camp would ever be seen by his family, let alone three-quarters of a century later.

The Wellington-based cabinet maker likely visited the camp in December 1941 to maintain a billiard table he had built with his father-in-law which had been donated to the troops. It's believed Bird wrote a message while in the camp's CA12 building to record his son Harold's ongoing World War II service.

"The sinking of the Sydney Nov 29th, 1941, The Big Battle of Libya, Nov 25th 1941, Armour H Bird taking part, Son, C Bird, Dec 5th 1941," the message said. Harold Bird was then an armourer in the army and serving in North Africa. But it's unlikely he ever saw the message. It remained hidden until it was located inside an internal wall during recent renovations to the building, which backs on to Trentham Racecourse. The camp's facilities management team handed the message-laden piece of wood to Trentham senior environmental officer Harley O'Hagan, who has experience in heritage structure management work. He then set upon tracking down the Birds' descendants to pass the piece of history on to. Eventually he found Harold's son, Kevin, in South Taranaki, who visited Trentham Camp on August 9 to pick up the wooden message. Kevin was surprised when he was contacted about the inscription. He hadn't known a lot about his grandfather's life but now knew more thanks to what had been uncovered.

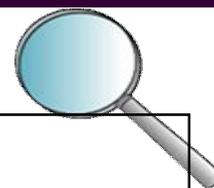
After discussing the finding with his family, Kevin learnt that his father, who was a builder, had written family names on boards in a home he had built. The names were only discovered when repair work was carried out on the house.

"[It] must be a bit of a family tradition," he said.

(www.stuff.co.nz - 10th August 2016)

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. My email address is: mearmstrong@kinect.co.nz

Snippets



Anyone with an interest in this family?

TOD Family Reunion - will be held on the 4th-6th November 2016 in Lincoln. It is for the descendants of William & Mary TOD from Scotland arriving in Wellington first, then Canterbury in the 1840's. They worked for the Deans brothers before moving to their own farm in what is now Fendalton, then Lincoln where they farmed for the next 40 odd years. The reunion will be held over the weekend starting evening of Friday 4th. Contact us on this email gj.tod@xtra.co.nz or phone 03 349 3934. Over 100 people already interested in attending.

Greg & Jen Tod

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY TO MARK CHRISTCHURCH'S 160TH ANNIVERSARY

A special citizenship ceremony was held on Sunday 31st July to mark the 160th anniversary of the founding of Christchurch. Christchurch became a city by Royal Charter on July 31st, 1856, making it officially the oldest established city in New Zealand. To mark the occasion Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel conducted a special citizenship ceremony in which 32 people from 12 different nationalities became New Zealand citizens.

"Citizenship ceremonies are always very special, joyful occasions but this one was extra special because it occurred on the 160th anniversary of the founding of this great city," Mayor Dalziel said.

"In the 160 years since its founding Christchurch has become a place that people from all corners of the world want to call home so it is very fitting that we mark this historic occasion by officially making some of the people who have chosen to make their lives here Kiwi citizens."

Joining Mayor Dalziel at the citizenship ceremony were Internal Affairs Minister Peter Dunne, former Christchurch Mayor Garry Moore, and a number of local MPs.

A Remarkable New Photo Map of Old London

With over 150,000 pictures now mapped across the city, a new digital photo archive of the city of London is so rich in content it's almost too much to cope with.

Launched last week, 'Collage', The London Picture Map allows you to trace London's visual history street by street. Supported by the City of London Corporation, it's the result of two full years of digitizing and mapping images from the London Metropolitan Archive and the Guildhall Art Gallery, which together possess the largest collection of London images in the world. This huge task has now made re-imagining old London easier than ever. Simply choose a location across the city and a few clicks will lead you directly to tens of thousands of photos, paintings, drawings and historic posters. It's the ideal visual counterpart to an ancient city where, even in recently built areas, you can often feel like you're treading on ghosts. Think of the London Picture Map as a dream chest opening up views to not just what to an ancient city where, even in recently built areas, you can often feel like you're treading on ghosts.

