



Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Stratford Community House.

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Convener's Comment

Last weekend, Lesley and I attended the Taranaki NZSG Branches meeting. Our new Regional Councillor, Clive Palmer from Waikanae was present and was able to inform us of a NZSG strategic planning committee which will set goals for the future of the Society.

The Taranaki Branches were all represented and all reported that indexing and researching are progressing well. The New Plymouth Branch is hosting an Open Day on 27th October. There will be more details in next month's newsletter. If you have Otago and Southland ancestors, there is a Research Directory being formed by the Dunedin Family History Group until 31 October 2012. There are forms available at the Rooms. These directories are a great way to make contact with others researching the same names as yours.

Thanks to our Indexers who loyally work at the Rooms Tuesdays and Fridays.

They've now finished indexing St Joseph's Eltham, St Patrick's Kaponga, and Midhirst Schools. They are now going to spend some more time with Church records. It's not difficult work so if you'd like to join the group, call in any Tuesday morning to see what they do.

Carol

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Branch Meeting—Wednesday 12th September, starting at 7.30pm.

September meeting theme-tell us about a "Black Sheep" (male or female) in your family.

October meeting theme-share your brick wall with us. We might be able to help you.

November meeting- tell us about a Christmas tradition in your family.

NOTE: THE ROOMS WILL BE CLOSED ON SATURDAY 8TH SEPT.

Branch Rooms

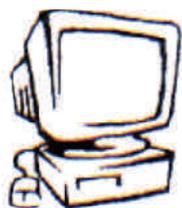
The Stratford Branch Rooms open

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

www.amemorytree.co.nz - a useful site, 'A Memory Tree' is NZ's largest and most comprehensive website holding death information.

If a death has been published in a leading newspaper you can locate accurate, up-to-date information about the person here. [Summaries](#) of all published death notices are available. We update our records hourly and list 97% of all deaths.

Our online **obituary database** offers up-to-date **death notice information** obtained from funeral homes and daily newspapers in New Zealand. Visitors can see where all the public notices for the deceased person appeared in the newspaper. This is recorded and available for viewing at any time in the near, or distant, future. Search our database of all the names published in newspaper notices since December 2006.'

Good hunting!

Note that Irish Family History Foundation has now got 29 million records on line! Newly released—Armagh, Cork North East, and Waterford records.

Findmypast has a new release too—records of prisoners held in the prison hulks from 1811 to 1843.

*Do remember to save used 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 .*

We have a collection of the NZ Genealogist Magazine from 1994 to 2008, mostly complete years with the Indexes. If anyone would like to browse through some of these, please contact Maureen. There are many interesting articles and items of interest in these magazines, and I have found a couple of family connections so far!

(Phone 762 8837, or email armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz)

Someone visited a city council wanting to know the location of her grandparents' grave which she had visited as child. They looked up their database and told her very definitely that her grandparents weren't buried in their cemetery. I found their headstone and burial records on the NZSG microfiche and the Burial Locator, for that cemetery, but their names weren't on the on-line database. Their surname ended in "s". I typed in the surname without the "s" and yippee, they were there, with the correct spelling in the record where the name of the plot purchaser was recorded. She is contacting the city council to ask them to amend their records. The moral of the story is that if a name doesn't appear on a database, check alternative spellings and/or check with NZSG fiche and other CDs.

Carol

Press Display is a database subscribed to by most large Libraries and is accessible in the Library or from home using your library card number and pin number. I find it very useful for death notices.

Press Display gives you same-day access to more than 1200 newspapers from around the world, with full-page replicas in their traditional format and layout, including complete editorial content, graphics and advertising.

- Crosswords, cartoons, classifieds, job vacancies and death notices appear just as they do in print versions.
- Individual pages and single stories can be printed or emailed.
- Users can also hear the news read to them by switching on the integrated radio.
- Text-only option available.
- Up to 90 days of back issues depending on the newspaper.

Newspapers are available in 48 languages and can be translated into 12.

Most New Zealand newspapers are available — including The Press, The Dominion Post and The New Zealand Herald, as well as many smaller, regional publications. International coverage includes over 70 Australian papers and major newspapers from most parts of the world.

Papers Past

Latest additions to Papers Past (August 2012):

[Dominion \(1907-1920\)](#)

[Free Lance \(1910-1920\)](#)

[Press \(1915-1920\)](#)

[Te Puke Times \(1913-1920\)](#)

[Thames Advertiser \(1874-1899\)](#)

ANCESTRY

The best time to use the Ancestry site if you want help with it, is to come on Tuesdays when there are usually 2 or 3 of us at the rooms to help. You can also come on Saturdays when Carol and Lesley are here.

As we said before, this is a full membership, not the limited one that you can use at the Public Library. At \$2.00 per hour to use, it's a very cheap source of valuable information. Ancestry are adding new files all the time, so just because you could not find something a year ago does not mean it's not there now!

