

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



65-67 Miranda Street
Stratford 4332

www.stratfordgenealogy.homestead.com
Branch Contact Carol Spragg
c.spragg@xtra.co.nz

MARCH 2011

Branch Meeting

March 9th

Working Bee

Meeting starts 7.30pm.
Rooms open from 7pm for research

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

The way we were.....

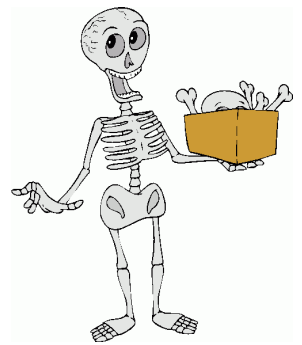
..... **Early Stratford**

**As seen in our Post card collection.
1900 Parade for the Governor of NZ
The Earl of Ranfurly.**



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.

*Extract from Murphy's Law of Genealogy
When you at last solve that mystery of the
skeleton in the closet your tight-lipped
spinster aunt claimed "I could have told you
that all the time".*

In my case it was a second cousin when contacted
after we found his grandfather as illegitimate, (no
being sure how to bring up the subject) responded
with a laugh and said "we knew that and wondered
how long it would be till anyone else worked that
out!"

I hope everyone is putting pen to paper and sharing
stories of their research... look forward to receiving
your entries. The Editor.

*This packrat has learned that what the next
generation will value most is not what we
owned, but the evidence of who we were
and the tales of how we loved. In the end,
it's the family stories that are worth the
storage.*

-Ellen Goodman, The Boston Globe

Lesley continues to share her research-

“ Alas WHITE and BROWN

Part 2

As I set about the task of tracing the origins of John WHITE the first thing I realised was that I didn't have a clue how to go about. What to do?

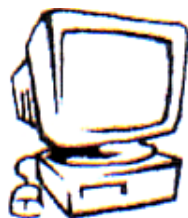


ASK FELLOW GENEALOGISTS FOR ADVISE.

In no time at all I had John's death certificate which told me little except that he was illegitimate and born in England. The informant was Rose nee BROWN, his widow. I was to find, some time later, that she knew a lot more about him than that. Where to next? I knew that seven of their ten children were born in New Zealand so the next step was some birth certificates. These were also a mixed blessing. Rose was always the informant and her Buckinghamshire accent made for some interesting place names – John's birthplace was variously recorded as-Arrage ENG. Harwick and Harwich. Finally, in desperation, I consulted a researcher in Rose's home county and back came the crucial information. Rose was giving the place name of the village just up the hill from her own birthplace. What was it- Hawridge- pronounced locally ad Arridge or Harridge or Orridge or Horridge. Remember take nothing at face value. Next I sought the marriage certificate of John WHITE and Rose BROWN in England. I came up with zilch! Why? It was really simple- Rose lied about the date when she registered the births of her NZ born children. After many months I received a phone call from a relative whose searching had found the truth. He was so shocked, poor man. The first three children (although he only knew of two) were born before the marriage. When did they marry? The day before they set sail for New Zealand. What magic information did that certificate hold? The story about our surname was true. John's father was recorded as George DUNTON (I'm still looking for that chap) His mother's was Harriet WHITE maiden name BADRICK. There it was- John's mother was MRS WHITE who gave birth to an illegitimate child, my g.grandfather. The story does not end here however. More next month, when I will tell how I found out about his mother Harriet and John's birth.



Contributions for April newsletter by March 20th please.
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Web Sites

LOOKING FOR FAMILY IN or FROM DERBYSHIRE?

This was posted on the NZSG Members List. This site which is full of treasures

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spire/Yestoday/index.htm>.

From the home page: Dealing primarily with Derbyshire, it does however cover the whole of the British Isles, as people moved around seeking work, travelled as vagrants through the County, or were chased throughout the realm, as the responsibility of fatherhood and law caught up with them. There are references to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and America, as well as other lands overseas, as some moved further afield.

