

The New Zealand Genealogist

Hakihea December 2022

Vol 53 No 395



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa

Family history - Preserving our past for the future





Family is the greatest gift of all

Give the gift of NZSG Membership
this Christmas

We have memberships for
everyone big or small. Share your love of Family History
with your family.

www.genealogy.org.nz



The New Zealand Genealogist

Hakihea December 2022

Vol 53 No 395

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

Contents

Features

- 122 *Pauline Weeks* Thank you and farewell Bruce Ralston
123 *Rodney King* How A J McCurdy helped Upper Hutt develop
126 *Jo Lewthwaite* Island Bay grandparents
129 *Christine Clement* Background to the provincial system of New Zealand 1853–1876
132 *Ellen Castle* A wondrous Wellington tale
134 *Jennifer Forster* Circle of fun-loving single ladies
138 *Christine Clement* Te Whanganui-a-Tara ki Whanganui. The road from Wellington to Whanganui
144 *Sarah Hewitt* Tawa Street
146 *John Wilson* The Wilkies and Wattersons voyage to Wellington in 1841
148 *Catherine Clarke* A Wellington pub crawl through time
150 *Colleen van der Laan Wanganella* – a disaster, but not a tragedy
151 *Fiona Lees* Christchurch Family History Expo 2022
152 *Sue Dinsdale* The genealogy of a building. The Tunnel Store, Northland, Wellington
155 *Catherine Clarke* Feeding the Hungry Ghost
157 *Christine Clement* An Englishman's home is his castle
158 *Elaine Boyd* Never give up!
160 *Tor Riley* History of Colonial Armed Forces in New Zealand 1840–1870

Regulars

- | | |
|--|---|
| 125 Board Report | 161 Branches |
| 130 Services and benefits for NZSG members | 163 Interest Groups |
| 133 Projects | 164 Members' enquiries and notices |
| 133 Who am I? | 164 Letters |
| 136 Record collections | inside back cover: Branch and Interest Group services |
| 140 Auckland Libraries | |
| 142 Projects | |

COVER: Christmas greetings and hearty good wishes for the New Year, from the officers of the General Post Office, Wellington, N.Z. / [1901. Eph-A-CARDS-Christmas-1901-01. Alexander Turnbull Library.



This month's theme
Wellington province

Upcoming themes

March 2023:

Housing

June 2023:

Otago and Southland

September 2023:

Family 'archives'

December 2023:

Accidents

March 2024

Records relating to death

June 2024

West Coast/East Coast

September 2024

Immigration

December 2024

DNA

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 124 for submission information.
editor@genealogy.org.nz

Journal distribution

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

E: membership@genealogy.org.nz

Thank you and farewell Bruce Ralston

Pauline Weeks

This issue of the *New Zealand Genealogist* is Bruce Ralston's last as editor. He took on the role in 2013 when at that the same time I also became involved with the journal assisting Bruce with some sub-editing and proof reading. I asked Bruce to reflect on his time as editor.

What attracted you to the role Bruce?

For me it was a dream job I had aspired to for some time. Having left full time employment in 2012 I enrolled in an editing course to set a new direction. I offered to help with the journal, proofing especially. I got rather carried away with the proofing and drifted into some editing comment, definitely not part of the brief. Next thing I was being asked to take it all on.

What changes have you made to the journal during your time as editor?

One presentation element I was keen to do something about was the cover illustrations. I felt these were just a little predictable, so I started out by using a portrait of Richard III, who was in the news at that time and had a speaker featured on the topic at the upcoming Manukau Family History Fair. Subsequently, I have tried to find a key image that represents the issue's theme, and even branched out into graphics. Sometimes these images have come from submitted content, but more often I have drawn on a range of freely available pictures, including quite a few from my own family sources. There are at least half a dozen covers that feature members of my family, but represent content themes. We've also included Te Reo Māori on the cover as part of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists footer and more recently in the issue information.

How have you left your mark on content?

I would have liked to have done more refreshment of the presentation of the journal, but costs were a limiting factor. Instead I focussed on ensuring the content was solid and well-presented and included articles by members that recorded their research, and hopefully inspired or encouraged other members to pursue other lines of research.

An invaluable component was the 'Genealogy on the Internet' contribution by Lisa Duggan, packed with online ideas. I was also in the fortunate position of having wide connections in the documentary heritage sector (archives, libraries, museums), so was able to call in favours to a number of colleagues to produce something. The ongoing contributions from Archives New Zealand staff have been especially welcome, helping to pick apart a very complex set of records that keep on throwing up great genealogical surprises. I'd like to thank all those who have contributed material during my time, especially sometimes at short notice.

I know that you gave more notice for future themes for the journal. Did this help improve content?

It did help improve contributions giving members more time to plan ahead. I have been well supported by contributions from a relatively limited number of members. It would be great if a much larger number believed in their skills and had inclination to prepare something, as it is then a permanent record of their research.

What was the most popular themed issue?

Black sheep attracted a record number of contributions. Perhaps

that's because we all have 'black sheep' in the family and they are the most interesting. Our recent cooking theme also attracted much interest with recipe books and old family favourites coming out. There's much more interest in DNA today and I would like to see more content around that subject.

Indexing of the journal is critical for finding information in the future. How have you improved that?

Changes have been made to indexing, which was traditionally produced in a mad rush at the end of the year just before Christmas, taking up a large number of pages. The Kiwi Collection seemed an obvious place for it to go, as well as on the website. But until 2015 only surnames were recorded and that was not ideal for a genealogical source that focussed on individuals. So from 2016 indexing changed to individuals, surname and forename.

How has the journal going online only impacted your role?

Not much has changed really except that deadlines can be a little more flexible. The same amount of work has to go into producing the journal. I know some members are not happy about the change in delivery format, but it was a necessity given the society's financial situation. Much work has been done by the Society ensuring a quality digital presentation. Hopefully in the future it will go back to being a hard copy. It has always been considered a flag ship of the organisation.

Any parting thoughts?

I want to express my thanks to the range of members who have supported me during this time, especially Pauline, who has been a great sounding board and very driven to have the content and presentation as correct and proper as possible. Pauline is now a good friend. Also the regular assistance of Kathy Hill, first as a contributor, then as a valuable copy editor. And there have been Lisa Duggan, with her marvellous 'Genealogy on the Internet' series, and the two hardy indexers Barbara Metcalfe and Anne Bichan. Office staff and NZSG officers should also be recognised for their contribution, especially after a bit of encouragement.

And the Council and Board somehow trusted me enough that there was next to no supervisory input!

I would also like to recognise the copy-editing contribution of Bryan Staff, and above all the layout work of Amy Tansell, who has helped build a well-presented product and been open to trying a few different presentations within the limits of the formatting, coping with the sometimes inadequate images and editorial shortcomings.

During Bruce's time as editor the journal has won the Nick Hall Vine Award twice, the most recent in 2019, for the best genealogy magazine in Australasia with the December 2018 issue.

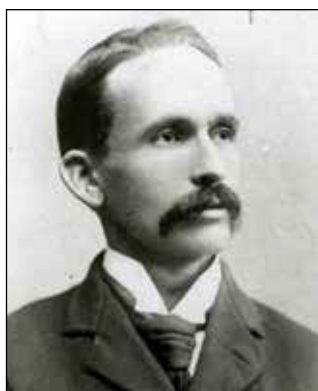
*Bruce has always encouraged and supported members to write for the journal and has presented to branches on writing tips, even talking to my group of NZSG members in Sydney. Bruce leaves *The New Zealand Genealogist* in a strong position as the main communication vehicle of the Society. It has been a pleasure working with him and I'm sure we all wish him well for the future. Sit back, put your feet up and have a glass of red wine. You deserve it Bruce. Hopefully you will now have more time to contribute stories to the journal on your own family research.*

How A J McCurdy helped Upper Hutt develop

Rodney King

By 1881, when Aloysius John Thomas McCURDY arrived in Wellington, it had been the capital city from 26 July 1865, Wellington City Corporation had been formed in 1870, a water supply (from the Karori Dam) had been established in 1879, and the Harbour Board had also been established in 1879. In 1880 Wellington had a population of "about 10,300 Europeans".

Upper Hutt was administered by Hutt County Council until it was proclaimed as a town board on 24 April 1908. It became a borough on 26 February 1926, when the population was about 1,770.



Angus John
McCurdy.



Mary Ann (Pollie) McCurdy,
aged 100.

My great-uncle, Aloysius John Thomas McCurdy played a significant role in the early development of Wellington and Upper Hutt. He was born on 18 July 1860 in Birmingham, England, the first child of John Francis and Elizabeth Martha (née DRIFFIELD) McCurdy. Known more commonly as 'Angus', or to his beloved wife Pollie as 'John', he always signed letters to his mother as 'Jacky Boy'. He was often known among wider family as 'Angus John'.

After completing his schooling in Birmingham, Angus worked in the British Government Service Telegraph Office from June 1873 until Easter 1880, when he migrated to New Zealand. He arrived in Wellington on 18 June 1880 aged 19 years.

Angus arrived under engagement to the New Zealand Government Telegraph Department, and was based at the GPO, Wellington. His home addresses in Wellington read like an old map: Lewisville Terrace, Thorndon; Parkvale Road, Karori; Holloway Road, Te Aro; Mitchelltown; 251 Tinakori Road; Ingestre Steet (near Taranaki Street). Daughter Jessie was born in March 1890 in the recently renovated cottage at 251 Tinakori Road, opposite Premier House gate.

By 1891 he had acquired about 700 acres of land at Upper Hutt for £200, west of the Hutt River where it is joined by the Whakatiki Stream. He named the farm 'Bonnie Glen'. Today the northern part of Riverstone is built on part of the old farm. North of the Whakatiki Stream Angus built a substantial home, often referred to by locals as 'McCurdy's Castle', which was a key community landmark. Sadly, when the home was empty during the 1960s it was frequently vandalised and eventually burned down.

Angus John kept copies of all correspondence, meticulously

handwritten and numbered. In letters to family, we see that as well as working around Wellington he travelled particularly to Whanganui and Taranaki installing telegraphic facilities. From June to August 1892 he worked on a cable ship.

A man of boundless energy, Angus John became well known for his clever thinking, abrasive manner, and attention to detail. Not one to step back from challenging authority, he fought the order of his Post Office superiors to close a 'moonlighting' printing business in Featherston Street, by transferring the business into his wife's name. Later, in 1902 he was a very active secretary of the Farmers' Union, travelling across the country to speak to 25,000 farmer members. He resigned from the Post Office in 1904 when ordered to cease this activity and focus on P&T work.

