



Matamata Branch

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The *Firth Tower* was built in 1882 by Josiah Clifton Firth on his estate and was used as the Estate Office and as sleeping quarters for single men. It stands on rising ground commanding an extensive view of the surrounding countryside. Other historical buildings are in the reserve and the historical centre there houses the archives of the Matamata district.

February 2021

Meetings held 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, Feb - Nov

All Saints Anglican Parish Lounge, Hohaia Street, Matamata

Research Afternoons are held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at the Anglican Parish Lounge from 1.30 – 3.30pm. This is an excellent time to come and use our resources as well as get the one on one help and assistance that is often not available at the branch meetings because of time constraints etc. There is no charge for a financial member, but a visitor pays \$2.

February 2021 to May 2021 Branch Programme

Feb 12 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

Feb 18 - Branch meeting - Matamata Cemetery - Start time 7pm

The branch is to update the headstone inscriptions records.

Instructions/plans of cemetery/blocks/plots to be distributed.

Feb 26 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

Mar 12 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

Mar 18 - Branch meeting. Matamata Historical Society speakers. Topic -

'Local History and What is Available in Their Archives'

Mar 20 - Regional Meeting in Te Awamutu

Mar 26 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

Apr 9 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

Apr 15 - Branch Meeting. Research evening. Two short presentations on Using the GRO and Free BMD and Military Records - NZ &UK

Apr 23 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

May 14 - Friday Research 1.30 - 3.30pm

May 20 - Branch AGM followed by a speaker (to be confirmed)

Convenors Report

A belated Happy New Year to all Members. I hope you managed to get some research into the break, or maybe took the time to organise photos, research material or even write up your findings.

Following on from the session Jo lead on Blurb books I managed to get one created, despatched, and received back in time to give as Christmas presents. I was progressing well when they announced a 40% discount and free postage offer. That lasted 3 days so I moved from the first 75% being slow and careful to the last quarter being finalised under a deadline. I will bring it to the March meeting so I can show off my work.

We have held our first Committee meeting for the year and progressed the programme well into the year. The meetings are outlined in this newsletter. We are in a good financial position to progress the last tranche of the digitization of the Matamata Chronicle.

We have again booked the Op Shop for the 4 days after Labour Monday (26-29 Oct). They have moved to their new premises so we should make ourselves familiar with the new set up prior to our booking. We will use some of the proceeds to pay for Branch activities thus keeping subs down, however there will hopefully be an amount left over. In the past we have used this for digitizing the Matamata Record on Papers Past. What would you like to see us do in the future with these funds?

We are considering that in August we could make a "field trip" up to the Auckland Library's Family History Fair for either the Saturday or Sunday.

Please consider coming to the February Meeting at the Cemetery. The project for bringing the index of headstones up to date will take us a while, possibly all year, but it is something you can all assist with by taking a section and transcribing it yourself at a time to suit yourself. The Cemetery never closes!

Come the AGM I will have been the Convenor for 4 years. Prior to that I have served several stints on the Committee and held the position of Treasurer and Secretary. I will not be standing again as Convenor. Please give some thought to giving back to the Branch and serving on the Committee in some manner.

MAXINE VIGGERS

Matamata Public Library - Ancestry Access

This has been extended to library card holders until 31 March 2021.

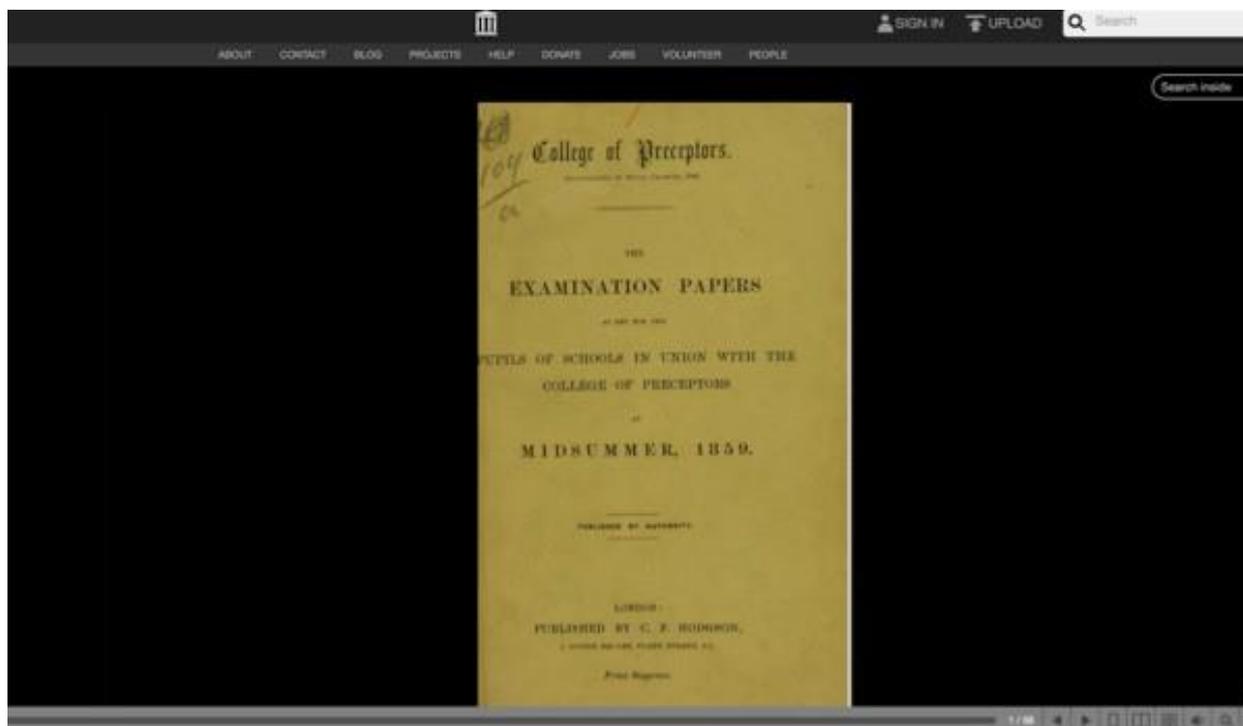
Saves going into the library and waiting for a computer to become available.

