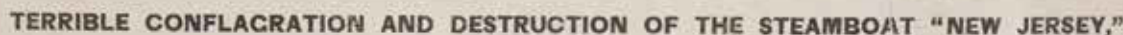


THE ACCIDENT ON THE CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD.—Among the killed by this accident, on Tuesday, was a little grand child of Nathan Sargent, Esq., of Philadelphia, aged two years, in charge of a nurse, who was also killed. The child was accompanied by its father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Dustin. The Inquirer says:
The collision was instantaneous. There was no

PHILADELPHIA, August 10, 1853.

The train *via* Amboy from New York, and the two o'clock train from Philadelphia, came in collision near Amboy. The way car was driven through the ladies' car. It is reported that nine ladies, four children and three or four men were killed. We have nothing certain yet.

P. S.—A later report from the scene



On the Delaware River, above Smith's Island, on the Night of March 15th, between 8 and 9 o'clock, in which dreadful calamity over 50 Lives are supposed to have been lost.

Published and for sale by J. L. Mingo, 48 Packer's Road, and A. Pharo, 103 South Street.

[illegible]

The coroner's inquest over the dead was engaged all day on Wednesday, until night, in taking testimony, but the verdict has not yet been received. Mr. James Jones, of Washington, who was so desperately mangled, is somewhat easier; his injuries are said to be truly frightful—his thigh is broken, and his back and chest bones are much compressed. There are some slight hopes of his recovery.

The engineer, John Anderson, was immediately arrested, but when the bail. General C. of the



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WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, OCTOBER 4, 1921. 32 PAGES—PRICE 10c

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NZSG Kiwi Collection

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We have updated our Kiwi Collection to include records of children born in the early 1920s, including many who benefited from Sir Truby King's work.

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www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi



From "Truby King the Man" University of Otago

The New Zealand Genealogist

Pīpiri June 2022

Vol 53 No 393

JOURNAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC
TE RANGAPŪ KAIHIKOHĪKO O AOTEAROA

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Branch and Interest Group services



COVER: *Steamboat* – New Jersey.

This month's theme
Tragedies and disasters

Upcoming themes

September 2022:

Food and family recipes,
baking, cooking

December 2022:

Wellington province

March 2023:

Housing

June 2023:

Otago and Southland

September 2023:

Family 'archives'

December 2023:

Accidents

General: Articles of any subject relevant to this magazine which meet the submission criteria will be considered. We especially seek how-to articles based around a source or subject which explains relevance, access and use.

See page 44 for submission information.
editor@genealogy.org.nz

Journal distribution

Change of address and general enquiries: Membership Administrator, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741.

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Edward Halton Muschamp had a fiery end

Lianne Sloan

Edward Halton MUSCHAMP was born on 24 August 1815 in Harewood, near Leeds, Yorkshire, England. He was baptised at All Saints' Church, Harewood. The family had been living in Harewood for some time and Edward's father John was the master builder at Harewood House. His great-grandfather John Muschamp had been the master mason at Harewood House when it was built for the Lascelles family.

Edward's parents were John Muschamp (1778–1847) and Ann HALTON (1786–1815) who had married on 13 April 1808 at St Peter's Church, Leeds. Their other children were Emma (1809–1825), Martha (1811–?) and John Craven (1813–1843).

Like many people I have literally thousands of people in my family trees, so somehow what happened with Edward went unnoticed for a while. I certainly found his brother John Craven Muschamp's family very interesting, as his widow seemed to have four further children to him after his death. That story was published in the April 2018 issue under the heading 'All Was Not As It Seemed'.

I visited Auckland Library one day and was told there were some newspaper articles worth looking at. Unexpectedly, some American newspapers were included. Over the next two hours I literally scribbled down a bunch of articles. Once typed up I put them aside until I had time to look at them. One included an article in the *New York Times* on 18 March 1856 about an Edward Muschamp who was missing as a result of a ferry catching fire near Camden, New Jersey. Not expecting Edward to have immigrated to America I didn't initially realise the connection.

It was not until the Family History Fair at Manukau in 2013 that things started to happen. During the weekend they had a great world membership special for Ancestry.com for a year and also another good membership special for Findmypast, both of which I took up. I decided to concentrate on the American side of my family trees and recorded as many Muschamp articles and items as I could and slowly worked through them later as time permitted.

I discovered during this time that an Edward Halton Muschamp was recorded as being the father of Edward Hounslow Muschamp in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey church and town records. Edward Jr was born on 25 May 1846 in New Jersey and baptised on 14 March 1847 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, Camden, New Jersey. Later I discovered Edward Sr had at least two more children: John S G Muschamp, born 1842, and Stanley Cooper Muschamp, born 1848. The mother of Edward Hounslow Muschamp was recorded as Ann Muschamp. Later I discovered that Anne's sister Elizabeth had married Benjamin HOUNSLOW, so this would most likely have been the reason for the middle name of her son. Pennsylvania and New Jersey church and town records also show they had a son named Edward Halton Muschamp Hounslow born in 1851.

So Edward Halton Muschamp had emigrated to America! At this point, in the back of my mind, I remembered the mention of a missing Edward Muschamp in New Jersey, but thought I would do some homework first.

I also found a New York Death Notice index entry for an Anne Seeley Muschamp who had died on 4 January 1861 in Camden, New Jersey. She had been born in 1817 and was aged 44. Her husband was Edward H Muschamp. The death notice had been published in the *New York Herald* on 5 January



March 15th, at Camden, Philadelphia, North America, on board the steamboat New Jersey, which took fire, EDWARD HALTON, only surviving son of the late Mr. JOHN MUSCHAMP, of Harewood, and brother to Mrs. Parker, of Stank, near Harewood.

Death notice, 1856 in the Leeds Mercury.

On Tuesday last, at St. Martin's Church, by the Rev. W. H. Cox, Rector, Edward, youngest son of Mr. John Muschamp, builder, of Harewood, Yorkshire, to Anne, youngest daughter of Mr. Job Seeley, boot and shoe maker, of St. Ebbe's, in this city.

Marriage notice for Edward Muschamp and Anne Seeley.

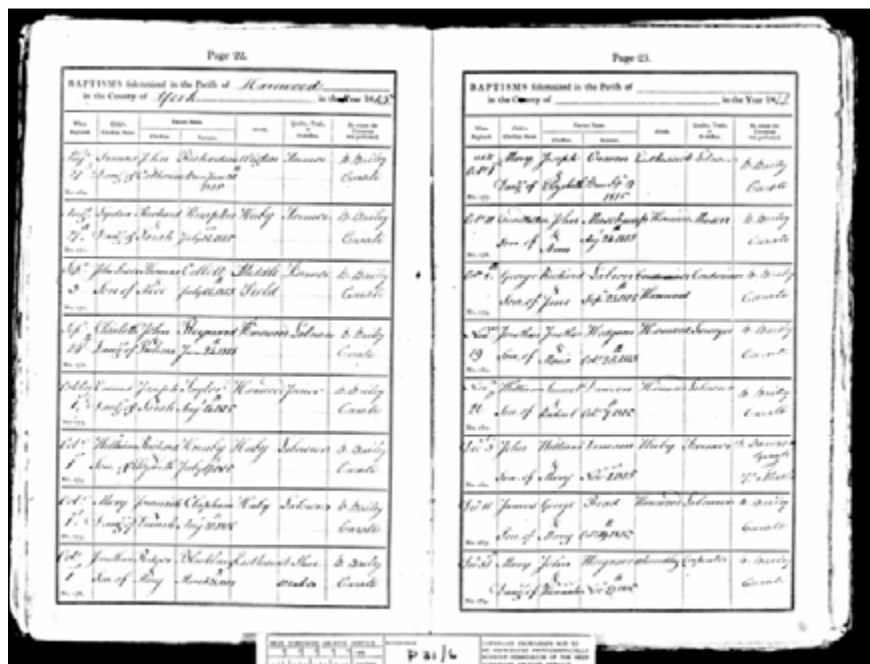
1861. This did appear to be the right person. I decided to look for a marriage for the pair and as I knew Edward Halton Muschamp was born in England I decided to check for a marriage there.

I discovered Edward Halton Muschamp, a builder, son of John Muschamp, a builder, married Anne SEELEY, the daughter of Job Seeley, a boot and shoe sealer, at St Martin's Church at Carfax, Oxfordshire. Neither had married previously. William Hayward Cox, Minister, officiated and the witnesses were Joseph Round and Harriett Hounslow.

I then discovered there were a bunch of Administration entries shown for those who had died after the fiery sinking of the ferry *New Jersey* without having a will, which showed Anne Muschamp was granted administration of her husband Edward H Muschamp's estate. I have recently also found the Administration bond that Anne, L F FISLER and Caleb ROBERTS signed saying they would pay a bond of \$1,000 and that a true and correct inventory would be provided within six months.

About a year ago, I found a wonderful source of newspaper articles from all around the world, but particularly those relating to the USA. I have found hundreds of articles, big and small that relate to my extended family. Newspapers.com from memory costs around NZD 95 for six months. I believe it is a most worthwhile investment.

Using Newspapers.com I found a marriage notice in the *Jackson's Oxford Journal* (Oxford, Oxfordshire) published on Saturday, 15 February 1840: "On Tuesday last, at St Martin's Church, by the Rev W H Cox, Rector, Edward, youngest son of Mr John Muschamp, builder, of Harewood, Yorkshire, to Anne, youngest daughter of Mr Job Seeley, boot and shoe maker, of St Ebbe's, in this city".



Edward Halton Muschamp's baptism entry, Harewood, Yorkshire.

I decided to check out some articles about the sinking of the ferry and there were a lot. I can only emphasise how important it is to read a selection, even if you are not going to record them all.

There were many, often lengthy, articles and many of them included mention of one of the missing people being Edward Muschamp. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Brooklyn, New Jersey) published a lengthy article about the accident on Monday, 17 March 1856, and there are a couple of mentions of Edward:

"Mr Wm Agnew, a resident of Camden gives a terrific description of the melancholy disaster, as follows: I was standing conversing with Mr Muschamp, a conductor on the Camden and Amboy Railroad, when he discovered the flames burning out around the 'smoke stack'. Making an exclamation that the boat was on fire, he sprang forward to the windward. He saw the captain in the pilot-boat with the pilot. Almost the moment the fire was discovered, the boat was headed to the Arch street wharf. A wild, heartrending scene of terror ensued. There were as nearly as he could remember, over one hundred persons on board, including twenty or twenty five ladies. By a common impulse they rushed to the windward to avoid the intense heat of the flames, which had now enveloped the whole after part of the doomed vessel. Mr Agnew clung to the guards as long as he could. Around him frantically endeavouring to wrench loose the stanchions which were yet free from the devouring element, were the horror stricken passengers, who but a few moments before had been as full of life and happiness. There was nothing that he could see, save a bench or two which could in any way be made available as a float or life-preserver. The flames, as the wind drove them about, increasing in volume every moment caught the dresses of the women, whose shrieks for assistance were appalling. One beautiful young girl, Miss Capman, was the only one recognized, and the last he saw of her she was enveloped in fire, and screaming piteously. The scene was now almost too awful and appalling for reality. One by one – sometimes five or six at a time – they made the fearful leap from the burning wreck into the scarcely less terrible chances of death amid the ice and water."

Mr Agnew did survive and was worried about his friend Edward: "Mr Agnew's friend, Conductor Muschamp was

unable to swim, and it is feared that he is lost."

In the same newspaper under the heading 'Missing' was: "Edward Muschamp, 35 years of age, a book-keeper in the Camden and Amboy Railroad Co. Mr M. resided in Fourth street, below Mickle, in Camden; has a wife and four children. At the time of the collision on the Camden and Amboy Railroad, near South Bridge, 7 miles from Amboy, in July 1853, Mr M. was conductor on one of the trains. The wife of the missing man went to New York on Saturday to attend the funeral of a friend."

I found a death notice in *The Leeds Mercury* (Leeds, West Yorkshire) on Saturday, 24 May 1856: "March 15th, at Camden, Philadelphia, North America, on board the steamboat New Jersey, which took fire, EDWARD HALTON, only surviving son of the late Mr JOHN MUSCHAMP, of Harewood, and brother of Mrs Parker, of Stank, near Harewood."

However, this was not the end of the story, as mention was made about him being the conductor at the time of the collision on the Camden and Amboy Railroad in July (actually August) 1853. I had also recorded an article about this and now another piece fell into place.

Again there were many articles that included mention of Edward as conductor. *Monongahela Valley Republican* (Monongahela, Pennsylvania) published an article on Friday, 19 August 1853:

"Shocking Railroad Accident – PHILADELPHIA, August 10, 1853 – The train via Amboy from New York and the two o'clock train from Philadelphia, came in collision near Amboy."

"At the time of the occurrence, the engineer of the New York train was driving on at his utmost speed, to gain some twenty minutes lost time. On reaching Old Bridge, seven miles from Amboy, the conductor espied the train from Camden, with five cars full of passengers coming towards him, and before the Amboy train could check its speed, they came in full collision, crashing and breaking the engines, and making a perfect wreck of two of the cars on each train, killing four, and maiming a large number of passengers."

"The coroner's inquest found a verdict that the collision was caused by the engineer of the first train, from New York running around the curve and past the station at Old Bridge, at an unusually fast rate of speed, thereby causing the collision, by which four persons were killed, and that Edward Muschamp, the conductor of the train from New York, is highly censurable for not comparing his watch with the standard clock of the company, in the office at New York; that the company is not censurable, for if their orders had been obeyed, the collision would not have occurred."

The *Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) published an article on Friday, 12 August 1853 which included this paragraph: "Edward Muschamp, conductor of the New York train, is in Old Bridge, severely injured. His residence is at Camden, from whence his friends came on Wednesday to take care of him. He is not considered dangerously hurt."

So after not knowing what happened to Edward Halton Muschamp I now know that he escaped death in August 1853, but three years later lost his life after the steamboat *New Jersey* caught on fire.

Lianne Sloan. E: lianne.sloan@xtra.co.nz

Objects of the NZSG

- To promote the study of family histories, whakapapa, genealogies and kindred subjects to the members of the Society and the New Zealand public.
- To advance the education of the members of the Society and the New Zealand public in the study of family histories, whakapapa, genealogies and kindred subjects.
- To provide assistance for the members of the Society and people wishing to compile family histories from sources in New Zealand and overseas.
- To set up, operate and maintain a library of genealogies and related books, documents and digital records and to encourage the preservation of records having a genealogical or historical value.
- To encourage accurate and scholarly research into the histories of New Zealand families and from time to time publish the results.
- To accept copies of family histories and whakapapa for the purposes of research.
- To foster awareness of family links and knowledge of heritage.
- To do all such other lawful acts and things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the above objects.

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- Have queries answered from the reference material held by the Society.
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Applications to become a member can be made online at www.genealogy.org.nz or may be made in writing. Application forms can be downloaded from the website or are available from NZSG Membership Department, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741.

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ISSN 0110-4012

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Articles of any subject relevant to this magazine and that meet the submission criteria will be considered for publication. We especially seek how-to articles based around a source or subject that explain relevance, access and use. We prefer submissions in electronic format by email in .doc., .txt or .rtf file format emailed to editor@genealogy.org.nz. Hard copy submissions should be typed, with adequate margins and double spacing, on one side of A4 paper and posted to the Editor, NZSG, P O Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741. Include your name, contact details and membership number.

Images

Photographs or other supporting illustrations should be provided as .jpg or .tiff files at 300dpi. Do not reduce the size of the image captured by the camera, scanner or screenshot. Images embedded in Microsoft Word documents cannot be accepted. Provide descriptive captions for each image, including name of photographer if known, owner, institutional reference if applicable. The submitter is responsible for obtaining permission to use all images submitted and will be asked to confirm this in writing.

Editing

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit articles to meet standards and for readability, but if substantial changes are required the Editor will consult with the author.

Criteria

1. Relevance: related to people and their society; genealogy, family history, whakapapa, research, documentary sources, application, biography, genealogical technology etc.
2. Length: Feature articles: 1,800 to 2,700 words (2–3 pages) plus images; Short articles: 5–900 words plus images.

Copy deadlines

Feature articles submitted for consideration must be received by the Editor by the following dates:

Issue	Last date for consideration
March	10 January
June	10 April
September	10 July
December	10 October

Deadline for regular contributions from NZSG, Branches and Interest Groups, Members' Area: 17th of the same month.

Advertising

Apply to the NZSG Office for a rate card that includes rates, specifications and conditions, or find details on the NZSG website with other details about *The New Zealand Genealogist*. Copy must be received by the 17th of January, April, July and October.

Members' Area

Includes: Contact Sought, Information Wanted, Information Offered, Trader and Reunion notices. Members may submit queries of no more than 50 words (excluding submitter's name, address and membership number). These can be emailed, or if in hard copy, they must be neatly written or typed, with each entry on a separate sheet of paper. Please do not abbreviate your enquiry. All surnames should be in capitals. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, but your full name, address and membership number must be included with each entry.

Board Report



Welcome to the second issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* for 2022. We're now heading towards winter, which is always a great time to be inside doing some family history.

Kiwi Collection Update

Our first update to the online Kiwi Collection is certainly a big one. Nearly 700,000 new records and some very interesting new datasets. We are very close to passing 12 million in total! A huge thank you to all those who have contributed new records and to our team who have got the update online.

You'll notice that we have added some new records from outside the NZSG. While it's wonderful to find those records that are not indexed anywhere else, wouldn't it be great to have one database that could tell you where most of your family's New Zealand records could be found?

You'll find further information on what's in the update from our Projects Co-ordinator, Carole Devereux, in this issue on page 69.

'Introduction to Family History' Course

Our NZSG Education Group have launched a pilot course as a first step to getting an online education programme up and running. Garry Phillips from the Hibiscus Coast has redesigned his popular in-person course so everyone can access it. If you have an area of expertise you'd like to pass on to our members, please get in touch.

Tony Mort

Director Tony Mort resigned from the Board in March. Tony was the driving force behind the upgrade of NZSG's

technology. He led the development of a strategy to help us operate differently using technology and provided oversight into its implementation. The Kiwi Collection going online has been a key strategic development from this work. I would like to thank Tony for all his hard work, and on behalf of you all, wish him well in his future endeavours.

Annual General Meeting

I am looking to seeing many of you online at our 2021/22 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 11 June 2022. Details of how to attend have been communicated via eKIT.

BIG Review

We have launched a review into the Rules surrounding our Branches and Interest Groups to address some of the issues they are facing. A committee of representatives from around the country will be meeting to review the Rules and make a proposal to the Board. It is not intended that there will be any changes to how your Branch and/or Interest Group is run.

Financial update

The Board is comfortable with our current financial situation. We have a current cash flow forecast that is positive for the whole of the 2022/23 financial year.

Regular updates are available to you on our website – see About/Society Administration/Financial Updates.

I hope you are finding success in your research.

Sarah Hewitt,
NZSG Board Chairperson

We are looking for someone with a good knowledge of programming languages and databases to look after our Kiwi Collection. If you're interested, please contact Director Bryce Johnson, BJ.Director@genealogy.org.nz

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WordsAlive Ltd
www.wordsalive.co.nz

Published by

The New Zealand Society of
Genealogists Inc.
PO Box 14036, Panmure,
Auckland 1741
159 Queens Road, Panmure,
Auckland 1072

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The Hawke's Bay Earthquake – some mysteries solved

Christine Clement

In 2018, I was lucky enough to be given a grant to investigate the deaths from the Hawke's Bay Earthquake on 3 February 1931.

I had been collecting information on the earthquake for several years for 'New Zealand Disasters and Tragedies' on my web site <https://sooty.nz/nzdisasters.html>, but could never get the names to match the figures given.

Figures were given as:

5 February 1931 – estimated	350
12 February 1931 – Napier 135, Hastings 97, Wairoa 3	235
31 March 1931 – official death toll (including 15 deaths in hospitals)	260
5 November 1931 – death toll	261
1932 – two more deaths made official	263
1931 – one death of hospital removal patient	264
1934 – four more deaths made official	268
1944 – one victim died from injuries received	269
1957 – 'New Zealand Disasters' ¹ – Napier 161, Hastings 93, Wairoa 2	256
1966 – <i>Encyclopedia of New Zealand</i>	256
1980 – 'The Shock of '31 – <i>The Hawke's Bay Earthquake</i> '	258
2018 – https://nzhistory.govt.nz	256 or 258

I collected names from many sources including newspaper reports, books, family trees, cemetery records, burial and sextons' records, memorials and official files from Archives New Zealand.

I checked what research others had done including the list compiled and researched by Irene Lister, Faye Sherriff and Bev Wallace for the Hawke's Bay Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists in March to June 1983, the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery (now MTG Hawke's Bay), especially the work done by past-assistant curator Evan C Greensides, the Napier and Hastings Libraries and then got on the phone and/or email.

On 3 February 2016 I was present at the Napier *Ancestry.com* seminar and met with various descendants and other researchers. With those listed from the official casualty lists my list soon grew.

Ancestry had earlier given me a grant to see if I was on the right track with the variance in the figures, so I purchased death certificates for some of those who had died after being sent away from Hawke's Bay to other hospitals around the North Island. These hospitals included Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Palmerston North, Masterton, Wellington, Hawera, Wanganui and New Plymouth. I followed up these patient removals, but it was soon obvious that some of these deaths were nothing to do with the earthquake, but had been patients in the Napier Hospital with conditions including carcinoma, tuberculosis etc. However, I did find that a man injured in his shop in Waipawa during the earthquake died in the Waipukurau Hospital two years later. He had not been included in any of the lists. Some people were listed as dying from earthquake injuries in newspaper reports, but the death certificates did not confirm with this.

DEATHS

SKELTON – On March 3, 1931 at Wellington Hospital, from injuries in Napier earthquake, Henry Skelton, of Taradale, Napier (65th Regiment) father of Mrs. Clover, Onehunga, and Mrs Harpham, Honolulu; aged 91 years.²

Auckland Star, 7 March 1931 p1.

One young boy listed in many earthquake fatality lists, and on the Park Island Memorial, had died on 2 February. He had been in the Napier Hospital morgue. One reported death was for a Reginald WILLIAMSON, tailor and then again as Reginald Williamson TAILOR. In one book listing the deaths, one boy is counted twice – he was from Hastings, but died in Napier. Confusion also happened when the unidentified burials were added to the toll when, in fact, they had been issued with a death certificate.

Napier, including Taradale, Greenmeadows and Port Ahuriri was said to have had 161 deaths.³ Burials were made at three cemeteries – Park Island, Old Napier and Taradale. Thirteen of the unidentified victims buried at Park Island Community Grave were later identified. I purchased the five certificates for the still 'unidentified' deaths at Napier to see if there were further details on them like sex, age, where found etc.

Hastings was said to have had 93 deaths. Hastings District Council records still have three 'unidentified' burials. Four of the originally unidentified Hastings burial victims had death certificates issued in 1934.

Wairoa had three deaths, but I could only find two burials. An email to the Wairoa District Council found that the Chinese greengrocer reported in newspapers as Lim Kit or Lim Kee was buried as Lim Ying. His headstone is in Chinese characters.