Includes:

Apprentice Records, Workhouse Registers, Board of Guardians, Schools, Settlement Examinations and Certificates, Wills and Administrations, Bastardy Papers, Cemetery Records, Coroner's Records, Transportation to the Americas, and others

NZ Railways employees.

[.http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-railways.html](http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-railways.html)

This is a good place to research, quoting from an article found on the net- "The New Zealand Railways Magazine, pub 1926 – 1940 is a great place to start. It became popular with staff and the travelling public, and was possibly the first tourist magazine in New Zealand as it was sold at railway bookstalls. It is fully searchable. Put in a name or occupation and see what you get. Not only was it a journal for staff and families, it became a tourist magazine.. The description of the new rolling stock would interest many but it is its role as a staff magazine that is helpful to family historians. Staff were encouraged from all divisions to send photographs of their children. These named photographs were published. Photographs of staff were also published.

Also worth checking out-

<http://hharp.org> Brilliant news from the Historic Hospital Admission Records Project.

www.londonlives.org Documenting the crime, poverty and social policy in the metropolis

BOER WAR RECORDS

FINDMYPAST.CO.UK PUBLISHES ONLINE OVER 260,000 RECORDS FROM THE 2ND BOER WAR

- o Boer War Deaths 1899-1902 now available to search on findmypast.co.uk
- o Details of over 260,000 names of the men and women who served the British Empire forces
- o Includes the most up to date casualty list of 59,000 casualties with more background than ever before

Leading family history website www.findmypast.co.uk has published online the Register of the Second Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902, recording individual servicemen, nurses and civilians who served with the British Imperial Forces during the Second Anglo-Boer War.

This register includes very rare and out of print documents, creating a single record for each participant in the war, making it the most unique database of its kind for amateur genealogists, military historians and medal collectors to research. The database includes 260,000 entries, including the casualty roll with details of over 59,000 individuals.

This is the first time that these records have come together in one place, making it easy to find ancestors who took part, with only a surname needed to begin the search. The published casualty records that previously existed were often imprecise, due to lack of familiarity with the Afrikaans language, use of names that have passed out of usage and the location of the records. For example, many of the casualties of the Battle of Biddulphberg are shown in the casualty roll as Senekal; this is the place where the troops retired to and where the casualty roll was prepared rather than where they actually fought.

This new online version can help you:

- . Find the unit with which your ancestor served
 - . Quickly research a medal before you buy or bid for it
 - . Find the many units with which a soldier served
 - . Learn about the place they became a casualty
 - . Find the medal roll reference and for some records the clasp entitlement
 - . Locate which war memorial they appear on
 - . Learn about a mention in a book
 - . Find what honours and awards they received
- +++++

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts. Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking.

~Author Unknown

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS



Carte de Visite Photograph

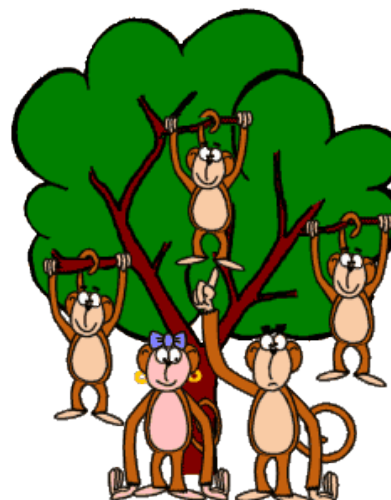
Most of the old photos I have taken in England are for the 1860's. I have chosen this one as it shows men's fashions of the times. And the fashion is certainly in keeping with mid 18'60's, the pose also suggests a possible wedding photo.

Research on the photographer tells me that the photographer John Rayner took over the business of G Absell in 1864. I found the identical back of the photo on the web site given last month dated as 1865.



Research also showed that this photographer later change the back design. So I am now trying to track down which family members this might have been.

See to this web site to help with your research. <http://victorian.fortunecity.com/carroll/642/pixs/carte-a.htm>



THE FAMILY TREE