

Stratford Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists



Stratford Community House

52 Juliet Street

Stratford 4332

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May 2011

Branch Meeting

Wednesday 11 MAY
at our new Rooms 52 Juliet St.

AGM 7.30pm

Welcome to your new Branch Genealogy
Centre That evening, we'll be familiarizing
ourselves with our new Rooms.

7th May~Moving Day

11th May meeting~ Welcome to your new
Branch Genealogy Centre

17th 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.

The way we were.....

..... **Early Stratford**



AGM Wednesday 11 MAY Nominations are
invited for new committee members.
Committee members need to be current
members of NZSG. Although most of the

current committee are staying on, we would
like to have your input, new ideas and help.

THANKS:

- To Kate for getting the annual accounts
ready for auditing and for applying for funds
for us.
- To our indexers who will be able to have
a break while the branch's resources are
packed up.
- To those who have been busy sorting the
Envelope Collection. We still need your used
A4 envelopes please.
- To those who have brought boxes to the
Rooms. More are still needed (no larger than
banana box size please).
- To those who have offered to help pack
our resources. Phone Lesley (765 5154) for
the times she'll be at the Rooms before the
shift.
- To those who have offered to help with
the move to 52 Juliet St on 7 May. 9am at the
old rooms "many hands will make light
work". If you would like to help, but are
unable to help with the move, a plate of
muffins, sandwiches etc for morning tea for
the workers would be appreciated. Please
deliver to 52 Juliet St by 10am or phone Carol
765 0465 for food to be collected.
- To Tim & Kate who took the unwanted
phone books to the Recycling Centre recently.

Lesley continues to share her research-

“ Alas WHITE and BROWN

Part 4

Having found John WHITE aged 9 yrs in the 1851 census, complete with a new stepfather and an older sister, so far completely unknown to me my question was, where next? Off I went to the 1841 census and found even more surprises. Harriet using her maiden surname was back with her parents, Samuel & Hannah (GARNER) BADRICK, along with a Elizabeth WHITE a. 4 years and a George WHITE a. 5 years.



The next step was, obviously, to check the Hawridge Old Parochial Register. I ordered the film and waited full of anticipation. While I did have some success with this film it had large gaps in it. However I did find Harriet BADRICK and Daniel WHITE marrying on the 6th February 1937. This couple were witnesses to the marriage of Harriet's sister Rebecca to Francis MEAD the same day. There were, sadly, no baptismal entries for the children. The BADRICK Family were Baptists and only appear in the register for weddings and the occasional burial.

So I now had George, Elizabeth and their father Daniel to sort out. George was obviously born prior to his parents marriage and Elizabeth's birth pre-dated civil registration so dates of birth are not available. This leaves Daniel. I know quite a lot about Daniel who certainly left Harriet and their children. It was not, however a planned absence. He was convicted of house breaking on 6th March 1838 and transported to NSW. at the age of 26yrs, father of 1 male & 1 female, on board "John Barry" in 1842. His term of imprisonment was 10years. He is thought to be the Daniel WHITE age 47yrs who died of gunshot wounds 29 December 1863. Coroner at Tamworth NSW could not determine how it occurred.

I have more work to do on this.

Next month I will give more information on John's siblings.

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"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance." -- **George Bernard Shaw**

Papers Past

contains more than one million pages of digitised New Zealand newspapers, here is a list of the latest addition (April 2011)

- Bay of Plenty Times June 1910-1920
- Ellesmere Guardian 1913-1945
- Evening Post November-December 1915
- Hawera & Normanby Star 1911-1924
- Hutt news 1927-1933
- Kaipara & Waitemata Echo 1011-1921
- Manawatu Standard 1900-1906
- Manawatu Times 1901-1905
- Marlborough Express July-August 1908
- Wanganui Herald 1967-1875

I've solved a family mystery through one of these updates. I couldn't understand why my WILKINS family didn't appear on 1861 English census when all other records indicated that they arrived in NZ about mid 1860's (though I couldn't find a shipping list to confirm this. I found my gr-gr great grandmother's 1933 obituary which stated that the family left England for South Africa when she was 5 (c1857) and arrived in NZ 5 years later. I typed in her father's name and 1862 and found them on a shipping list arriving in Auckland. Eureka!!!!

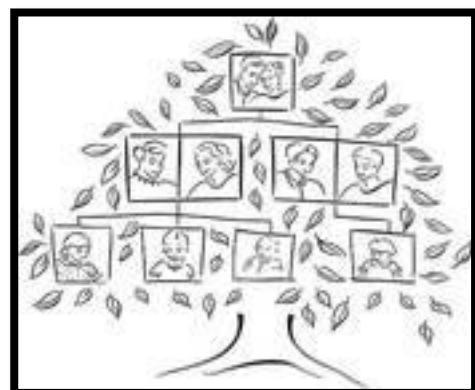
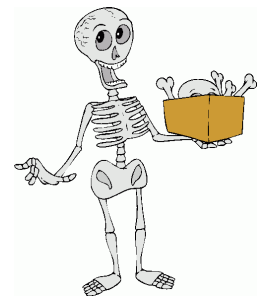
Carol

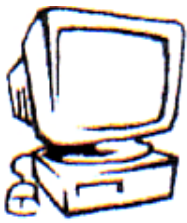
Story Writing Competition

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.