Subsequently Angus John was on almost every community board or committee in the Upper Hutt area, as well as the Wellington Hospital Board (WHB). As Hospital Board member, his name is on a tablet at the entrance of the current Margaret Doucas Animal Hospital on Mount Victoria, which opened as the Fever Hospital in 1918.

Through the WHB he was very active in the formation of Wellington Free Ambulance, and his name is included on a plaque dated 1932, which remains on the 'Old' Free Ambulance Building – now the St John's Bar and Restaurant.

As well as running a printing business in Upper Hutt, Angus John was Town Clerk and Engineer of the Town Board, for a time its chairman. Through this period Upper Hutt got its first water supply and fire brigade. He then became Upper Hutt's first mayor when it became a borough in February 1926, serving for three terms.

Another activity was running the first Upper Hutt movie theatre in the silent movie era. For a time the venue was the Mayfair Building, which today remains in the main street as a café. The café has preserved this history with a display of cameras and the ticket box can still be seen in the entrance. He also published a newspaper article.

Some obituaries upon his death quote him as a descendant of a Scottish father. Naming the farm 'Bonnie Glen' will have been a nod to this. I suspect that was his wishful thinking because I have traced the family back to his father, grandparents and great-grandparents all hailing from County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

While Angus John worked tirelessly in community affairs and travelled widely, his wife Pollie remained on the farm attending to the milking, raising their five children, maintaining a large garden and supervising farm workers.

Angus John McCurdy died on 12 November 1941, aged 81 years. Mary Annie McCurdy lived to 23 July 1970 and died aged 104. They are buried together in the Karori Cemetery.

Daughter Flora never married and died on 20 October 1987 aged 101. Another daughter, Jessie (later DANAHA) died on 21 December 1991, also aged 101. A formidable record for a family.

Upper Hutt memorials to the family are found in McCurdy Street at Elderslea, and Flora McCurdy Walk which runs off Bonnie Glen Crescent in Ebdentown.

All photos are from my personal collection

Rodney King.
E: rajkot@xtra.co.nz

Notes

1 *Post and Telegraph*.

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.

Membership entitles you to

- All issues of *The New Zealand Genealogist* per year.
- Have your research interests and queries published in the magazine at no cost.
- Borrow from the society's library (NZ residents only).
- Have queries answered from the reference material held by the Society.
- Access to the NZSG Record Collections and Research Services.
- Access to online services via the society website.

How to become a member

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.

Membership Category		Subscription
Ordinary	Open to any one individual (one journal, one vote)	\$105.00
Joint	Open to any two persons living in the same household (one journal, two votes)	\$135.00
Student	Open to people 12–25 years (one journal, one vote)	\$30.00
Affiliate Group	Open to any library, institution, museum, facility, corporate body family history organisation or group that is supportive of the objects of the Society and which is willing to assist the Society to promote these objects (one journal, no vote)	\$175.00

Subscriptions are for 12 months from the first day of the month in which payment is received.

ISSN 0110-4012

© COPYRIGHT New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. and Authors. Researchers and teachers may reproduce articles for private use provided that the source is acknowledged.

DISCLAIMER: The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of NZSG Board or staff. NZSG Board reserves the right to remove or amend any advertisement or article but is under no obligation to exercise editorial control. No content may be reproduced, published or transmitted in any manner without prior written consent of NZSG Board or copyright holder. The availability of information through this magazine does not constitute a recommendation by NZSG to enter into any transaction or follow any course of action. Any decision that you make must be based solely on your own evaluation of your circumstances and objectives. NZSG recommends that you independently verify the accuracy, currency or reliability of any information made available in advertisements and articles and upon which you intend to rely.

Submission of copy

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



As we approach Christmas again, it is easy to wonder where the year has gone! Board members have been working very hard on a number of projects for the future of NZSG. Our focus groups, which include board members, volunteers and appointed officers, have had some very successful meetings and made significant plans for the future of the society and for the provision of access to information for members in the future.

We have already seen success in the Education and Communication areas. We have begun introductory courses that have been well received and started monthly presentations, as well as groups for writing and Branch newsletter editors. We continue to add resources to our website. Our *e-KIT* is giving you a regular update on things happening in the NZSG and out in the genealogical world. The online Kiwi Collection is receiving regular updates and now contains 12 million records! We have also arranged access to the 1921 Census for England and Wales through the FRC and Research Services.

There is more coming! We greatly look forward to sharing with you details of these new initiatives and improvements to member services as each reaches fruition. Next year you will see more benefits for being an NZSG member. And remember ... you can make this happen faster by offering your services as a volunteer; you don't need to wait until there's a request in *e-KIT*. Our strength comes from our members.

The review of Rule 12 relating to our Branches and Interest Groups is coming to a resolution. The changes address the issues that have been raised by Branches and

Interest Groups, while not changing the great Branch experience enjoyed by those of you who are members. The new version of the Rule will need to go to a vote by all members to be implemented. We will look to do this in early 2023, in conjunction with a Board election, if one is required.

The Board has welcomed Natasha Wells from Christchurch to our numbers. Natasha has been co-opted to the Board until the 2023 AGM, to fill the vacancy remaining after the 2022 AGM. Like the rest of the Board, Natasha has many years experience as a genealogist and a passion for moving our Society forward.

Lastly, but definitely not least, in this issue we farewell our Editor Bruce Ralston. Bruce is a long standing member who has made considerable contributions to our Society, being Editor only the latest of them. Pauline Weeks who has worked with Bruce on *The New Zealand Genealogist* interviews him about his time as Editor on page 122. The Board would like to thank Bruce for all the work he has done giving our members an opportunity to share their family's stories in our amazing magazine. We hope he now finds the time to learn how to make ceramic tiles!

The pohutakawa trees are starting to bloom here in Wellington – a sign summer is here. On behalf of the Board, I hope you have a relaxing summer, full of family and friends.

Sarah Hewitt,
NZSG Chairperson

Theme suggestions wanted

Thematic articles are not essential for compiling journal content, but generally themes have been handy to give members something to guide their writing. What do you think would be valuable themes to promote from 2025?

See examples on the Contents page. Places? Subjects? Sources?

Contact the Editor: editor@genealogy.org.nz

Board of Directors

Sarah Hewitt (Chairperson)
Trisha Dunn (Vice Chairperson)
Greta Gordon
Melanie Middleton
Amanda Maxwell
Barry Pycroft
Bryce Johnson
Megan Orme-Whitlock
Natasha Wells

NZSG Manager

Julian Pinfold
T: 09 394 9549
E: nzsgmanager@genealogy.org.nz

Library Co-ordination Group

Volunteers
T: 09 394 9545
E: librarycoordinator@genealogy.org.nz

Membership Administrator

Charmaine Hall
T: 09 394 9546
E: membership@genealogy.org.nz

Accounts Administrator

Don Cortesi (Volunteer)
T: 09 394 9547
E: accounts@genealogy.org.nz

Projects Co-ordinator

Carole Devereux
T: 09 394 9548
E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Webmaster

Jan Sherwood
E: webmaster@genealogy.org.nz

Hon Solicitor

Harold Kidd

Auditor

William Buck Audit (NZ) Limited

Editor

Bruce Ralston
E: editor@genealogy.org.nz

Layout

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

General enquiries
T: 09 570 4248 Ext 1

Island Bay grandparents

Jo Lewthwaite

More than a hundred years ago our wider family began to settle in Wellington, at Island Bay, which is on the very exposed south coast, protected from the stormy Cook Strait by Taputerenga Island at the mouth of the Bay. This provided a relatively safe haven for the fishing boats, firstly the Italians, then soon after by the early fishing vessels of the Shetland Island fisherfolk. With their experience of the vast and challenging northern waters beyond the 'Auld Rock' as Shetlanders know their island homeland, and the Italians' different experiences in the Mediterranean waters – these two culturally diverse groups used their complementary skills and knowledge to make the most of the sometimes wild environment together.

For us it started with our great-great-uncle Peter Scott ISBISTER (1892–1951) who arrived via Australia in 1911 as an able-bodied seaman, from his native Shetland Islands. He was followed in 1912 by his newly married sister Margaret Jane (Maggie) (1890–1959) and her husband Andrew JAMIESON, a shipping clerk, on the *Ionic*. Another married sister Barbara Ann (Babsie) (1891–1978) and her husband John Oliver (Jack) TAIT, a fisherman, arrived in Wellington in 1912 too. Babsie's twin Tommy (1891–1947), also a seaman, also came to Wellington. Next in 1913, working his passage on the *Rimutaka*, their father Thomas Isbister (1853–1925). This Shetland chain had one more link. Our great-great-grandmother Catherine Isbister, previously POTTINGER, née GOODLAD (1855–1949), bringing her youngest daughters Laurina (Ina) (1895–1983) and Mary Catherine (1898–1941) landed at Wellington in 1915 on the *Remuera*. Granny Isbister and her family settled at Island Bay, where her husband Thomas became a fisherman. They all lived in the south-eastern corner of the Bay bounded by Trent Steet, Brighton Street, The Esplanade, and Queens Drive.

Shetlanders have a saying that they are 'fishermen with a croft'; their work cycle saw involvement in the planting times and the harvests, meaning the women took care of the crop and the sheep, knitting as they went to the peat banks for fuel to fire the oven and warm the croft house. The knitwear products of their labours brought in cash money to augment the subsistence life they lived at the mercy of the weather and the lairds.

Coming to Wellington gave new opportunities for both men and women, fellowship with their countryman settled here, helped the transition to life in Aotearoa. Wellington being a major port city within walking distance, meant that visiting seamen and compatriots were welcomed into Shetlanders' homes, hospitality enjoyed, as was news from home as they went about 'coontin kin' as they shared the commonalities of their oral history.

There were about 300 Shetlanders in Wellington when the Shetland Society of Wellington was formed in 1922 and it has played a big part in supporting the cultural mores of these immigrants: providing friendship, dances, and picnics, amongst other social and sporting pursuits. Andrew Jamieson, Babsie and her husband Jack Tait were on the first committee, as was a later arrival Meg DUNCAN, my great-aunt.

