

Riccarton
Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

NEWSLETTER



February 2020
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NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 12 February 2020

Our first meeting of the year is a joint presentation on the topics of

“THE HISTORY OF POSTAL SERVICES IN CHRISTCHURCH”

by Paul van Herpt
and

“HOW TO RESEARCH NZ POST OFFICE PEOPLE”

by Alan Tunncliffe

PAPERSPAST NEWS

January 2020 updates were:

Nelson Evening Mail: years 1931-37 added; coverage now 1866-1937

Timaru Herald: years 1921-28 added; coverage now 1864-1928

Waikato Times: years 1929-35 added; coverage now 1872-1935

Manawatu Times: years 1929-36 added; coverage now 1877-1936

Franklin Times (South Auckland): years 1934-45 added covering WWII; coverage now 1921-1945

Northern Advocate (Whangarei): years 1946-49 added; coverage now 1887-1949

Waihi Daily Telegraph: years 1942, 1945-47, 1949-50; coverage now 1904-50

Meetings: 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month (Feb to Nov) at the Upper Riccarton Library, 71 Main South Road. Visitors are welcome.

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FROM THE CONVENOR'S DESK

Happy new year and welcome back folks – Alan's 2020 programme is full of surprises and interesting talks so start booking your calendars out. We have renewed our booking for the meeting room and I have to point out that the room is only allowed a maximum of 40 people under our agreed terms and conditions. Our great meet and greet team will be monitoring the numbers so please make sure you get in early and hopefully we don't have to turn anyone away.

Unfortunately, I didn't even get a chance to visit the great resources we have locally or to look for Nelson gems while I was up there, so I am looking forward to our first night and hearing all of your interesting holiday genealogical stories. The committee agreed that our branch will sponsor a free DNA information meeting at the Halswell library on Friday 20 March. This will be presented by visiting DNA experts from USA, Blaine Bettinger and Angie Bush. Look out for more information in the next newsletter.

Lance

FINDMYPAST UPDATE

Additions to this website since my last update in November include:

- Dundee & Angus (Forfarshire) Baptisms, Marriage, Banns & Burials 1562-1855
- Lanarkshire School Registers for 14 schools (including Dalziel, Dalserf, Lanark Grammar & Burgh)
- Durham county parish Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (additional parishes)

Tip: in order to check what parishes are available and the years of coverage, when on the search page for any county's parish records look at the lower right-hand side of the screen for "Useful Links and Resources". Clicking on these headings will bring up an alphabetical list of parishes with dates for each type of record.

N.B. New additions to FMP are made weekly, every Friday.

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

- U.S. War Hospital Admission card files 1942-54 (includes WWII and the Korean War)

MEMBERS SURNAME INTERESTS

We would like to list in the newsletter each month the surname interests of members, both those of new members whose names have never been featured previously and also additional names for members who have had their surnames of interest recorded with our Surname Interests officer, Peter Hentschel. If you are not certain of what surnames you have already registered, then please contact Peter to find out, at peter.hentschel@xtra.co.nz or on 351 5638.

Here are the family surname interests of our Convenor:

EDEN	Leeds (West Yorkshire)
EDEN	Dovedale & Nelson
KENYON	Ireland
KENYON	Wigtownshire
KENYON	Dovedale
ROWLING	Cornwall
ROWLING	Motueka
STRATFORD	Nelson, Aniseed Valley, Rai Valley & D'Urville Island
THOMASON	Farthingstone (Northants)
THOMASON	Ngatimoti, Tadmor, Waimea

Lance Kenyon can be contacted at lancerkenyon@gmail.com and at 027 848 3112

SOME RANDOM 2020 ANNIVERSARIES

1620 December 21: 400th Anniversary of the *Mayflower* bringing the pilgrim settlers from UK to USA
1820 January 29: 200th Anniversary of King George IV ascending the throne of UK
1870 May 14: 150th Anniversary of the first Rugby match played in New Zealand at Nelson
1870 October 1: 150th Anniversary of Canterbury Museum, founded in Christchurch by Julius von Haast
1920 January 10: Centennial of the League of Nations (forerunner of the U.N.)
1920 January 16: Centennial of the start of Prohibition in USA
1920 June 28: Centennial of the opening in Wellington of the Alexander Turnbull Library
1920 August 26: Centennial of Women's Right to Vote in USA
1945 May 8: 75th Anniversary of VE Day (end of World War Two in Europe)
1945 August 15: 75th Anniversary of VJ Day (end of World War Two in Japan)

LIBRARY NEWS

At the meeting I will be showing you some excellent new books we have recently bought from UK about researching your family members who were Irish, Railway Workers, Anglican Clergymen, Freemasons or Merchant Seamen.

Can you please remember to return the books that you borrowed at the October and November meetings so that other members may borrow them.