Able to use when it suits you! Please support this service.

Can you answer these 1859 exam questions?

Were modern exams harder than the ones undertaken by our ancestors?

The [College of Preceptors' 1859 midsummer paper](#) is available online, so we have chosen some brain-breaking questions to help you compare your knowledge to a Victorian child.



■ The examination papers as set for the pupils of schools in union with the College of Preceptors at midsummer. 1859

The 1859 College of Preceptors exam paper is available on the Internet Archive

<http://archive.org>.

Arithmetic

1. A wedge of gold weighing 14 lbs. 3 oz. 8 dwt., is valued at 514l. 4s.; what is the value of an ounce?
2. If 3000 copies of a book of 11 sheets require 66 reams of paper; how much paper will be required for 5000 copies of a book of $12\frac{1}{2}$ sheets?
3. Find by duodecimals the capacity of a cube whose edge is 2ft. 8 in., and prove the truth of the result by vulgar fractions.

English Grammar, Analysis and Composition

1. Mention some connective words which are not conjunctions.
2. Is the definition usually given of the Relative Pronoun applicable to any other pronouns? What is the distinctive characteristic of the Relative Pronouns?
3. Define the Degrees of Comparison of adjectives. Give a list of adjectives which have irregular forms for the Comparative and Superlative Degrees.

History of England

1. Explain the terms Witenagemote, Danegelt, Curfew, Domesday Book, Scutage, Magna Charta.
2. From the deaths of William I. to the accession of Henry VII. eight monarchs assumed the crown of England, to the detriment of the rightful heirs. Name them.
3. Under what Commanders, and when were the Victories of Cressy, Agincourt, Blenheim, Quebec, Trafalgar, Waterloo, and Alma gained?

Extract from <http://whodoyouthinkyouareagazine.com/news>

Our AGM is scheduled for Thursday 20 May and the present committee are hoping members will give serious consideration to joining our small team. We usually have four committee meetings a year and these take place in the Lounge after a Friday Research afternoon. If interested, please contact one of the committee.

This Week in History

1 February 1842 - New Zealand Company settlers arrive in Nelson

2 February 1939 - A massive fire destroyed the nearly completed three-storey

Social Security building in Wellington.

3 February 1931 - Deadly Hawke's Bay earthquake

4 February 1975 - First women swims Cook Strait

5 February 1911 - New Zealand's first controlled powered flight

6 February 1840 - Treaty of Waitangi signed

7 February 1863 - New Zealand's worst shipwreck

(<http://nzhistory.govt.nz/timeline/date>)

FamilySearch Announces RootsTech Connect 2021: A Free Global Virtual Event

FamilySearch is thrilled to announce that the RootsTech 2021 conference previously planned for February 3-6, 2021, in Salt Lake City, Utah, will now be held on February 25-27, 2021, as a free, virtual event online. RootsTech Connect 2021 will enable attendees to participate from around the world and will feature inspiring keynote speakers, dozens of classes in multiple languages, and a virtual marketplace. For more information and to reserve your place today at [RootsTech.org](https://www.familysearch.org/RootsTech).

In House News

- **CD Library** - The Branch has several CD's that are available for '**members only**' to borrow and are available at each meeting or research afternoon. You just record which CD you have borrowed and when you have finished using, then return either at the next meeting or research afternoon.
- **Library Books** - The branch library has many books on various topics that are available for members to borrow. Please browse our collection when next in the Lounge. There could be one on a subject you are researching.
- **Ancestry.com** - this is available at the Public Library for members to use during opening hours.

Are any members interested in contributing an article for future newsletters?

Any topic with a genealogical theme would be appreciated.

<u>Convenor:</u>	Maxine Viggers	888 1656
<u>Secretary:</u>	Christine Young	888 8327
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Jennifer Couch	888 7042
<u>Committee:</u>	Mary Cobham	888 7867
	Heather Bond	888 6823

Reminder any contributions to the newsletter would be gratefully accepted. Please send to Maxine or Christine at matamatagenealogy@gmail.com

Next newsletter - April 2021

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Branch or the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.