The southern suburb of Island Bay started as a farming/market garden area. Access from the city was by a path heading south from Berhampore up and over the rise, then



Charlie Campbell and Nellie Faithful married 1922, St John's Cromwell. Photographer unknown.

down a gentle slope to what became in the late 1870s a newly subdivided area of 665 sections. Wheeled access was somewhat circuitous, being via the eastern route around the bays, through Kilbirnie, and along the south coast. Uptake of this land seemed stymied by the debates and bureaucracy that ensued over the route. Indeed, many attempts were made to further extend the suburban lines of the tramways up to the 1890s. The amalgamation of the Melrose Borough Council and Wellington City Council in the early 1900s enabled the land boom, but it wasn't until the takeover by the City Corporation that saw early electricity generation to drive the tramway, and the construction of a line to Island Bay occurred. Much of the housing stock in early 20th century Island Bay was built in the California bungalow style, after a series of earlier Victorian shops with housing above, which had been erected along The Parade at the junction with Medway Street in the central area of the suburb.

Our paternal great-grandparents: Laurence Duncan (1873–1944) and his wife Elizabeth JAMIESON (1873–1926), opened the next chapter of migration from Burra Isle in the west of Shetland in 1912. They moved first to Aberdeen in northeast Scotland, then in 1922 they took ship on the *Waimana* from Southampton, arriving in Wellington on ANZAC Day. Great-Grand Pa Laurie and Great-Grannie Betty brought with them seven of their offspring. Eldest daughter Elizabeth (Lizzie) (1896–1962) had married a Scottish piper in the military, later emigrating to North America. Those that landed



Jock Duncan and Cissie Stewart married 1927, Wellington Congregational Church. Photographer unknown.

in Wellington were: Laurence (Laurie) (1897–1966); James (Jimmy) (1900–1979), who had married Ruby Violet PAUL and honeymooned on board ship; John (Jock) (1902–1951); Margaret (Meg) (1904–1984); Andrina Christina Jane (1908–1972); William (Bill) (1910–1980); and Ruby Grace (1912–1982).

The family's sojourn at Aberdeen had been about upskilling, finding other ways to use their seamanship, and in particular earning cash money that would facilitate the migration to New Zealand. This stood them in good stead once searching for a boat to fish from and living quarters were secured. During their time in Aberdeen, WWI intervened, both Laurie senior and Jimmy served in the Royal Naval Reserve, on the Trawler Fleet in the North Sea. Younger son Jock (my grandfather) worked as a riveter's assistant in the shipyard near Torry where they rented accommodation, whilst Laurie junior left the sea and joined the fledgling Air Force.

On arrival in Wellington the family stayed with Shetlanders who lived in Lyall Bay until their new house at Island Bay was ready for occupation. Just as the Isbister side of our family lived in the southeastern corner of Island Bay, our Duncan family lived more in the southwestern corner of the bay on Derwent Street, Knoll Street and The Esplanade. Clearly, they did well at sea, establishing themselves in this community, and were able to build homes for their families. Sadly, Grannie

Betty, a chronic asthmatic and bronchitic, didn't live long in this new land.

Jock Duncan was married in 1927 to Mary Kathleen STEWART (Cissie) (1906–1989), at the Wellington Congregational Church, then on The Terrace. Jock, a book keeper, was a fellow Shetland Islander, though they met in Wellington. They were my paternal grandparents, and they too built a house at Island Bay on The Esplanade. My father was born at this home in 1930. Jock was a seaman on the *Rama Torch*, sailing between Wellington and the Chatham Islands. Later he too joined the fishing at Island Bay.

The great depression of the 1930s had a huge impact on the fishing industry around Wellington. Our Duncan family took a pragmatic approach and explored the possibilities of moving to the promising seas about the Chatham Islands. Initially Jimmy headed southeast with another Shetlander. They soon reported good catches of cod. In due course Grand Pa Laurie, Granma Clara (he had remarried in 1929, to a seaman's widow Clara JACKSON) and the rest of the family migrated too for various periods of time. Some rented out their houses and survived in somewhat rudimentary iron huts near to the beach at Kaingaroa, Te One, and Waitangi, on Chatham Island located eastward of the mainland by about 500 miles (800km). Conditions were harsh and challenging weather wise. During these years two of the sons-in-law also worked the sea and died. As the depression eased, the families returned to Wellington, whence most of them migrated north to Napier, settling at the fishing village of Port Ahuriri, from which they – Laurie, Jimmy, Jock, and Bill – fished Hawke Bay, and the East Coast of New Zealand, and brought up their families. Throughout their fishing life the Duncans were also involved in rescuing those in peril on the seas.

Cissie Duncan, née Stewart, my grandmother, landed in Wellington on 5 February 1924, having taken ship on the *Corinthic* from London with her family. She was born in Lerwick, Shetland. Her parents were Laurence Gilbert Stewart (1877–1962) a cooper, the son of Halcrow Nicholson Stewart (1847–1913) of Lerwick, also a cooper, and Mary Magdalen OLIVER, previously BEST, (1844–1885) of Labrador, Canada; Cissie's mother was L G Stewart's wife Jemima POTTINGER (1877–1950), the daughter of Catherine GOODLAD of Tingwall, Shetland, and her first husband James Pottinger (1853–1877) of Nesting, Shetland.

Previously Great Grandpa L G Stewart took ship and worked a passage as a seaman to New Zealand and back, to both earn the cash money, and to see what opportunities they might have in Wellington. Subsequently, our great-grandparents with their seven surviving children: James Laurence (Jim) (1903–1975), Robert Halcrow (Bobbie) (1905–1972), Mary Kathleen (Cissie) (1906–1989), Thomas (Tommie) (1907–1968), Joan Margaret (Joey) (1909–1960), Laurina (Ina) (1915–2005), John William (Johnny) (1917–1998); arrived at Wellington. They too soon settled at Island Bay, living above the drapery shop on The Parade with another Shetland family, until they found a house to rent at Freeling Street, before moving in 1930 to Medway Street, Island Bay. As a woodworker L G Stewart always had employment. He continued to use his coopering skills alongside being a ship's carpenter. He was wont to say "the man is the plan" as each barrel constructed by a cooper was worked by eye to the specifications called for. These skills were honed during a seven-year apprenticeship with Hay & Co, Lerwick. A period in the Royal Navy, subsequent experience at the waterfront in

(Continues on page 128) →

→ (Continued from page 127)

Lerwick, then in Wellington, meant he could turn his hand to any job. Wellington's Karori Cemetery has been the last resting place for many of the abovementioned forebears. These are my fathers' folk.

My mothers' forbears had all arrived in Aotearoa by 1861. Her paternal grandfather Archibald CAMPBELL, born about 1846 at Portobello, Edinburgh, arrived in Otago on the *Ajax* in 1849 with his parents Peter Campbell, and Jean FRASER, plus his siblings. His wife Naomi PERKINS was born in 1859 at Dunedin. Her family, George Perkins and Sarah EDEN and children, emigrated from England 1852 on the *James T Foord* to Australia, thence to Otago in 1855 on the *Gil Blas*. Archie died in 1914 and Naomi in 1943. They are buried at Waikawa in the Catlins, Southland. This couple had eleven children. My grandfather, Charles Campbell (1897–1971) was their seventh son and variously worked on a farm, served during WWI, was a teacher and journalist.

The journey for our maternal great-grandparents on the distaff (the female) side began in 1843 when setting sail from Deptford, Kent, when four-year-old William FAITHFUL (1839–1905) left Berkshire with his parents Thomas and Mary Anne EGGLETON and siblings, for Victoria, Australia on the *Royal Consort*. William's wife Anne MCARTHUR (or MCCARTHY) (1843–1878) also migrated to Australia. In 1861 they married and made their way to Dunedin. Their son Alfred Faithful (1868–1935) became our great-grandfather, having been married in 1895 at Cromwell's St John's Church to Jessie PIERCE. Her father Owen Pierce (1838–1884), a slate quarryman, had left Wales via Liverpool in 1857 on the *Guy Mannering* for Melbourne seeking gold. Whereas Jessie's mother, Helen (Ellen) GALLOWAY (1839–1902), sailed in 1853 from Scotland with a group of needle women at the tender age of fourteen, bound for Tasmania. Both Owen and Helen took ship in 1861 on the *City of Hobart* for Port Chalmers, he in September and she in December. We don't know if this was co-incidental, or a planned journey. Howsoever that may be, they became the grandparents of Annie Helen Faithful (Nellie) (1897–1973), a dressmaker living with a relative at Mount Victoria. She met Charlie Campbell in Wellington in 1916 while he was undertaking his military training for the Rifle Brigade, before embarkation for the Western Front. Letters passed to and from between these two until he arrived home in 1919. Charlie and Nellie married in 1922 at Cromwell. They had three daughters.

Charlie's journalism took our maternal grandparents from Southland to Christchurch, thence to Wellington in 1933, where they settled at Island Bay, living in Aranoni Street for about thirty years. He was a reporter for the *Alexandra Herald*, *Southland Times*, *The Press*, *The Evening Post*, and the New Zealand Press Association, with several spells in the Parliamentary Press Gallery, where he at one time served as vice chair and chairman of the Gallery.

My brother and I spent many happy days with them at Island Bay, walking with Grandma down to the shops for groceries, going on the trams to 'town', walks with Grandad to the beach, picking up driftwood and shells while Grandad filled a bucket with seaweed for his hillside garden. We walked to take the tram to the Zoo at Newtown; where my favourite was the elephant.



Duncan boat Fernat Chatham Island in the 1930s.
From left Jock, George, Laurie, and Grand Pa. Photo Phyllis Duncan.

John James Duncan and Helen Poppy Campbell were my parents, they met in Wellington as six-year-old school children. John had come up from the Chathams with his mother who was anticipating the birth of her second child, to stay at Medway Street with her parents. Island Bay school was rather crowded in 1936, so the youngest had to walk down to St Hilda's Church Hall for classes. Mother was a small child, and father who was always considered a strong tall boy, carried her bag. Fast forward to the late 1940s, John had moved back to Wellington from Napier to join the P & T, working in the Post Office Stores at Thorndon, reacquainting himself with Wellington, running with the harriers and sailing at Evans Bay. Helen had found work as a librarian at Victoria University, where she also played hockey, plus playing the bagpipes with the Wellington Ladies' Highland Pipe Band. They had met again at a Scots ball, not long after the families reconnected. An engagement was announced, and a marriage was made in 1953 at St Andrews on The Terrace in the central city.

During my life I have had four sojourns in the capital city, this current one the longest stay, of fourteen years so far. The lives of my grandparents Jock and Cissie, and Charlie and Nellie; together with their ancestors, have influenced my roots and connections with this place known as Wellington.

