

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

September 2013

Stratford Community House.

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Branch Contact-

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Convener's Comment

Our Sunday afternoon meeting last month included some members of Senior Net whom I invited to join us. It was pleasing to see some of our members who prefer not to attend meetings at night. It is up to the members to determine the future of Sunday afternoon meetings.

Please let us know what you think.

Carol

Inside this issue:

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from 1913 Taranaki

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Some dates to Remember:

4th & 5th October Hawera Genealogy & South Taranaki Museum Book Fair at St Joseph's Hall, Victoria St.

15th November Hawera Genealogy Roger Fox Show

POLISH ANCESTRY

If you have Polish ancestry, then there is an event being planned for the weekend of 28/29th September which will interest you. I should have more details by our meeting night, or phone or e-mail me c.spragg@xtra.co.nz.

Carol

Branch Meeting—Wednesday Sept 11th, starting at 7.30pm. After the meeting Lesley is going to talk about developments in Irish Research resources.

Branch Rooms

The Stratford Branch Rooms open

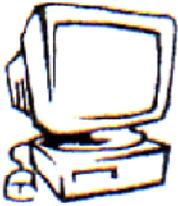
Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am – 3pm;

Saturdays 12 noon -2pm.

Our Branch Newsletter is now available each month on our web page-

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

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Web Sites

U.S. GenWeb - (<http://www.usgenweb.com/>) Many U.S. genealogy records are maintained at the local (county) level, and here is where U.S. GenWeb really shines. This free, all-volunteer project hosts free data and research for virtually every U.S. county.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/france/a/french_ancestry.htm

Beginner's Guide to French Genealogy

<http://www.whitcoulls.co.nz/history>—the history of Whitcoulls (Whitcomb & Tombs—booksellers) 130 years old

www.a1bookrestorer.com—book repairs, restoration

www.trove.nla.gov.au—Australian resources, books, images, newspapers, maps etc

www.familytreeassociation.org/
This is the website of the English Family Tree Association. Has an abbreviation list and a list of old occupations if you

A FORMER SCARE

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—History sometimes repeats itself. Can those interested in this vexed question of smallpox carry their memories back some twenty years or more, when a similar scare—of course a proportionately smaller one—occurred in a small village (as it was then) in the Taranaki or Egmont district? May not we be now, as then, jumping to an unwelcome conclusion?—I am, etc.,

AN EX-TARANAKI RESIDENT.

16th July, 1913.

Truthfulness

Earning future trust
by accurately
reporting
past facts

Many thanks to Denis Hampton for supplying the quotation above which is very appropriate for genealogists of the present day.

Another good rule is to double check or triple check everything you are told or read, especially on the internet. Don't assume anything or you will end up with people on your family tree who do not belong there.

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 .

We have a collection of the NZ Genealogist Magazine from 1994 to 2008, mostly complete years with the Indexes. If anyone would like these, they are free to a good home. (apart from the postage, please) Contact Maureen at Phone 762 8837, or email armstrong21@slingshot.co.nz

MOKAU ESTATE SALE

In this issue J. M. Johnston, of Palmerston North, advertises the Mokau Estate sale. This is the famous Mokau Mahakatino Block on the Mokap River, Taranaki, of 25,000 acres sub-divided in 11 sections and will be sold by public auction at the rooms of Abraham and Williams, Ltd., Palmerston North, on Wednesday, the 7th May, 1913, at 12 noon. For further particulars see advertisement in this issue.

A PIECE OF HISTORY

There is often of considerable surprise to discover the things of historic significance that are tucked away in our midst here in Taranaki.

The visit two weeks ago of the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London, brought to light the fact that sitting in a specially made table in the sanctuary of St Mary's School Chapel are pieces of Christopher Wrenn's St Paul's Cathedral.

When the Chapel was built (a great deal of it by Miss Robertson, her staff and the girls of the school - the concrete floor and walls to be exact) a great number of gifts were presented to the building.

