

Stratford Branch



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Stratford Community House

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com

Branch Contact. Carol Spragg.

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Branch Meeting

Wednesday 14 June 7.30pm
at our new Rooms 52 Juliet St

Where is it ??

Learn to find where resources
are now stored in the new rooms

•
Rooms will be open from 7pm prior to the meeting

JUNE 2011

Convenor's Report

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the move to Community House, including those who provided morning tea for the workers and those who took loads to the Recycling Centre and have resources stored in their homes, those who have been helping to unpack, sort and shelve our resources. We are now into the "settling in" phase and researching, indexing, filing and sorting the Envelope Collection can get underway again. We already have our first new member since moving. A reminder to please read the orange notice on the notice board and fill out timetable form for you to indicate when you will be able to assist at the Rooms. It is important to note that there are no "optional booking" rooms available to us on Tuesday mornings and there is only room for a maximum of two people to be working in our Room 10. We need to show consideration to other users of Community House. This includes closing doors when two or more of our members are working in the same room, and being aware that others might be meeting just through the walls. We have an "optional room booked on Tuesday afternoons and on Fridays. It could be possible for us to make "optional bookings" on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Carol

FOR SALE

One vacuum cleaner, Panasonic brand. It hasn't had a lot of use and is in very good condition. Offers wanted. Phone Carol 765 0465

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

MAY BRANCH MEETING

Despite the weather there was a very good attendance to the meeting, and all agreed that the new rooms were an excellent choice.

Officers elected at the AGM for the coming year-

Convenor- Carol

Minutes secretary- Maureen (ex officio)

Treasure- Kate.

Librarians- Marie / Helen

Committee- Carol, Marie, Kate, Helen, Lesley.

Research Officers- Carol / Lesley

Newsletter- lee (ex officio)

STRATFORD BRANCH NZSG

Convenor's Report 2011~for Period 1 April 2010-31 March 2011

Well the best word to summarise this past year is "Change". When we received advice from TET in May last year, that they were renewing the grant for the lease on our Miranda Street Rooms for only one more year, we knew that after four years we were in "Change" mode again. We were advised that a new building, to be called "Stratford Community House" was to be built in Juliet St, just north of the Anglican Church and that it could possibly suit our needs. Thus began many months of meetings and discussions, and finally the decision was made and the agreement signed that we would move to the Community House.

Another significant change has been to our IT facilities. Our PCs (one of which was purchased with a grant from TET many years ago and two that had been donated) were becoming unreliable, outdated and ready for replacement. A Grant from TSB Trust enabled us to purchase three laptops, a new printer and a backup device.

A third change has come about because of our impending move where storage for resources will be reduced. We have reviewed our "core business" as being to collect resources that support research into people who have lived in Central Taranaki and also to have resources that allow people who live here now, research in other parts of New Zealand. We have reviewed our book resources and removed material which doesn't relate to our local area. Resources relating to other parts of New Zealand are on CD or microfiche which are easily stored, apart from Electoral Rolls from 1988, which are in book form. Some of these books will be kept at the Research Rooms and others will be stored in a member's home.

A fourth change was that we were able to contribute to the first Family History Fair, held in Hamilton, collaboratively with some of the other Taranaki Branches.

Other aspects of our Branch haven't changed. Membership remains consistent with previous years. We are still experiencing loyal support from members involved in indexing, filing and sorting the Envelope Collection. Research enquiries arrive consistently from New Zealand and overseas. Our Rooms are well patronised, especially on Tuesdays and visitors from the local area and further afield are welcomed and it is unusual for us not to be able to help them with their research. The writing competition via the Newsletters was successful again last year.

Special thanks to:

Kate who puts a lot of effort into applying for Grants and keeping our accounts so efficiently.

Lee who produces a high-quality Newsletter each month.

Maureen who is our Secretary/Minute Keeper.

Karen who sorts and files into the Envelope Collection.

Shirley who delivers the Stratford Borough newsletters each month.

Lesley and Marie who consistently donate their time to the Branch each week.

The group of Members who index, sort and file, regularly.

Everyone who has contributed to the discussions which led to our decision to move to Community House.

We approach the next year with optimism, aware that there will be significant changes in the way we operate but like "Bob the Builder" "Can we do it? Yes we can!!!!"

Thank you for your continuing support.
Carol Spragg



*A family tree can
wither if nobody tends
its roots.*

Lesley continues to share her research-

“ Alas WHITE and BROWN

Part 5

Well we have made some progress at last but, there are still many unanswered questions. First, where was George, now 15 years, in 1851. He didn't appear anywhere in the vicinity of Hawridge.



With the help of other researchers he was found in the Aylesbury Goal serving time for rioting along with several other local men. He then disappeared completely until I found him last year courtesy of the Ancestry.com census transcriptions for 1871. There he was – a gunner in the Royal Artillery- on home based deployment at Harwich on the coast. I have so far no further sightings of him. He was still unmarried.