Jo Lewthwaite, née Duncan, Kilbirnie, Wellington.

E: murrayjo40@gmail.com

Further reading

Ring around the City.

Wellington's new

suburbs 1900–1930

by Adrian Humphris

& Geoff Mew.

Wellington: Steele

Roberts, 2009.



John and Helen,
Manners Street, c1952.
Photographer unknown.

Background to the provincial system of New Zealand 1853–1876

Christine Clement

Colonial government of New Zealand began as a dependency of New South Wales, but on 21 May 1841 it became a Crown colony. The Royal Charter noted that "... the principal Islands, heretofore known as, or commonly called, the 'Northern Island' the 'Middle Island', and 'Stewart's Island', shall henceforward be designated and known respectively as 'New Ulster' [North Island], 'New Munster' [South Island], and 'New Leinster' [Stewart Island]". These names were only of geographic significance.

In March 1848, the two provinces of New Ulster (the North Island, north of the Patea River mouth) and New Munster (the North Island south of the Patea River mouth, the South Island and Stewart Island) were established. Each province had a Lieutenant-Governor and its own seal.

On 17 January 1853, New Zealand was divided into six provinces, though there were soon secessions. Each province kept the revenue earned from the sale of their Crown land, and were responsible for encouraging immigration to their area. The provinces and year of establishment were:

North Island

- Auckland (1853) – included Northland, North Auckland, Waikato (including Hauraki, Thames and Coromandel), Bay of Plenty, Gisborne (also known as East Coast or Poverty Bay).
- New Plymouth (1853) – renamed Taranaki on 1 January 1859.
- Wellington (1853) – included Rangitikei, Wanganui, Manawatu (including Horowhenua), and Wairarapa, including Tararua. Tararua was also known as Seventy Mile Bush and the southern portion as the Forty Mile Bush.
- Hawke's Bay – seceded from Wellington 1 November 1858.

South Island

- Nelson (1853) – included Golden Bay, Murchison and Reefton (in the Buller region).
- Marlborough – seceded from Nelson 1 November 1859 – included Wairau (Blenheim), Marlborough Sounds and Kaikoura.
- Canterbury (1853) – included North and South Canterbury and Chatham Islands.
- Westland (became an independent county on 1 January 1868, seceded from Canterbury 1873. Also known as the West Coast.
- Otago (1853) – included North Otago (Oamaru) to South Otago (Balclutha).
- Southland – seceded from Otago on 25 March 1861 and reunited with Otago on 5 October 1870.
- Stewart Island – annexed to Southland 1863.

Many of the provinces were not wealthy and soon went to general government for funding. North Island provinces were



disadvantaged because much land remained under Māori control. The South Island provinces developed more rapidly with pastoral wealth and the discovery of gold, and many resented financing the North Island's land wars. There were thoughts of seceding from the North. With provincial government, there was no centralisation and railways were being built with three different gauges.

By 1875 it was seen that having separate provincial governments was not viable. The provinces formally ceased to exist on 1 January 1877 and local government was then vested in elected borough and county councils. On 1 November 1899, many of these were merged into district and city councils.

Wellington Province

To the north, the boundary with Auckland Province was at latitude 39° south – south of Taumarunui and Taupo. The western boundary with Taranaki Province was just north of Waverley. The boundary with Hawke's Bay Province was just south of Woodville.

In August 1864 a move had been made to separate Wanganui and Rangitikei from Wellington Province. Many residents were in favour, but once the financial implications were explained, the idea was squashed. Those who signed the petition against the separation have been included in the Kiwi Collection under 'Wanganui and Rangitikei Signatories 1864'. See also: <https://sooty.nz/1864rangitikeipetition.html>

Christine Clement.
E: cmclementnz@gmail.com

By 1875 it was seen that having separate provincial governments was not viable. The provinces formally ceased to exist on the 1 January 1877 and local government was then vested in elected borough and county councils.

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

Those on Facebook can follow our Facebook page. Members can join our 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
- Receive assistance to search New Zealand land records (charges apply)
- Purchase products and services from the NZSG Shop
- Subscribe to the Kiwi Collection

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

Services and benefits for NZSG members

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

First Families

Submissions can be sent to Geoff Cullen, First Families Collection Officer, via email at FirstFamiliesSubmissions@genealogy.org.nz or posted to PO Box 92, Ohakune 4660.

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 \$10.00

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 wondrous Wellington tale

Ellen Castle

I feel as though this story should start with 'once upon a time'. It is, after all, about a fun park called Wonderland, advertising events such as a Swing Song from Mother Goose, a Floral Ballet performed by twenty Wellington girls, a wire-walking act, fireworks displays, bands and camel rides to mention a few of the goings-on. It is also a tale of an entrepreneur who was behind the fun park and a time long gone when grand plans were put into action and completed within a very short time.

This story takes place in Miramar, south east of the city of Wellington. Once an island, it was known to early explorers as Motu-Kairangi.¹ Later inhabitants named it Whataitai, then Watts Peninsula and finally Miramar. In 1773 Captain Cook recorded it as a peninsula. Over 7,000 years there have been at least four uplift events,² which have eventually joined the peninsula to the mainland. At the time of the early European settlers the land wasn't easily accessible to the growing city and was used for farmland. Later, as the farmland was being sold and subdivided there was a need for infrastructure such as roads, trams, tunnels and wharfs, so a borough council was formed and had its first sitting in 1904. The Council continued until 1921 when Miramar became a suburb of Wellington City.

Let's start this story on 1 November 1907, the day of the official opening of Miramar Wonderland. It was reported that "the wind frisked and frolicked with such vivacity ... blowing with hurricane force, accompanied by rain ... in a truculent and exasperating mood and its vagaries considerably interfered with the programme".³

A year earlier Wonderland had been in Christchurch as part of the New Zealand International Exhibition which opened in Hagley Park on 1 November 1906 and closed 15 April 1907.

Sometime after the closure some of the attractions were dismantled and transported to Wellington and then on to Miramar. At the end of August 1907 we find a progress report saying that "Miramar Wonderland is proceeding apace, and everything is well in hand for the opening ... six weeks ago the ground was a bare paddock, but already many of the buildings are nearing completion".⁴

The 'paddock' was at the northern end of the peninsula, just beyond the then (developing) Athletic Park now known as Miramar Park. The entrance was constructed on Camperdown Rd just around the corner from the tram stop at Darlington Rd.

There were 80 men working on the grounds under the supervision of Mr J W R WALKER, who constructed the Christchurch Wonderland, and the landscape gardens were done by Mr F H Evans & Son from Lower Hutt.

Under construction were two large octagon towers at the entrance, a water-chute, helter-skelter, Katzenjammer Castle (haunted castle), band rotunda, toboggan, laughing gallery (mirror maze), shot parlour and tea kiosk. Also under construction were a train track, tunnel and viaduct for a miniature railway.

The landscaping included a Japanese garden with "Japanese plants intersected by a series of prettily formed lakes connected with small waterfalls", and an inside fernery with exotic ferns from India, China, Japan, North and South

America and Australia, including a varied collection of maidenhair ferns.⁵

All the construction and landscaping were completed in just three and a half months. It was in operation for over three years and was sometimes referred to as a "Mecca of Merry Souls". Miramar Athletic Park and Wonderland Company went into liquidation in 1911. I am guessing Mr Chase Morris saw the writing on the wall as he was already appointed in early 1910 to travel to America and England with a Mr Grigg to raise capital for the Parapara Iron Ore Co. Ltd.

Mr Robert Chase MORRIS had an early career as an insurance salesman. In 1898 he was seeking investors for a 15-year tontine fund and a few years later, on 10 October 1902, he was with National Mutual Life Association closing another fully subscribed fund.⁶ At the same time he purchased 521 acres in Miramar and proposed to form a company on the tontine system.⁷ He was interviewed by a *Times* reporter about the scheme and his proposals, the article is an interesting rundown of how the Miramar scheme was to unfold.⁸ By the beginning of December plans had changed and the tontine scrapped. Miramar Ltd became a land company only.⁹

No entrepreneur stands still. Having purchased the 521 acres, the property developer turned real estate agent representing Miramar Ltd. In the summer of 1903 he took potential purchasers around the subdivision.¹⁰ He went on to become the managing director of Miramar Athletic Park and Wonderland Company, a committee member of the Wellington Pony and Galloway Racing Club, which was next to Wonderland, and an office bearer at the Miramar Rangers Club.

In 1905 he unsuccessfully stood for election to the Miramar Borough Council, but stood again in April 1907 and was elected, although he resigned a year later in May 1908.

Transport – especially the trams – was always a hot topic for council. The Miramar North tram extension was opened early June 1907. This went all the way to Camperdown Rd, servicing the crowds who visited the Wonderland and the Athletic Park area. Weta Workshop and Weta Cave can be found there now, creating a different Wonderland.

Over a century ago Mr Chase Morris was described as a gentleman of persuasive power. He sits on someone's family tree and there will be more to his story than this short wondrous tale.

Ellen Castle.

E: tree4ourfamily@gmail.com

Notes

- 1 Kenneally, J M & B M, *Early days on the Miramar Peninsula* p 4.
- 2 Pillans, B & Huber, P *Report to the Earthquake & War Damage Commission*, May 1992. VUW Geology Dept.
- 3 *New Zealand Times*, 2 November 1907, p 8.
- 4 *Evening Post*, 29 August 1907, p 3.
- 5 *New Zealand Times*, 2 November 1907, p 8.
- 6 A type of life assurance.
- 7 *Evening Post*, 20 October 1902, p 6.
- 8 Titled 'A New Suburb', it can be found in *New Zealand Times*, 28 October 1902, p 3.
- 9 *Free Lance*, 6 December 1902, p 6.
- 10 Miramar Ltd. Shareholders: Wardell, Treadwell, Myers, Faulke & Chase Morris.

Projects

Kiwi Collection Update

At the beginning of December, a further 100,000+ records were added to Kiwi Collection bring the total number of records to over 12,000,000. This will be the second update since the release of the online version of the Kiwi Collection in June 2021. The update includes twenty-five new record sets including:

- *Manawatu Standard Deaths*
- *Northern Advocate Deaths*
- *Early Auckland Inquests*
- *WWI Conscientious Objectors*

There are also some significant additions to existing record sets including to:

- School APW records
- NZ War Memorials and Rolls of Honour
- Canterbury Index
- NZSG Certificates Collection

You can see a full list of record sets that are in the Kiwi Collection by visiting

<https://genealogy.org.nz/Kiwi-Collection-Record-Sets/11308/>

Enhancements

We have also implemented small enhancements that we believe will improve the usability of Kiwi Collection. These are the addition of a 'Source' button next to the 'Record Type' drop down box on the main search page that will allow people to access the Help files without having to first bring up a record.