The Napier Police reported that there were eight officially missing persons as at 19 March 1931,⁴ though three were later identified and given a death certificate. The official missing were noted as:

- Michael BAKER, an English tourist staying at the Masonic Hotel
- Miss KELLY, visitor, also at the Masonic Hotel
- Herbert Arthur DENNETT
- Miss Ellen McEVERY
- Thomas RYAN

It did not take long to find that Michael Baker was William Michael Hiatt BAKER, a son of Hiatt Cowles and Abigail Dorothea BAKER (née WAY). He was born in 1907 at Almondsbury, Gloucestershire. He was known to be due at Napier about the day before the earthquake. "It is probable he had booked at one of the hotels since destroyed. Any information concerning him will be gratefully received by the Police, who will transmit it to the proper quarter."⁵ From a letter to the Almondsbury church historian I found that of the Baker's three sons:

Lionel John Baker died aged 17 at Lincoln in a flying accident. His father gave the Memorial Hall in Almondsbury as a memorial; this later became the Parish Hall and has been enlarged to be a sports centre.

Harold Owen Baker died in December 1905 at four months old. He is commemorated by a handsome brass chandelier in St Mary's Church, Almondsbury, and John Michael Baker

[sic], died in the 1931 Earthquake in New Zealand. His father endowed a perpetual scholarship at Bristol University for New Zealand post-graduate students. An email to Bristol University confirmed that this scholarship is still operative. Bristol University also has Hiatt Baker Hall, the university's largest hall of residence.

Miss Kelly was identified as Henrietta Lavinia Kelly from her will when she bequeathed about £35,000 to the Hastings War Memorial Hospital.⁶ The Reserve Bank told me this is around \$1 million in today's value so where did she get her money from, especially in the 1930s? Henrietta was born in Porangahau, Hawke's Bay, around 1871. Her Affidavit to Death was given by Herbert Mountford BISHOP who was listed as her nephew. He was born in 1881 in Hastings to Thomas and Elizabeth Bishop, née Kelly. There is no record of Henrietta's father, but he appears to have left her valuable mortgage securities in Hawke's Bay. I wonder if her mother was Elizabeth Kelly? Certainly, Elizabeth and Henrietta lived together in Hastings in later life.

Herbert Arthur Dennett was quite a mystery as the only place he appeared was in a New South Wales electoral roll as a draper, the trade he followed in Napier. After the earthquake he was described as aged 60 and wearing a doubled breasted navy suit. Any information was to go to ZEMANEK at Andersen and Hansen's Garage, Hastings or 85 Wellesley Rd, Napier. I found that Norman Herbert Emanuel Zemanek was a motor mechanic in Napier at the time. He was born in Kempsey, New South Wales in 1909 to Joseph Frederick John Zemanek and his second wife Ethel May née Dennett. Ethel May had a brother called Adolphus H Dennett who was born in 1872 in Raymond Terrace, New South Wales.⁷ I rang a Zemanek descendant about Herbert/Adolphus and he told me that Joseph and Ethel had come to New Zealand around 1912. Around 1915 Joseph abandoned Ethel and the children. She was not eligible for maintenance as she was married to a foreigner (an un-naturalised Austrian) and was no longer a British subject.⁸ Her brother, Herbert/Adolphus came over from Australia to take care of Ethel and her family and they settled in Napier.

Miss Ellen McEvery was another problem until I found in the Old Napier Cemetery a headstone that read: In sad and loving remembrance of Bridget dearly beloved wife of James McENERY who departed this life September 22nd, 1918 aged 56 years R.I.P. Margaret McENERY daughter of above died June 3rd, 1932. Ellen Margaret McENERY daughter of above died February 3rd, 1931.

Ellen Margaret McEvery had also left a will and the Affidavit to Death confirmed that she died on or after 3 February 1931.⁹ Margaret and Ellen appear to have been the only children of James and Bridget and were both born in Napier. I did find that Ellen was known as Nellie at school and was amused to read "Miss N McENERY has been appointed to the position of shorthand writer and typist in the Napier Labour office and will commence her new duties on Monday morning."¹⁰

Thomas Michael Ryan had also left a will.¹¹ He has a memorial headstone in the Karori Cemetery from his parents, Patrick and Bridget Ryan (née O'GRADY). He had been born in 1905 in Kumara, Westland and was a clerk in the Lands and Survey Department, Napier relieving from the Wellington office. The Affidavit to Death from his brother John Ryan notes:

"That on the 4 February 1931 I arrived in Napier and remained there for a period of approximately three weeks during which time I was constantly engaged in searching for

the said Thomas Michael Ryan. That the building in which the District Office at Napier of the Lands and Survey Department was situated collapsed after the earthquake and was then swept by a fire which followed the earthquake. That I assisted the police and navals who made a thorough and systematic search among the ruins of the said building but found no identifiable remains of the said Thomas Michael Ryan or any trinket which he might have been wearing at the time. That I made exhaustive enquiries from the other persons employed in the District Office of the Lands and Survey Department at Napier and from persons with whom the said Thomas Michael Ryan resided and from numerous friends and acquaintances of the said Thomas Michael Ryan but was unable to find any person who had seen or heard of the said Thomas Michael Ryan after the occurrence of the said earthquake on the 3 February 1931".

So five death certificates for unidentified bodies and five missing persons, case solved. But of course not. One of the death certificates is for an unidentified woman who died at the Napier Racecourse Casualty Hospital from injuries received during the earthquake. She is described in the police reports as "Female, aged about 70, short slight build, grey hair, thin features, no teeth, few hairs on chin, blue eyes, rather large nose, flesh coloured stockings, no ornaments".¹² Presumably a spinster, and the police did not connect her with either Henrietta Kelly or Ellen McENERY. Maybe one day someone will cross reference the 1928 Electoral Rolls with the 1931 Electoral Rolls for Napier and see if there is a missing woman?

Another death was for Sister Ignatius of St Joseph's Convent School, Greenmeadows, who was killed with the collapse of the school building. She was 24 years old and was also recorded as Mary WALSH or WELSH. Her father was thought to be a farmer at Dannevirke. There was a Roman Catholic Walsh buried in the Dannevirke Settler's Cemetery – Barbara Lumsden Walsh died 1909 aged 33 years. A check of the marriages found Barbara PRATT had married James Walsh in 1901. A check of the births of children for James and Barbara showed a Mary Deeley Walsh, birth date 15 January 1907 and her birth registration was at Dannevirke. She did not appear to have married or died as Mary Deeley Walsh. I sent an email to Catholic Archives who put me on to the Religious Order of Our Lady of the Missions. They had quite a bit on Sister Ignatius, but knew very little about her life before joining the Sisters. They knew her father was Mr J Walsh of Dannevirke, and that she had died at the Greenmeadows Convent School. However, one thing they did have was that Sister Ignatius' birthdate was 15 January 1907.

Another man who was counted in some newspaper reports and earthquake tallies up to four times was Antonio ANISY, who was born in Greymouth in 1909, the son of son of Assad and Eva Marion (Mary) Anisy who were Syrian Catholics. Antonio attended St Bede's College, Christchurch, as Bodey Anisy, and this nickname plus his unusual surname meant he was recorded as ANNISY, AINSLEY, HENNESSEY and Anisy BODDEY. He was a seminarist of the Society of St Mary's Roman Catholic Seminary at Greenmeadows and is buried in the Taradale cemetery with the other priests and aspirants who had been killed there.¹³

After all the double checking, crossing off and in consultation with medical professionals and others who have worked on the Christchurch earthquake fatalities, I have 247 deaths, plus another ten whose deaths were probably earthquake related, for example, a baby born on 3 February who died the same day due to a difficult confinement. Three

(Continues on page 48) →

→ (Continued from page 48)

men were killed in a plane crash at Wairoa on 8 February 1931 while delivering telegraphs from Gisborne on their way to Napier as the roads were closed.

The deaths by place are:

Hastings (including one from Mahora and two removals from area) / Paki Paki	94
Mohaka / Wairoa	3
Napier (including four removals from area and one at Havelock North from Napier) / Taradale / Greenmeadows / Eskdale (died on the way to Waipukurau Hospital) ...	149
Waipawa (died Waipukurau Hospital)	1
TOTAL	247

The deaths by date are:

1931	
3 February	222
4 February–27 February	17
1 March–31 March	4
SUB TOTAL	243
1933	1
1935	1
1936	1
1944	1
TOTAL	247

These four later deaths were all from paralysis caused by the earthquake.

All the death certificates, plus birth and marriage certificates where needed have been donated to the NZSG.

The list of names and details are on the new Kiwi Collection.

Sources

Archives New Zealand, Wellington Office
Earthquake, Hawke's Bay – Casualty list (R20955967)
Hawke's Bay Earthquake – February 3rd, 1931 – Patients

admitted from earthquake area to departmental institutions (R20955960)
Hawke's Bay Earthquake (R20119867) (with permission from the New Zealand Police)

Notes

- 1 Conly, Geoff The Shock of '31 – *The Hawke's Bay Earthquake* Reed, 1980.
- 2 Cause of death: Heart failure (not certified). Coroner considered inquest unnecessary.
- 3 Grayland, Eugene C *New Zealand Disasters* A H and A W Reed 1957.
- 4 *Auckland Star*, 19 March 1931 p8.
- 5 *Evening Post*, 25 February 1931 p10.
- 6 "New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Probate Records, 1843–1998," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KDTM-1M6> : 8 August 2017), Henrietta Lavinia Kelly, 1929; citing Napier, Napier probate files [third sequence], 1923–1959, record number 1249/31, Archives New Zealand, Auckland Regional Office; FamilySearch digital folder 005061167
- 7 <https://familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au/lifelink/familyhistory/search/births?>
- 8 See AN INTERESTING JUDGMENT – *Evening Post*, 5 July 1915.
- 9 "New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Probate Records, 1843–1998," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKYR-RPSZ> : 9 August 2017), Ellen Margaret McEnery, 1931; citing Wellington, Wellington Probate Files [First Sequence], 1843–1939, record number 49014, Archives New Zealand, Auckland Regional Office; FamilySearch digital folder 100856356.
- 10 *Hastings Standard*, 31 May 1913, Page 5.
- 11 "New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Probate Records, 1843–1998," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QKYR-RTXZ> : 9 August 2017), Thomas Michael Ryan, 1931; citing Wellington, Wellington Probate Files [First Sequence], 1843–1939, record number 49942, Archives New Zealand, Auckland Regional Office; FamilySearch digital folder 100892456.
- 12 'News Bulletin' No.4 issued by *The Daily Telegraph* Napier February 7, 1931.
- 13 Now the Mission Estate Winery on Church Road, Napier.

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New Zealand's first fatal motor vehicle accident

Christine Clement

Our first recognised fatal motor vehicle accident occurred on Saturday, 8 September 1906, only seven years after the first motor car had been imported.

Mrs John MEIKLE, née Janet WRIGHT, was born in 1870 at Pleasant Point, South Canterbury, to William John and Janet Wright, née HEUCHAN. Janet married John Meikle on the 10 July 1900 at Table Downs Farm, The Levels, near Timaru. They had a daughter Clarice Eileen Needham (Mary) Meikle, born in 1902.

John and Janet Meikle "... usually drove to town in their motor car on Saturdays and on this occasion Mrs Meikle, who was considered expert and cool, was driving. They were returning to their home at Washdyke Valley, and were within the precincts of the farm when the accident happened. Between the public road and the house is a private road, part of which is a side cutting down a spur. This part of the road is both narrow and steep, and in going down the descent the car swerved towards the bank or upper side, and in correcting this Mrs Meikle turned the wheel a fraction too much, and they ran over the embankment. Along the foot of this runs a wire fence, and after scraping along the fence for some yards the car capsized over it into a ploughed paddock. Mr Meikle was thrown clear over the fence, but his wife fell under the motor and was pinned beneath the iron step."¹

John had broken his right thigh, and after some time was able to crawl to within hearing of a maid servant at their house, and obtain assistance. With a spade they tried to dig Janet out, but to no avail. John then sent for his ploughman who was able to pull the car up with his horses. Unfortunately, they found Janet had died by then, the inquest putting her cause of death as suffocation.

This was Scotsman John Meikle's second marriage. He had been a coach driver on the Timaru to Christchurch run in the 1870s. In 1875 John had a hotel built on the corner of Cains Terrace and Beswick Street, Timaru. Known as the Grosvenor Hotel, it is still in operation, but not in the original building. Queen Elizabeth II has stayed there twice.

Janet is buried in the Timaru Cemetery. John died in 1926 in Te Aroha and his ashes were to be interred at Timaru.

The North Island's first fatal motor vehicle accident occurred on 26 October 1908 near Bulls in the Rangitikei, when a car driven by Lyn MCKELVIE, of Flock House farm, Parewanui, gave a ride to Laurence [Lawrence] Arthur Robert WORTHINGTON, a "Travelling Life Insurance Agent", aged 35, from Feilding to Bulls. They reached Sandon [Sansons] about 5.30pm where they were detained by a hailstorm, and at the Sandon Hotel, enjoyed three small glasses of beer and lemonade each.

On the way to Bulls, Worthington yelled out to McKelvie to look out "... as he was driving the car slightly on the side of the road to escape the wheel ruts. Witness [McKelvie] told him it was alright, but after they had proceeded another chain deceased, without a word of warning, grabbed one of the stays that hold the steering wheel to the steering pillar, and was pulling it towards him. This pulled the car off the road. Witness tried to recover control of the car, and could not do so. The car bumped into a hole on the side of the road, and witness seemed to gain some control, and thought he would easily have made the road before coming to the culvert. He said to deceased, 'For God's sake, let go'. The wheels of the car went over the edge of the culvert, and deceased was thrown out. The steering wheel, being released from deceased's grip, came round suddenly, and turned the car into the other side of the road. Witness was getting out of the car when it stopped, and was thrown down. He called out for deceased, but received no reply, and on searching found him lying on the bed of the creek. His lamps were each 2500 candle-power. The liquor deceased had taken had not affected him in any way. The car was travelling at about 26 miles an hour."² The inquest returned a verdict of accidental death.

Lawrence was born in 1873, also in Pleasant Point, South Canterbury. He was the son of Robert and Catherine Worthington, née JAGGER, who had married in Timaru in 1869. Lawrence married Caroline Letitia EDEN in 1899 in Timaru.

Christine Clement. E: cmcclementnz@gmail.com

Notes

¹ *Manawatu Times*, 17 September 1906.

² *Manawatu Standard*, 3 November 1908.

Who are we?

I am a member of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society. I would like to ask for your assistance with the following matter.

I have a photograph which has been in my family for over one hundred years and was taken in the studio of Adam Maclay of Colombo Street, Stanmore, Christchurch.

Unfortunately, I cannot identify the people in the photograph. I have traced my family history extensively and cannot find any links to New Zealand. I have been trying for many years to find out who the people are and would appreciate any information regarding them. I am hoping that one of your members may recognise the people and solve the mystery of their identity.

Ishbel Blair. E: ozscot12@gmail.com



Services and benefits for NZSG members

These pages explain services and other benefits available through individual or joint membership of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Supporting genealogy and family history in New Zealand

All NZSG members support the Society to make resources more accessible through projects and liaison with national organisations. Major achievements include access to birth, death and marriage registrations, improved content access to government records, creation of nation-wide transcriptions, such as cemetery and school records.

The New Zealand Genealogist

You receive four issues per year of our award-winning journal, published since 1970. You can also access it online, including some back issues to 2009.

Members can publish research queries and notices for free.

The Editor welcomes articles for publication. See the Contents page for a list of themes. However, general and how-to articles are always welcome and encouraged.

Newsletter

The e-newsletter, eKIT (electronic Keep In Touch), is dispatched regularly by email for up-to-date Society and genealogical news. Along with The BIG picture (news for Branches and Interest Groups), eKIT is also available on the website.

Social media

Members can join the NZSG Facebook and Google memlist to keep in touch with current events, information and assistance.

Website

The NZSG website is the hub for information about the NZSG, both for the public and for members. Here you will find background, events and contact details.

Members can login for a range of online resources and services:

- Access to the NZSG Library Catalogue
- Access to information on NZSG Record Collections – Pedigree Registration, Certificates, First Families, Pre 1856 New Zealand Marriages
- Access to historical newspaper databases for Great Britain and other countries
- Free access to digital records on 'Discovery' at The National Archives (London)
- Submit entries to the online Register of Members' Interests
- Receive free assistance through the NZSG Research Service to search Library collections and to access more than 1,600 CDRoms
- Receive assistance to search New Zealand land records (charges apply)
- Purchase products and services from the NZSG Shop

NZSG Library

The Library is open Monday, Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, with late nights on Wednesday and the first Friday of the month. Check the website for opening hours around holidays.

The Library is based at the Family Research Centre (FRC) in Panmure, Auckland. The FRC is open to the public, but members receive a substantial discount on entry fees.

This is New Zealand's premier collection of worldwide genealogical and family history resources with over 50,000 volumes. Here you will find transcriptions and indexes of birth, death and marriage records and census returns, family histories, guidebooks, directories, name lists, databases and magazines.

Most of the Library holdings are also available to borrow by mail (New Zealand residents only), up to four books and booklets at any one time, for up to three weeks. In addition members can request lookup assistance from the FRC volunteers.

There are 12 computers connected to the Internet for you to use for research. Some of the websites and databases available are: Ancestry, British Library Newspapers, Cornwall FHS Research Database, Family Relatives, FamilySearch, FindMyPast, New Zealand illegitimacies database (see Projects page), Quick Map – New Zealand Land Information, ScotlandsPeople, The Genealogist.

There is a team of volunteers rostered for each morning, afternoon and evening the Library is open. These volunteers have an accumulated wealth of knowledge and experience that they use to guide every visitor with their research. See also FRC/ Library lookup service below.

Covid-19

The NZSG will be complying with all Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of your visit. This will include, but is not limited to, proof of vaccination or exemption signing in with the Covid Tracer app or on paper, mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing. Please see our website for further details to plan your visit.

Register of Members Interests

An online database, accessed on the NZSG website. You can enter your research interests, including surnames, individuals, places, etc., along with date, country, county and city/town/ village subdivisions. Members contribute through 'Manage Interests' under Members Interests in the NZSG Collections menu.

Research services and advice

Members receive free assistance through the NZSG Research Service to search Library collections and research advice.

FRC Research Service

We provide research guidance to members if you are unsure where to search next for that elusive fact about your ancestor or family member.

PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741.

E: researchservice@genealogy.org.nz

FRC/Library lookup service

To assist members who cannot visit the Library a team of volunteers will look up Library resources that are not available for borrowing, e.g. CDs, New Zealand Government Gazettes,

Services and benefits for NZSG members

and books that are 'Reference only' and marked 'not available' in the Library Catalogue.

Consult the online Library Catalogue to find out what is available for your area of interest. If you find a reference of interest in one of the NZSG CD indexes, e.g. Kiwi Collection, New Zealand Burial Locator, we can scan and email or post a copy of the original record, or direct you to where it might be found. There is also a large collection of over 1,600 worldwide CDROMs the volunteers can investigate.

NZSG CD School lookup

Assistance for members tracking pupils in school registers submitted for inclusion in the Kiwi Collection.

Joan Bray, 201 Holborn Drive, Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt 5019.

E: SchoolLookups@genealogy.org.nz

Scottish BDM indexes

A five-year search for a registration. Supply as much information as possible, e.g. place, name of parents, spouse, occupation, age etc. Contact the Scottish Certificate Officer. Pam Hamlyn, 3a Brett Avenue, Takapuna, Auckland 0622.

E: ScotCert@genealogy.org.nz

See the Records Collection page for details of other lookup services available to members.

Land research

NZSG Land Research Service assists members who have research that requires assistance about land ownership. There is a charge for this service and for the provision of documents. The cost is \$15.00 per document and can be paid through the NZSG Shop web page. See details about this service in the April 2017 issue, page 57.

Pam White. E: landresearch@genealogy.org.nz

North American Research Officer

Mrs Harriet Taylor, 7 Smith Street, Waihi 3610

Huguenot Research Officer

Mrs Marion Heap. E: Huguenot@genealogy.org.nz

Overseas certificates

Members can purchase overseas certificates and other documents in New Zealand currency.

Order forms are available on the Society's website under Members' Area, or on application with a stamped addressed envelope (SAE) to the appropriate officer (see below). The payment for the certificate and an SAE must be included with your order.

1. GRO (England and Wales) certificates

Mr and Mrs R Siebert, PO Box 66, Helensville, Auckland 0840.

E: GROCert@genealogy.org.nz

Births, Marriages and Deaths	\$25.50
PDF copy	\$18.00
Not found fee	\$8.00

2. Scottish records

Pam Hamlyn, 3a Brett Avenue, Takapuna, Auckland 0622.

E: ScotCert@genealogy.org.nz

Scottish certificates

Births 1855–1921, Marriages 1855–1946,

Deaths 1855–1971

digital copies \$4.00

Births 1922–2021, Marriages 1947–2021,

Deaths 1972–2021

transcripts \$6.00

Parish Register entries to 1855 \$4.00

Testaments (wills) 1500–1925 \$6.00

Index searches no charge

Membership discounts

Members receive a discount on access to the Family Research Centre (FRC) and for some NZSG sales products. Member discounts on other products and commercial genealogy sites will be listed in the member only section of the NZSG website and promoted in eKIT.

NZSG Kiwi Collection

The Kiwi Collection is a major database of over 11 million New Zealand sources. The Kiwi Collection is an online, subscription-based service available exclusively to NZSG members. See the online Shop for details.

Digital Archive for Family History

The purpose of the Digital Archive is to create a repository that allows NZSG members to preserve the results of their unpublished family history research in a digital format. The Archive specifically aims to encourage members to create a literary piece of work, including documents and images, in a digital format that reflects their family history research.

This is a digital archive and as such is paperless—paper copies of documents, photographs and stories will not be accepted. Each narrative family history must be accompanied by an Index of Names from which a searchable index is generated. This is available to members to search.

The Digital Archive offers:

- Preservation
- Back-up and Retrieval
- Access and Sharing
- Compatibility
- Peace of Mind

There is no cost for NZSG members to submit files to the Digital Archive.

Members can access the Archive submissions of other members by contact with the Submitter or via the Archivist. See the NZSG website's Resources page for further details about the Archive and access.

All queries should be directed to the Digital Archivist, DAFH at the NZSG or E: digital.archivist@genealogy.org.nz

Reciprocal access

Members can request a letter of introduction for reciprocal access to Australian genealogical libraries, including the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney and the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Contact the NZSG Manager with details of your visit and your membership number.

E: membership@genealogy.org.nz

A terrible death and its consequences

Kath Woodley

Life must have seemed full of possibilities for Bridget Moran (24) and Patrick Walsh (26) when they married at St Mary's Church, Clyde St, Invercargill on 26 April 1881. Patrick was from Newmarket, County Cork and had arrived in Invercargill in 1874 with his brother Michael on the Carrick Castle. Bridget was from Barefield, Ennis, County Clare and is believed to have arrived in Dunedin with her sister Mary. A family description of her has survived: "a small dark woman with long black hair that went beyond her waist". At the time of their wedding Patrick was living in Georgetown, a northern suburb of Invercargill, working as a labourer and Bridget had been working as a domestic servant.

Over the next 10 years they had seven children: (James (b1882), Mary (b1883), Thomas (b1884), John (b1886), Elizabeth (Nell) (b1888), Arthur (b1889), Robert (b1891).