And one of these - Miss Robertson's (as she was then, and the wife of the Dean of St Paul's as she is now) her gift was to arrange for the Clerk of Works at London's Cathedral to send out pieces of the bombed cathedral. These were set in a matrix together with a piece of greenstone given by Mr Dave Stewart and some petrified wood from a forest in Sinai to form the top of a table for the sanctuary of the Chapel.

This work was done by Shorts, monumental masons of New Plymouth.

It was therefore a remarkable full turn of the wheel for the Dean to be shown pieces of his Cathedral in a New Zealand School Chapel, which had been placed there in 1956 by the then Headmistress and now his wife.

Dean Martin Sullivan intends to take back a photograph of the table to show the men responsible for sending out these memento stones of the Cathedral the honoured place they now occupy in a place of worship in New Zealand.

From Riccarton Newsletter

Snippets

100

PROSPEROUS TARANAKI.

THE NEW YEAR'S PROSPECTS. YEARS

Prospects in Taranaki for 1913 are apparently of the brightest. The Taranaki Daily News views the horizon thus: "Facing the New Year we are blessed with the knowledge that the oil industry is in process of proper and exhaustive exploitation. We are exploiting our scenic reserves, we have exploited our visitors, within reason, our tradesmen have had an excellent Christmas harvest, and, if indications count for anything, we may face the new year strong in the confidence that never in the history of the province has the outlook been so bright. The voice of the farmer is heard in the land, crying for rain, but even if this sweet solace is denied us for a while, 1913 bids fair to be a record year in the annals of Taranaki."

MARRIAGES.

DAVIES -- RIEMENSCHNEIDER. -- On September 30, 1913, at Grafton Wesleyan Church, Auckland, by the Rev. George Bond, William Eolland Davies, of New Plymouth, to Frances Mary Adolphine, fifth daughter of the late John Frederick Riemenschneider, late of Taranaki and Otago, N.Z.

Quiz: (answers next month)

1. When was the first ski club formed at Ruapehu?
2. What was the weight of the gold nugget found at Donnelley's Creek in 1909?
3. When were the first cable links between New Zealand and Australia?
4. When was electric lighting installed at New Plymouth?

Answers to last month's Quiz:

1. New Zealand's boundaries were extended to the Cook Islands & Niue in 1901.
2. Grafton Bridge, the concrete bridge over Grafton Gully, was opened in 1910.
3. Mrs Thomson & Misses Perkins & Barnicoat, walked from the Hermitage to Westland by Copland Pass in 1903, becoming the first women to cross the Southern Alps.
4. The farmers occupied the Auckland wharves during the 1913 Wharf Strike.

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. At the moment I have—Blenheim, Canterbury, Dunedin, Gore, Hutt Valley, New Plymouth, Riccarton, Tokoroa, Wairarapa, for September. We also get Christchurch, North Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Matamata, Wanganui and Wellington.

WWI diaries, photos to be published online:

The diaries, personnel files, photos, voices and music of Kiwi soldiers who served in World War I will soon be available online for all New Zealanders.

Internal Affairs Minister Chris Tremain announced on Thursday that priceless collections at Archives New Zealand and the National Library will be digitised as part of the government's programme to commemorate the centenary of WWI.

"This huge resource will particularly allow young people, through the National Library's Services to Schools programme, to gain a much better understanding of events which took place 100 years ago," Mr Tremain said.

The projects announced include:

- * Archives New Zealand is publishing online the regimental diaries and personnel files of all men and women who served in WWI
- * The Alexander Turnbull Library is digitising and making available online some 28,000 pages from soldiers' diaries and private letters
- * 70 hours of oral history from WWI veterans will be made available on request at the Alexander Turnbull Library reading rooms
- * War-time editions of newspapers are being digitised and added to the Papers Past website, including major daily papers like the New Zealand Herald, Dominion and The Press
- * War-era photos from the Alexander Turnbull Library's collection will be available online, including those by official New Zealand war photographers
- * Digitisation of WWI-era sheet music.

Mr Tremain said the projects would help New Zealanders understand how military heritage has shaped national identity.

**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.