The other enhancement is that when you select a record from the results area the record is highlighted and remains highlighted until you move to another record.

Focus Group

We have established a Kiwi Collection Focus Group which is looking at how we generate more value from the Kiwi Collection for members and making sure it remains relevant to members. The group consists of:

- Paul Alpe (Kiwi Collection Controller)
- Christine Clement (Kiwi Collection Assistant)
- Bryce Johnson (Board Member)
- Amanda Maxwell (Board Member)

Future plans

In the future we plan to do two data releases each year – one around the beginning of December and the second around the beginning of June.

Another option under consideration for the Kiwi Collection is adding the ability to link images to records. While we are not able to link images of BDM certificates (due to regulatory restrictions) we could link other images including photographs.

Alternative formats

We are aware that several members have asked if the Kiwi Collection could be reproduced on a DVD or a USB stick.

At this stage there are no plans to do this. The main reason is that the online version is able to be regularly updated and added to whereas a DVD or USB would be difficult and expensive to update. In addition the introduction of images in the future would mean that the collection will be too large to fit on a portable storage device such as a DVD or USB drive.

Contributions

If members have a record set they wish to contribute to Kiwi Collection they can contact us by email at kiwicollection@genealogy.org.nz and we would be happy to discuss this with you.

Bryce Johnson

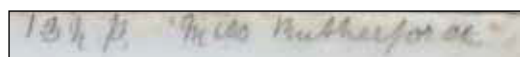
Who am I?

Miss Rutherford

A friend suggested I email you to see if you could help me identify or find the provenance of a framed photo of a woman 'Miss Rutherford', which I came across in an opportunity shop. The picture is on white/milky glass. It looks like either a painting or a photograph which has been enhanced/touched up.

I'm hoping to find a relative or someone who might have a connection to it. I'm not sure why I purchased it, but the woman was just so intriguing! The frame itself appears very old.

Vicki Ross. E: va.ross@yahoo.co.nz



Circle of fun-loving single ladies

Jennifer Forster

Oh what a life to be a middle-class, single lady in a mid-nineteenth century English rural village. How fortunate to be able to afford a maid-servant to help with the myriad of everyday tasks. Whether widow or spinster, they were the women that had the time and inclination to be the force who held the social fabric of their community together. They were the organizers and fund raisers for the good of their village church and school. It was therefore not just the vicar who provided pastoral care to all the local villagers in their parish. Such were the circumstances for a group of vicars' widows and unmarried daughters in the diocese of Sawley. This included the villages of Sawley, Ockbrook, Draycott and Long Eaton in southern Derbyshire.

Auntie Elizabeth had been married for many years to a wealthy vicar in the village of Sawley. Alas they had not been blessed with children of their own, but welcomed their many nephews and nieces into their home. Her sister Mary suffered with delicate health so she would come up from London with her children as often as she could to enjoy the fresh country air. Two in particular, Lizzy and Jane, loved to stay with their rich uncle and aunt with the beautiful rectory. It was an enormous house where they could play hide and seek all day. They loved the cows in the fields around the ancient church and Val the cheeky goat. Next door lived the parish clerk whose two daughters, Charlotte and Elizabeth, were to become their special life-long friends.

It was a real blow to Auntie Elizabeth when sister Mary passed away. The elder children of the family had to help bring up the younger, but Lizzy was lucky. She became the chosen one of Elizabeth's nieces, the daughter they never had and stayed on permanently to live with her 'adopted' parents. Tragedy struck this little family at the rectory when 'Uncle' died in 1844. As well as losing her husband, Elizabeth had to move out of her magnificent home into a smaller house in Sawley. Lizzy was now 20 years old and was a great comfort to her 'Auntie'.

With her husband's estate settled and invested, Elizabeth was able to live comfortably with Lizzy as her companion and a maid to help throughout the house. She was even able to hold her position of respect and influence in the village because the new vicar was a single man who never married. At last some good news arrived of the impending marriage of Jane to a fine upstanding man with potential to make his way up the social ladder. The summer wedding to Robert was a grand affair that was a delight to all. Again more celebrating the following year when the happy couple announced the arrival of a baby boy, Bob (Robert). Life began to settle into a pattern for Elizabeth and Lizzy. In addition to joyful church services on Sundays there were many weekly letters to write to family keeping everyone up to date with what was happening. Regular trips to see each other for special occasions and Christmas meant the ladies were able to meet all the new arrivals in the family. Close by all the local births, marriages and deaths also needed to be acknowledged by them and their parish friends.

The cheerful circle of friends in the surrounding vicarages Elizabeth had developed over the many years as a vicar's wife, became even closer as other vicars passed away and daughters remained unmarried. They all enjoyed the freedom provided by having their inheritances invested. If they were to marry

it would pass to their husband and they would be dependent on a man. It was a limited income, but they were thrifty and knew how to live within their means. The teachings of the Bible suited their lifestyle, because to show wealth was vulgar and tasteless, you cannot serve God and mammon (money). Anyway there was a major shortage of eligible males to marry. The adventurous men had departed to the British colonies to seek their fortunes or joined the army and navy to protect the British Empire.

The time for the ladies to purchase new hats and costumes was saved for the much anticipated annual social highlights of the village. A colourful bazaar was held at Easter as a fundraiser for church repairs, but the main event of the year, was the midsummer fete to raise money for the schools. The fete was a huge gathering with local gentry and all the villagers having loads of fun on the church grounds. Then of course there were formal invitations to informal dinner parties at each other's homes. Not forgetting invitations to spend a jolly week or two with friends in country houses. If they needed a longer holiday they would band together and rent lodgings at an exciting seaside location.

Calamity befell Jane when her husband Robert passed away suddenly. She was unable to support herself or her family. Losing her income she turned to relatives for help. Her son Bob was now 14 years of age and when Auntie Elizabeth offered to take him in and help him find a vocation she was deeply grateful. Elizabeth now had a 'grandson' and treated him as an heir to her lifestyle, teaching him middle-class social conventions and also giving him many happy experiences. Bob soon started his career as a clerk and was able to add financial support to the trio of 'Auntie', his Aunt Lizzy, and their young maid. They now had a male in their midst, bringing to an end the era of this all-female household.

For their grand finale, listen to Lizzy expressing her exhilaration at having the time of her life on an autumn visit to North Wales with some of her friends. Hear also the genuine care she has for the circle of ladies and family who couldn't be there with her.

St Georges Crescent

Llandudno

Tuesday morning

Dearest Auntie

Thanks for your letter on Sunday morning and the paper today, it is very nice to receive both but very difficult to find time to write much for Carry and I have been out the whole of nearly every day and there seems an immense deal yet to see but this morning it has been raining and worse is so windy that we could not climb and so I am making the most of it for scribbling, have just written to Minnie and now must give you a line.

I wished you could have been with us yesterday. Mrs Hey had a carriage and took us to Conwyn where we went all over the castle and round the Town to see the curious old wall and tower which entirely surround it – the castle is in the most lovely situation possible, with mountain after mountain rising up on the side and back, and a beautifully wooded hill with the foliage quite golden on the other side and the sea with the gt. brine in the front. Oh! it was Grand.

I felt too excited to sleep last night for in the morning Carry and I had been up to the Telegraph post which is on the highest part of the Great Orme and from which there is

a splendid sea and mountain view. We have not been all round it yet but are only waiting for the right day for it.

Sunday was wet here but it did not prevent us from going to Church. I did not admire the 2 specimens of Welsh Clergy here and wished we could have had our normal man instead. When you see him Give my thanks and tell him I was very pleased to get my lesson on Sunday.

Poor Mr Windle I have thought much of him and was very glad he had got back before she died and that her father was there too. Mrs Hey has had a letter from home today and they say they have the fever now at Ockbrook and also at Draycott. I hope there are no more cases at Sawley, you did not say how the Cooks were. I am glad Bobs cold is better and wish you were not suffering so much from rheumatism. I wonder, Mary has not written again – I am glad Betsy Flowers is going to her again for if no expense it will be very nice for her to be with her. I hope the new lady is something nice and wish Miss Slee would return for the winter. I have begged Minnie to write again soon.

I wish you would send us the Guardian paper if you have had one since I left and until we return. I will bring them back. Mrs Hey is deep in the Illustrated News and having so few books the papers come in nicely. Mrs J Hey the other day in a letter to Mrs Hey said she was afraid they would not be able to come now for I think they had thought of having the middle of the week here. I have not written to either Eliza or Katie yet but they know what it is to be here, the next wet morning I must try and do it.

With dear dear love for you and Bob and remember me to Charlotte and Elizabeth. I am very glad their anxiety about their poor old grandmother is at an end, it must be quite a relief to all that she is taken – love dearest Auntie

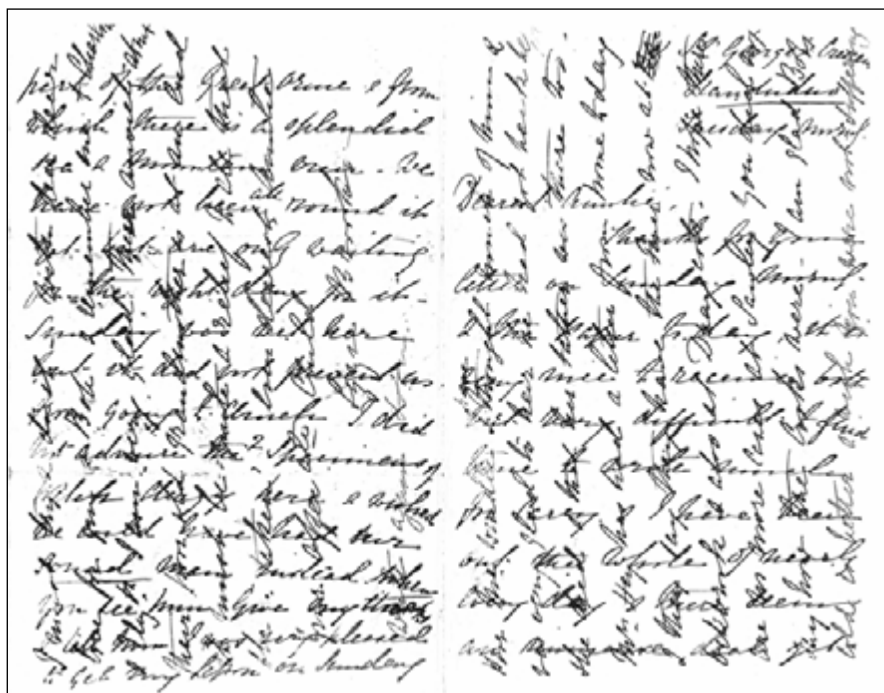
Your affectionate child
Lizzie

I have written this as an exercise in taking my research using normal genealogical sources, such as census returns, civil and parish registrations and a range of family papers, and creating a prose story based on research in a range of published sources. The wider reading has enabled me to construct a family story based on facts, but enlarged with imagination.

