

# Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



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## April 2011

### **Branch Meeting**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **Working Bee continues..**

Meeting starts 7.30pm.

Rooms open from 7pm for research

### **Please note these dates**

**13<sup>th</sup> April meeting**~ we will be sorting some more of the Envelope Collection.

**15<sup>th</sup> April**~ the last day the Rooms will be open to the public.

**7<sup>th</sup> May**~Moving Day

**11<sup>th</sup> May meeting**~ Welcome to your new Branch Genealogy Centre

**17<sup>th</sup> May**~ we will be open to the public again.



To assist with packing and moving, we need cardboard cartons-no bigger than banana boxes please.

There is a trolley in the Research Room with books, magazines etc which we won't be moving. Please call in and find yourself a "treasure" or two for a small donation. Talk to Lesley about any of the furniture you might be interested in acquiring.



Our recent trip to the South Island was a holiday but like all genealogist I managed to squeeze in a little research as well with surprising results. I had been lead to believe a cousin (who had some years ago shared with me quite a bit of information re one branch of the family,) knew of some photos of the of family homes, but even on questioning had not been forth coming,

Speaking with her on the eve of our trip I mentioned I would be going to Geraldine and her reply was that she had left some family memorabilia at the Museum there, on asking what was the items, her reply was some clothing and children's toys. As I had already phone in advance to make an appointment to visit the Geraldine Historical Museum, I did when there ask about this collection of family memorabilia, and was shown infants and dolls cloths, some doll's tea sets and then told we do have a large collection of..... family photos'. And What a thrill to see all that they had, yes the photos of all the family homes, photos I had never seen of my grandmother and her parents, a lovely large one of my great grandmother which they allowed me to photograph and one of a great great Aunt, that I did not know about.

My relation's definition of a genealogist is one who collects names and dates and lists them on a tree, where many of us our research is wider as we are also interested in the stories and information on the people in our family trees not just the dates.'

It is possibly our own fault we miss out on all this extra information as we tend to put a lot of importance on BMD's and Dates and others are no clear on what we might be looking for.

**Lesley continues to share her research-**

**“ Alas WHITE and BROWN**

**Part 3**

With some information now at hand I decided to find John’s birth certificate and the 1851 census entry for him. This was easier said than done.



John WHITE is not an uncommon name-sigh! The third try captured the right certificate. Why then was I so sure? His father is clearly recorded as George DUNTON and his mother as Harriet WHITE formerly BADRICK- the date 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1841 at Hawridge

What to do next? one of the other Branch members introduced me to the wonder of the LDS Library. We went to the research centre in new Plymouth where the late Midge Williams ( wonderful woman)showed me the ropes and I ordered my first film. Hundreds of films later I can still remember that first one – the magical moment of finding my ancestor recorded in a historical document.

I scrolled through the village of Hawridge looking for John WHITE aged 9 years with a mother Harriet and suddenly there he was complete with more surprises. What did I find ? Harriet now had a new husband.

The household consisted of-  
 William WEEDON a.23 AG/Lab Head of household bn  
 Hawridge  
 Harriet WEEDON a 37 Plater (Deaf) wife bn Northchurch  
 Elizabeth WHITE a 13 dau-in-law bn Hawridge  
 John WHITE a 8 son-in-law bn Hawridge  
 Rebecca WHITE a 5 dau-in-law bn Hawridge  
 William WEEDON a 1 month son bn Hawridge

Well, well, well! What a friendly girl Harriet was ! a Mr WHITE as yet unknown, George DUNTON and now William WEEDON!

Back to the chase,I needed to find the 1841 census entry for Harriet White and her first marriage entry. And who on earth does little Rebecca belong to? Further revelations next month. It’s only taken 3 years to get to this point. I have found out much more about the BROWN family in the meantime but that can wait for another time.

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**WANTED**

“In 2009, the Stratford Basketball Assn published a Jubilee book. These have all been sold and the Branch would like a copy. If anyone is able to locate one that we could buy, please contact Carol”.