Patrick worked, among other things, as a flax miller and farmer. Lately he had been off work and in hospital with a fractured collar bone. The family were in poverty and being helped by Patrick's brother, Michael.

Now though, Patrick was back at work as a railway labourer on the Seaward Bush Railway as it extended from Invercargill to Tokonui. Seaward Bush was now a Scenic Reserve. They were cutting down the huge Matai and Red Pine trees.

On the 7 March 1892, a falling tree bounced and a branch went into Patrick's back crushing him. "Patrick Walsh was received into hospital early yesterday morning suffering from severe injuries. Considerable difficulty was experienced in bringing the man through the bush – men having to go in front to make a track through the undergrowth for over three miles. In making the track and taking turns in carrying the sufferer, twenty men were engaged". He died of internal haemorrhaging 36 hours later.¹

A fatal termination

"Patrick Welsh ... died yesterday afternoon. The poor fellow's case was hopeless from the first. The deceased, had lived in Seaward Bush for the last fifteen years and leaves a widow and seven children".² Walsh/Welsh seems to be interchangeable, but my grandmother spelt it Walsh.

His daughter, my grandmother, Elizabeth Barbara (Nell), then aged four, remembered being taken to say goodbye to him at the hospital. Can you imagine anything sadder than seven children under ten lining up to say goodbye to their dying father?

A committee was formed to help.

Necessitous case

"Patrick Walsh left a widow and family of seven children. They are ill provided for and their case is one that appeals strongly to the sympathies of the community. Steps have already been taken to provide some measure of relief and on Friday evening a meeting will be held."³

J E Reid and G Featherstone convened a meeting in Mr Todd's supper room for sympathisers.⁴ This kind of public fundraising committee was a forerunner of the St Vincent de Paul and Social Welfare. The fundraising done was amazing and it is uplifting to see it was across all religions. Invercargill was quite ecumenical and, although there were people who

wrote to the paper about Papists and had an unmoveable dislike of Irish Catholics, the vast majority were good people who pulled together to help out a fellow citizen. The funds raised from the public were in a trust and Mrs Walsh could apply for help. However there were problems with an all-male committee with inflexible attitudes. They seemed to have no idea of the hardships of a woman alone with a large family, no savings and no well-off family to help. Bridget was barely literate so communicating with the committee must have been daunting. My grandmother remembered all her early years as a time of great hunger and poverty.

The Welsh Relief Fund was set up on 18 March 1892 to devise a means to assist the widow and children. The Mayor, Mr J W Bain, presided. There were between 20 and 30 persons present. Father Vereker sent a letter that he could not attend but that the object of the meeting had his heartfelt sympathy. He was glad to know that the good and charitable citizens of Invercargill would not fail to succour the affected widow and helpless orphans in their pitiable distress. The committee felt that enough should be raised to provide Mrs Welsh with a house and the means of earning something for her children. There were seven children, the eldest about 10 years. There was scarcely any furniture in the house, the children were ill provided for in the matter of clothing, and the family was destitute. The Committee took steps to supply the immediate wants of the family.

The public recognised that the case was an exceptional one, calling for more than the Charitable Aid Board could be expected to undertake. A committee was appointed to collect subscriptions and make such provision for the family as may be necessary.

Michael Welsh, a brother of the deceased man, was present and explained that his brother had been out of work for some time, and he had also been laid up with a fractured collar bone. He had a half acre section and a three roomed house in Georgetown, but it was mortgaged for £150 and it was now in the brother's name, he having disbursed £30 in payments to the Building Society. There was still £6 due to the Society. Michael was willing to forego £10 of the £30 he had paid if it was desired to secure the property for Mrs Welsh. The mayor remarked that he had made a liberal offer regarding the property, which could be redeemed for about £26 and which it might well be to secure for the widow and children. A committee was appointed to report at a future meeting about the cottage and section.

The town was divided into blocks for a complete canvas. Reference was also made to the services of those who had already engaged in the work of collecting subscriptions.

By 22 March the workmen on the Seaward Bush Railway works had contributed over £30 to the fund of their late comrade.

A Promenade Concert was given by the City Band in the hospital grounds that attracted a good attendance of the public and inmates of the institution. The collection raised £4 5s 8d.

The Garrison Band gave a promenade concert on the Friday in the grounds of the Home in Bowmount Street. It drew a large crowd of residents despite the fact that the air was decidedly cold. The Star and Pirate's Clubs played a charity rugby match on the Union Grounds on the Saturday.

On 6 April the committee received a letter from Mrs

Welsh. She would be glad if the committee could see their way to acquire the property she now lived in as she could keep a cow there and cut firewood, and still not be too far away to accept work from town.

The General Committee recommended that the offer made by Michael Welsh be accepted and the property at Georgetown purchased, that the liability of the Building Society be adjusted and the repairs that were necessary be made to the property. The speakers generally held that Mrs Welsh's wishes in the matter should guide the Committee.

Someone in the community tried to stir the Catholic/Protestant debate: "Sir, I wonder what Bishop Moran thinks of this spontaneous outburst of charity on the part of many Protestants in Southland on behalf of the widow and orphans of the late Patrick Welsh. It shows that the hearts of Protestants are in the right place, however far wrong the Bishop may think their heads are. It shows also that our people, of whatever denomination, wish to live in peace and were it not for the continual inoculating of the spirit of hatred towards Protestants by the teachers of the Roman Catholic persuasion, I venture to predict, would soon solve the question of State aid to denominational schools by quietly sending their children to the public school most convenient to themselves, if we may conclude anything from the great number of children who were lately commanded to attend the Roman Catholic school who had been attending public schools. I am etc.,⁵

And was promptly rebutted: " 'S' and the Welsh Relief

Fund. Sir – I fail to perceive the connection between the Welsh Relief Fund and

Dr Moran's advocacy of the Catholic claims for State aid for their schools. Your correspondent is not sufficiently explicit in the matter. He seems to insinuate that Catholics should send their children to public schools because Protestants have

contributed towards the fund in aid of the widow and children of the late Patrick Welsh. I remind 'S' that Catholics pay for the education of their children and are at liberty to send them wherever they please to receive instruction. If 'S' cannot contribute his mite for the relief of a distressed widow and helpless orphans without introducing sectarian differences I would strongly recommend him to keep his money in his pocket I am, &c., CHARITY"⁶

On 30 April 1892, only six weeks after Patrick's death, the Welsh Relief Fund Committee published the result of their efforts, the result of Invercargill and Southland generosity, and handed over the balance of £250.



Patrick Walsh.

Welsh Relief Fund Receipts⁷

	£	S	D		£	S	D
Irish Sports Club	9	1	3	Crescent Hotel list	2	17	0
Messrs Meredith & Spratt	27	16	0	Club Hotel list	3	0	3
R Meredith's Shop	1	19	0	McDonald & Read's list	11	18	0
James Spratts' list	1	11	6	Garrison Band Concert	5	0	3
J.S. Thomas subscriptions	5	0	0	Mr Cooper & Clifton's list	2	15	0
Price & Bullied's employees	1	11	6	Nicholas Bros, Bluff list	1	6	0
City Band Concert	4	5	8	James McLellan (Mr Scott's) list	0	1	0
John Walkers List	6	5	6	Mrs Fahey, Roselyn Bush list	4	6	6
Seaward Bush Railway employees	39	0	0	McCallum & Co's list	1	10	0
McKeown & Kirwins list	11	9	0	Massey & Co's subscription	3	3	0
Todd & Everest's list	13	6	6	Mareka Sawmill	1	2	6
Star & Pirate's football match	4	10	0	Spar Bush Sawmill	3	0	0
Wm Todd's list	5	6	0	Mabel Bush Sawmill	2	6	6
Five River Estate list	12	14	0	Municipal Offices	1	10	0
Jas Holland, Gore lists	16	17	6	F Sutherland, Garston	14	12	6
T P Giffedder's list	1	6	6	M Griffin, Nightcaps list	6	4	0
Rev N Vereker's list	1	2	6	Proceeds Dance, Pahia list	2	9	6
J Kingsland & Co employees	3	6	6	Proceeds Dance, Brunswick	1	13	0
Southland News list	4	19	6	Caleb Froggats list	0	5	0
Mrs Aitkinson's list	6	12	0	Total	£286	4	11
East Invercargill list	1	2	6	Expenditure			
Kelly & Featherton's list	10	5	0	Lewis & Co, clothes	5	15	7
NZ Pine Co Mill, Colac	2	3	6	Kingsland & Co, boots	2	12	0
NZ Wright's Bush	3	4	6	R Meredith, groceries	6	18	4
NZ Pine Co Mill Union	1	10	0	Leckie & Co, butchers	2	4	11
NZ Pine Co Mill, Croydon	3	14	0	D MacFarlane, baker	3	1	3
NZ Pine Co Mill, Winton	1	11	0	J Crombie, milk	1	2	3
New Zealand Mill, Lady Barkley	1	1	0	Paid Mrs Welsh in cash	2	10	0
NZ Pine Co Mill, Woodend	0	10	0	Rent, Mr Lightfoot	1	5	0
Robert Birrel per W Todd	0	10	0	Printing lists advertising, sundries	5	8	0
J W Bain Subscription	0	10	6	Advertising – News	3	12	6
G A Birch Subscription	1	1	0	Sundries	1	0	0
Ocean Beach Freezing Works & Mr Wards Offices	11	15	0	Total	£38	9	11

(Continues on page 54) →

→ (Continued from page 53)

By 16 July 1892, the Trustees had purchased a property in Liddel Street, Section 13 Block 19, and had it put in order. The widow and her family were now in occupation. It was municipal leasehold with ground rent of £2 10s per annum, with 10 years to run. The purchase price was £60 and about £40 had been spent on renovation generally and £30 in furniture and a sewing machine. Mrs Welsh bought a cow. The trustees were allowing her one pound per week, paid in advance. At the end of three months it was expected that she would be able to manage very well on 15 shillings a week, which would make the money last for fully three years. The cottage was a comfortable one of five rooms and scullery, with water laid on, sinks and drains were provided, the ground dug and fruit trees and vegetables planted. Altogether Mrs Welsh had been presented with a comfortable home. On the fanlight over the front door 'Welsh Cottage' was painted.

The Welsh Cottage was part of what is now 159 Liddel St and there were a number of cottages in the vicinity.⁸

In the 1880 map the river looks very close and low lying around Liddel St. Later maps show the reclaimed land, but the area was prone to flooding until the river protection scheme went in after the 1984 flood.

On 28 October 1892 the *Bruce Herald* reported: "A painful incident occurred recently to a son of Mrs Welsh, Liddel Street, widow of the late Patrick Welsh. His mother was milking the cow, which being a very quiet one is milked without being bailed up or leg roped, when the little fellow, who is about 18 months, got in front of it. The cow, getting startled, raised its head, and in doing so one of the horns entered the lower part of the child's right cheek, coming out a little below the eye, and he was thrown in the air, landing on his head. The sufferer was taken to the Hospital, where it was found that no other injuries had been sustained, and the wounds being sewn up, the child was taken home again where he is progressing as well as could be under the circumstances".

Bridget had some issues settling into the new regime.⁹ In June 1892 she was asked to attend the trust committee, but did not turn up. Subsequently, she wrote on 22 June: "Gentlemen,



Bridget Welsh.

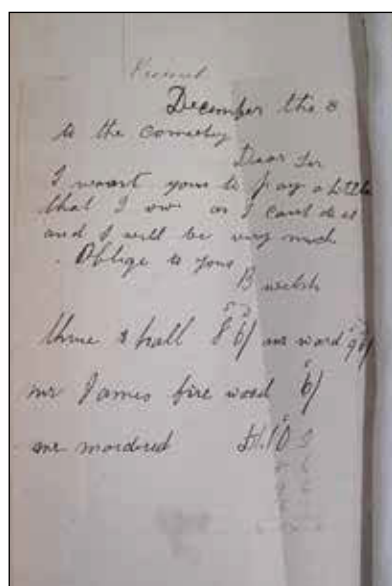


Elizabeth Barbara (Nell) Welsh, possibly with sister Mary.

I am now in the new cottage and much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken. I find that I cannot get well on with 10/- a week. I would be much obliged if you would let me have one pound a week for 3 months until I get some work in hand and if you would kindly buy me a cow and two dishes that would help me very much. The children got some time ago best clothes for Sunday. If you would kindly let me have two pounds for school clothes for them, I would not need to trouble you again except for my weekly allowance."

In December 1892 Bridget attempted to get further funds from the trust to cover various bills. The reply on 6 December informed her that the trust declined to pay the accounts sent in or any liability beyond the weekly allowance now paid to her. She was informed that the sum of £86 remained in the hands of the trustees and that as she now had a comfortable home and a cow and the trustees had obtained employment for her and the sewing machine in making bags for frozen meat. It was thought expedient to make the allowance from

(Continues on page 55) →



ABOVE LEFT: Letter appears to be written by Bridget herself and with some difficulty. ABOVE: Patrick Walsh's grave.

Railway accidents

Brian McGlinchy

I read the article in the April 2022 Kilbirnie Branch *Genealogix* about the UK railway accidents website with interest. My grandfather, Thomas MCGLINCHY was killed in a railway accident on 3 January 1913.

He was a shunting guard at Bothwell Junction which is a bit south of Glasgow. The reports state that he was directing a goods train and stepped back onto the mainline and was struck by a passing express train just after midnight.

I learned all this from a newspaper cutting and wondered if the website <http://www.railwayaccidents.port.ac.uk/> had

SHOCKING RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—In the early hours of yesterday morning a shocking accident occurred on the North British Railway near Bothwell, a goods brakesman named Thomas M'Glinchey being instantaneously killed. Deceased was engaged in shunting operations, and was proceeding from the top yard at Bothwell Junction to the lower yard, and had just reached the entrance when he was knocked down by an engine, the wheels passing over his body and literally cutting him in two, death being instantaneous. Deceased was about fifty years of age, and leaves a widow and family.

The Scotsman, 4 January 1913.

his name had any more information. To my surprise his name was there and had all the same details. However, it did say that the accident was due to his lack of care. Whether this meant his widow was not entitled to any compensation was not stated.

What I do know is that he was only 42 and left eleven living children aged between two and eighteen. They were clearly not well off as the 1911 census records their home had only two rooms with one or more windows.

There is an elegant gravestone in the Blantyre cemetery which states "Erected by his wife and family", but I hope the railway company contributed as well.



→ (Continued from page 55)

1 October next 8/- per week. The trustees would still pay ground rent, rates and insurance on the property.

In 1893 Bridget Welsh, domestic duties, of Liddel St, Invercargill, signed the women's suffrage petition.

On 10 May 1894, Bridget married Nicholas Henry HOLZ at Invercargill, but not in the Catholic church. There was strong family criticism of Bridget for doing this, but women in this time often had to put financial survival before anything else.

Nicholas was a seafaring man who had risen to be first mate on a sailing ship. He had arrived in New Zealand about 1887 and settled in the Invercargill area. Nicholas was by all accounts a big strong man, a hard and conscientious worker. He had blue eyes and a reddish beard. He was a talented musician who played the violin. Nicholas and Bridget moved the family to farm on the Gorge Road side of the Mataura River. It was rough bush and swamp and isolated from almost any other place by miles of almost impenetrable bush. They had to carry their stores in on their backs through scrub and over the swamps. By dint of perseverance and hard work, it was turned into a dairy farm. It must have been flood prone. In one flood cows were reported as floating off with only their horns showing. Nicholas, from reports in the paper, did a lot of contract work on making the Gorge Road. Some of the children went to Gorge Rd School at Oteramika over several years. My Granny Nell taught herself to read and write; she had very little schooling as she was required to help with 'the babies'.

Nell called Nicholas 'The German'. He was very hard on the children, especially the Welsh girls, and they were ejected from the house when they reached 12 or 13, probably going to live with Michael Welsh's family in town.

Nicholas and Bridget had five children: Otto Joseph

(1895–1942), Anna (b1896), Daniel Ernest (b1898), Bertha (1900–1992), Francis Henry (1903–1956). Of the Holz children, the son Daniel was a musician, music teacher and conductor of the Wellington Symphony Orchestra. Bertha used to come to our home in Hamilton and play the piano while we sang along. Her daughter Cynthia was a singing teacher. Francis (Frank) was in the insurance business. Nicholas and Bridget were both living with his son Otto at 273 Main St, Palmerston North when he died on 9 February 1942, aged 86. Bridget went blind and was moved to Auckland. She was cared for by the nuns at St Joseph's Home, Ponsonby, and died in Auckland on 5 March 1943, aged 83.

Kath Woodley. E: jelly.k@xtra.co.nz

Notes

- 1 *Southland Times*, 9 March 1892.
- 2 *Southland Times*, 10 March 1892 p.2.
- 3 *Southland Times*, 16 March 1892.
- 4 *Southland Times*, 16 March 16 1892, p.3.
- 5 *Southland Times*, 5 April 1892, p.3.
- 6 *Southland Times*, 7 April 1892, p.3.
- 7 *Southland Times*, 30 April 1892, p.3. As I started typing out this list I unexpectedly became quite tearful of the magnitude of this donation to my great-grandmother and those poor little ones. How could she have managed without this help? So my thanks to the people of Invercargill. Thanks may be late but they are heartfelt. £250 in 1892 is about \$60,000 in today's money.
- 8 The house may have been demolished in the early 1960s when the land was rezoned industrial. It was sold to the New Zealand Post Office which had a depot for Post and Telegraph vans. The block is now owned by Downer EDI Works Ltd.
- 9 They were recorded in the Relief Committee minute book and recovered for me by Wendy McArthur, Information Manager of Invercargill City Council.

Record collections

Information from the NZSG Record Collections is available to NZSG members without charge, a major benefit of membership, and for personal research only.

Members are welcome to contribute new or updated material.

Certificates

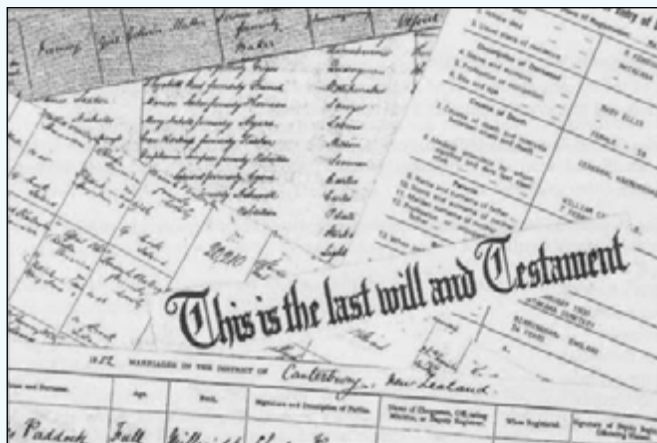
This collection was set up as a repository for certificates that members had obtained, but found to be unrelated to their research. In recent years, members have been encouraged to submit certificates and miscellaneous documents of any kind whether they are related or unrelated to their research.

The sole purpose of the collection is to share certificate information amongst Society members. It does not have the facility to put contributors in touch with one another.

The majority of records are from New Zealand sources, but there are also many from the United Kingdom, Australia and other countries. Besides birth, death and marriage certificates (which include sightings and RGO microfilm printouts) there are many other documents of value in research:

Baptism, marriage and churchyard burial records from Old Parish Registers (OPRs) and other sources.

- Citizen memorials (naturalisation records), citizenship certificates
- Convict and shipping records
- Intention to Marry registrations
- War records
- Wills, probates, letters of administration, coroner's reports and affidavits.
- Miscellaneous other certificates and documents (e.g. educational qualifications, apprenticeship, lodge, sporting achievement certificates etc.)



All names shown on the documents are cross-indexed into a database. These include parents, spouses, other relatives, informants and witnesses where they are likely to be of value. Women are indexed under both married and maiden names. This means there could be 6–10 entries for a particular birth, death or marriage all with the same reference number but only one will be the individual who is the subject of the event.

There are over one million entries in the index (as at 1 April 2018), cross-indexed from over 118,000 records and the collection continues to grow steadily by about 1,000 records a month.

See the August 2017 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*, page 160 for fuller details.

Access

Write to NZSG Certificates Research Enquiries Officer, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741, setting out your request clearly and concisely making sure the correct reference numbers and names are quoted. If you find several entries with the same reference number and date, it is necessary to list only one.

A. Individual search: You may request a search for an individual (either a particular event or all references to the individual). Include concise details such as likely location, time frame, parents' names if known etc. If a search is successful you will be sent details of the document.

B: Surname printouts: You may request an up-to-date printout of entries in the index for up to eight surnames at a time. For more common surnames such as Anderson, Bell, Brown, Campbell, Clark, Hall, Harris, Hill, Jones, King, Martin, Robertson, Robinson, Ross, Scott, Smith, Stewart, Taylor, Thompson, Walker, Watson, White, Williams, Wilson Wright and Young to name just a few, also list the forenames and you will be provided with a printout of those names only. If you identify any certificates from the printouts that appear relevant to your research, you may then make a further request for copies of the documents. These requests must be limited to six certificates at a time.

Post your enquiry with a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SAE) (minimum size DLE – 22cm x 11cm). If surname printouts of the index are requested, include an A4 sized stamped, self-addressed envelope.

There is no charge for this service.

Note: Part of the index is also included in the NZSG Kiwi Collection available for NZSG members.

Contribute

Send contributions of certificates and other documents to NZSG Certificates Collection Officer, Mrs June Stratford, 31 Mains Avenue, Whāngārei 0112. Digital copies of documents can also be sent as email attachments to the NZSG Manager.

First Families

First Families is a collection of information about families where the family emigrated to New Zealand before and including 1901 and where partners were married in New Zealand before and including 1901.

It is an index, that has been compiled from family record sheets, contributed by both members of the NZSG and non-members. Each family record sheet includes the names of three generations and their spouses where known.

The record is based on the first couple of any family unit living in New Zealand before and including 1901 and it can include their children. It can also include their parents who may not have come to New Zealand, thus bridging the gap between New Zealand and the country of origin.

Access

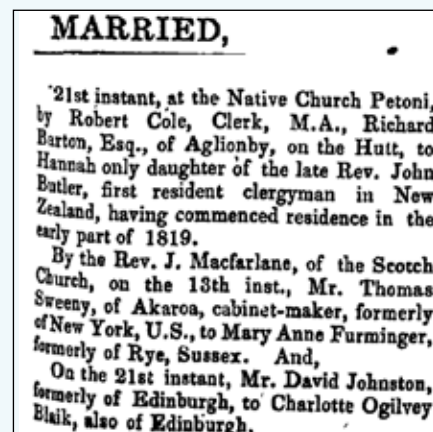
Surnames in this collection can be searched by members in the database accessible on the First Families page on the website. Over 13,500 entries can also be searched in Kiwi Collection.

Contribute

See 'F6a NZSG First Families Collection' sheet on the website.

Send completed forms to First Families Collection Officer, Joyce Mattson, 301 Tamaki Road, Whangamatā 3620.
E: FirstFamiliesSubmissions@genealogy.org.nz

Record collections



Pre 1856 New Zealand Marriage Records

This is a collection of New Zealand marriages that took place before compulsory civil registration. The collection contains over 28,500 entries from sources including civil registration entries, church records, newspaper notices, family and social history publications, Māori Mission records, Bible entries, ministers' diary and journal entries and submissions from NZSG members to name a few.