The following titles I recommend as essential to gain a sense of life of British ancestors. Especially valuable are the last three chapters of Trevelyan's history, which is in the NZSG Library. Both books are available in various editions.

- Trevelyan, G. M., *English social history: a survey of six centuries, Chaucer to Queen Victoria*, Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1955.
- Gaskell, Elizabeth, *Cranford*, Transatlantic Press, Bucks. UK, 2012. (*Cranford* was originally published in book form in 1853.) Several editions are available freely on the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/cranfordoogaskrich/mode/2up>

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



*An example of a crossed letter, the method used to save costs.
The transcription of this 1860s letter is included in the story.*

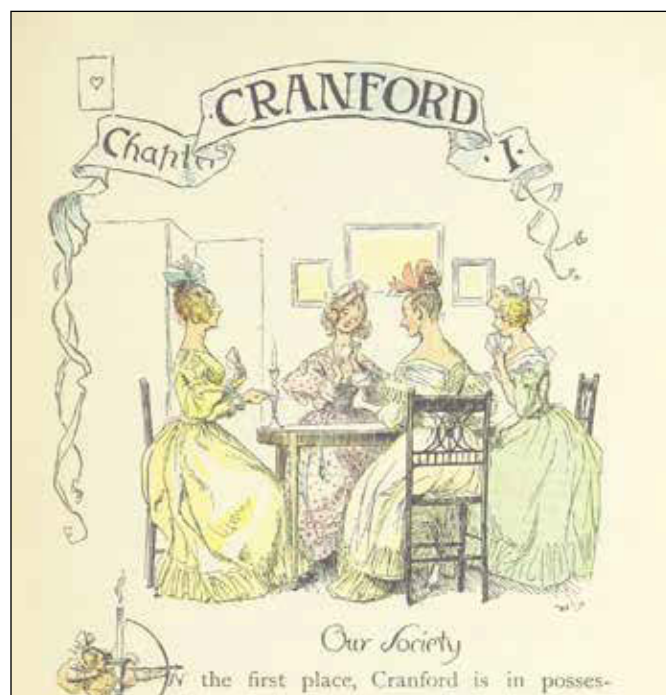
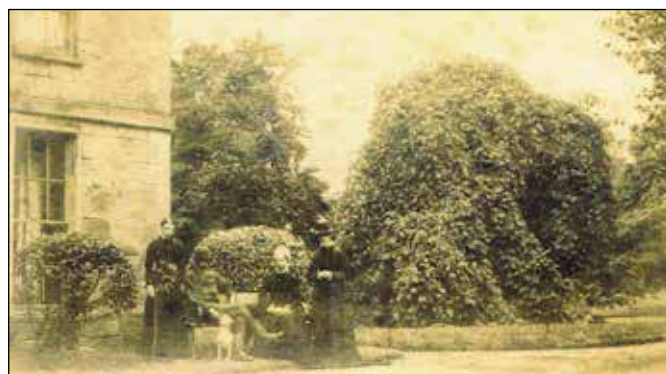


Illustration from Cranford.



*The photographer and subjects are not known,
but it must be Bob at Sawley with his aunts.*

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

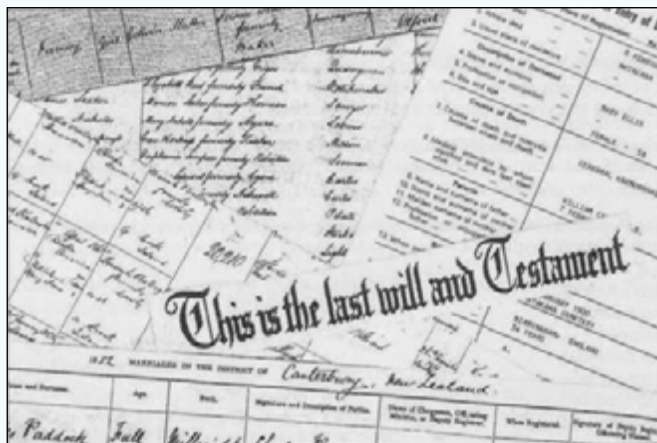
This collection was set up as a repository for certificates that members had obtained, but found to be unrelated to their research. In recent years, members have been encouraged to submit certificates and miscellaneous documents of any kind whether they are related or unrelated to their research.

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. Set 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 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.

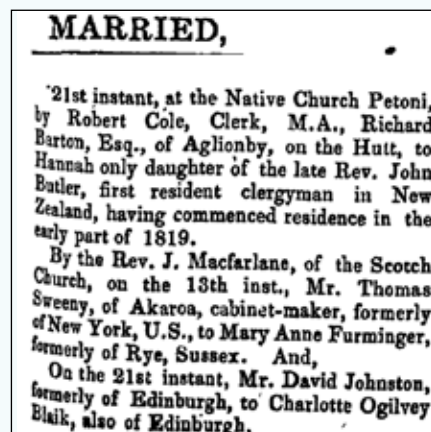
Research

Send First Families Collection enquiries to Debbie Evans, First Families Research Enquiries Officer at firstfamilies@genealogy.org.nz

Contribute

Send completed forms to First Families Collection Officer, Geoff Cullen, PO Box 92, Ohakune, 4660. 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: barto

Given names: Contain(s): rich

Year: Exact Match:

Record type: NZSG Pre-1856 Marriage Collection

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.

Te Whanganui-a-Tara ki Whanganui. The road from Wellington to Whanganui

Christine Clement

With the settlement of the Tawa and the Porirua district, then Whanganui (Petre) in 1841, followed by the Turakina and Rangitikei purchases, European settlers were eager to get on to the land. Ports were opened in Whanganui, and later Foxton and Rangitikei, but costs were often prohibitive for large families or those with stock to move.

Māori and later European, had followed a coastal route from Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) to Whanganui. The trail led from Te Aro to Kaiwharawhara, up through the Ngaio gorge and then through the hills to the Porirua stream, which was crossed fourteen times down through dense bush to Te Awarua-o-Porirua (Porirua Harbour).

Once here, travellers originally continued up the north side of the harbour before crossing over to what is now the Ngati Toa Reserve at Paremata on the original Porirua ferry. From 1839 it was the site of Joseph TOM's whaling station, and later his accommodation house, and from 1846, the British force's Paremata Barracks. Horses, cattle and bullocks had to swim, but sheep had their feet tied and were laid in the bottom of a canoe, with more laid on top until it was filled.

In the early 1840s a Mr J JACKSON (and his wife, described as a negro woman) operated an accommodation house and ferry to Paremata from what is now the Porirua city centre (Ferry Place). The area was referred to as Jackson's Ferry until 1853.¹

From Paremata travellers could continue around the rocky coastline or go inland following Te Taua Tapu (The Sacred War Party) beside the Tāupo wetland, until reaching Pukerua (Bay). In 1845 Te Rangihaeata (a nephew of Te Rauparaha), blockaded the trail between Tāupo Pa and Pukerua to stop supplies getting through to the settlers at Wellington.

Between Pukerua and Paekakariki is Te Paripari, a steep scree hill. On Te Paripari there was a small *kainga* about fifty feet above the sea. It was known to early Europeans as 'The Rocky Settlement'. North of Paekakariki the beach was reached through the sand dunes.

From 1842 this route was used as the mail route to Auckland via Whanganui and New Plymouth. In 1845 it took seven days for the Bevan children and Māori guide Ropina to get from Wellington to Waikawa near Manakau.²

Construction of a road suitable for wheeled traffic began in April 1846 by British troops (and paid Māori) from Kaiwharawhara to Johnson's Clearing (Johnsonville), through the Tawa Flat and on to Porirua harbour following the old trail. The road from Jackson's Ferry to Pauatahanui was completed in September 1848. London's ferry to Paremata and a store and accommodation house opened about then at Whitianga, also known as Tinipia (Ginger Beer) opposite today's Paremata School.

Construction of the Pauatahanui to Paekakariki Road via Horokiri Valley³ (the Paekakariki Hill Road) began on 1 January 1847 and was finally completed on 30 November 1849. This route then became known as the North-Western Road. This became the main road north, although in 1858 a cart track opened the Ngauranga Gorge to Johnsonville.

In December 1850 it took the McKenzie family from Monday morning to Saturday night to reach Scott's ferry crossing on the Rangitikei River from Porirua.

The beach road became well used, but the river crossings – Waikanae, Otaki, Waikawa, Ohau, Manawatu and Rangitikei, then after turning inland the Turakina, Whangaehu and Whanganui were often a problem. Ferry inns to accommodate travellers were built and often issued with a 'Bush License'. This license to sell alcohol was issued in conjunction with stockyards for overnighing animals and was often combined with the provision

of transport across a river, so avoiding the 'New Zealand disease' or death by drowning. Horses could sometimes swim the rivers, but a canoe was used for passengers. In 1849 Thomas Scott at the Rangitikei River mouth was charging 1s 6d per person each way.



Burnett R I M The Paremata Barracks. National Historic Places Trust and the Government Printer, Wellington, 1963.