John's sister Elizabeth married Edwin CULVERHOUSE in 1863. She had two sons neither of whom married. Herbert was almost blind from birth and died in 1896 age 30. The last sighting of Elizabeth's son, John was in 1901 when he was 34.

.Rebecca born in 1845 is the most closely related to John as her birth certificate also named George DUNTON as the father. She married David HATCHETT in 1865. David HATCHETT also spent time in prison. The 1871 census (ancestry.com) finds him in prison at Gillingham Kent after his third conviction. He was imprisoned for 10 years in 1869. He left Rebecca with two small children, Elizabeth aged 3yrs and Thomas a babe in arms. Sadly Thomas died in December 1870. There was another son, Thomas born in 1877 with some doubt about the father unless David was released from prison early. Daughters, Rosa born in 1882 and Alice born in 1885 complete the family.

By 1891 David had disappeared. Rebecca's status on the census was married but she was alone with the three younger children. In 1901 her status was widow- the girls were away from home. David's death registration has not been found.

I am still working on this family- hoping to make contact with descendants.

Continues in the next newsletter.

FINDMYPAST.CO.UK MAKES DEATH RECORDS EASIER TO SEARCH

Leading UK family history website www.findmypast.co.uk has today launched a quicker way to find the deaths of your ancestors, completing a two-year project to make the birth, marriage and death records of England and Wales easier to use. Over 1,000 people have worked on this project, rescanning 170 years of records and transcribing the quarter of a billion names they contain.

This final instalment means that over 85 million death records can now be searched with as little as a surname. This will return a list of individual names, so you'll no longer need to search through pages of results to spot your ancestor. Finding a death record will take a fraction of the time that it used to.

For the first time ever, you can now search for your ancestors in the following records all at once:

- England & Wales deaths 1837-2006
- British nationals died overseas 1818-2005
- British nationals armed forces deaths 1796-2005
- British nationals died at sea 1854-1890

Findmypast.co.uk is the only place you can search these records in one go. So if you've tried without success to find your ancestor's death record elsewhere, try again using our powerful new search.

For more information log on to www.findmypast.co.uk

RESEARCH HELP

Lesley is willing to offer assistance with research problems and is available by appointment at the rooms on Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. At other times also by appointment either at the rooms or at her home. This is for research New Zealand or overseas, not the Central Taranaki area.



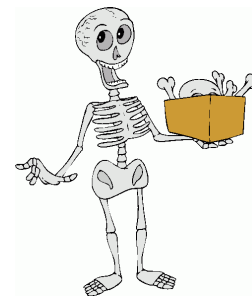
One never knows when one tiny Piece will pull the puzzle together.

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 or leave at branch rooms. Last date for entries 20th October.



The following is the first entry for the 'Family Skeletons' Competition:

The Skeletons in my Family Closet!

The first thing I learned when I began researching my Family Tree was that one has to develop a thick skin! I told myself I was prepared for family skeletons, but the reality was disturbing, to say the least! The first skeleton I uncovered is a bit too recent and too tragic to write about yet as one or two of the protagonists are still alive.

However, the next one was a surprise. I began looking for my grandfather, William Evans. I could not find his birth record anywhere, using the information on his Death Certificate. According to that, he was born in Hobart, Tasmania, and his parents were supposed to be Thomas and Maria Evans. Well, try as I might, I could not find William Evans with those parents. What I did find was Thomas William Evans, mother Maria Morgan Evans, father unknown! Of course, there are about a million William Evans's in Australian birth records, but this was the only one in the right year, with the right mother's name. After further research, and aided by the Hobart Genealogy Society, I was pretty sure this was the right one. Then I had a reply to a message on ancestry.com.au from a person who turns out to be a distant cousin of mine. Her great grandfather was Thomas Morgan Evans Junior, a brother of Maria Morgan Evans, and she confirmed that my grandfather's name was definitely Thomas William, and that his mother was not married when he was born.

Okay, so my grandfather was illegitimate! I can handle that. It's not a big deal!

Then I found out from this same cousin, once she realized that I wouldn't go ballistic at the information, that Maria Morgan Evans was a daughter of Thomas Morgan Evans, ex convict, transported in 1851 to Tasmania (van Dieman's Land as it was known then) for 10 years for stealing a horse, and his wife, Mary Anne Evans, nee Atkins, also an ex-convict, transported to Tasmania in 1847 for crimes not detailed! They were married in Hobart in 1852. I have a copy of their Marriage Certificate, and the record of Thomas's Application to Marry. On looking up convict records I found that Mary Anne Atkins had been arrested and imprisoned twice in Stafford Prison for 'larceny', which I assume means petty thieving. The third time she appears it is listed as 'felony', and she was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Sounds like three strikes you're out! So far I haven't found any Court reports or newspaper reports to give any details of either of them, but I'm still looking. I am beginning to suspect that there might be further skeletons in Mary Anne's past but have a brick wall to break through before I can confirm that!

Maureen Armstrong