Access

The collection is computerised and stored in a database enabling powerful search and matching options.

Use the search request on the NZSG website, or contact the Research Service. E: researchservice@genealogy.org.nz

Contribute

See the Pre 1856 New Zealand Marriage Records page on the website to download the Submission Form. Post the form along with a copy of the document or source to:

Pre 1856 Marriage Record Collection Officer, c/o Project Co-ordinator, PO Box 14-036, Panmure, Auckland 1741.
E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org

Pedigree Registration

This is a collection of Pedigree Registration forms submitted by members. Every surname on the forms is entered into a computer index, which now contains more than 106,000 names. These names appear in the NZSG Kiwi Collections v2.

Access

See the Pedigree Registration page on the website to use the Search Request form.

Contribute

A Pedigree Registration form can be downloaded from the website. Members can submit a Pedigree Registration form relating to their direct family line. It is very important that page 2, with the consent information, is printed on the back of the form, NOT on a separate page.

Send the completed form to Pedigree Registration Officer, Mrs Judy Kirby, 25a Elliot Street, Johnsonville, Wellington 6037.
E: pedigree@genealogy.org.nz

Search for:

Surname	Starts With	barton
Given names	Contain(s)	rich
Year	Exact Match	
Record type	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection	

SEARCH CLEAR

Name ▲	Date	RecordType
BARTON Richard	1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection
BARTON Richard	21 Sep 1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection
BARTON Richard	21 Sep 1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection
BARTON Richard	21 Sep 1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection
BARTON Richard	21 Sep 1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection
BARTON Richard	21 Sep 1843	NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection

Griffis Illegitimacies

This collection is a name-searchable database involving illegitimate births in New Zealand between 1877 and 1950 that were available in public records, either at local court houses or National Archives. Virtually all of these records have now been transferred to Archives New Zealand.

The database includes details of the child (if named) the mother and the father, the location of the event, the record type and repository. Successful results are printed into a formatted report that can be saved or printed. Query results provide basic information only. Researchers are encouraged to go back to the original source record for more fulsome detail.

Illegitimate birth as a subject involves degrees of sensitivity. Because of this the Society has decided that this resource will only be held at our Family Research Centre (FRC) and that records less than 100 years old will be withheld.

For a full explanation on the Griffis Illegitimacies Collection read our Gen-Guide available online.

Access

The database is offered as a research look-up service, administered from the Family Research Centre, through which members can make enquiries and be provided with a standard output report. NZSG members may obtain details through our Research Services or in person (under supervision).

E: ResearchService@genealogy.org.nz

Information from the NZSG Record Collections is available to full NZSG members only, without charge. Access to the collections is a major benefit of your NZSG membership. Members receive this information on the understanding that it is to be used for their personal research only. You should not pass it on to non-members, or make access to the collections available to non-members. Local NZSG Branch members are not full NZSG members.

The only living lady parachutist

Catherine Clarke

I really enjoyed the article 'Fictional inspiration' in the March 2022 issue of The New Zealand Genealogist. As a teenager I loved Katherine by Anya Seton, the story of Katherine Swynford and John of Gaunt and likewise found the genealogical chart fascinating. I had heard of Nathan Dylan Goodwin and I've now been spurred on to order one of his books.

It has also motivated me to adapt a presentation I gave to my local Hutt Branch into an article about the genealogical research behind my novel The Only Living Lady Parachutist.

My interest in genealogy was an immense help in untangling the true origins of the characters in my novel. The book is based on the life of a remarkable but little-known woman who called herself Leila ADAIR and earned her living by jumping from a hot air balloon with a parachute. She toured New Zealand in 1894, visiting twenty-two towns where spectators would pay a shilling to watch the balloon inflation and ascent. But rather than revealing the story of Leila Adair and her sister Millie VIOLA, this article will focus on the dubious backgrounds of two of her male counterparts and how I worked out their real identities.

Who was Arthur B Adair?

At Palmerston North Leila Adair was involved in a stoush with the Manawatu Mounted Rifles who confiscated her share of the gate takings when the inflation failed and the crowd demanded their money back. Leila sued and won her case. In between these two events her manager, Frank CORNELL, was replaced by Arthur B Adair (also a stage name).

It wasn't until I compared two newspaper items that I had a lightbulb moment. On the steamer from Onehunga to New Plymouth, the passengers were Leila Adair, Mr Cornell and among others, A BLACKWELL.¹ At New Plymouth Adair's balloon burnt to atoms and a benefit concert was organised with local amateur thespians with Miss L Adair as Florence Marigold, Mr FH Cornell as Barnaby Bibbs and Mr A Blackwell as Peter Parker.² It seems that A Blackwell was part of Miss Adair's entourage. Could he have morphed into Arthur B Adair, who replaced Frank Cornell as her manager after the near riot at Palmerston North?

I did some checking for Arthur Blackwell on various websites, but without knowing his age or if he was from Australia or New Zealand I didn't make much progress. There were a few likely suspects that I soon eliminated, but one continued to niggle at me. Arthur Willis Blackwell (AWB) married Rose WITTKOFSKI, a recent Polish immigrant to New Zealand in 1898. By the early 1900s, electoral rolls had them living in Wairarapa where Arthur worked as a ploughman.

In 1914, AWB, alias Arthur JONES, was adjudicated bankrupt. He'd been farming near Waverley, Taranaki, then disappeared as his debts were about to catch up with him. A representative for his creditors asked the Assignee to communicate with a Waimate solicitor to "see what he knows about the fortune alleged to have been left to the bankrupt".³

In 1916 Blackwell was arrested for theft from a hawker, Solomon KHOURI, and fined £12 or two months' imprisonment plus repayment of £25. With eight children, his house burned down and "very much in debt" Blackwell must have been desperate.⁴ AWB remained in the Otago/South

Canterbury region where this curious advertisement appeared exclusively in the *Otago Daily Times* in June 1919.

WOULD A. W. Blackwell (last heard of in North Island), son of the late George Blackwell, farmer, of South Canterbury, send his ADDRESS to Box 2246, P.O., London, as there is money left him.

Perhaps his luck was about to change? But in 1921 there was a warrant out for Blackwell's arrest for obtaining a Ford motor-car under false pretences.⁵ He was described as "medium build, fresh complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, scar on chin, lower jaw has been injured which causes it to drop."

AWB vanished until fourteen years later when this story (widely reported in papers throughout Australia and New Zealand) appeared in March 1935. He was living in Temora, NSW, with a wife and nine-year-old daughter. His father had left him £50,000 and he explained about his shattered jaw – a war injury from Gallipoli.⁶

Digger's Fortune

MR. ARTHUR BLACKWELL, a war-scarred Digger from Temora, sailed by the *Niagara* yesterday for England, to collect over £50,000.

In 1913, his father, Mr. George Blackwell, died in Bristol. He was a wealthy dealer. For 22 years his son has been fighting for that money, and at last he has won.

"There was not much doubt all along that the fortune would come my way," he said.

"I lost my birth certificate, and they take no risks in England. I had to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was Arthur Blackwell. It took me a long time to prove it, but I have succeeded at last.

"No. I am not telling exactly how much money has been left to me. It is well over £50,000.

Thinks Of Diggers

"Back in Temora I did any job I could get. Times were bad occasionally, and now that I have the money I am not going to forget those who stood by me. They are the Diggers of Temora.

"I hope to be back in Temora in June—after that a world tour with my wife and nine-year-old daughter.

Shattered Jaw

"I am the only one of the family left. Enlisting with the second Battalion, New Zealand, I was at the landing on Gallipoli.

"Look at my jaw—shattered. The doctors built half a new face for me. It cost me £2000, and I had to go to England in 1920 to have the job done.

"My two brothers were killed on the second day at Gallipoli. Most of the family and half of me are scattered over the battlefields. I was in the Boer War as well."

Is anyone getting a bit suspicious by this point? By July the New Zealand police were looking for him again. Blackwell had left his wife at Temora, supposedly proceeding to Bristol to claim his legacy but "his wife is now enquiring for him, as she is destitute."⁷ It became apparent that he had also left his first wife in Ashburton in 1920 with the same story about a lost inheritance. The police traced him to Reporoa, but he'd already given them the slip and I could find no further trace of him.

Who was Arthur Willis Blackwell?

Arthur Willis Blackwell was born about 1866 to George Blackwell and Mary Anne COOMBS (née BANTING) in Gloucestershire, England. Mary Anne and her infant daughter died in January 1871. On 5 March 1874, George and his two children arrived as assisted emigrants on the *Scimitar* to Otago. Arthur was severely injured after falling from a horse when he was eight⁸ – which probably accounts for the shattered jaw – he was not at Gallipoli.

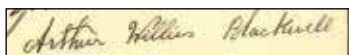
His father died in Bristol in 1912, but didn't leave a substantial fortune — only £1560. Shipping records show A W Blackwell, a farmer aged 46 years, left New Zealand on the *Tainui* 16 April 1913 for England and returned 19 July 1913 on the *Ionic* — probably empty-handed. His father had remarried and the will directed his executors to pay the income from his estate "to my wife during her life if she shall so long remain my widow and after her death or second marriage in trust for

my two children Arthur Willis Blackwell of Wairarapa and Anne BUTCHER of Waimate in equal shares.”⁹

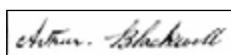
In 1942 his first wife, Rose, died intestate. This time a genuine advertisement from the Public Trust appeared enquiring of his whereabouts.¹⁰ Her probate record listed eight children.¹¹ The opportunity to claim against his wife’s meagre estate wasn’t enough to tempt AWB to reveal himself or he may have predeceased her.

But was he the same person as Arthur B Adair? After her Petone ascent, the Public Works Committee recommended that Leila Adair could have use of the Basin Reserve for her balloon ascent for a fee of £20 and another £20 bond to cover any damage. But the Wellington Cricket Association made strenuous objections. They had already spent £100 preparing the ground for next season, it would put all the work back and result in “a most disastrous financial loss.” Arthur B Adair wrote to the Town Clerk requesting the use of Newtown Park,¹² but the Council proposed the Corporation Drainage Yard instead and two weeks later Leila Adair sailed for Blenheim without making another ascent in Wellington.

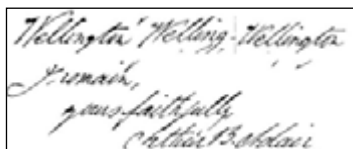
On 30 August 1899, AWB signed the memorial for his first wife’s naturalisation.¹³



In 1926 AWB bigamously married Annie Catherine FREDERICKSON (age 24), in Victoria, Australia, giving his age as 43 when in fact he was almost 60 years old.



By comparing the A and W of his signature with those in the letter that Arthur B Adair wrote to the Town Clerk, I could confirm that Arthur B Adair’s real identity was indeed Arthur Willis Blackwell.



Who was James William Price?

Another aeronaut associated with Leila Adair was James William PRICE. In his passport applications Price consistently gave his birth as 15 May 1871 in Gentry County, Missouri and his father’s name as Harrison Price. In earlier newspaper articles, however, his birth date ranged from 1862 to 1865 and he claimed to have spent his childhood in Illinois. I couldn’t find a birth or census records to match and I went cross-eyed trying to decipher his mother’s name in a 1915 passport application,¹⁴ where the pages have stuck together: Mrs _ _ ton of 732 South 10th St, Springfield, Illinois.

By 1889 Price had teamed up with another aeronaut, Park VAN TASSEL. On 17 June 1889, James Price (aged 24) married Georgie ANGELL (aged 14) in Salt Lake City, Utah.¹⁵ The

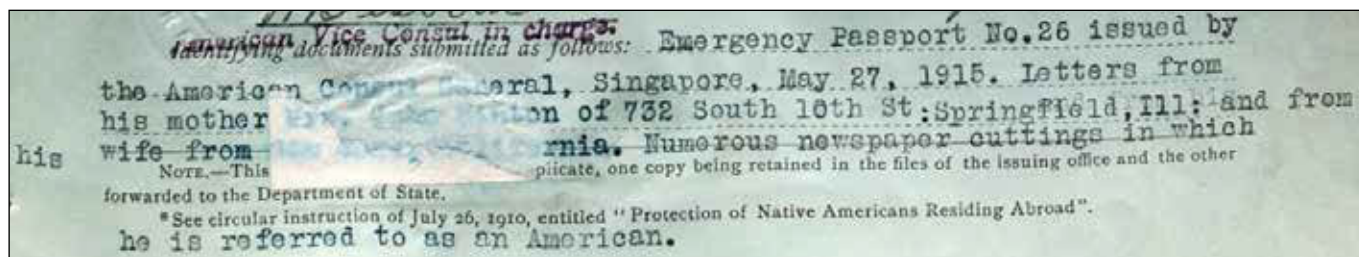


Leila Adair at Palmerston North.

Photo Credit: Palmerston North City Library.

marriage was short-lived as six weeks later the *Salt Lake City Herald* headlined “The Sad Predicament in Which Georgia Angell Finds Herself ... The aerial artist known as J W Price, who has been in Butte for several weeks past and made ascensions from the Zoological Gardens and Central Park, broke into the county jail last evening. It seems that he has not been living a very immaculate life, and this fact has caused his wife a great deal of grief. Mrs Price is a sixteen year old girl and is very good looking, and the professor’s neglect and infidelity were hard for her to bear. Yesterday afternoon she swore out a complaint charging her husband with adultery, and Officer Carroll arrested the aeronaut while he was on his way to the 4 o’clock train intending to leave the city. Price spent the night in jail, his examination having been set for 10 o’clock this morning. At that hour he appeared before Judge Newkirk and the case was dismissed, as Mrs Price’s courage failed her and she refused to prosecute. Had other evidence been obtained the case would have been carried on. Mrs Price stated also that Price had tried to induce her to lead a life of shame that he might profit by it. Some interested parties have promised the balloonist a coat of tar and feathers if such propositions are repeated.”¹⁶

Price soon left America and arrived in Australia with



(Continues on page 60) →

→ (Continued from page 59)

Van Tassel in December 1889. Over the next twenty years he travelled to South Africa, Hawaii, India, Burma, Singapore, China and Japan making balloon ascents. He was back in America 1903–1905 and according to his Registration of an American Citizen¹⁷ in Burma, appeared to have married during this time. His wife Myrtle (age 40), daughter Constance (age 3), and son Harrison (age 1), returned from Japan to San Francisco in 1912,¹⁸ but Price remained in Asia making aeronautic exhibitions. I searched for a marriage between James Price and Myrtle, birth records for Constance and Harrison Price — nothing.

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN.

I, **MAXWELL K. MOORHEAD**, Consul of the United States of America at **Rangoon, Burma**, hereby certify that **James W. Price**, is registered as an American citizen in this consulate. He was born **May 15, 1871**, at **Gentry County, Missouri**, and is a citizen of the United States by birth. He left his residence in the United States on **March 6, 1915** and arrived in **Rangoon, Burma** on **November 11, 1915**, where he is now residing for the purpose of **Balloon Exhibit**. He is married to **Myrtle M. Price**, who was born in **Farmington, Illinois** and resides at **San Jose, California**. He has the following children: **Constance Virginia** born in **San Jose, California** on **June 16, 1907** and residing at **San Jose, California**.

James Price died in Saigon on 21 September 1921. The cause of death was recorded as a haemorrhage and his daughter (Miss Constance Price, c/- Mrs Albert H DULTON, 192 Yosemite Avenue, San Jose, California) was notified of his death by the American Consular Service. The report also included this note: “I have the honour to enclose the report of the death of James William Price. The relatives in America have been notified and the property, consisting of two trunks of valueless personal letters and old clothes, have been taken over by me until receipt of instructions from the relations. The remains were buried by the woman with whom he had been living for the past nine years. Shortly before his death he gave her \$5,000 Saigon for the upkeep of the three children he had by her with instructions that \$1,000 gold should be sent to his legal daughter by his former divorced wife in America. I made her sign a letter to this effect.”¹⁹

I looked for a marriage between Myrtle Price and Albert Dulton — again nothing. Until I typed in Myrtle (born 1872) in Farmington, Illinois, and this time a matching person from another family tree popped up: Mary Myrtle COYKENDALL, with the spouse, James W SISK. The name Coykendall rang some bells, as Park Van Tassel’s third wife was Clara Coykendall — it turns out that Myrtle was her sister.

Myrtle had married James Sisk in 1906. It was the third marriage for her and fourth for Price, and Myrtle had a daughter Winifred Frances MARITHEW from her first marriage. In the 1910 census, Myrtle Sisk and her children (Frances Merithew, Constance Sisk, and Harrison Sisk) were living with her brother, Frank Coykendall, at Senter Street, San Jose. She was described as a stage singer.²⁰

Winifred Frances Marithew married Albert H. DUTTON and in the 1920 census was living at 192 Yosemite Avenue, San Jose.²¹ Myrtle and Constance SYSKE were living at Beach Road, Santa Cruz. The son, Harrison Sisk, had died in 1914. I now had enough matching names and addresses to conclude



J W Price with his self-bestowed medals. In reality he was after money to build an aeronautics factory to manufacture airships, a venture that failed to get off the ground. San Jose Mercury News, 7 March 1907. Image permission from GenealogyBank.

that James W Price and James W Sisk were one and the same person.

Who was James W Sisk?

In the United States 1870 census James Sisk was in Tolono, Champaign, Illinois, with his mother Mary and brother Charles.²² In 1871, Mary Sisk married Robert Price in Champaign, Illinois. Robert Price was in the local jail the year before, and in 1872 he was arrested and charged with robbing a safe at Sardorus, not far from Tolono.²³ In 1880, Mary filed a petition for divorce, the grounds being her husband, Robert E Price, had been convicted of burglary and larceny.²⁴

Mary Price wasn’t a model citizen either. In March 1879, she had a run in with Clarence ‘Piggy’ PAYRAN who was arrested for threatening to murder her, then in July, Mary “the mother of the notorious Jimmy” was arrested with stolen goods. The *Daily Illinois State Journal* quoted her: “Mary Price says the police lie, that she never stole anything, but that she bought all her jewelry and that it was Piggy Payran who made all the racket.” An acerbic comment from the newspaper followed: “Mary’s memory, however, is at times defective.”²⁵

Also in 1879, the papers reported the escape and subsequent arrest of that “notorious little thief” James Price.²⁶ He had jumped from a moving train after being brought back to Springfield to identify his accomplices in a burglary at Petersburg. Presumably he spent some time in gaol, then in 1883 he made his first balloon ascent under the auspices of Professor Ira FISK. I had seen some newspaper reports of J W Sisk making balloon ascents and wrongly assumed this was a misprint of Fisk as they often took the name of their mentor.

In March 1884, Professor Price made a balloon ascension in his home town of Springfield. Once again the *Journal* was less than impressed by his antics. It described him as making “a circus of himself” then launched into a tirade: “... though it was whispered around town yesterday that he is not strictly a professor of aeronautics, but of something else. There were those about town, some of the police said, who would have given him permission, when his shabby old balloon went up, to go on and never come back. One wicked fellow said he greatly regretted that the encounter with the chimneys had terminated so innocently. But the whole thing was a farce, not half so real as some in which Prof Price has figured heretofore. Prof Price is well known to the police of this city, and a citizen who pretended to know, said Price received his degree under Prof MCCLAUGHRY, of the Joliet University.”²⁷

On 14 December 1881, Mary (Mollie) Price married James HINTON. Mary Hinton, the wife of James Hinton of 732 South 10th Street, died of senility aged 70 years on 13 January 1916.²⁸ The death notice named two sons: J Price and Charles Price of California. I now had the answer to the puzzle of his mother’s

(Continues on page 61) →

It is all in the verification

Alyson de Marco

I was not a pioneer of genealogy but the recipient of the thousands who went before me and made the path a little easier to travel. My discoveries are no less valuable because I can now do my research at my computer. I don't have to don the white gloves to handle tomes from long ago. Sitting in small spaces and scanning microfiche lovingly preserved by those that came before is no longer necessary.

My path has very different pitfalls. The overload of information has made everyone an expert, or has it?

Let me tell you about the rabbit hole I recently disappeared down in despair.

Despite his death in 1927, many decades before my birth, my great-grandfather, Michael COUGHLAN, is very real. From his birth in Ireland and his journey to New Zealand, I have discovered more about him than I know of most other relatives, living or dead. I have heard his voice in written accounts, where he has borne witness to events of importance in New Zealand. I have read the testimony about him from his peers. I know the laws in place at the time of his arrival in New Zealand. I know how much he paid for his simple working clothes and rent. As well as his wages on the rail. I know all his children's names and birth dates and those he adopted.

I have their school records, thanks to the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. I have the records of the marriages of each of them. With one exception.

How I have suffered from that one exception. I have searched, and all the evidence I could find was an advertisement in the local paper. This sought my great aunt concerning her father's estate. There was a clue in that classified ad. She was thought to be Mrs JAMES. A wedding, of course. I had already been on BDM almost every day, checking every spelling possible. But I could not put this aside as of no importance. I am a researcher. I will not give up, even proving yourself wrong is progress.

Through the miracle of DNA, I found a close cousin I did not know. Her grandmother had the correct name. My

excitement was almost limitless, but that little voice still pulls you back to earth – nothing is real until proven.

In my many emails to my new cousin, I explained that the information she had given me could help me find the link. This may lead to absolutely identifying where our connection started. But in my excitement, I shared my hope that she was the missing Mrs James. I did beg my new cousin not to put any information on her tree, and she promised that she wouldn't. I revealed the family's history. Perhaps the information overload was too much to bear, or was I showing off? Of course, she rushed straight away and loaded the information onto her tree.

I ordered all of the printouts for the marriages, and it was a whole fortnight before they were sent to me. Alas, none of the possibilities was my missing great aunt.

My DNA connections now have all of the relations of this cousin. They have copied her lead, and each has accepted this as accurate. This experience shows that none of the information obtained this way can be reliable. Many out there are filling in boxes, and anything will do.

We are still close cousins, but she does not share the same great-grandfather. The likelihood is that we are much more immediate. None of this cousin's family is interested in corresponding. There is a belief that this false information is a fact. Every time a new second or third cousin pops up with a common ancestor, I have dread and not the thrill. The drop-down to the relationship shows the misinformation I supplied. The sad thing is that I know who the family are, and they are a little more notable than the working-class heroes that I know and love. I feel guilty and cross.

In the hope that others don't make my mistake:

- try not to let the excitement of clues allow you to overshare before completing your research
- don't share with those who will not do their own checking – you could be tempted with unreliable information that they will give
- don't ever accept anything unless the person giving it to you is completely sound.

Alyson de Marco. E: demarco@xtra.co.nz

→ (Continued from page 61)

name and the explanation for the black armband in J W Price's passport photos.

The genealogical research behind the characters in my novel has been addictive, frustrating, and fascinating. I've managed to dig beneath the shameless hype and downright lies which the daredevil sisters used to conceal their origins but there is still one I haven't been able to fully solve – what happened to the quack doctor, W G BARNSFORD, alias Sequah, who also came to New Zealand in 1894?²⁹

Catherine Clarke <https://catherineclarkeauthor.com/> E:

Notes

- 1 *Auckland Star*, 30 March 1894.
- 2 *Taranaki Herald*, 21 April 1894.
- 3 *Patea Mail*, 10 June 1914.
- 4 *Christchurch Sun*, 10 May 1916.
- 5 *New Zealand Police Gazette*, 8 June 1921.
- 6 *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, 1 March 1935.
- 7 *New Zealand Police Gazette*, 10 July 1935.
- 8 *Lyttelton Times*, 10 August 1875.
- 9 George Blackwell, Probate 3/12/1912.
- 10 *The Press*, 18 April 1942.