TABLE OF DISTANCES⁴

FROM WELLINGTON TO WANGANUI	Miles
Wellington to Ferry House, Porirua	12
Ferry to Blackie's, Horokiwi Valley	10
Blackie's to Deighton's, Paikakariki [sic]	10
Deighton's to Waikanae	9
Waikanae to Otaki	12
Otaki to Manawatu	18
Manawatu to Rangitikei	16
Rangitikei to Bull's (Inland)	12
Bull's to Turakina	18
Turakina to Wanganui	13
TOTAL	130

On Monday, 1 January 1866, Cobb & Co's Telegraph Line of Royal Coaches⁵ started their service between Wellington and Whanganui. Passengers for Wellington crossed the Whanganui River by ferry and left at eight am. Five hours later they reached Mr Bull's, Rangitikei (now Bulls) for lunch. "Reaching the west bank of the Rangitikei river, some delay was caused by coach, horses and passengers having to be ferried over; the frail platform some ten feet square, placed on two old canoes, appeared far from efficient, and very unsafe for the purpose, and as I am informed the person in charge [Thomas Scott] receives a considerable bonus from

Government (and intends asking for more) the matter should be seen into, the public safety demands it.”⁶

The coach then reached the Manawatu ferry (Foxton Beach) at about 8 pm, where they stayed overnight. The next morning, they were ferried across the river to the Wellington coach which left at 5 am for breakfast at the Otaki ferry. After breakfast, they left for the Paekakariki Hill, reaching the Horokiwi Hotel at 2 pm in time for lunch. They then travelled through Pauatahanui, Porirua, Johnsonville and the Ngauranga gorge and reached Osgood’s Empire Hotel, Wellington at 7 pm. Thirty-six hours in all.

The coach later went via Bonny Glen to Tutaenui (Marton) and on to Bulls. In 1875 Cobb and Co ran coaches from Whanganui to New Plymouth where they connected with coastal steamers to Manukau, Auckland.

By 1873 Thomas Scott was operating a punt as the ferry on the Rangitikei River.⁷ Sturdy well supported poles were erected on each side of the river and connected by a strong cable strung across the river. The ferryman then hauled on a rope attached to the cable which gradually took the ferry across the river against the current and tides. A gangway was used at each end to enable passengers and vehicles to get on board.

With closer settlement, many of the rivers on the route to Whanganui began to establish additional ferry crossing points. The Manawatu River had one at the river mouth (Foxton Beach) and then another at Te Awahou (Foxton township). From 1873 coach passengers from Wellington could travel from Foxton township by wooden tramway inland to Palmerston (North). These basic carriages were first pulled by horses, and later by steam locomotive. The tramway went via Himatangi to Longburn (near Palmerston North), and in 1876, was converted to a railway line.

In 1874 the Rangitikei Line (road) from Palmerston to the Rangitikei River opened. A bridge and toll house were built to cross the river near Bulls. The Whanganui town bridge had opened in 1871. Whangaehu and Turakina rivers had both been bridged in the late 1850s.

In 1880, a group of prominent Wellington businessmen formed a company to fund the railway from Thorndon (Wellington) to Longburn, as government funding for the project had been cut. Construction of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company (WMR) line began in September 1882 and was completed in October 1886. The railway line wound up through the hills to Johnsonville,⁸ then to Tawa, Porirua, Paremata, Plimmerton, Paekakariki, Paraparaumu, Otaki, Levin and Shannon to Longburn.⁹ Here the line met with the New Zealand Railway (NZR) line from New Plymouth via Whanganui. Connecting at New Plymouth with steam ships to Onehunga, this became the main route to Auckland until the opening of the Main Trunk Railway Line in 1908.

With improved transport the ferry businesses slowly faded away and evidence of them has mostly disappeared except for the odd road name. The Rangitikei River ferry service continued until 1907 when it closed due to falling usage. The Waikanae Ferry House, built in 1848, still stands at Arapawaiti.

In the 1920s New Zealand began classifying the country’s roads into main highways and local roads. State Highway One left Wellington via the Ngauranga Gorge, through Johnsonville, along the Porirua Road and the Paekakariki Hill Road for Auckland. In November 1939 the Centennial Highway from Ngauranga Gorge including the Paremata Bridge (opened in 1936) and the Pukerua Bay to Paekakariki coastal route was opened, bypassing the Paekakariki Hill Road. Road travel from Wellington to Whanganui via Levin and Sanson, was listed as 128 miles, all on metal roads. The trip took an estimated eleven hours.¹⁰

OTAKI FERRY HOUSE.

At the mouth of the River on the South side.

BENJAMIN GREY begs to intimate to his friends and the Public, that he has completed his House of Entertainment, and parties travelling up the coast, will now find his establishment replete with every convenience, and the comforts of a home.

Persons visiting his house may always depend upon having clean, well aired beds, and good provisions; and his stock of Wines, Spirits, and Malt Liquors, are of the very best quality.

A capital six-stalled Stable has been erected adjoining the premises; and an abundant supply of Hay, Oats, Maize, and Bran, are always kept on hand. There are also well-fenced Paddocks, laid down with the best grasses.

B. G. is Agent for the Shipping at the mouth of the Otaki River, and his place affords peculiar facilities for shipping New Zealand produce to the diggings.

Otaki, Sept. 9, 1867.

Wellington Independent, 16 September 1857, p. 2.

In the late 1940s construction of the Johnsonville to Porirua Motorway to replace the Old Porirua Road began. Much of it was built on the line of the first railway to Longburn. The first section of the motorway between Johnsonville and Takapu Road was opened on 23 December 1950. It is New Zealand’s oldest motorway. In the late 1960s construction began on the Wellington Urban Motorway through the Bolton Street cemetery. This eventually connected with Ngauranga Gorge (SH1) with the opening of a flyover in 1984. The Kapiti Expressway from Mackay’s Crossing just north of Paekakariki to just north of Peka Peka, bypassing Raumati South, Paraparaumu, and Waikanae, opened in 2017. The extension from Peka Peka to just north of Otaki is due to open in late 2022. The next extension will be to just north of Levin with opening planned for 2029.

In March 2022 Transmission Gully Motorway (Te Ara Nui o Te Rangihaeata) from Linden, near Tawa, to Mackay’s Crossing was opened. The mileage from Wellington to Whanganui is now listed as 193 kms (120 miles) and is said to take two and half hours – obviously not including stops at various outlet stores or allowing for roadworks. Transmission Gully has been named for Ngāti Toa chief Te Rangihaeata, he who blockaded the ‘road’ in 1845. It translates as “the big road of Te Rangihaeata.” The new 27 km motorway is said to save about 12 minutes on the journey compared to the Centennial Highway route.

Further Reading

Carman, A H *Tawa Flat and the old Porirua Road, 1840–1955*.

Wellington, 1956.

The Old Porirua Road. Porirua Museum History Series – No. 5 – Otaki Historical Society Journal. For index see <https://www.otakihistoricalsociety.org.nz/journals>

Wilson, James G *Early Rangitikei*. Whitcombe & Tombs, 1914.

Melody, Paul *The Beach Highway – The Road to Rangitikei from 1849–1875*. Marton, 2004.

Notes

- 1 He was possibly the Mr Jackson of Porirua labouring under temporary insanity. *Wellington Independent*, Volume I, Issue 42, 17 December 1845, p. 1.
- 2 ‘My Arrival in New Zealand—How Four Pakeha Children Travelled from Port Nicholson to Waikawa in 1845’. <https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Stout78-t15-body-d1-d1.html>
- 3 Also recorded as Horokiwi Valley
- 4 *Evening Post*, 16 August 1865, p. 3.
- 5 Cobb & Co had been formed in Australia in 1854 by an American who had driven for Wells Fargo. Several private coaching firms used the name in New Zealand. The Wanganui to Wellington run was first operated by Forrester and Co, of Wellington under Captain Anderson.
- 6 *Wellington Independent*, 25 January 1866, p. 6.
- 7 This punt is on display at Scott’s Ferry, 26kms from Bulls.
- 8 This is now the Johnsonville Branch Line where it terminates.
- 9 Plimmerton, Levin and Shannon were all named for directors of the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company.
- 10 *The New Zealand Motorists’ Road Guide*. Twentieth (1940) Edition.

News from Research Central, Auckland Central Library

For those of you unfamiliar with me, I am Seonaid (Shona) Harvey, senior research librarian (family history). I have been in this position for 12.5 years now and it's probably the best job I have ever had, possibly because it is linked to my love of family history research and helping people.

Research Central offers one of the most comprehensive collections of international genealogy, family history and whakapapa research resources in a public library, in the southern hemisphere.

We have had some changes since we were closed firstly because of Central Library's roof replacement project and our various Covid-19 lockdowns, so I thought I would bring everyone up to date.

We took advantage of our closure to plan and implement some changes of layout on the Research Centre floor. The first change we made was to bring the reference desk back up to the other end near the main entrance of the research centre, along with a bank of four public PCs for general internet use.

The other end of the research centre retains the microfilm readers (two of which are brand new), microfiche reader and *Gazette* and family history CD Rom computers.

We also have two internet capable research PCs that are bookable for researchers only and are separate from the other public PCs that are near the reference desk. They need to be manually booked, as they are not available on our network system. Just give us a call or email us if you want to book them for your research visit, or book them at the desk when you get there.

The result is a much more research-friendly space.

Research services

We have altered our research charging services. If you have an Auckland Libraries' membership card, our research librarians can give you 30 minutes free research – this includes document supply. The charge after that is \$25 per half hour. Non-members are not eligible for the first half hour free.

You can send in your research queries here:
<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/research-enquiry-form.aspx?page=Start>

We also offer a free Book-A-Librarian session. This session is an hour and with a research librarian who specialises in the subject you are enquiring about.

This service is being offered free to those customers who

- need assistance to begin their family history research
- need help to use the Family and Local History Digital Library databases
- have a family history research 'brick wall' that they need assistance with
- and are computer literate (we are not able to teach someone how to use a computer).

It is a 'how to' service to show customers how to carry out their own research or solve their own problems. It is NOT primarily a research service, that is, we are not doing the research for the customer, although that may be the product of the tutorial session.

If you are not computer literate then you can bring a computer literate person along with you, who will be helping you with your research. Or you may want to make use of our paid research service. Or you may decide to take computer tutorials from your local library, or an organisation like SeniorNet, or other training providers before you make an appointment with us.

Whether you use our research service or our Book-A-Librarian appointments, it's important that you 'refine your research question'. What is it you want to know? Write out

your question and include names and birth/death or marriage dates where possible. Where have you looked already? Have you confirmed each fact with documentary proof?

Sending us concise information and a pedigree chart/family tree of the branch you are interested in can help us immensely.

I am available by appointment at the various research centres around the region:

- First Tuesday of the month Research North, Takapuna Library
- Second Tuesday of the month Research West, Waitakere Library
- Third Tuesday of the month Research South, Manukau Library
- Fourth Tuesday of the month Research Central, Central Library

I am also potentially available by appointment at Research Central on other days.

Others colleagues around the Research Centres may also be available for appointment by mutual agreement.

We require at least a week's notice for rostering purposes, but sometimes we might be able to accommodate short notice.