Pilot-Officer C. H. Hight, of Stratford, killed in air operations.



**HAUNTED BY HERO’S SACRIFICE**

Every year a Dorset man pays his personal tribute to the Spitfire Pilot he saw shot down over Bournemouth 61 years ago. John Allen was a 9yr old boy when he watched a part of the battle of Britain from his home. His excitement turned to horror as a Spitfire flown by 22yr old NZer Cecil Hight from Stratford NZ was torn apart by machine gun fire. Mr Allen is still haunted by the experience. On Armistice Day he put poppies on Pilot Officer Hight’s grave at Bournemouth East Cemetery as he does every Nov 11<sup>th</sup> and on each anniversary of the pilot’s death, 15 August 1940. “We were sting having tea. The sirens had gone and there was the sound of aircraft engines going over”, said Mr Allen.” The Spitfire was shot down and I saw this Khaki-coloured body come out and I can remember shouting “He’s Out!”. But Cecil Hight’s parachute did not open It is thought that he had already died from machine gun wounds. “Those pilots were my heroes. On that particular day, he wasn’t just fighting for my country. He was fighting for me, my mum and Dad. It had seemed a big adventure seeing all those planes, then suddenly it wasn’t. It was all too real. I can still shed a tear over it at 70”. From “NZ RSA Review” 2002.

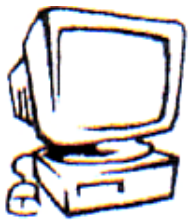
**ANZAC DAY**

The date, 25 April, was officially named Anzac Day in 1916; in that year it was marked by a wide variety of ceremonies and services in Australia and New Zealand, a march through London, and a sports day for the Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Egypt. The small New Zealand community of [Tinui](#), near [Masterton](#) in the [Wairarapa](#) was apparently the first place in New Zealand to have an Anzac Day service, when the then vicar led an expedition to place a large wooden cross on the Tinui Taipos (a 1,200 ft (370 m) high large hill/mountain, behind the village) in April 1916 to commemorate the dead.

## The way we were..... ..... Early Stratford



**Early view of Broadway.**



## Web Sites

### **Scotland 1911 release is imminent!**

The Scotland 1911 census will be available at the [Scotlandspeople](http://Scotlandspeople) site from Tuesday 5 April. It will cost 1 credit to view an index entry, or 5 credits to view an image, so you'll have no trouble spending your 10 free credits (see previous article)!

Remember that the cost of 30 credits at Scotlandspeople is going up on 1 April from £6 to £7 - so it makes sense to buy your credits now. Although credits are only valid for 90 days, any unexpired credits are reactivated when you buy new credits.

### **Did you Know ?.....**

That except for the 1841 Census, Scottish Census Returns are the day **AFTER** the English ones? Your ancestors just might be in both the English Census and the Scottish Census for the same year – if he was traveling between the two! The reason for the different dates is that Scotland would not hold their Census on the Sabbath, so it had to be on the Monday instead.

#### **Helpful Hint.**

When making photocopies of census records, copy the entire page and be sure to include the line numbers on both sides of the census page and the information from the top of the page. It may take more copies, but you won't have to come back and recheck something because you don't have it on the a copy