- 11 Archives New Zealand, Probate records 1941 P4735/41-P4817/41.
- 12 Wellington City Council Archives, 00233-1894/886.
- 13 Archives New Zealand, Rosie Blackwell, 30 August 1899, Memorial for Naturalisation R24925940.
- 14 *Passport Applications, 1795–1925*, Ancestry.com
- 15 Utah, County Marriages, 1871–1941 <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F8GK-KB7>
- 16 *Salt Lake City Herald*, 30 July 1889.
- 17 *Consular Registration Certificates, 1907–1918*, Ancestry.com
- 18 *Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882–1959*, Ancestry.com
- 19 *Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1835–1974*, Ancestry.com
- 20 1910 Census San Jose, Santa Clara, California; Roll: T624_105; Page: 52B
- 21 1920 Census San Jose, Santa Clara, California; Roll: T625_147; Page: 6
- 22 1870 Census Tolono, Champaign, Illinois; Roll: M593_193; Page: 387B
- 23 *Daily Illinois State Register*, 16 May 1872.
- 24 *Daily Illinois State Register*, 2 March 1880.
- 25 *Daily Illinois State Journal*, 2 March, 10 & 11 July 1879.
- 26 *Daily Illinois State Register*, 20 July 1879.
- 27 R. W. McClaughry was the warden of Joliet State Penitentiary. *Daily Illinois State Journal*, 27 March 1884.
- 28 *Daily Illinois State Register*, 14 Jan 1916.
- 29 *New Zealand Police Gazette*, 25 July 1894.

Ongarue rail disaster

Christine Clement

Ongarue is between Te Kuiti and Taumarunui on the Main Trunk Line. On Friday, 6 July 1923 the southbound express ploughed into a mud slide, just around the bend south of the township.

Unfortunately, in the mud slide was a large boulder and the engine rode up on to the boulder resulting in the following carriages telescoping. However, those at the rear of the train in

the sleeping compartments had to be woken for their bedding to be used for the accident victims.

Eleven people were killed in the smash. The injured were laid on cushions beside the rail track covered with rugs, one died before going to hospital. A further five initially reported as injured died in hospital. Railway worker Louis HILL, who was assisting at the scene, died from a cerebral haemorrhage.

DIED

BILLING	Thomas John	75	Retired farmer, New Plymouth
BRADY	James Joseph	27	Tay Street, Woodville
CONNOR	Maurice John	37	Storekeeper, Pahiatua
CURRIE*	Lawrence Watson	17	Amateur boxer travelling to a tournament in King Country. Employed as a brass finisher, Auckland
DONALD	Ursula May (Mrs)	30	Tredia Street, Epsom. The only woman to have been killed. Travelled in Car C.
GRANT*	Andrew McGregor (Constable)	56	Police constable and storekeeper, Te Whaiti, Rotorua
HILL	Louis Wilfred Hollis	54	Died at scene of cerebral haemorrhage. Railway crew
HUNT*	Horace Greenwood	37	Te Kauwhata
LEAR	William Charles	27	Northcote, Auckland
MAYNE	Charles Campbell	21	Morrinsville
MCCOMB	David	51	Tailor, Rotorua
MEAR*	Benjamin	42	Sawmiller, Mahirakau
MORGAN	George	36	Palmerston North
PETSHUKET	William	22	Orphan, single with no relatives
PAYNTER	Charles Howard	56	Horhora
SAXBY*	Allan Gordon	47	Clyde Road, Napier
WARD	Henry Thomas	44	Herne Bay, Auckland. Buried Linwood Cemetery, Christchurch
WATERS	Norman Leslie	24	Returned soldier 1NZEF, Papatoetoe

INJURED

ACE	Ronald		A boy from Whangarei. Fractured leg – had been pinned by wreckage and was rescued by mill workers W N Edgar and R McLeod
ASHTON	Howard		Palmerston North
BILLING	Lawrence		Rahotu, New Plymouth. Injuries to head and face
BROWNLEY (BROWNLIE)	Les		Australia or Te Puke? Contusions and abrasions to face and right eye
CAMPBELL	William S (Bill)		Engine fireman, East Tamaki, Auckland. Badly scalded on his face and body and suffered injury to his shoulder.
COLLINS	W (Tom, Tommy)		Beresford St, Newton, Auckland. An amateur boxer travelling to a boxing tournament in the King Country, he suffered back and chest injuries and had ribs fractured.
DIGNAN	Charles		Pokako. Fractured ribs and haemorrhage
GEORGE	G		Willis St, Wellington
GORDON	Christiana		Ohakune. Scalded left arm and injuries to both legs
GORDON	T		Ohakune
HENDERSON	Doris, Mrs		Te Kuiti. Fractured ankle
HOPKINS			Taumarunui
HUGHES	Sam		Seaman. Contusions and abrasions to face and right eye
KELLY	Blanche		Spottswood, Cheviot, North Canterbury. Injuries to head and legs
KENNEDY	A		Palmerston North
LEITCH (LEACH)	Herbert		Matiere, Taumarunui
LEY	Henry F		Te Aroha
LASKE (LOAKE)	Harry		Huntly. Slight abrasions to head and hand
MCCASLEY	J		Palmerston North
McFARLANE	Charles		Sawmill hand, Milford, Takapuna. Fractured forearm and collapse
MORGAN	John		Te Kuiti. Fractured upper and lower jaw, contusions to face and both eyes.
NEALE (NEIL)	John		Manawaru, Te Aroha. Abrasions and contusions to face and scalp, compound fracture of left leg
NEWDICK	P		Palmerston North
NIZICH (NISFFICH)	Mati		Thames. He was travelling in car D that over-rode car C.

SHEPHERD	Harold		Wellington. Wound above eye
SMITH	Myra Mrs		Toko, Stratford. Injuries to head
STEWART	Alexander (Alec)		Engine driver, Auckland
TYLER	A		Martinborough. Crushed hips
WALKER	William George (George William)		Dannevirke. Cut on head and bruised ribs.
WHEELER	Sidney		Dannevirke. Abrasions to face, head and thigh

Newspaper reports said that Currie and Collins were also to take part in the amateur boxing tournament in the King Country, which “was postponed out of sympathy with the deceased”.

SOME OF THE PASSENGERS IN THE ONGARUE RAIL DISASTER

BANNISTER	Member of the NZ Maori Rugby Team
BATHGATE	David Albert Dr, Dunedin. Had travelled in last compartment car D – gave evidence.
BRUNT	Nurse
CROUCHER, A H	Christchurch
DRAKE, Ernest	Opera singer. Newspaper reports that he had been in Wellington where he sang a tenor solo in ‘Faust’.
ENTICOTT	Methodist minister from Taumarunui
HINGSTON	Member of the NZ Maori Rugby Team
IZARD, W	Lawyer, Christchurch
KILMARTIN	Boxing referee, Dunedin
LOUGHNAN	Christchurch, son-in-law of Izard
MATTHEWS, C S	Wellington
NASH (WALSH), H W	Medical student, Palmerston North
New Zealand Maori Rugby Football Team	
REVELL	Detective, Wellington
RUTTLEDGE, J	Horse trainer, Dunedin
Scandal Theatrical Company	Members of Harry Cohen’s ‘Scandal’ theatrical company joined the train at Te Awamutu for Palmerston North and had reserved seats at the front of train, but placed at the rear otherwise they would have suffered injuries.
PARATA	Manager of the NZ Maori Rugby Team
WALSH	Detective, Wellington

RAILWAY STAFF

DUNSTAN	Postal worker on board the train
HOBSON, Henry Percy	Guard. Also reported as HOPKINS
McDONELL	Postal worker on board the train
MEEHAN, Mrs	Ladies car attendant
SMITH, D’Arck Reginald -	Postal worker on board the train
STEWART, Alexander (Alec)	Engine driver, Auckland

LOCALS WHO HELPED

ALDRIDGE, Mr	
EDGAR, W N	Mill worker, Ellis & Burnands Timber Mill, Ongarue
LAIRD, Mrs	Member of committee who prepared the bodies for viewing
MAHONEY, Thomas	Constable, Ongarue
MCLEOD, R	Mill worker, Ellis & Burnands Timber Mill, Ongarue
McNAB, Mrs	Member of committee who prepared the bodies for viewing
MILLER, George	Postmaster, Ongarue
REECE, Mrs	Member of committee who prepared the bodies for viewing
SOUFFLOT, P L	Assistant postmaster, Ongarue
WORRALL, Mrs	Member of committee who prepared the bodies for viewing

OTHERS WHO HELPED

DUFFY	Reverend Father
LAIRD, A S	District Coroner made arrangements for the bodies to be properly attended to and shrouded before relatives arrived.

Thanks to John Billing for his help with the names of the victims and additional information gleaned from newspaper reports. John’s work is greatly appreciated. He is currently working to have a memorial erected above the site of the accident so it does not become forgotten.

In *Doctor in the Sticks* by D A Bathgate (1972) there is a very good account of this accident. Bathgate was a doctor travelling on the train at the time.

Christine Clement, Te Puke.
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Genealogical bonsai = little family trees
Submitted by Jeanette Grant, Mount Eden, Auckland.

On Monday 25 October 1993 a mountain search and rescue team arrived at a grim accident scene on the Franz Josef Glacier. A Nomad aeroplane lay broken where it had smashed into the ice. On board were seven dead German tourists and their two-person flight crew.

The tourists had been enjoying a luxurious tour around New Zealand until their pilot – inexperienced in mountain flying – miscalculated the height of the glacier he was trying to fly over and crashed right into it.

The rescue team had no sooner landed than whiteout conditions struck, and they were forced to shelter for the night in the broken plane fuselage with the dead. Some of the victims were wearing Rolex watches which were still working. The search team (with typical black humour necessary for coping with such tragedies) commented that it would make a great advertisement for the watch company as to the durability of their product.

The Franz Josef crash has overtones of the Erebus disaster albeit on a much smaller scale. Yet few people remember it today and a search of Collections yields nothing unless you know a few search tricks.

In this article – my first since Archives New Zealand launched the Collections database – I have looked at various New Zealand disasters using this new search tool and hope to share a few tips to making searches easier for others. These strategies should work for any research topics you have.

If you have an R number you will find your file easily by going to advanced search

- Condition field Code Contains R number

But if not, things get much more difficult.

I found nothing on the crash when I first searched Collections. I tried obvious keywords in the advanced search option such as:

- Condition field: Name contains Franz Josef crash
- Condition field: Name contains glacier plane fatality

These kind of searches yielded nothing. Unless you have the exact title (or an exact word string of *part* of the title) you won't find what you are looking for, so it is often necessary to strip your search back to the most basic term. In this case Franz Josef – which of course yielded hundreds of results – too many to be useful.

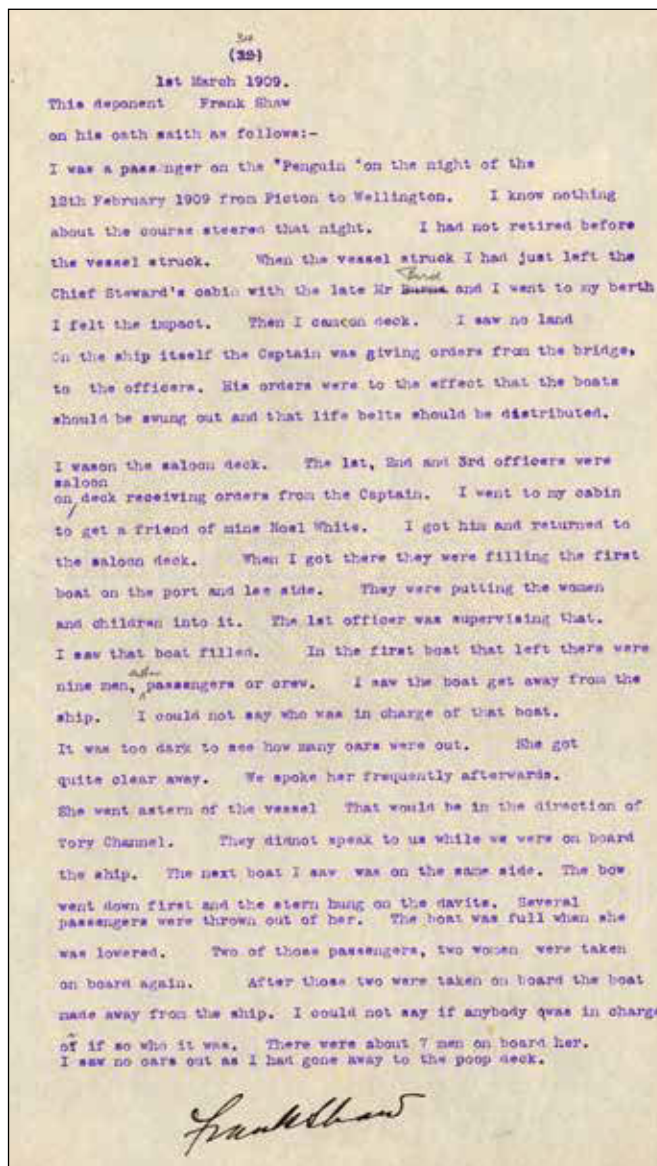
I found the records I wanted when I put Franz Josef in the name field and added a condition below – and in this selected start year 1993. All 14 file titles immediately appeared. And if I had known to search “ZK-NOM: GAF N22 Nomad collided with terrain Franz Josef Glacier” I would have found them straight away. But who would know that? I certainly didn't.

I've found that adding a condition and putting in the start year is invaluable for so many searches. It's quick and easy to use.

Another example is the sad story of the Wellington to Lyttelton yacht race in 1951 which saw 10 crew drowned and two yachts lost. Twenty yachts had left Wellington in an event which was supposed to commemorate Canterbury's centenary. Instead they hit a southerly storm and tragedy ensued.

A search of Collections using various keywords such as Wellington to Lyttelton yacht race again yielded nothing but by stripping the name search down to yacht and adding the condition start year 1951 I immediately got 11 results. One of the most useful files is actually titled Operations– Search and Rescue – Missing Yacht: “Argo” (ship). Needless to say, I would not have guessed this title in a hundred years.

It comes down in part to the old problem we have with archives – a file title often does not reflect its actual contents. And if you strip a search down to the very basics you are going to get far too many often highly irrelevant results.



A page from the coroner's inquest into the wreck of the Penguin in 1909. This report is fully digitised and gives a detailed description of the tragedy (R23733247).

A quick search on Collections shows that we have 17,486 records with the word accident in their title, 1332 with the word disaster and surprisingly only 28 with the word tragedy.

As always with archives searching you have to be creative at times.

A search for the word wrecks brings up some interesting possibilities and led to my discovery of the superb Register of Wrecks (in five volumes) spanning over 100 years from 1871 to 1988 which contains story after story of disaster at sea.

One of the most entertaining one I found concerned a sea captain, William CHAPMAN, who went rogue during a routine voyage between Westport and Hokitika in 1876. He was drunk when he took command of the ship *J C Coleson*. At some stage he disappeared from his post and hid for a while in the hold. His crew was startled when he erupted onto the deck brandishing an oar, jumped overboard and presumably drowned. His ship sailed on without him.

If your search brings up too many results and you are not able to narrow it down by year click on the results lists and try one of the filters. In this way you can narrow it down to one of

Place where the Gale was observed	Wind	Direction of the Gale & Enquiry	Name of Master of Vessel	Record Number
Constant Bay	N.E. Wind	Increasing lines chased by the Rocks, there being a heavy sea coming into the Bay.	Edw. Perkins	10 177
South of the mouth of the River Collier	S.E. Wind	Accidentally vessel was caught on a Sunkin Anchor.	William Scott	10 178
Four miles South of the Tort Cuts off Bay	S.W. Wind	Stress of weather.	Samuel Bolt	10 179
Off Cape Horn	S.W. Wind	Miss calculation of the vessel position when blowing back to	Joseph Hobbs	10 180
South end of Paraiso Reef - unknown date	Variable	Accidental caused by the sudden changing of the direction of the wind	Ferdinand Soliman	10 181
Deeply Port, Wellington Harb	S.E. Wind	Impact of master with the rocks - shortened ball in time	William Pardon	10 182
Bay of the Butler River	N.E. Wind	Master of P. Charles vessel	Abraham Palmer	10 183
	do	Blamed for master's negligent care while giving the vessel of the command to cross without any command, & for going to sea without engineering water. The master ordered the vessel to return.	Thomas Stevens	10 184
do	N.E. Wind	Various explanations at the entrance of Port P. a leading flag displaying the vessel caught in a reef. The Pass - Channel - God also distressed	G. Robertson	10 185
about 5 miles South of the Tort Cuts	West Wind	Master's vessel ran on to rocks and while the vessel was	John de Bruce	10 186

Tararua Acre

Bobbie Amyes

He stood on the wharf at Port Chalmers waiting to embark. He could hardly contain his excitement and so was chatting to other bystanders. He looked in his early twenties, fit, healthy, used to the outdoor life.

The woman was at home. Now nearing her fifties, she was pleased about her decision to emigrate to New Zealand ten years earlier, a widow with three young children. She settled in Hampden on the Otago coast. Her two daughters had married and started their families. Her eldest, a son, a station hand had recently been home to visit.

A story was to play out in Otago papers. The woman was my great-grandmother's half sister, Mary MILNE, widow of John PAISLEY, policeman. The young man was her son, twenty-seven-year-old Alexander Paisley, farmhand.

News had hit the small communities all over the southern half of the South Island. A ship had floundered on Otara Reef off Waipapa Point on 29 April 1881, with a massive loss of life. Catlin's locals watched helplessly, unable to rescue the stranded passengers, for the weather now gale force had continued to increase in severity. The first bodies washed ashore were taken to the small town of Fortrose for identification. As more and more bodies washed ashore, many damaged beyond recognition, a decision was made to bury them close by.

But for our family, it was the newspaper that spelled out the tragedy. A sizeable number of people joining the *Tararua* at Port Chalmers had not bought their tickets at the booking office. These folk were going to pay on board. Following the disaster, there was an urgent call to identify who they might be. The papers named Alexander Paisley as one such person on 19 May, but it was the paper of the 21 May that told the story:¹

“United Press

Wyndham 14th May

Mr Robert Hastie of Port Chalmers, states that on the day the *Tararua* left Port Chalmers he was accosted on the wharf by a young man named Alexander Paisley, who with two companions was proceeding to some of the Australian goldfields. Paisley informed Hastie that each of them was taking £100 with them. He had evidently left home [near Moeraki] without acquainting his friends of his intention to go to Melbourne; and in reply to a question to Mr Hastie, said ‘Say nothing till I am gone, and then you can write and let my people know.’ Paisley was about 23 years of age and his companions appeared about the same age. He had left Hampden on the Monday prior to the loss of the *Tararua* and his relatives were under the impression he was returning to Moeraki Station, where he had been employed as a shepherd for some time; since the wreck they have discovered that he left the station on Saturday April 23rd. He leaves a widowed mother and two sisters.”

Waipapa Point is on a remote part of the Catlins, with reefs stretching far out to sea, visible at low tide, but completely hidden at high tide, and totally invisible in the turbulence of a storm. The *Tararua* was on its way to Melbourne via New Zealand's eastern coastal ports when it hit the reef, having



‘Wreck of the *Tararua*’, The Illustrated New Zealand Herald, May 1881.

taken on its last passengers at Port Chalmers. Sometime after the *Tararua* struck the reef, one of the passengers, George LAWRENCE, had swum ashore and sent a messenger to the Telegraph Office. The stranded ship did not break apart or sink immediately, but the locals who gathered on shore were helpless knowing the dangers as the high seas increasingly pounded the vessel.

As bodies washed ashore, the conditions meant they rapidly deteriorated, making identification difficult. Clothing, rings, articles in pockets, all helped with the identification, but many weren't able to be identified. The remoteness of the area, and the condition of the bodies meant an urgent decision was needed. The papers do not talk specifically about the conditions of the corpses that had spent time being smashed against the rocks, pulled back and fro by the undertow, then finally thrown up on to the land. But those who have read about the bodies smashed into the rocks on the Eastbourne coast with the *Wahine* sinking in 1968, know that even in more modern times the sea is no respecter of bodies. It is said that the Government surveyed the land which became known as the *Tararua* Acre. They must have been quick on the job! The bodies of the unidentified or badly mutilated were carried over the dunes and buried in a neighbouring field – now officially the *Tararua* Acre.

The newspapers reflect the differing approaches taken by locals, being particularly dismayed at the looting of trunks and cases washed ashore. As a result the constabulary was brought in to man the beaches. A Volunteer Committee from Invercargill was established. A Committee of Inquiry was undertaken. From an initial estimate of 100–125 drownings, the figure was finally confirmed as 131 deaths and twenty survivors. Sixty-four bodies were buried in that remote Catlins' graveyard, the *Tararua* Acre; one would have been Alexander Paisley.

Today it can be visited by a gentle walk across the fields to a very ordinary farm paddock, bar a sign or two and some special memorial grave stones. One is the official grave stone.

Tararua

In Memory of 104 passengers – 74 men, 12 women, 14 children – and 27 members of the Crew who lost their lives in the wreck of the SS *Tararua* at Waipapa on 29 April 1881.

Just a little further along is the one donated by the pupils of Fortrose School and other local district schools.



Site of the shipwreck.



Waipapa Point Lighthouse.

Erected by the Children of Fortrose School assisted by other District Schools in Memory of those who perished by the wreck of the SS *Tararua* 29th April 1881.

We visited in June 2016, so winter and definitely chilly. Even today the Catlins in winter is remote and lonely and our great road trip would have been consigned to memories and photos, but I recently happened on Mabel Pollock's *Children of the Lighthouse* (2007). Her family, the JAMIESONS, had lived at Waipapa Point where her father was lighthouse keeper. One of the results of the *Tararua* Inquiry was the urgent need for a lighthouse on the point. The lighthouse was built in 1884.

When the Jamiesons arrived around 1929, the lighthouse keepers added to their usual maintenance chores, the tidying of the *Tararua* Acre. Over the years it had been neglected, so the area was re-fenced, then they removed the invasive growth, smoothed the surface and sowed new grass. This they kept regularly scythed. In 1931, the family moved from Waipapa and suddenly the *Tararua* disaster was no longer just memories, photos and a bit of family history.

I am a poor sailor and reading of the family's departure from Waipapa on a relatively rough day, reminded me that Waipapa Point in a fierce storm would have been ferocious, and that April storm in 1881 was something one of my family experienced, before being crushed and drowned on the reef.

As Mabel tells it in *Children from the Lighthouse*:

"Mother was a poor sailor, dreading the *Matai*, which rolled in the slightest swell. Mrs Blair tried to cheer her but sight of the white horses and spray shooting over the reef quietened them both with apprehension. 'We'll get you on the next surf boat,' said Father." [p27]

Mother and children hunkered down on the bottom boards of the surf boat "It's getting pretty rough outside and you'll be a lot safer [on the floor]," said Father. He then handed her the baby. A green tarpaulin was spread over their heads and cleated down. The motor boat came in and attached the surfboat. They passed steadily through the lagoon, then, wham, the motor boat, then the surf boat slammed into the rollers that were breaking on the reef entrance.