(from Wellington Newsletter)

THE NAMING OF FANTHAM'S PEAK, MT TARANAKI

Fanny Fantham was a high spirited teenager with a zest for life. In March 1887 Fanny was in a large climbing group ascending Mount Taranaki. Climbing was hot and difficult for the women in the group as they had to wear full street dress, which included long dresses and corsets. But Fanny had shortened her dress and was wearing lace-up boots that made climbing easier.

The nineteen-year-old girl and five men were climbing the route between the Kaupokonui and Kapuni gorges, ahead of the main group, when they reached a subsidiary peak known to Māori as Panitahi. The group were in high spirits. According to Fanny one of the climbers said "I don't think this peak has been named." Turning to Fanny he said "You are the first woman to climb it – let's call it Fanny Fantham's Peak."

"No" she replied, "That's too long."

"Then Fanny's Peak."

"No, that's a name any peak might be called. Who knows how many Fanny's might be climbing."

Eventually, after much bantering, the group decided on using Fanny's family name of Fantham for the peak. Speeches were made and the peak was christened with a sprinkle of water.

Fanny didn't continue on to the summit of the mountain, despite the fact she was wearing less restricting wear than the other ladies in the group. In fact, she revealed years later, she was never to climb the mountain again.

Fanny married in 1888, becoming Fanny Bayley. She and her husband farmed in the Manaia district. The couple moved to England and during World War I Fanny worked in a munitions factory before nursing in an army hospital. Returning to New Plymouth Fanny was made an honorary member of the Mount Egmont Alpine Club in 1928. She died in New Plymouth aged 82.

Stratford on Patea, Taranaki, New Zealand

Stratford (Māori: Whakaahurangi) is the only town in Stratford District, and the seat of the Taranaki Region, in New Zealand's North Island. It lies beneath the eastern slopes of Mount Taranaki/Egmont, approximately halfway between New Plymouth and Hawera, near the geographic centre of the Taranaki Region. The town has a population of 5,610, making it the 47th largest urban area in New Zealand, and the fourth largest in Taranaki (behind New Plymouth, Hawera and Waitara).

The Stratford District has a population of 9,230, and a land area of 2,163.35 km², which is divided between the Manawatu-Wanganui Region (including the settlements of Whangamomona, Marco and Tahora, 31.87% of its land area) and the Taranaki Region (68.13% of its land area).

The Māori name for Stratford is Whakaahurangi, meaning face to the sky. The name is taken from a story of a Pateachieftainess named Ruapu-tahanga who, returning from a visit to Kawhia, camped overnight near the location of the current town. Being a clear night, Ruaputahanga lay contemplating the stars when slumber overtook her. Withdrawing in respect, her followers observed that their chieftainess slept "with her face to the sky". The site continued to be used as a camping place for Māori along what became known as the Whakaahurangi track, linking the south Taranaki tribes to those in north Taranaki, and further north to Kawhia. Each traveling party would recollect the story of Ruapu-tahanga sleeping with her face to the sky.^[4] The name is fitting, given the exposure of the area to a broad horizon on the face of the mountain's ring plain.

On 3 December 1877, the name Stratford-upon-Patea was adopted, on the motion of William Crompton of the Taranaki Waste Lands Board. The supposed similarity of the Patea River to the River Avon in England led to the adoption of this name, and Crompton was known to have a literary turn of mind. There was a trend at the time to name towns after the birthplace of prominent British men. The William Shakespeare 'connection' led to the naming of 67 streets after Shakespearian characters from 27 of his plays. Today New Zealand's only glockenspiel clock tower plays the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* three times a day. The spoken words are provided via external loudspeakers - there is no carillon (multiple bells) as would be more typical for glockenspiels in towers.

The south-eastern face of Mount Taranaki is in the Stratford district, the north-westernmost point of the district being the 2518 m high peak. From the peak the boundaries run almost due east and due south.

Pembroke Road winds up the mountain slope from Stratford to a carpark and lookout at "The Plateau", at 1172 m. Manganui skifield is a short hike from the carpark, across the Manganui Gorge.

On the south-eastern face of the mountain, Manaia Road gives access to Dawson Falls and the Konini Lodge, at 890 m altitude. The natural Wilkies Pools are a short hike above the lodge.



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.