## *SNIPPETS-*

### **Auckland Museum Cenotaph Data Base**

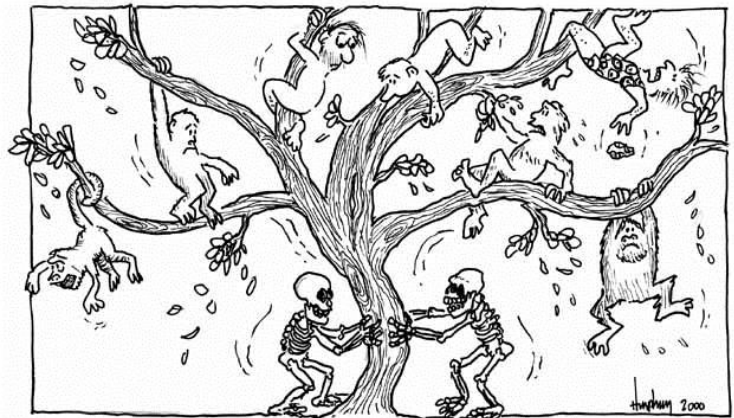
a biographical database of New Zealanders who have died in the 19th century, from the New Zealand Wars and South Africa, through the First and Second World Wars to Korea, Malaya and Vietnam. The database already consists of over 122600 records, many of which include a portrait taken from published sources or supplied by family members you can submit photos, etc of relatives who died in the conflicts NZ has been involved in.

contact-

Alison Taylor or Christina Tuitubou Manager,  
Information Centres | Auckland War Memorial  
Museum | Tamaki Paenga Hira | The Domain, Private  
Bag 92018, Auckland 1142, New Zealand  
| [www.aucklandmuseum.com](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com) | M | P +64 9 306 7070  
ext.646 | F +64 9 306 7065 | E  
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Genealogy begins as an interest,  
Becomes a hobby;  
Continues as an avocation,  
Takes over as an obsession,  
And in its last stages,  
Is an incurable disease.

### **STORY WRITING COMPETITION.....**

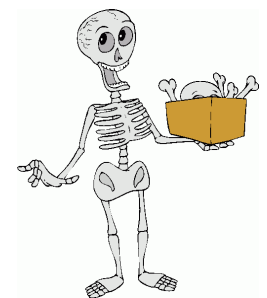


Is there a skeleton rattling in your family tree? You are invited to share with us this year your story...

### ***The Bones that rattle in my family tree***

The rules are the same no longer than an A4 sheet when typed up. All entries to the

Editor at [groatieburn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:groatieburn@xtra.co.nz) or leave at branch rooms. Last date for entries 20<sup>th</sup> October.



### The rise and fall of Private Butwell

Looking through the [British Army Service Records](#) at findmypast I came across a James Butwell, who I thought at first might be a relative of mine - and whilst I ultimately couldn't find a connection I found it so fascinating to read about his rollercoaster career that I thought I would share it with you.

He joined the 25th Foot as a Private on 10 January 1860, and clearly made a favourable impression on his superiors because on 1 March he was promoted to Sergeant - only to be arrested the very next day and court-martialled for drunkenness, whereupon he was reduced to Private.

Never mind, because on 8 June he was promoted to Corporal - and then on 24 August he was not only promoted to Sergeant but also appointed Drum Major. This time he managed to keep his rank until the following January when he was imprisoned for going AWOL and - surprise, surprise - reduced to Private again. By November 1863 they must have decided to forgive and forget, because he was once again appointed to Drum Major - a position he retained until May 1864 when he was yet again imprisoned for drunkenness and reduced to the ranks.

After that it was more of the same, and when he finally came to the end of his service the Regimental Board that awarded him a pension noted that his name had been entered in the Regimental Defaulters Book 22 times, and that he had been court-martialled 5 times. And yet they described his character and conduct as good!

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Contributions for May newsletter by April 20<sup>th</sup> please.

Also entries for the Story writing competition are needed

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### DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS



1870's

The description given for ladies fashion relating to photographs in the 1870's- *If the portrait is a half or three-quarter (no feet) the ladies hair is less severe, with perhaps a curl, and perhaps much jewellery and perhaps sitting down in a more casual way, clothes trimmed with lace or tassels. The ladies look like they are wearing heavy furnishing rather than dresses*

This certainly fits this photograph, with the heavy fringing on the dress along with the jewellery worn.

Research on the photographer found two examples of the printing on the back of photos from this photographer.

The earlier one found is quite different and the second one shown has the same back and a given date of 1883, however the price per photo is higher which suggest my photo was taken late 1870's.

If only I knew who the lady in the photograph is.

Next month we look at the 1880's and certainly there was a change of fashions at this time.