As Mabel tells the story of their trip to board the *Matai*, disgracing herself by being sick over the floor of the surf boat was the least of their worries. Her mother, baby still in her arms, had to watch as the tiny surfboat having escaped out into the ocean was now being bounced around, close to, then away from, then close again to the *Matai* as her children were hauled high above in a deep round wicker basket.



Tararua Acre.

Photographs from Amyes Family Collection, 2016.

As the *Matai* rolled away the basket disappeared from sight. When the ship rolled back, the basket swung far above their mother's head, then as the basket rose higher, it swung like a giant pendulum. The children peering through the wicker saw their mother below, then the ship, then the sea, then their mother again. Finally they were aboard and it was Mrs Jamieson having to face the same ordeal. It goes without saying they were all feeling seasick and soon succumbed to the comfort of their bunks. Mabel, despite her earlier disgrace, was the first to perk up.

The *Tararua* Acre is part of our New Zealand heritage, a reminder of a tragic maritime disaster. With 131 deaths and 20 survivors there will be New Zealanders who have had a family member that was touched by this disaster. Some like me will know their relative died here in the Catlins.

How many died unidentified? While Mabel Pollock's description of their departure from Waipapa Point in the *Matai* can't help but remind me that Alexander died in tragic circumstances, and my great-great-aunt found out the truth in a most unexpected way, Alexander Paisley is still to me the excited lad off with two friends to seek his fortune in Australia.

Notes

¹ *Otago Witness*, 21 May 1881.

Book review

Over the Gentle Annie. High country Life in the Inland Patea

Michael Fowler with Wendy Campbell

Growing up in Hawke's Bay in the 1950s and 60s, the Gentle Annie was a mysterious highway that had its beginnings at Fernhill, near Hastings, and concluded at Taihape. None but the heroic or foolhardy attempted to drive over its high hills or dangerous curves especially in winter.

Wendy Campbell, the co-author with Michael Fowler of *Over the Gentle Annie* (2021), grew up on this dusty and hilly stretch of road, listening to her father Lou, telling her stories of the large sheep stations that brought to life this hinterland called Inland Patea.

So enthralled was Wendy with these stories, she spent the next twenty years researching and recording the families and the histories of those pioneer settlers who broke in this hidden land. Her profession as a wool rep gave her the opportunity to travel widely across the Central North Island high country, talking to many descendants of the pioneer settlers of the large sheep stations that bought the area to life.

This book is essential reading for anyone who has high country sheep farmers in their ancestry.

The first part of the book details the lives of Azim Salvador and William John BIRCH, two brothers from England who came to Hawke's Bay in the early 1860s.

They leased a large block of land, 115,000 acres, from Karaitiana Te Rango of Ngati Whitikaupeta. This land extended from the Kaimanawa Ranges with all the land between the Moawango and Rangitikei Rivers. It consisted of rugged mountainous terrain to fertile productive river terraces.

This station was called Erewhon. Local materials were used to build the homestead. Pit-sawn joists, rafters and shingles from totara trees growing nearby, and the walls constructed of mud or clay dug out of a nearby bank.

By 1890 the Birch brothers were successful sheep farmers running 50,000 sheep and were experimenting with various types of grasses. An ingenious method of sowing grass seed was employed. Seed was packed into cloth bags with small holes and hung from the necks of some of the sheep, dispersing it as they grazed.

Getting the wool to the port of Napier was a week-long undertaking involving mules, horses and a donkey. Eight packhorses, each laden with 90lb pockets of wool, and the rest of the animals with supplies for the men and animals would set out over the 80 mile track from the station to Napier. A hunter would go ahead, with dogs, hoping to shoot pigs or turkeys for food.

William successfully introduced trout into the Rangitikei River and even though he employed a manager to run Erewhon, he took a much more active role in the farm than his brother Azim who spent a great deal of his time abroad. William and Azim went their separate ways in 1897 and divided the station into two parcels of land. Azim retained the half with the homestead and called it Oruamatua. William's portion retained the name Erewhon.

Part Two of the book deals with life on these farms during the period 1920 to 2020. In 1920 Azim Birch's farm, the Oruamatua-Kaimanawa block, was broken

into six separate farms. The six farms were called, Oruamatua, Matatote, Marua, Ohinewairua, Springvale and Black Hill.

The lives of the families that successfully farmed these sheep stations from the early 1920s until well into the 21st century are well documented. Their trials with plagues of rabbits, and the use of spring traps or carrots laced with strychnine to deal with the "bunny pest". The worldwide recession of late 1921 and 1922 had a huge effect on their earnings from wool and meat. Their successes, also, are recorded at Ohinewairua woolshed in 1956. Godfrey BOWEN, together with eight other New Zealand Wool Board instructors set a wool shearing world record of 351 sheep shorn per man in a nine hour period.

Sport also figured in the daily lives of these farmers and produced many significant cricketers. Tom and Ralph LOWRY both played for the Moawhango cricket club, and their sister Gertrude married Percy CHAPMAN, a captain of the English cricket team, and her sister Marion married Dr Reg BETTINGTON, who played in an Australian XI with Don BRADMAN.

Topdressing by plane by was in its infancy when Wally HARDING converted a de Havilland Tiger Moth into a topdressing aircraft. By 1951 Blackhill station had an airstrip and Wally's topdressing planes were thought to be the first to work Inland Patea. Aerial topdressing was ideal for high country farming.

Part Three of *Over the Gentle Annie* deals with four sheep stations that are "neighbours over the river" and are situated east of the original block of land farmed by the Birch brothers on the Gentle Annie. These stations are, Mangaohane, Otupae, Ngamatea, and Timahanga.

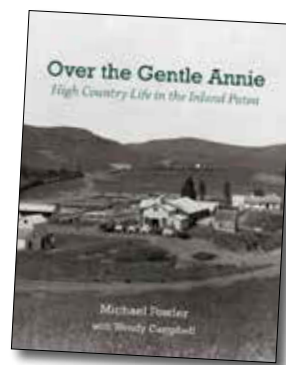
This part of the book details the negotiations that took place between the settlers and the local Māori. Sometimes a marriage was involved to lease land for farming. In many cases long and protracted court cases ensued with family members from both sides.

Wendy, following twenty years of research and talking to descendants of these settlers, and Michael, have painted vivid vignettes of these amazing people who turned this inhospitable high country land, into prosperous, functioning and productive farms. The hardships encountered along the way are well documented, and explained. Every page has at least one photo or illustration. Any descendant of the many mentioned in this book would be proud to have such an outstanding record of their ancestor's life's story.

The citations are numerous, well referenced, and are detailed in 20 pages at the end of the book. There is also a full index.

Michael Fowler is a self-employed author and researcher of Hawke's Bay, with a particular interest in business and social history. This is his fourteenth book since 2005. Wendy Campbell spent her early life in Springdale and Ohinewairua Stations and is a family historian and member of NZSG. She can be contacted on wendycampbell@inspire.net.nz

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Projects



What's new in the NZSG Kiwi Collection?

Another update to our Kiwi Collection has recently been delivered. This includes almost 700,000 new records, bringing the total number close to 12 million overall. Apart from the annual introduction of records emerging from date restrictions for the NZSG Collections (such as school records), there are numerous new book indexes including church and school booklets including:

- *The Foveaux whaling yarns of Yankee Jack* by Rhys Richards
- *Our Story: Aotearoa* by Sophia Sinclair
- *A new way of living* by Vivienne Allan
- *I do – 125 years of weddings in New Zealand* by Sandra Coney
- *Plunket pioneers – Recollections of Plunket nurses from 1940 to 2000* by Joyce Powell
- and at least 10 entirely **NEW** record sets.

Short extracts taken from the Source Record pages include:

• **Armed Constabulary – Melbourne Recruits**

Description: Names extracted from a list of men who attested for the Armed Constabulary in Melbourne in December 1868 and January 1869 and arrived in New Zealand per *Alhambra*, *Otago*, *Rangitoto*, *Gothenburg* and *Omeo*.

Time Period: 1868–1869

Access to Source: Archives New Zealand – Wellington Office

Other comments: The original file consists of fifteen loose and unsorted pages containing the names of 225 men who it was deduced had attested for the Armed Constabulary at Melbourne in December 1868 and January 1869 before sailing to Wellington. The file lists name, rank, date and place of attestation, place of birth, trade on enlistment, age, height, marital status, dates of previous military service, name of unit, and remarks (previous military service, whether embarked or not).

• **Canterbury Branch Index**

Description: An index of record sets local to the Canterbury region.

Time Period: 1800s–2000s

Area: Canterbury, New Zealand

Access to Source: Canterbury Branch NZSG

• **Cenotaph Online**

Description: A biographical database of those who served in the armed forces of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Period: 1853–present

Area: Nationwide

Access to Source: <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

Other comments: Auckland War Memorial Museum's Online Cenotaph is a living memorial to those who served Aotearoa New Zealand on active service during times of international conflict. A national initiative, Online Cenotaph is a biographical database that allows researchers, enthusiasts, and veterans and their families to explore, contribute to, and share the records and stories.

• **Clergyman's Funeral Notes – All Saints, Hataitai**

Description: An index of imaged notes made by clergymen conducting funeral services at All Saints, Hataitai, Wellington.

Period: 1880–1988

Area: Wellington, New Zealand

Access to Source: FRC Library, Panmure

Other Comments: This Index was taken from the original

handwritten clergyman's notes at All Saints in Hataitai, Wellington. The Notes themselves include material supplied to the clergyman by the funeral director, sometimes an obituary, or death notice, as well as the notes made by the clergyman conducting the funeral service itself. Images of the Notes are held at the NZSG Library in Panmure.

• **Nelson Girls' College Journal**

Description: An index of names taken from the Nelson Girls' College journal *Collegian*.

Time Period: 1901–1959

Access to Source: Nelson Branch Library

• **Nelson Provincial Government Gazette**

Description: An index of names taken from the *Nelson Provincial Government Gazette*. Time Period: 1853–1876

Area: Nelson Province

Access to Source: Nelson Provincial Museum

Other comments: The Nelson Provincial Museum holds the *Nelson Provincial Government Gazette* from which this index was extracted. Email: library@museumnp.org.nz or www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz and click the Research Facility section. Another source is the Elma Turner Library, Nelson, library@ncc.govt.nz.

• **New Zealand prisoners in NSW, Australia**

Description: An index of New Zealand-born prisoners held in NSW prisons

Period: 1870–1930

Area: New South Wales, Australia

Access to Source: NSW State Archives & Records

www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives

Other comments: This index includes New Zealand-born prisoners held in NSW Prisons or Gaols, between 1870 and 1930. The source record includes a photograph and biographical information about the prisoner including profession, height, and history of their misdemeanour. See article in *The New Zealand Genealogist*, February 2021, page 11, for examples and a list of born in New Zealand before 1850.

• **Photographs – Weekly News & others**

Description: An index of photographs published in an assortment of publications

Time Period: 1925, 1930–1972

Access to Source: FRC Library

Other comments: Publications include: *The Auckland Weekly News*, Aug 1930–Oct 1933, *The New Zealand Free Lance*, May 1935–Dec 1958, *The New Zealand Weekly News*, Sep 1965–Jul 1971, *The Weekly News*, Jan 1935–Oct 1960, *The Weekly Press & New Zealand Referee* Jan 1925–Jan 1925.

The quality of the photographs varies depending on condition of magazine, but it could be a photo never seen before. Photos cover a range of topics: appointments, civic functions, carnivals, debutantes, diplomatic events, engagements, occupations, sport, travel, weddings. A photograph's caption may provide genealogical information, more detailed than the index.

A photo may be accompanied by a text article.

Countries mentioned: Australia, Canada, England, Fiji, France, Greece, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Rhodesia, Yugoslavia, USA.

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Family history as a whole family research adventure

Dr Robin McConnell

Too often we read genealogical and family history articles that assume that research and explorations of our ancestors is being done by adults. Too often we ignore the creating of pictures of our family today for the future generations and too often we bypass possibilities of making our family history research an adventure in which grandparents and children of all ages can indulge.

My seventh book, *Tracing your family history with the whole family – a research adventure for all ages* (Pen & Sword, 2022), is a response to these perceptions. It outlines elements of the creative and engaging ways in which we can engage all of the family in our family history.

We can define family history as a history of the family in the past and in the present – recorded for the future. Let's consider some enjoyably challenging aspects of this. These are considered much more fully in the book, along with hosts of practical lists, questions and guidelines.

My eldest grand-daughter, Maya, rang me one December to say that her class could choose an interesting topic for their assignment on Christmas. The thirteen-year-old noted to me her understanding that a direct ancestor, Gabriel Maturin, was a central figure in arranging for Handel's first public performance of his new oratorio, *Messiah*, to be performed in Dublin. Maya wanted to write about that happening in our family history. How had a youngster found that to be an interesting aspect of her family history? Knowing that Maturin was Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin and knowing Jonathan Swift (author of *Robinson Crusoe*) was the Dean of the other Protestant cathedral, St Patrick's, and that Maturin knew Handel, had an impact upon Maya. A further impact was that the 1742 performance of the *Messiah* was to generate funds for charitable institutions administered by Christ Church Cathedral.

Questioned on what would get young family members engaged in genealogy Maya was strong on the view that adults in the family should find ancestors "who were cool, who would be interesting to find out about". That would be the first stepping stone. It is difficult to believe that any youngster would not find an earlier Gabriel Maturin 'cool' for mentally withstanding 26 years of imprisonment in the Bastille, overlapping years with 'the man in the iron mask'.

Following Maya's advice can readily bring youngsters into family research. Consider the 'cool' aspects of:

- Migration from one homeland to a new land
- Voyaging in, say, the 1700s
- Military ancestors
- The arduous life of women settlers
- Convicts, criminals and the laws under which they were bound
- Ancestors who spoke up publicly, who rebelled, who defied laws they deemed unjust
- Suffragettes
- Persons in authority
- The breaking in of land
- Creators

Having research questions to solve can stimulate

youngsters' research. Consider researching youngsters finding ancestors in newspaper archives, overseas or through Papers Past in New Zealand. Imagine working with them to explore Ancestry (free at your local library) or FamilySearch, the major free family history site.

In this author's direct family line is the Kenny ancestry. William Henry KENNY, who brought the Fencible soldiers to Onehunga in 1847, is noted as the son of Captain William Crowe Kenny, a British army officer, born in Tasmania in 1811. There is no record of this birth but there is a William Henry and twin sister born to Alice GRAINGER. A mature young family member found that when William Crowe Kenny's regiment sailed to Ceylon the apparently unmarried officer travelled as Captain Kenny 'and son'. Here is a challenging and still unresolved family history mystery awaiting solution!

The youngest family members can fruitfully record their present lives and preserve them for future generations.

Let's take a week in the life of the family. This will become a significant contribution to pass on to descendants. All ages can contribute. Consider the following:

- A diary of the child's week recorded by them
- Photographs of family members at that time
- Art works and pictures
- A scrapbook of newspaper cuttings of the week
- Interviews with family members
- Descriptions of school life, church, clubs and organisations in which the child or adult is involved
- Sports that are played, where and with whom
- Hobbies and pastimes
- Creative writing
- The origin of the child's name and the parent(s)' reasons for selecting the name
- Photographs of home and school and of parental workplaces
- Descriptions of places lived in during family lifetimes
- Interviews of parents and grandparents
- Children interviewing their siblings and recording these interviews
- Children's self-interviews
- Interviews of friends who know family members well
- Copies of key documents such as awards, certificates and school reports
- Records of the weekend
- Letters by children to their adult selves
- An account of the pandemic and how it has affected family and friends

It is probably accurate to say that no person reading this article has such material from their family's past, giving such "a history of the family in the present – recorded for the future".

Once the material is assembled, why not have a special family occasion when each youngster presents their contribution? Why not decide on what sort of archive or time capsule will contain this irreplaceable record of your family's life? Imagine opening, today, the family time capsule from, say, 50 years ago.

My grand-daughter, Cleo, wandered into my study and asked about my diary entries. The then ten-year-old asked if I put down family birthdays and special family days in my

diary. Upon my affirmative reply she asked if I put ancestors' special days in my diary. Well, no, I had not done that!

"Koro, don't you think that would be interesting? I would like to know, on my birthday, if any ancestor appeared on that day also."

I consequently began that practice. It also helped me as I can informally note a family history happening when I email one of the young family members e.g. on the day of writing this article I note 26. 29.4.1777. I note 26 as the identifying number on my family tree for Ralph FENWICK (of my Coates ancestral line in North Yorkshire) who was born on this day, 29 April 1777. Christmas Day is when we remember Charles Jephson William KENSINGTON, who died of apoplexy on that day at Port Charles in 1877. My book provides further suggestions.

Well, Cleo, I followed your suggestions ... until a few days later. The ten-year-old then came into my study with another suggestion.

"Koro, you now have a family timeline building through your diary. Why don't you put in your diary important times in history that happened on certain days? Then we would know of an ancestor at that time and how they were involved in history."

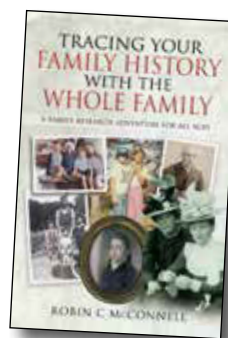
Thank you, Cleo! I now have the diary with family dates and a brief note of an historical event when it was relevant. Such seemingly diverse occasions and confluences as Gallipoli, the Battle of the Somme, family arrivals in New Zealand, the Siege of Gawilghur, storming of Seringapatam, suffragette petitions, World War Two, assassination of JFK, performance of the *Messiah*, Robert George McCONNELL in the RNZAF in the Pacific, visit of Prince Edward to Marton, Peter COLEMAN'S daughter, Bella, off to China as a missionary in 1895 etc. A question of Maya's asked where I was when President John F Kennedy was shot. Had I ever been to Dallas? Where were our ancestors when a World War ended? Had I ever been to the grave of James Allison McConnell shot down as a bomber pilot in France in 1942?

The family timelines and linkages with historical timelines are more fully considered in my book.

In this age of pandemics and isolation generated by various reasons there is a clear need to breakdown the isolation in families and extended families. Grandparents can become much appreciated members of the family through writing their memoirs, compiling family histories with their grandchildren and passing on stimulating stories. The mental easing that can come from this family involvement can be beneficial for individuals and interpersonal family relationships.

Consider interviews with grandparents, or grandparents using the following activities to enhance their links with grandchildren.

- Accounts of grandparents' lives
- Marae identified with the whānau e.g. Motātau and Karepōnia
- Histories of homes, schools, towns, churches, military service, occupations and farms linked with the family
- Outlines of whakapapa and whanau history that foster iwi identification e.g. Puna McConnell (née Taua) of Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Kahu, Whānau Moana and other northern iwi
- Grandparent accounts of their children's lives i.e. including the grandchildren's parents
- Grandparent childhoods – were there hobbies or games that could be taught to present-day grandchildren?
- Grandparents' accounts of *their* parents and grandparents
- Names that were given, names that have been passed down



- World maps inscribed by grandparents for, and with, grandchildren, that show immigration, countries of ancestors and countries lived in
- Maps of New Zealand, inscribed by grandparents to show where the family members landed and where they have lived
- Grandparents teaching youngsters how to search for family information
- Pet animals in the family through the years
- Occupations of family members

An important dimension of this family research adventure is that it has the marked capacity to enhance family relationships and to foster a stronger sense of family identity and family unity. It is not an exaggeration to say that involving the whole family – all ages – in this family history exploration can further the family becoming a team rather than a group.

In the book it is suggested that families make at least one fun time with a family meal or special get-together where the following can be undertaken.

- A quiz on present-day family members and happenings in their lives
- A quiz on past family members and happenings in their lives
- Maps given out and, perhaps, family members paired to note places or happenings called out by the family presenter
- Identifying family ancestors by naming subjects of photographs
- Untangling jumbled names
- A quiz on knowledge of the parents' lives
- A quiz on knowledge of grandparents' lives
- Matching family members, past and present, to achievements and/or special interests
- Adapting a game (such as Monopoly or ludo) with family names and places
- Teaching young family members games and activities of past family members e.g. marbles, spinning tops
- Family history achievements to be placed in chronological order

My brother, John, in Texas for decades, died in 2016. My sister and I generated stories of his life, especially the growing up years on our farm, for him while he was terminally ill, but mindfully alert. These have become known in the family as the 'John Stories'. When our other brother Gavin died, we began our 'Gavin stories'. These are now part of the family life of grandchildren raconteurs.

The above accounts are examples. Readers can delve into the book for far more practical guidance in the above, and a range of other fields.

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Editor's note: The book can be purchased from Pen and Sword with a 30% discount by including the code: AUTH30. Otherwise, check out book suppliers such as Book Depository.

Personally acquainted

Jeanette Grant

My grandfather, Eric Manley CLARKE JP (1857–1932), left a handwritten book in which he recorded all he had been able to find out about the Clarke family. His scrapbook also survived. It is nothing like a modern cheap scrapbook, but had a hard cover with the embossed title ‘Scrap Album’ and thick pages like a photo album. The cover has come apart, but all the pages are there. It holds a collection of faded photos and yellowed newspaper cuttings from English, Indian and New Zealand papers revealing the births and marriages, deaths and triumphs of a family scattered around the world.

One of the cuttings really intrigued me. He had noted it as coming from the *New Zealand Times* of 22 February 1911. It referred to the death in Wales of a Mrs Helen MacLeod POWELL, née MACKAY. The fact that he kept it, strongly suggested she was a relation.

What did the article actually say? It was headed: ‘A Link with Culloden’.

“By the death of Mrs Helen MacLeod Powell (née Mackay), which has taken place at Nant-y-velin, Criccieth, Carnarvonshire, there passed away one who in her young days was personally acquainted with a Highland woman whose memory extended back to the stirring times of the ‘45’. The daughter of a retired army officer, resident in Banff, the deceased was born there on February 3rd, 1822, and in her girlhood used to be delegated by her grandmother to distribute at Yuletide, among certain poor persons in the town, the annual proceeds of a charitable bequest left by a relative. Among the recipients was a very aged woman named Tibbie Mackay, who, as a girl, while herding her grandmother’s cow in the neighbourhood of Culloden, heard the firing of the guns there on the fateful April 16th 1746. Thus were the long intervening years between Culloden’s day and now spanned by the lives of but two persons who were known to one another. Mrs Powell during the lifetime of her husband, travelled extensively abroad, and, possessing the tastes of a virtuosa, acquired a choice collection of antiquities and articles of vertu, many of which have found a prominent place in museums in this country. Mrs Powell was a cousin of George Macdonald the poet and novelist, and a niece of the Rev. Dr Mackintosh Mackay, a noted Gaelic scholar, who enjoyed the friendship of Sir Walter Scott.”

The fact that it had only needed two lifetimes to span the period 1746–1910 with all its wars, discoveries and inventions, inspired a fascination with history which has never left me.

Who was this Mrs Helen MacLeod Powell?

Her maiden name was stated to be Mackay. Following up the references to other relatives who were mentioned in my grandfather’s notes, permitted me to discover a fascinating group of stories about the extended family of Johanna FALCONER, my third great-grandmother.

