Waikato Founders 15th October Meeting

The October Meeting was held at the Hamilton Classic Car Museum. After enjoying lunch together we heard from our Member Marie Ryan who gave a very enjoyable presentation on her two Great Grandfathers who immigrated from Ireland.



Timothy Ryan in Hibernian Society Sash William Farrell

This is a story compiled by writings of Marie's Father Patrick Ryan. Great Grandfather William Farrell, his First Wife Margaret, Son Robert, Father Robert, Brother James and a Cousin Robert arrived in 1863 on The Queen of Beauty from Northern Ireland. William, a staunch Orangeman, was a big strong man and worked as a shipsmith and general blacksmith on the docks of Belfast. William established Farrell Bros Ship and General Smiths Shop on the corner of Custom Street West and Nelson Street, Auckland. His Brother and many Sons and even his Daughter worked very hard at the fire and anvil. Old Bill proudly declared his Daughter Ethel was the best 'striker' at the anvil that he ever had. She was able to keep up with her brothers and the other men



Farrell Bros Ship and General Smiths Shop (William Farrell far right)

Maree's Great Grandfather Timothy Ryan was a product of the land with agriculture and animal husbandry his only interests in life. Tim was a member of the Hibernian Society with a very strict Catholic upbringing. Timothy and his first wife Hannah and three children, Mary, James and Thomas along with three of Timothy's brothers arrived on the 'Scimitar' in 1864. After the death of his Second Wife in 1884 Timothy took his youngest son, Patrick to the Gum digging fields. This was an extremely hard life for a child. Maree shared many humorous stories of this time told to her by her Grandfather Patrick Ryan.

Patrick Ryan married Ethel May Farrell in 1905 uniting the Catholic and Protestant Irish Families Their Son Stanley and his wife Daisy Schroder were the parents of Marie and her Brother Raymond.

Marie then spoke of her travels to Ireland in 2014 and her search for old Family homes and long lost relations, she showed us the two books she had written on her Family. The overhead presentation contained many Family photographs.



Remains of the Ryan Dwelling in Eglish, Count Tyrone, Northern Ireland in 2014

Waikato Founders 15th October Meeting