Web Sites

The following New Zealand military collections are now LIVE on Ancestry.com.au

New Zealand Army WWII Nominal Rolls, 1939-1948

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1832>
- Records: 124,535
- Images: 1,661

New Zealand Army WWI Nominal Rolls, 1914-1918

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1833>
- Records: 100,721
- Images: 1,239

New Zealand Army WWI Reserve Rolls, 1916-1917

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1834>
- Records: 179,188
- Images: 1,614

New Zealand Army WWI Casualty Lists, 1914-1919

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1835>
- Records: 61,475
- Images: 1,124

New Zealand Army WWI Roll of Honour, 1914-1919

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1924>
- Records: 18,165
- Images: 203

New Zealand WWI Military Defaulters, 1919-1921

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1929>
- Records: 2,424
- Images: 14

New Zealand Army Medal Rolls, 1860-1919

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1926>
- Records: 7,765
- Images: 37
- Images/Records: 1,467

The Defenders of New Zealand

- URL: <http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=34546>
- Images/Records: 329

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Use fashion details given in decades as a guideline only, a

description for ladies fashions in the **1880s** reads as follows.....

The ladies dress may be severe and close fitting or it has a bustle (1881-1886 ish), skirts had pleated edges, Ladies wore tight fitting jackets, high white collars or ruffs a brooch at the neck, lots of buttons in rows, tight fitting sleeves, odd little hats, hair plain or curls usually pulled back.



Looking at this photo, the lady's dress fits several points described above, it was how ever taken in August 1892.

SNIPPETS-

Beatitudes of a Family Genealogist

Blessed are the great-grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters... For they tell the story of their time

Home is where your story begins - **Annie Daniels.**

To forget one's ancestors is to be a book without a source, a tree without a root. **Chinese Proverb**

Life after death

“Frances wrote to tell me of a most unusual occurrence she had found - the death of a child registered in the quarter preceding the quarter in which the child's birth appeared. As 42 days are allowed to register a birth, but only 5 to register a death, I can understand how this might have happened - though I'm surprised the registrar didn't pick this up at the time the death was registered.”

How reliable are certificates?

Do you believe everything you read on a birth, marriage, or death certificate? I certainly don't, because experience has shown that many of them contain errors. In some cases the errors arise because the information has been copied incorrectly - remember that the register entries sent to the GRO have usually been copied by the registrar or vicar (in the case of church marriages), and aren't the same pieces of paper that your relatives signed. But even if you get a certificate from the local register office, it might still be wrong.

For example, I obtained a copy of the marriage entry for my ancestor Mary Ann Burns from the local register office - which showed that her father's name was James Brown. For years I pondered this, until eventually I decided to check what the church copy of the register said - and discovered that in this register her father's name was shown as James Burns. Both certificates had been signed by my great-great grandparents, who you might expect to have noticed the discrepancy, but perhaps some of the information was filled in later? Or were they so overwhelmed by the occasion that they signed without reading the entry carefully?

Personally I suspect that they were more focused on the fact that they were both claiming to be 'of full age' even though neither had reached 21. I wonder whether they married behind their parents' backs? Neither of the witnesses were family members, and my great grandmother was born just four and a half months after the wedding, so it's not surprising they didn't want to wait until they reached the age of consent.

Marriage certificates are the ones that are most often incorrect - usually because the age of one or more of the participants has 'adjusted' to suit. Indeed, I would estimate that over half of all marriage certificates I've seen are wrong in some respect - if not the ages, then the father's name or occupation. It would take someone with great courage and fortitude to own up to being illegitimate on their wedding day, so it's hardly surprising that many brides and grooms gave misleading information. Strangely we often ignore the most reliable information on marriage certificates - the names of the witnesses!

Death certificates are the second most likely to contain errors, even though the information on them is minimal (in the case of English & Welsh certificates). No doubt in some cases the mistakes were made as a result of grief, but more often they must be the result of ignorance - particularly when the person who died is the last of their generation.

Tip: obituaries are even less reliable than death certificates - everyone wants to say nice things about the departed, so even an obituary appears in black and white you can be pretty certain that it is rose-tinted!

Of course, certificates are often the most reliable source available to us - so to an extent we do have to rely on the information they contain. However, we must nevertheless keep an open mind about their accuracy, just as we would with information from any other source - and as we research further we invariably discover other clues to their veracity.

My apologies for failing to record the source of these articles-Ed.