Our Clarke family came from the far north of Scotland and frequently intermarried with the Mackays. James Clarke (1715–1774) of

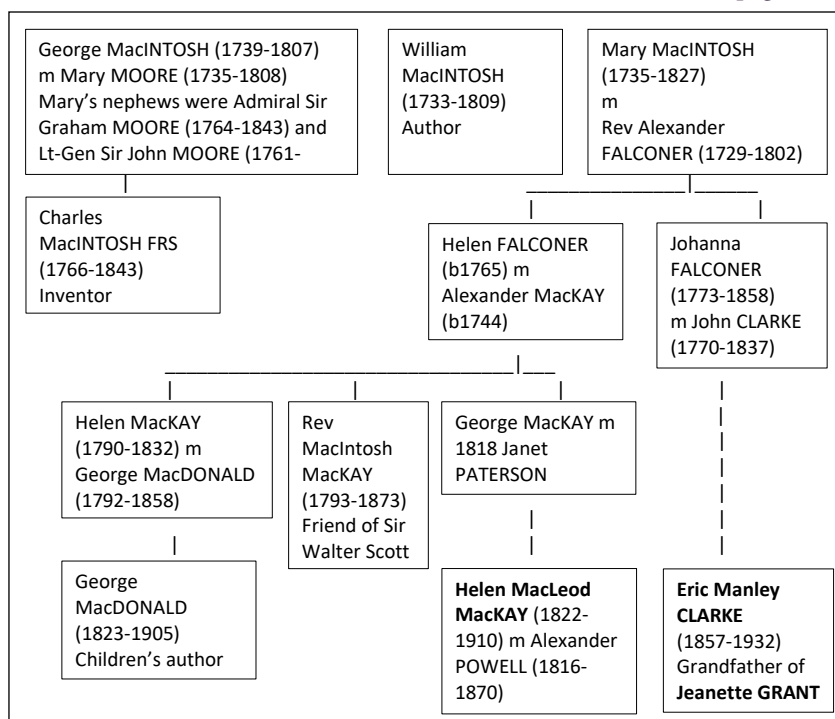
Clasneach married Margaret Mackay (1726–1809) and their youngest son was my third great-grandfather, John Clarke, tacksman of Keoldale and later of Eriboll (1770–1837). His wife Johanna Falconer (1773–1858) was the fourth daughter of the Reverend Alexander Falconer (1729–1802), Minister of Edrachillis from 1763 until his death, and his wife Mary MACINTOSH (1735–1827).

Mary, daughter of Lachlan MacIntosh of Roskeen and Barbara MACPHERSON of Farr, had several brothers including William MacIntosh (1733–1809), author of *Travels in Europe*, MacIntosh’s Voyages etc., and George MacIntosh of Dunchattan (1739–1807). George’s son, Charles Macintosh FRS (1766–1843), was the chemist who in 1823 invented the process of rubberising fabric which created the raincoat known to several generations as a ‘macintosh’. Charles Macintosh was therefore my third great-grandmother’s first cousin.

Charles’ mother also came from an interesting family. George MacIntosh had married Mary MOORE (1735–1808) in Glasgow on 20 November 1763. She was the daughter of the Reverend Charles Moore (1683–1736) and his wife Marion Hay ANDERSON (1705–1758). Their son Dr John Moore (1729–1802) married Jane SIMSON (1735–1820) and among their illustrious children were Admiral Sir Graham Moore (1764–1843) and Lt-General Sir John Moore (1761–1809), whose death at the Battle of Corunna was immortalised in poetry by Charles Wolfe. To me the last verse epitomises the wastefulness of war: “Slowly and sadly we laid him down, / From the field of his fame fresh and gory; / We carved not a line, and we raised not a stone, / But we left him alone with his glory”.

But what about the mysterious Helen MacLeod Mackay Powell herself? Well, Johanna Falconer had three older sisters and the eldest, Helen (b 1765), married Captain Alexander Mackay of Duartbeg (b 1744), son of John Mackay and Christine BRODIE. He was a Captain in the Reay Fencibles, described as “an amiable man and a pious Christian of superior intelligence and a consistent life”. They had a family of four sons and five daughters.

(Continues on page 73) →



Genealogical treasures in three issues of *The School Journal*

Deborah Shuker

Feb 1911 Pt III. For Classes V and VI, p.31.

The British and Foreign Sailors' Society essay competition on 'Arctic Explorers and the benefits arising from their Discoveries', accompanied by a map of the north polar regions.

Instead of two plaques for each Island, we have awarded three, as two of the competitors in each are equal. We have awarded two prizes, one for each Island.

North Island:

- Mabel OLIVER and Eunice WINZENBURG, Onehunga District High School (equal)
 - W Kenneth WILTON, Wanganui Collegiate School
 - Gordon F. SAUNDERS, Ngaere School, Taranaki (prize)
 - South Island:
 - Cyril A. KING and Harry K CHRISTIE, Waitaki Boys' High School (equal)
 - Johanna M BROSAN, Lawrence District High School
 - Horace SIMON, Waihopai School, Invercargill (prize)
- There were also winners for Australia (3) and Canada (1) listed.

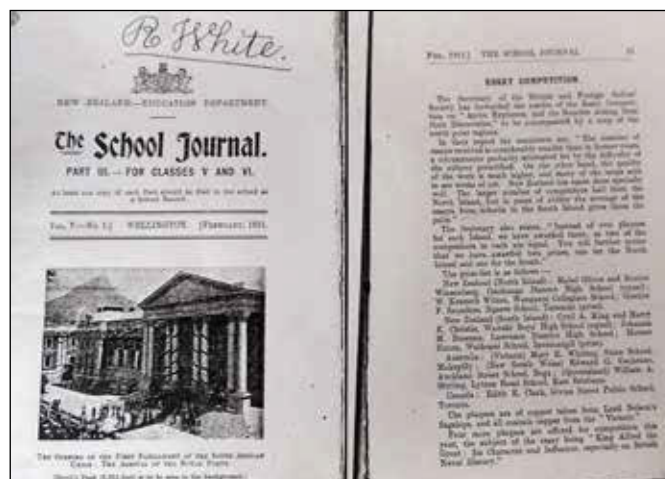
The plaques are of copper taken from Lord Nelson's flagships, and all contain copper from the 'Victory'.

June 1911 Pt III. For Classes V and VI, p.160-166. excerpt.

Royal Humane Society of New Zealand rewards: Gold Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal, Certificate of Merit, Letter of Commendation, and Stead Gold Medal for a very conspicuous act of bravery.

Some girls and boys recipients:

- John HURLEY, 1899, Palmerston North, 9 years old. Saved his sister from death by burning.
- Thomas Frederick LOGAN, 1899, 15 years old. Saved a child from drowning in a well.



- Mamae RANGITAHUA and Ita POKIHA, Nov 1900, 15 & 16 years old, rescued Rikiranga OSBORN from drowning in the Wanganui River, including being swept over a rapid.
- Mabel LANGFORD, 1910, 13 years old, saved a school friend from drowning.
- Albert BULL, 1909, seven years old, saved his younger sister Violet from drowning in the sheep dip
- Martha BERRY, Blenheim, 15 years old, saved two Taylor children from their burning house.
- Nora GILMORE, 1902, Devonport, Auckland, aged 15, died attempting to rescue a companion from drowning.
- Ernest MULLANEY, 1907, aged fourteen, tried several times to rescue a boy Curran in Lake Waiholo, but both drowned.

Nov 1910 Pt III. For Classes V and VI, p.299-306.

Dictated first person account of 'A story of the Chatham Islands' by Mr J G ENGST. About missionary life in 1843 and Te Kooti in 1868.

I can scan this item which I will send on request.

Deborah Shuker.

E: shuker@xtra.co.nz

→ (Continued from page 73)

Their daughter Helen (1790-1832) married George MACDONALD (1792-1858) on 10 April 1822 in Huntly. Their son George (1823-1905) is famed as a poet and novelist, a pioneering figure in the field of fantasy literature and the mentor of fellow writer Lewis Carroll. His classic children's story *The Princess and Curdie*, written in 1883, is not only still in print, but can be downloaded free and read online.

The eldest son was the Reverend Mackintosh Mackay (1793-1873), a friend of Sir Walter Scott. In 1819 he published the first edition of Rob Donn's poems and the University of Glasgow gave him the degree of LLD. In 1828 he superintended the printing of the Gaelic dictionary, which is still the standard dictionary of that language. He was licensed to preach in 1827, and in 1845 his fragmentary diary shows that in five months he preached 169 times and in 47 places beyond his own charge. In 1854 he was inducted as the minister of the Gaelic congregation in Melbourne and later in Sydney. He returned to be minister of the Free Church at Tarbert, Harris, in 1862 and died in 1873.

His youngest brother George married Janet PATERSON in Banff on 17 January 1818. They had just one daughter - Helen MacLeod Mackay. She was born in Banff on 3 February 1822, christened there on 10 March 1822, grew up there and

on 9 June 1844 married there. Her husband was Alexander Powell (1816-1870), son of James Powell (1780-1870) and Phoebe SHARMAN (1792-1850). He was a prosperous leather and hide merchant. In 1851 they were living at Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire, and in 1861 they were in the village of Puddington, Cheshire. They never had any family. Alexander died on 15 September 1870 and is stated to have been both of 29 King-street, Liverpool and of Aston Lodge, Aston, County of Chester, where he died. His effects were "under £16,000" - which still equates in modern currency to well over one million pounds.

Helen was 48 when he died and she lived on for another 40 years. The only reference I have been able to find about her personally is a note in the Proceedings of the Conchological Society recording that at a meeting held in the Manchester Museum, Queens College, on 4 September 1895, "Mrs A Powell of Nant-y-Velin, Criccieth, was elected a member of the Conchological Society".

She died on 2 December 1910. In 1911 probate valued her effects at £14,770.11.2. It seems rather tragic, that all she should be remembered for is a childhood memory of someone else's significant childhood experience.

Jeanette Grant. E: jeanette.john.grant@gmail.com

Just Jack ...

Christine Barbour

Christine wrote this for the Scottish Writing Group, Hamilton in April 2019.

Alone, no wife, no children, no whanau close by, he died, on 5 July 1927.¹ A young man of 37 years, a labourer of Tapanui, Southland, suffering from the effects of war wounds.

We knew little about John (Jack) Alexander MATHESON, but his birth date from the well-preserved family Bible. Born on 15 April 1890 at Waitaki South, north of Oamaru, and now called Waitaki Bridge, the fourth of seven children to John and Annie Matheson. His Scottish immigrant parents landed at Otago in 1884. His father John, a shepherd according to the SS *Bombay* shipping list, but a spirit merchant salesman on the Sottish census and marriage certificate.^{2, 3, 4}

When Jack was a five-week-old infant his eldest brother died of diphtheria.⁵ Further additions to the whanau were three sisters and two brothers, but misfortune beset this young family, when his young sister died from pneumonia aged nine.⁶ Jack is recorded in the Glenavy School admissions register, first attending on 16 September 1895, then transferring to Waitaki District High School in 1905.⁷ As a young man he was keen on athletics and a talented football player.

Tragically, his mother Annie passed away nine days post-partum after the birth of her son William in April 1902.^{8, 9, 10} This threw the Matheson family into grief and confusion, with Jack, aged 12, his older sisters Ida, 15, and Flora, 13, my grandfather Roderick junior, eight, and a new-born needing care and constant loving attention. Fortunately, the Waitaki bridge keeper's wife cared for baby William for three months whilst the eldest girls did their best to mother their younger siblings.

Unfortunately, 16-year-old Ida fell pregnant and married in December the following year.¹¹ This left the household in Flora's young hands aged only 14. How did she manage the home, three younger siblings and a grieving father, who now liked his wee dram of whisky more than ever? John regularly crossed over the Waitaki bridge to attend the local Glenavy Hotel.

Jack first appears in the 1911 and then the 1914 electoral rolls as a groom at Kurow. This small town, also on the Waitaki River, is sixty kilometres north-west of his family home. A few years prior to 1914 he held a position in the Government Services in Christchurch, but his occupation is unknown. World War I was looming, so Jack enlisted. The *Otago Witness* mentioned him as a keen athlete and a member of the local football club.¹² Prior to enlisting in the army Jack was a groom.

19 August 1914. His NZ Defence Force Military Service Records named his employer as Harris Brothers of Kurow. Army no. 8/1060. Religion Presbyterian and next-of kin John Matheson (father) of Waitaki, via Oamaru. He completed his two-month army training before commencing foreign service as a private in the Otago Infantry in the 1st Entrenching Battalion. Entrenching battalions provided labouring parties to assist units such as tunnellers, pioneer, railways engineers and signals. The 8,454-strong New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) left Wellington in October 1914, heading towards Cairo then on to Gallipoli.

They waited in Egypt until early April then launched their Gallipoli invasion on 25 April 1915. Jack was among the tens of thousands fighting for their lives on this inhospitable steep and rocky peninsular. For more than five gruelling weeks Jack

fought at bloody Gallipoli until he sustained a gunshot wound to his leg on 3 June and was then admitted to the Egyptian Army Hospital, Cairo. This incident was reported back home in casualty list number 58 in *The Press* and many other newspapers, just ten days after the event. His published biographical sketch was like an obituary!

"On 22 November, the British decided to cut their losses and evacuate Suvla and Anzac. In contrast to earlier operations, planning moved quickly and efficiently. The evacuation of Anzac began on 15 December, with 36,000 troops withdrawn over the following five nights".

A year later Jack is found in Rouen, France, admitted to hospital for a 'social disease'. We can only assume he enjoyed the company of the French women during his leave! It took him three months to recover before marching out to his unit at Etaples, France. Even though he had a promotion to Corporal mid-1917, Jack was still 'one of the boys'. His personnel record conduct sheet for March 1918 states he went absent without leave at Ambleteuse, France. Punishment was



John A (Jack) Matheson
(1890–1927), c1913.

Private John A. Matheson (Otago Infantry; wounded) was born at Oamaru, and educated at Waimate District High School. He is 25 years of age, and very keen on athletics, taking a special interest in football. For a number of years he held a position in the Government service in Christchurch; but previous to enlisting was farming at Kurow, being a member of the Kurow Football Club.

Biographical sketch of wounded. *Otago Witness*, 21 July 1915

The news of the death of Mr John Matheson, which occurred at Dunedin a few days ago, was received with much regret by his many friends in the Waitaki and Glenavy districts. The late Mr Matheson was an old Waitaki boy, and received his education at Glenavy and at the Waimate High School. He was an enthusiastic footballer, and on many occasions he played for the Glenavy Football Club. In rifle shooting he also took a keen interest, and was a former member of the Glenavy Rifle Club and King's Rifles (volunteers). On the outbreak of the Great War Mr Matheson, who was then employed in the Kurow district, was an early volunteer, and he saw much service at Gallipoli, where he was wounded, and in France.

Obituary. *Otago Daily Times*, 13 July 1927.

a reprimand and forfeiting one-days' pay. This coastal town 30 kilometres south-west of Calais, is a popular holiday place for people from Lille and Paris, and probably where our weary soldiers took time-out from the front.

A further French hospital admission recorded in the following June was for contracting influenza. After a few weeks care he returned to action. The first cases of this epidemic were two months prior in Spain, then the virus spread rapidly throughout Europe and amongst our troops. A final hospital admission, August 1918, for tonsillitis then he was discharged back to his base depot in France.

It must have been a joyous occasion when he and his mates embarked the *Athenic* in Liverpool, England, homeward bound on 3 Feb 1919. He had served his country for four years and 243 days, fighting in the following theatres of operation: Egyptian Campaign, Egyptian EF, Balkan and Western European. Jack was awarded the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and the 1914–1915 Star (during which time he served in Gallipoli). On discharge the following month, Corporal Jack Matheson worked as a barman during the “dry”, residing at 65 Duncan Street Oamaru. The Electoral Roll of the same year gave his address as 22 Miller St, North-East Valley, Dunedin.

Two years later Jack's final army discharge stated: “No longer physically fit for war service, (varicose veins right leg). Unit: NZ Entrenching Battalion 1st NZEF. Address: The Criterion Hotel Oamaru. Miss Annie Boyle was the proprietor and managed this establishment as a boarding house.

Maisie Milmine, Jack's niece recalled him staying with her parents' in Waitaki South for a while after the War. Her mother Flora had managed the family home after her mother's untimely and tragic death, so the two siblings had developed a close bond. Jack lovingly taught nine-year-old Maisie to waltz on the polished lino floor in their front hallway, a fond memory that Maisie recalled at the age of 70.

No information has been found for the intervening period. Sadly, six years after returning home he died, alone in Dunedin, of secondary anaemia, broncho-pneumonia, and cardiac failure, and was buried at the Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin. The family say he died from war wounds. The RSA reported that J A Matheson of Oamaru, who had transferred to Dunedin, had died, but also mentioned his position in the Government Services in Christchurch prior to his war service. The secretary stated that a letter of sympathy had been sent to the relatives. As a mark of respect for him the members stood in silence.

The *Otago Daily Times* inserted a biography, which showed him being remembered by his many friends from Waitaki



John Matheson Snr and family. Tottie (6), John Matheson Snr, Flora (10), Roderick (4), Annie (née MacLeod), Jack (8), Ida (11). Taken c1898 at Waitaki South.

and Glenavy and the local Kurow football club. One funeral notice appeared in the *Evening Star* (Dunedin) submitted by his sister Flora: On 5 Jul 1927, at Dunedin, John Alexander Matheson, beloved brother of Mrs Hollamby of Waitaki; aged 37. Deeply mourned. Private interment. Resident of Tapanui. McLean & Son, undertakers.

Recently I purchased a miniature set of his three war medals. I proudly wore them for the first time at the 2021 Cambridge ANZAC service.

Christine Barbour. E: cjbihug@gmail.com



Headstone, Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin.

Notes

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Branches

Canterbury

Marie Corser – genealogist, teacher, inspiration

Marie Eunice CORSER died peacefully on 18 February 2022, at Park Lane Lifecare, aged 89 years. She was born 10 December 1932 and was a loved sister and sister-in-law of Geoffrey and Elizabeth Corser (Manchester, England), loved aunt of Sarah D'Monte, and Richard (England); and a loving great-aunt. At Marie's request, a private cremation was held. A gathering in her memory will be held for Marie's genealogy friends at a later date.

For those who don't know Marie well, she has been involved in genealogy since the early 1970s, very involved in the NZSG at branch and national levels. She taught many genealogy courses, gave multiple talks, held various positions, helped organise seminars and conferences, research, projects, coaching, passing on her immense knowledge and encouragement to many. For her long service and dedication, Marie has received awards and acknowledgement. She was a life member of Canterbury Branch and of NZSG.

Marie was previously a ballet dancer and ballet teacher, having her own school.

In Marie's own words, from the Canterbury Branch 50th anniversary book produced by Alan Tunncliffe in 2018:

"I joined the branch and the NZSG 46 years ago, back at the end of 1971, having got interested after a distant relative made contact. In those days we met in a room at the Durham Street Methodist Church. Back then we only had the Public Library and Canterbury Museum as places to do our research at. Of course, this was well before the days of computers, which I later embraced with much enthusiasm. I soon got very involved with Canterbury Branch's activities, becoming Treasurer from 1976 until 1983.

One thing that I found fascinating was Wills and somehow I became the expert on this subject. I spent several years at the Christchurch Office of Land & Deeds compiling indexes of the wills and birth, death and marriage certificates found in the Deeds registers. Today there is still a print-out of those indexes with the Deeds registers, which are now kept in the Christchurch office of Archives New Zealand. From 1989 until 2003 I served as the Project Officer for the NZSG Wills Indexing Project.

In 1982 I was awarded an NZSG Merit Award and then from 1984 until 1986 I became Convenor of the Branch. My highest honour was being made a Life Member of the NZSG in 1989. An NZSG Service Award followed in 1996. The following year, in February 1997, the 8th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry was held at Lincoln University and I was a member of the organising committee, which was chaired by Jenny Mayne.

Over the years I have given many talks at branch meetings, seminars and conferences, mainly on the subject of Wills. For example, at the NZSG Seminar in Christchurch in February 1980 I spoke on Wills and at the Conference in Invercargill in April 1996 I gave a presentation on NZ and English Wills. In 1989 the late Lynley Goldsmith and I wrote and published a book about genealogical research in Christchurch.

In 1997 I was a speaker at the AFFHO Congress at Lincoln University on the subject of Research in Christchurch Repositories.

For many years I tutored adult community education courses on genealogy and have on occasions travelled to other

South Island branches to give talks. I also enjoyed my long period of time helping people when I was a volunteer librarian at the LDS Family History Library under the leadership of Beth Colwell.

Most of all over the past 45 years I have made many wonderful friends both here in Christchurch and around New Zealand, all through this most interesting hobby of ours."

From the NZSG life members' webpage: "Marie joined the NZ Society in 1972 and has served for many years on the Canterbury Branch Committee, helped to organise seminars and give lectures; she teaches family history research at community colleges and encourages membership of the Society. She was the Officer responsible for the Wills Indexing Project 1989–2003. Presented with a Merit Award 1982; Service Award 1996. Marie was on the organising Committee of the AFFO Congress 1997."

Marie gave some great talks over the years for the Branch, including on her research with Coppell and Corser families; and on wills, French Huguenot ancestors, research repositories beyond and earlier than census and certificates, family serving in the British Empire, and British seamen and their records.

Marie was "very proud of the research she had done over the last 40+ years and especially pleased as she didn't do well at school history".

The following were written by Marie Corser and are available in our Branch Library:

- *Genealogical research in Christchurch* by Marie Corser and Lynley Goldsmith
- *New Zealand probates. Volume one. An index to pre-1900 records* (microfiches)
- *Corser family*: Dench, Millin, Hill, Lyon, Radcliffe, Norcross lines
- *Hutt family*: Moore, Coppell, Barton, Ward lines
- Unpublished family histories: Corser, Hutt, Coppell, Dench
- Marie also created will indexes for Christchurch Land & Deeds Office

Thank you
Marie –
Farewell –
Rest In Peace.

Fiona Lees,
Jenny Mayne,
Sue McKenzie



Marie dancing.



Marie volunteering at
Archives New Zealand.

Branches

St Heliers

Branch closes

Covid, aging and costs were the three main factors that forced our branch to make a sad decision in December last year. Covid is a problem the world has dealt with since 2020, so we were no exception.

Aging, well that comes to all of us. The vibrant members who started and kept St Heliers Branch going are now closer to 80 or older. Vibrant still, but older, and that is where cost comes in.

Hall and membership charges, Covid restrictions and protecting our health have combined to make the decision inevitable.

But don't be sad, we have had over thirty brilliant years of genealogy. The branch started in 1991 when genealogy was expanding. Keen to know more about our history we gathered to hear lectures, exchange ideas and settle into serious research.

Jan Gow was one of the leading lights then and so she continued to be through the years. We didn't need to travel to overseas conferences or even New Zealand conferences, Jan would be keeping us up to date with the latest research techniques and technologies, all in the comfort of our own branch.

Anne Bromell would arrive with her vehicle filled to the gunnels with genealogy resources. The trestle tables would be set up and soon covered with all the treasures needed for a superb Genealogical Research Day. Older branch members look back at those times as some of the best: the camaraderie, the access to abundant materials, the sharing of knowledge, the keen diligent attitude of all there, happy to pass on their knowledge.