Many thanks, Kathy

FREE IRISH BDM RECORDS

The Government of Eire generously makes available on the website www.irishgenealogy.ie a full index to civil registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages with images of the register pages able to be viewed at no cost. Civil registration began in 1864 for births and deaths and Protestant marriages were recorded from 1845. There are cut off dates at present as follows: births 1919, marriages 1944, deaths 1969. The records for those counties now in Northern Ireland do not go beyond 1921. The full period indexed has only recently been completed.

GRO INDEXES FOR ENGLAND & WALES

The indexes of Birth and Deaths here [www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp if you are already registered on the site] which cover from 1837 to 1919 for births and from 1837 to 1957 for deaths, have recently had a further period added for births between 1984 and 2004 and for deaths between 1984 and 2019. These later indexes give year of birth for deaths but for births do not give the mother's maiden surname. I have also found that in many cases, when searching these later period indexes, although you still do have to choose the sex as "male" or "female" in the mandatory field, the results usually list both genders together in one list. Entering a mother's maiden surname for births in this later period is ignored when returning the results list.

POPULAR NZ BABY NAMES IN 2019

For 2019 it is noteworthy that the formerly popular name for boys in earlier years of Hunter, which was in 5th place in 2017 and 2018 had dropped down to 11th place. However, the top name for the 7th year in a row remains as Oliver. Noah, Leo and Jack also remain among the top 4 most popular names for baby boys born in New Zealand. Lucas, which has been in the top 10 every year since 2010 (except for 2015 at 14th) came in at 5th place in 2019. Nikau remained the most popular name for Maori boys.

For baby girls, Amelia, which was 6th in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and 4th in 2018, was in top place in 2019, overtaking Charlotte which has been 1st or 2nd every year since 2013. Ruby made a huge leap from 23rd place in 2018 up to 5th place in 2019. For Maori baby girls Mia is top for the 2nd year in a row. Sarah, which was 9th in 2000, 2001 & 2002, has been declining in popularity and has now dropped down to 100th place.

WORLD WAR TWO ANNIVERSARY: PART 11

by David & Fiona Lees and Alan Tunncliffe

NOEL ALFRED DEAL STOKES

Noel Stokes was born on 31 December 1918 at Christchurch. His parents were Frank Deal Stokes and Alice G Stokes nee Gee. He was a pupil at Christchurch West District High School from 1932 until 1934. He worked for the Post Office as a clerk in Wellington and served for 6 months with NZ Army Territorial Force.

On 20 February 1942, at the age of 23, he joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force [RNZAF] at Rongotai in Wellington and was transferred to Harewood in Christchurch on 6 March. He was allocated service no. NZ421403 and the rank of Airman. He began training as a pilot on 3 September at the Initial Training Wing and at No 3 Elementary Flying Training School at Harewood from 16 October. From 28 December he was at the No 1 Service Flying Training School and eventually qualified as a pilot on 6 May 1943 and received his Pilots Badge (backdated to 15 March). He was commissioned as an officer also on 6 May 1943 and promoted to the rank Flight Lieutenant.

On 29 May he left NZ for UK for attachment to the RAF, where he arrived in July and was sent to the No 14 Pilots Advanced Training Unit on 3 August. On 11 November 1943 Noel began training on Wellington aircraft with No 11 Operational Training Unit but on 25 February 1944 he transferred to a Heavy Conversion Unit to learn to fly Stirling 4-engine heavy bombers. On 4 May 1944 he went to the No 3 Lancaster Finishing School and from 15 May began flying Lancasters as a pilot with No 75 NZ Squadron, part of Bomber Command. He carried out 28 ops until 28 July, while in command of Lancaster III NE148/H, he took off from Mepal, Cambridgeshire at 9.55pm as one of 494 Lancasters on a raid of Stuttgart in Germany.

There were 8 crew members but only the captain, Noel Stokes and the 19 year old RAF rear gunner Norman Wilding lost their lives when their aircraft was attacked by an enemy night-fighter shortly after crossing the Rhine and one of the engines was shot up. The bombs were jettisoned and Noel set out to return home. When halfway across France the Lancaster began to lose height so he ordered the crew to bale out. The plane soon crashed close to the village of Yèvres and Noel died there. He and the rear gunner are buried together in the local cemetery. Noel was aged 25 and had flown a total of 555 hours on ops. The other six crew members, 5 of whom were in the RNZAF, all survived and manage to evade capture.

The villagers of Yèvres hold a ceremony every year in his honour and as well as a stained-glass window in the church, a street was named *Rue de Lieutenant Stokes* in 1962. Christchurch author Glyn Strange wrote a book about Noel Stokes in both French and English, titled *No Glory Without Effort* or *Pas de Gloire Sans Effort*. Noel was married to Mona Louise Perry in 1942 and she remarried in 1947 to Frederick M Hawthorn.



Roll of Honour Board at the now Hagley Community College