Snippets

Maude Ruby Basham, known as 'Aunt Daisy', earned that title during the Great Depression when she broadcast children's programmes from a private radio station, to assist with the family income. Her husband was a County Engineer in the South Taranaki and they lived in Normanby for some time.

THE WAY WE WERE

Croydon Road School

In the early 1920's the Education Board was approached to consider a school in the Croydon Road area. At that time, children had to attend Tuna or Midhirst Schools and both entailed a long walk or pony ride over muddy roads. The building of the School was finally approved and on October 27 1925, Mr R MASTERS opened the School with a roll of 19. Miss M K SPENCE was the first teacher. Some of the local families were CROSBY, CAPPER, GOBLE, VESTY and BOTTIN. They held School picnics at Ngamotu Beach. In later years, the swimming sports in the new baths built by local residents, were very popular. The school itself was used for local get-togethers, farewells and card evenings. During the 1950's some very successful fancy dress balls were held—not only did the children get dressed up, but the adults as well. Unfortunately in the late 1960's, the roll dropped to such an extent that the Education Board decided to close the School in 1970 and the pupils were consolidated into Midhirst School. The School building was retained by the district.

IRISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

The New Zealand Society of Genealogists is excited to announce the arrival of Irish Newspaper Archives. This service is free for members of the society and is available remotely via the NZSG website once you log in, under members' area, online newspapers.

Newspapers from 1763 right up to current editions.

29 titles from around Ireland.

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.

From the Hawera Star Archives:

1912—Okaiawa: Farm workers are scarce at present, but 100 Swiss workers will arrive during the month. The majority of farmers who have employed Swiss workers declare that they are superior to the average Briton!

Situations Vacant: Normanby Town District, Clerk and treasurer, salary 40 pounds per year.
Uruti Valley Dairy Co Butter Factory Manager—salary 160 pounds per year.

September Quiz: (answers next month)

- 1. How many of the early (up to 1949) Premiers/Prime Ministers served more than 1 term?**
- 2. How many of our Prime Ministers have died in office?**
- 3. How old was Sir Walter Nash when he became Prime Minister.**
- 4. Did we have a two-party system from the start?**

Answers to the August Quiz:

- 1. Richard John Seddon 1/5/1893-10/6/1906
Sir William Hall-Jones 21/6/1906-6/8/1906
Sir Joseph Ward 6/8/1906-28/3/1912**
- 2. Sir Francis Henry Dillon Bell 14/5/1925-30/5/1925. Born in Nelson.**
- 3. Richard John Seddon—13 years.**
- 4. Melbourne, Australia**

There are still some copies of the **"Family History Notebook"** Available at the rooms. Cost \$7.00 each. Please have a look at this book—it's a very useful one to have handy when doing your research. If necessary we can order more.

Story Writing Competition 2012—now closed.

Any suggestions for next year's competition?

Did your know???

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander, the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

One hundred years ago—1912 in New Zealand

1. The foundation stone was laid for the new parliament buildings.
2. The fourth Maori King, Te Rata was crowned.
3. The gold miners at Waihi went on strike, beginning a bitter 6 month struggle.
4. Petone Marxian Club began—the first Marxist organization formed in New Zealand.
5. Invercargill began its own electric tram services.
6. Radio Wellington opened in the General Post Office to provide ship-to-shore radio telegraph facilities.
7. 'Earnslaw' began services on Lake Wakatipu.
8. The Sydney to Auckland cable service opened.

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.

The correct dress for lady cyclists

In 1901 Marguerite of the New Zealand Graphic instructed lady cyclists on the proper thing to do and wear with their deportment and dress.

'Comparatively few women look really well on a bicycle, and I think to a great degree it is their own fault', she observed. 'There is no reason why each bicycle should not fit its own particular rider, in which case we should see fewer hunched-up figures, with knees reaching nearly to the chin every time the pedals come round. Some women think there is an extra amount of safety in sitting very near the ground, but this really is not so, and the effect of a low seat is anything but becoming.'

Marguerite was glad to say that girls who laboured under the mistaken belief that anything would do for cycling were decreasing in number. 'Each succeeding season one encounters more neatly-dressed girls a wheel than in previous years.'

'A cycling costume to prove a success and not an eyesore must be pre-eminently neat in all details, elaborate trimmings being strictly avoided. The much-talked-of khaki makes up into very tough and serviceable dresses and does not show traces of dust, but it is such an extremely trying colour to all but the very few that I can hardly conscientiously recommend it to anyone not possessed of a brilliant clear complexion.'

Marguerite told her readers that sailor hats 'of the correct shape and plainest description' were still the vogue for cycling. They went admirably with 'the neat tailor-made habit, natty collar and tie, and equally natty gloves and shoes, which the true wheel-woman and good dresser makes a sine qua non when in the company of her metal steed.'



CONDUCTOR (to a slave of fashion in hobbled skirt): Now, hurry up, lady. I don't want to be fined for loitering. Take it or leave it.

The New Zealand Observer satirised the new straight skirts in 1910