These were the days when microfiches were king. Looking at Marcia Sullivan's meticulous records, we know who in St Heliers Branch paid their five dollars to borrow the fiches and fiche readers and therefore when they probably joined the branch. The last official list, 9 October 2002, listed 184 members, plus 22 joint, making 206 branch members. Other names are added in pen below the printed list. Not only did Marcia keep immaculate records, the microfiches were housed in bespoke canvas bags with zippers, handles, labels – the works.

The number of members dropped from those glory days, not because genealogy had become less interesting, but because computers opened up a new world and folk were able to access information over the internet.

So those first ten years after the millennium involved more research at home, but the actual joy of branch meetings was the exchanging of stories. Our 2008 'Write a story to an ancestor' has featured in this magazine under 'Dear Elizabeth'.

Shirley Pedersen talked of living in Britain before WW2 and having servants, Sybil Laing showed plans of the doctor's house in talks about family homes, Alison Clark's brick from her missionary ancestor's pre-Treaty house. None of these made the magazine, but they are the treasures we carried away from the branch meetings.

We learnt how our families dealt with schools being closed during the polio outbreak. We shared our knowledge of our folks who came into early Auckland. It was living vibrant history told through memories. We visited The Treasury down in Thames, St Stephen's Church, Parnell, where Warren Limbrick enlightened us on its history as we clambered around the graveyard and, of course, our usual winter research

(Continues on page 80) →



Barbara Bates has kept the St Heliers Branch alive and vibrant in these latter years.

Barbara Bates and former member Don Hayward.

Thanks to Marcia Sullivan for looking after the fiche.

Delphine Lynskey kept the morning teas rolling.



Our wonderful Jan Gow! We have learnt so much about genealogy through her lectures.

Jan Hart with her latest book.

Barbara Jessiman kept us all informed and has worked tirelessly to ensure the final wind down has gone smoothly.

*Masked up.
Thanks to our photographer Ilene Clarke.*

Interest Groups

Irish

Beyond 2022

The ground breaking digital project 'Beyond 2022' is going to make research a great deal easier for family historians who have Irish roots. The project to create a virtual replica of the Public Record Office of Ireland before its destruction by fire in June 1922 will come to life on 30 June 2022. Exactly 100 years after the start of the Irish Civil War the new virtual Record Treasury of Ireland will open bringing together documents all but lost to generations of genealogists.

'Beyond 2022' www.beyond2022.ie has generated fascinating content due to digital copies and transcripts of material lost in the fire being pulled together by teams from the National Archives of Ireland, the Library of Trinity College Dublin, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the National Archives, Kew.

The launch of the Virtual Record Treasury will bring together a rich array of replacement items within an immersive 3-D reconstruction of the destroyed building.

"The 'Record Treasury' at the Public Record Office of Ireland stored seven centuries of Irish records dating back to the time of the Normans. Together with our 5-Core Archival Partners and over 40 other Participating Institutions in Ireland, Britain and the U.S.A. we are working to recover what was lost in that terrible fire one hundred years ago. Many millions of words from destroyed documents will be linked and reassembled from copies, transcripts and other records scattered among the collections of our archival partners."

An example: View the guide to Grand Jury records www.beyond2022.ie/?page_id=2941, the most important local body in rural Ireland during the 18th and 19th century.

'Mapping Cavan from the 16th to the 21st Century'

The purpose of this note is to detail an exciting new research project, which has been instigated by Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne members Jonathan Cherry and Michael McShane, both of whom have contributed various articles on some of Cavan's cartographic heritage to this journal in recent years. In attempting to examine and chart the extent to which county Cavan, has been mapped and surveyed over the past four centuries, Cherry and McShane have been inspired by the pioneering work of Ireland's leading cartographic historian Dr Arnold Horner and in particular his lavishly illustrated monograph *Mapping Laois from the 16th to 21st Century*.

Maps provide us with unique 'snapshots' of landscapes and local environments at a particular moment in time and reflect in their composition and content the motivations and ideologies which underpinned their commissioning and compilation. An exploration of the rationale for these mapping endeavours by the state, local government and private individuals will be set within a broader context of these cartographic projects that captured Cavan's landscapes. The research project will also serve to highlight the importance of cartographic sources, as significant bodies of source material capable of providing researchers with unique insights into the evolution of landscapes, environmental change and, by extension, society over time. The central plank of the project is the identification of the extant maps and surveys relating to Cavan, from those depicting the entire county, to those maps and surveys at townland and farm/property holding level during the period c1600 to the present day. This dataset will provide a comprehensive record of Cavan's cartographic history from the seventeenth century maps of conquest and colonisation, through to the eighteenth and nineteenth

century estate maps of town and country.

State inspired mapping of the county under the aegis of the Ordnance Survey and valuation surveying in the form of the Griffith Valuation in the 19th century will also be detailed. The scope of the research will also embrace both historical and more recent thematic maps, illustrating those associated with the agency of the Landed Estates Courts, the railway network, alongside touring, cycling and maps of the lake network produced for fishing enthusiasts in the 1980s. In addition to recording details relating to the maps themselves the research will also identify and capture the information relating to the surveyors and cartographers involved with each of the manuscript maps. This first definitive listing of the land surveyors and cartographers active in Cavan during the period will supplement the listing contained in the *Dictionary of land surveyors and local map-makers of Great Britain and Ireland 1530-1850*. It will serve to highlight the agency and activity of both local Cavan based surveyors such as the Bells, Benisters and McCollums, and the more established and well recognised Dublin based surveyors such as Jonathan Barker and Thomas Sherrard.

While many of these maps are held in local archives and libraries in county Cavan and some neighbouring counties, a significant number have already been identified in national institutions such as the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives of Ireland. Some have been scattered much further afield and are now housed in archives and record offices across the United Kingdom and internationally.

We are also acutely aware however that some maps and surveys still remain in private hands and collections and we therefore are seeking your assistance in identifying such maps to us. To that end we would encourage you to contact us in confidence – details below – so that our listings will be as comprehensive as possible. While the maps or surveys that you may have, may not appear to be particularly special or extraordinary, as we are interested in capturing the whole range of such representations of Cavan's landscapes and places over the centuries, we would appreciate the opportunity to review, and include them in our listing.

It is our hope that the research when completed will be disseminated through a number of different channels, including a monograph publication. It is also hoped that some of the material will also be made available online in bringing our research findings to a wider audience. This project while being of interest to those concerned with the landscapes and history of Cavan will also we hope, serve to heighten awareness of the rich cartographic record the county has inspired, while encouraging appreciation of historic maps and surveys as part of our unique tangible heritage. Contact details: Jonathan Cherry, School of History & Geography, St. Patrick's Campus, Drumcondra, Dublin 9. e-mail: jonathan.cherry@dcu.ie or telephone: 00 353 1 7009113

Michael McShane. e-mail info@michaelmcshane.ie

The *Breifne Journal* No. 56, 2021, contains references applicable to this article.

Brothers in Arms – Gordon & Robin Harper in the Great War

This superlative book, edited by Jock Phillips with Philip and Susan Harper, was published in 2015 and draws on the



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Letters

Fictional inspiration

I read your article about fictional inspiration in the March 2022 issue. Here is a title that might interest you. *Cranford*, written by Elizabeth Gaskell, first published 1851–53 in serial form. Set in a small English town at the time of great changes to the way of life of middle-class women. If you read the article on Wikipedia, it explains it very well.

I found it fascinating as I have copies of letters written by my great-great-grandmother in the same era. The similarities of the characters to what was happening to my ancestors at the time is very uncanny. From the spinster aunts, the widow of a vicar, the brother running away to sea and losing money through bad investments all come to life.

Many words and phrases are foreign to me but Google is able to answer any question and make the meaning clear.

The copies of the letters I have are written in 'crossed' style which was the method used at that time.

Jennifer Forster E: rebecca.forster@xtra.co.nz

Editor's note: This great book was made into a very watchable BBC television series back in 2006–7. A who's who of British actors including Judy Dench. Worth watching if you can find it.

Wellington East Girls' College

Wellington East Girls' College will be 100 years old in 2025. We don't know yet what form celebrations will take, but we'd like to start collecting memories or photos from former pupils and staff. Please contact library@wegc.school.nz with your stories or scanned photos.

Also, I have compiled a basic index of lists of former pupils, and welcome enquiries about when your ancestor may have been at WEGC. To access the spreadsheet and see some old photos from the school, visit library.wegc.school.nz and click the Dashboards tab, then choose the WEGC Centenary Dashboard.

Pamela McKirdy pamela.mckirdy@wegc.school.nz

BARBER / PORTER / CRAFTS

My name is Guy Hewlett and I live in Germany. I have been trying to find out more about my wife's grandfather, Arthur Ernest Porter (b 1882) so that we can add a few more details to our family tree. All I know is that a distant relative is a resident of Redwood, Christchurch, and is called Jennifer Barber.

Jennifer is the daughter of Geoffrey Ernest Porter (b 1907) who emigrated to New Zealand in about 1928. Geoffrey Ernest was the son of Arthur Ernest Porter and his first wife, Violette (née KING). They divorced in 1911 or 1912 and he later married my wife's maternal grandmother, Margaret (née BROWN), in 1919. I believe that Margaret actually looked after Geoffrey Ernest until he left for Australia and then New Zealand. I know Jennifer had already started to put together a family tree of her own because my late mother-in-law (Joan MAGGS) and my late brother-in-law (Ian Maggs) made contact with her and helped her with some details. But all contact now seems to be lost and I would love to know if Jennifer's tree has been completed.

I would very much like to learn more, especially about Geoffrey Ernest Porter, but I cannot find very much information about him in the databases that I can access on-line. Would it be possible for you to put an enquiry in *The New Zealand Genealogist* for me? It would be very satisfying if I could rekindle the contact with Jennifer Barber and just find out more about my wife's DNA fragments on the other side of the world!

I am extremely grateful for any help you can give me.

Guy Hewlett. E: hbsc2017@gmail.com

Editor's note: GEP married Doris Emily CRAFTS in 1935 and died in 1961 aged 53 years.

Tangiwai railway disaster survivors

On 24 December 1953 Engine Ka949, pulling the express train from Wellington to Auckland, plunged into the flooded Whangaehu River at 10.21 at night.

It is known that 151 persons lost their lives that night, but the number of persons who survived the rail disaster has never been discovered. The official number of survivors, as advised by the Emergency Committee established to account for persons involved in the crash, gave this number as 134. This number is likely to be higher, as it is known that some survivors were treated by local farmers, then left the district.

This writer has begun research to establish the number of survivors, and to date has recorded 171.

If any members have relations or friends who are known to be survivors of that crash, could they please advise the writer. All correspondence received will be treated respectfully.

Geoffrey Cullen. E: geocullen1@gmail.com

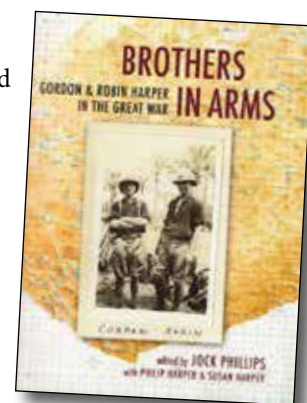
→ (Continued from page 78)

rich archive of the two Harper brothers who served with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles at Gallipoli and in the Middle East. Gordon and Robin were grandsons of Henry Harper, the first bishop of Christchurch. As members of one of Canterbury's established dynasties, the brothers were well educated and left a valuable record of their years of military service.

The book draws on the letters of Gordon who died in August 1916 after being wounded in action in Egypt. His mother carefully kept his correspondence, but only one letter from Robin, who returned, has survived. I have wondered if a double standard of censorship applied to soldiers' correspondence. Often the humble trench warrior seems to have only been able to send a preprinted minimum-disclosure postcard whereas officers, like the Harpers, were more expansive in their accounts – perhaps it more reflects the degree of education of the writers.

The text is richly illustrated with the Harpers' own photos and those of a remarkable variety of their memorabilia – maps, guns, mementos and even a sleeping bivvy. The Harper family had the foresight to preserve this unique collection and their descendants have worked with Jock Phillips to bring this record to a wider readership. The text is extensively indexed and footnotes assist the reader's understanding of people and places mentioned by the brothers.

Geraldene O'Reilly, Convenor. E: IrishSIG@genealogy.org.nz



Members' enquiries and notices

This section is free to members for inquiries of a genealogical nature but is not available to non-members. Please be precise and state clearly what you want to know. For submission guidelines see the front of this magazine. Where no details of a query are given it is presumed that the inquirer would be grateful for any information. When someone has taken the trouble to write to you with reference to your request for information, please acknowledge their letter whether the information they have shared is of use or not. It is customary to repay their postage.

OFFERING

BRADMORE / BREADMORE

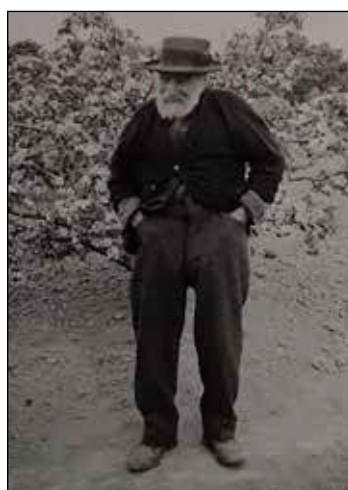
Have photos of James William (Jimmy) BREADMORE/BRADMORE taken in his orchard in Blenheim sometime before 1940 to pass on. He married in 1879 to Jane Ann Wilkie and had two children – Henry James Wilkie Bradmore b 1881 and Grace Handyside Bradmore b 1886. James William Breadmore died 25 Aug 1940, buried Omaka Cemetery.

Lesley Barrow, Palmerston North.
E: lesley.barrow@outlook.co.nz

**Seek and
provide help.
Guidelines
for submitting
free members'
enquiries and
notices on
page 44 of
this journal.**



ABOVE: Gwenda Johnston, with first husband Reginald Victor Mahoney. Gwenda Johnston portrait.



LEFT, ABOVE: James Bradmore.

JOHNSTON

Have photos of Gwenda (Gwen) Mabel JOHNSTON to pass onto family members. Gwenda, dau of Ernest and Mabel (née CLARK) Johnston, was a friend of my mother, Winnie Waites, in Wellington 1930–40s. Gwenda married twice, first in 1953 to Reginald Victor MAHONEY, and second in 1965 to Ivan George COCKRANE. She died at Waikanae on 12 Nov 2004.

Gwenda had no children from the first marriage, but stepchildren from the second – Lynne N, Mike and Faye E Cochrane. Her siblings were Victor Henry Johnston, Nola Emma (m Alfred J DRAKE) and Clifford Ernest Johnston.

Lesley Barrow, Palmerston North.
E: lesley.barrow@outlook.co.nz

Branches

→ (Continued from page 77)

morning at the Family History Centre were undertaken till Covid struck.

Some of our best collegial times have been trying to answer Barbara Bates quizzes, our threesome or foursome trying to outdo the other teams and yet happy if we won the selection of booby prizes.

Just as computer research overtook fiches and film readers, genealogy has again changed. The brilliance of DNA has opened up a world where we can verify our written research. Sadly, it has also meant, while more people than ever are interested in genealogy, a pattern of lax research and encouragement by international companies to copy dubious family trees. Our generation may quibble about the lack of diligence of today's new researchers, but many of our branch members have undertaken autosomal testing. This has helped prove their research, but also leaves a heritage for the younger generation. The sometimes unexpected results have usually

been taken in their stride. So that story about granny was true!

Thirty plus years have seen massive changes in the technologies of genealogy, but the true joy and sharing of genealogy hasn't changed. We celebrated our branch with a farewell party, honouring those who have passed away, feting our key personnel with flowers and gifts, and generally enjoying each other's company. Our assets of microfiches and books have been donated to the NZSG Family History Centre at Panmure. Our hard earned coin is being used to purchase a new computer for the FRC.

While the fiche readers may have made it to the scrap merchants, we are not heading that way. Such an interesting bunch of people will still be around the Eastern Bays and probably talking genealogy, but there will be no more St Heliers Branch of the NZSG.

Bobbie Amyes,
Acting Convenor.

Branch and Interest Group services

HĀWERA

The SOUTH TARANAKI BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX consists of school admission records; newspaper birth, death and marriages; Anderson's memorialist records; funeral sheets. Request by surname. Send SAE and donation to: Jill Williams, Fairfield Road, Hāwera 4610 or email peter.williams@xtra.co.nz or julesmar@xtra.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

HAWKE'S BAY BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX. Request by surname. Mail service only. Include contact telephone and/or email address. Send SAE and donation to Branch Secretary, c/o 200 Pakowhai Road, Frimley, Hastings 4120.

IRISH INTEREST GROUP – LOWER NORTH ISLAND

We hold education and research days locally, and across the Lower North Island region on request by branches and groups, and can also provide presentations and a helpdesk at genealogy events. Enquiries to Irish.LowerNIsig@genealogy.org

NELSON

A database of half a million entries covering the wider Nelson area, from indexes and books in our library, Ancestors Attic. Includes pre 1856 marriage index, including Māori, passenger shipping lists 1840–1914 to and from Nelson and from the UK and Australia. E: nelson@genealogy.org.nz or PO Box 1879, Nelson 7040.

NORTH SHORE

Births and deaths c1940 to date from The New Zealand Herald. Mail service only. Send SAE and donation to: Teresa McCarthy, 021 024 54230, E: NorthShore@genealogy.org.nz or Flat 2, 22 Neal Ave, Glenfield, Auckland 0629.

OAMARU

Oamaru Cemeteries CD Headstone Transcriptions. For both the Old and New Cemeteries. The Old Cemetery records have been updated. Cost \$25 including p&p. Enquiries to Oamaru@genealogy.org.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH

Our SETTLERS DATABASE 1870–1900 contains 3,000 names or family groups. Headstone transcriptions – ask for lookups or buy the CD. BDM newspaper clippings; school admissions transcriptions – 20,000 and growing; funeral cards. Enquiries to: palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz. Include what you already know. A small donation will be welcome, depending on results.

PAPAKURA

The PAPAKURA AND DISTRICTS BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX includes Alfriston, Ardmore, Ararimu, Clevedon, Drury, Karaka, Kawakawa Bay, Maketu, Ramarama, Slippery Creek, Springfield and Wairoa South. Enquiries welcome, mail service only with SAE and donation to NZSG Papakura Branch, PO Box 72–993, Papakura 2244. E: papakura@genealogy.org.nz

TE AWAMUTU

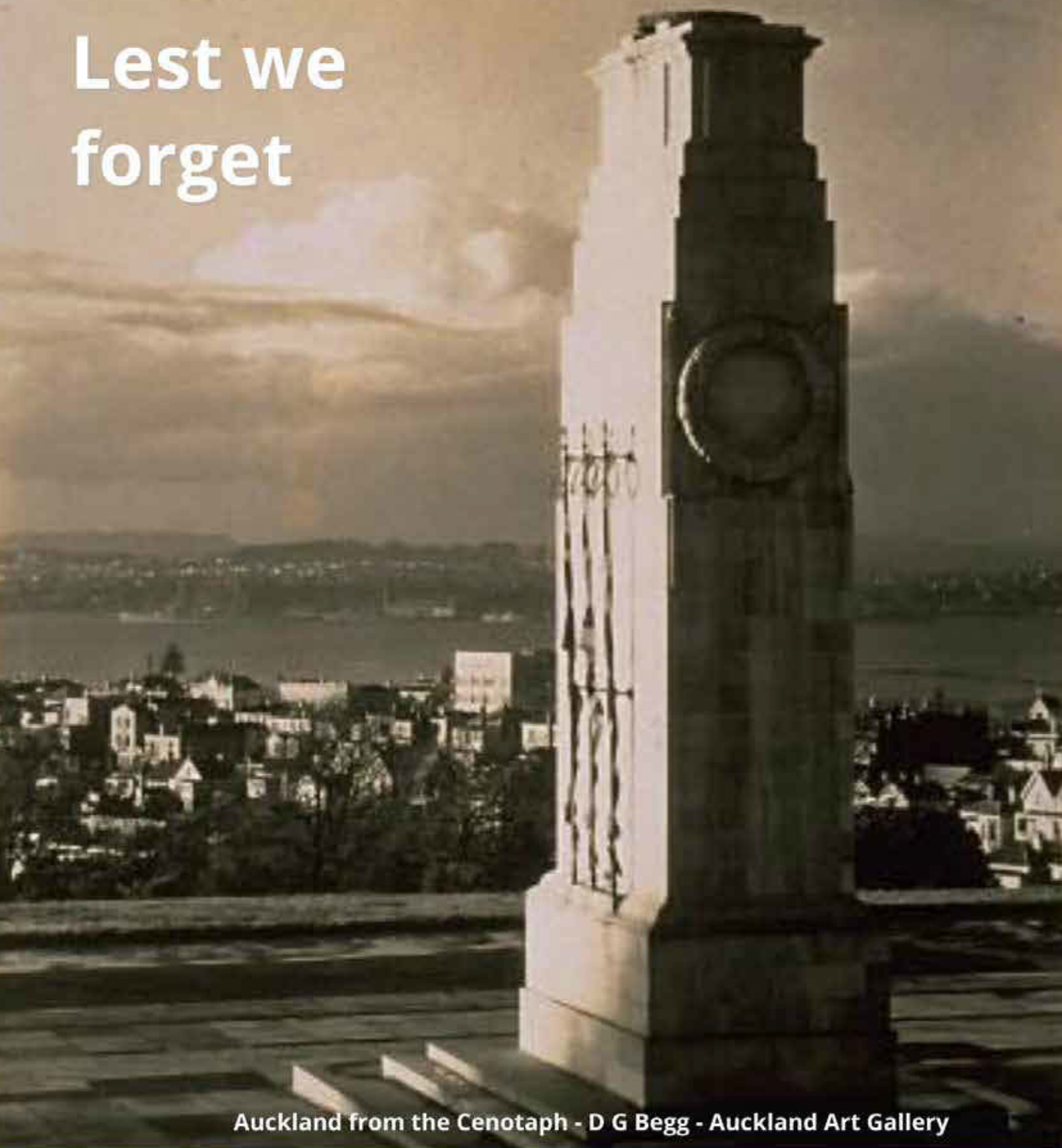
Booklets of MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS FOR ST JOHN'S and ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES including full transcriptions from cemetery and church interiors, plans, histories and index. Also digital images of inscriptions from both cemeteries, lookups for local school admission registers (varying dates) and local newspaper family notices (1911–1974). Enquiries to teawamutu@genealogy.org.nz

WAIRARAPA

The WAIRARAPA BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX of local records includes newspaper family notices, 1997–current, a large BDM certificate collection, funeral service cards. Request by surname with telephone number and/or email address. SAE and donation to Research Officer, NZSG Wairarapa Branch, PO Box 726, Masterton 5840.

Contributions from branches and interest groups are always welcome in the magazine – especially if you can pass on useful information from your area that may assist other members. Events, projects, new repositories and services, ways you have engaged in the community and given something back. Contact the Editor. editor@genealogy.org.nz

Lest we forget



Auckland from the Cenotaph - D G Begg - Auckland Art Gallery

You can help us to remember them.

The NZSG have partnered with
the Auckland War Memorial Museum to add
the Online Cenotaph to our Kiwi Collection.

www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi

NZSG Kiwi Collection