Book-a-librarian request forms are here:
<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/contact-book-a-librarian.aspx?page=Start>

Findmypast's 1921 Census

Auckland Libraries' have recently upgraded their subscription to Findmypast to the new subscription tier that includes access to the 1921 Census for England and Wales. Findmypast is available free to all people visiting our 56 Auckland Libraries' sites through the public PCs and over the libraries' WiFi network.

Also available free in the same way is Ancestry, The Genealogist and MyHeritage. MyHeritage is also accessible for free from outside Auckland Libraries' sites by using your Auckland Libraries membership card to log in to the library website.

We have an assortment of heritage newspapers subscriptions some available from home, some only available on site.

And of course, we have our own databases – particularly <https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz>, which must have nearly one million records by now with new records and images added to it every week, in addition to some of our legacy databases being transferred over.

HeritageTalks and other events

Our Heritage Talks (see below) continue and are now successfully being delivered both in-person in the Whare Wananga at Central Library and on Zoom, with people attending from all over New Zealand, and often overseas too.

We also plan to hold Research Days on Sundays a couple of times in 2023 on family history themes. For example, researching in England and Wales.

And let's not forget the Auckland Family History Expo, which will take place at the Fickling Convention Centre, Three Kings, Friday, 11 August to Sunday, 13 August 2023.

Watch this space for all our Heritage, family, and local history events:

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/family-and-local-history-events.aspx>

Happy hunting!
Seonaid

NEWS FROM AUCKLAND LIBRARIES

Libraries
Ngā Whare Mātauranga o Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland Council
Te Kaitiaki o Tāmaki Makaurau

Are you interested in family, local and social history; the stories of Aotearoa New Zealand, the Pacific, and beyond? Then come along to one of our fortnightly Heritage Talks | Waha pū-taonga and hear more about both our personal and shared heritage. These talks are given by experts in their field and can provide valuable insight into our histories and our cultures.

Where: Whare Wānanga, L2 Central City Library 44 Lorne St, Auckland

Also online via Zoom

Cost: Free

Booking: www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/heritagetalks

Or contact Research Central T: 09 890 2412

Wednesday, 22 February 12 noon–1pm

‘Researching Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland History Initiative’ Summer Scholars session 1.

The Auckland History Initiative (AHI), a research collaboration at the University of Auckland, presents research projects from the 2023 Summer Scholars exploring aspects of Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland’s history.

The topics that each of the three students have chosen will be updated on the Auckland Libraries’ event page once confirmed.

Wednesday, 1 March 12 noon–1pm

‘Researching Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland History Initiative’ Summer Scholars session 2

The topics that each of the four students have chosen will be updated on the Auckland Libraries’ event page once confirmed.

Wednesday, 8 March 12 noon–1pm

‘The Teaching Gardens – vegetables, herbs, trees and shrubs of Auckland and beyond.

A personal history’ with John Adams, Endangered Gardens.

A century ago, on 26 May 1923, the foundation stone was laid for the Oamaru stone Auckland University Clocktower, a design by Lippincott and Billson that incorporated a new scientific teaching garden, supervised by university botanist Thomas Lancaster and his garden staff.

Why was this garden significant, and what were the predecessor and successor teaching gardens (such as mid-century organic/compost-based gardens) that drew students and teachers from around the province?

Wednesday, 22 March 12 noon–1pm

‘Chasing Black Sheep in New Zealand’ with Pauline Weeks (via Zoom)

Do you have a ‘black sheep’ in the family? Family historian Pauline Weeks looks at industrial schools, orphanages, asylums, and prison records to show you how to paint a picture of your ancestors’ lives. They are often the most colourful ancestors, and you can find records related to them in many places, including the archives, Government Gazettes, and newspapers.

Wednesday, 5 April 12 noon–1pm

‘Anzacs and the Easter rising’ with Rory Sweetman

In his book *Defending Trinity College, Easter 1916: Anzacs and The Rising*, Dr Rory Sweetman tells a hitherto unknown story of how a handful of New Zealanders led the defense



of Ireland’s oldest university from rebel attack. Using letters written home by the Kiwi soldiers helps to answer questions left unasked by previous studies: how close Trinity came to being a central battleground in the week of mayhem and destruction that left 3,000 people dead or seriously injured and led to the destruction of 200 buildings. His talk will help put this neglected episode into an imperial context.

Wednesday, 19 April 12 noon–1pm

‘Online Cenotaph: transcribing the archives’ with Victoria Passau, Auckland Museum

Online Cenotaph is a military database of Aotearoa New Zealand service personnel. Managed by Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum, the database includes more than 262,000 individual records spanning the South African Wars to today. It is utilised by veterans, whānau, genealogists and researchers alike.

Join Victoria Passau, Online Cenotaph & Enquiry Services Manager, in an overview of the recent project to transcribe an extensive number of archival records. This transcription project has enabled the creation of more than 15,000 new Online Cenotaph records and enrichment of tens of thousands more. In Commemoration of Anzac Day.

Come along to one of our Auckland Libraries fortnightly Heritage Talks | Waha pū-taonga
 and hear more about both our personal and shared heritage.

Projects



Cemetery records

New Zealand Cemetery Records is a collection of transcripts of headstones and burial registers commenced by volunteers in the 1960s. Over 1,400 cemeteries, urupā and other burial grounds and public memorials transcripts have been compiled, with a date range of 1812–2017.

Contribute

The majority of the initial transcriptions were completed in the 1970s and 1980s, so there is always scope for adding more recent burials and headstones. Contact the Project Co-ordinator, Carole Devereux, for guidance and assistance. E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Access

A full set of the collection is held at the NZSG Library in Panmure. For a full listing search the Library Catalogue on the NZSG website. NZSG branches, cemeteries, libraries, museums or historical societies may also hold copies of individual transcripts locally.

Cemetery records were first published on microfiche in 1985, with 11 supplements added up to 2009. These microfiche may still be available at NZSG branches and in local libraries and museums.

The major listing of transcribed headstone and burial records is available on the website under the Research tab. See New Zealand Cemetery Records: an index of microfiche holdings held at 2009.

Cemetery records received after 2007 have not been published.

Since 2014 the transcripts published on the microfiche have been searchable through the Ancestry.com website, accessible by private subscription and through many public libraries, plus the FRC in Panmure.

NZSG members can also ask for search assistance of the database of recent additions from the Research Service. E: ResearchService@genealogy.org.nz

See also the 'Local Authorities Cemetery Information' compiled by Tracy Little on the NZSG website. Many local authorities now have online searchable burial databases, also with headstone transcriptions included.

School records

Since the early 1980s NZSG members and others have transcribed school records from New Zealand Primary and Secondary schools, notably the School Admission, Progress, Withdrawal Registers (APWs). This collection holds at least 1,800 schools nationwide. Generally there was only one copy of each school register made and not all registers have survived or yet been located. This is part of an on-going national project of the NZSG to preserve school registers due to their importance as a record of the family and social life in New Zealand.

Records with admission dates that are at least 95 years old are published on the Kiwi Collection and these are available for searching; the assumption being that a student will have at least attained the age of five years on admission. Records are being transcribed and submitted all the time, but anything earlier than 95 years is withheld due to the 1993 Privacy Act.

If we hold records within the restricted period, these may be accessed by members provided it can be proven that the person is deceased or that the record involved belongs to the person making the enquiry.

Records contain the following fields:

- School
- Name
- Register Number
- Former Number
- Admission Date
- Parent/Guardian

- Date of Birth
- Address
- Last School
- Last Day of Attendance
- Destination
- Comments
- Parent/Guardian field Indexes.

Contribute

Contact the Projects Co-ordinator, Carole Devereux, for guidance and assistance. E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Access

For the most part transcribed and indexed school records are held by the NZSG School Records Officer or locally by the NZSG contributing branches. An index to the searchable records is published on the Kiwi Collection v2. These entries indicate where to enquire for further details.

Schools included in NZSG Kiwi Collection v2 are listed in the 'Record source' details in the the database. The table shows school name, year range of registers indexed, number of records and the years that are missing from within the year range. Note that for years post 1919 listed, only the entries that have persons born pre 1915 are included.

Assistance can also be obtained from the NZSG School Look Up Service. E: SchoolLookups@genealogy.org.nz

Funeral director records

Funeral director records were added to the NZSG list of significant national projects in 2016. This particular type of record is in accord with the Society's objective "to encourage the preservation of records having a genealogical or historical value".

Funeral records are not only 'at risk' – there is no legislative requirement for their retention beyond seven years – but they contain details of the deceased's immediate family and burial. The NZSG currently holds records of about 20 different funeral directors for Auckland and Hamilton at the NZSG Library in Panmure.

We are keen to increase our holdings across New Zealand over the coming years.

The index template in each publication includes: surname; given name; age at death; place of death; cemetery; mother's name (maiden); father's name; name of spouse.

Contribute

Contact the Project Co-ordinator, Carole Devereux, for guidance and assistance. E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Access

A list of what is held in the Collection can be found on the Library Catalogue via the website.

A hard copy record is held at the NZSG Library in Panmure. Remote enquiries can be made to the Research Service. E: ResearchService@genealogy.org.nz

Land information

Since the early 2000s several groups of volunteers have been working at LINZ in Hamilton on indexing a range of documents associated with land transfer. These include notices of death and marriage, applications, declarations, transmissions, birth, marriage and death certificates, deed polls, bankruptcy documents and wills.

This project does not transcribe or index land transfer records.

Access

A CDROM database New Zealand Land Transactions Index: North Auckland, South Auckland and Taranaki Land Districts, 1871–1991 was produced in 2016 with 210,000

Projects

individual records extracted from 150,000 documents. Details usually include surname, given name, dates, place of death or residence, occupations, event, repository and document number. The Land Title reference is recorded on the documents held at LINZ so obtaining a copy of the records can help identify the title identification.

See the New Zealand Land Research page on the website for fuller detail about researching land records, including the Gen-Guide for Land Research and Ronald Hermon's in depth explanation of land records in *Where did my ancestors live?*

The website includes details of the Research Service provided for NZSG members. See also details of the NZSG Land Research Service described in *The New Zealand Genealogist* April 2017, page 57.

Funeral service sheets

Since 2015 we have been receiving donations of funeral service sheets. These are indexed for inclusion in a future Kiwi Collection and the originals are held at the FRC. Most include the date of birth and date of death, and many have photographs of the deceased and their family. In time this resource has the capacity to grow into a significant and useful research resource.

Contribute

Send funeral service sheets to the Projects Co-ordinator, NZSG, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741.

Access

Contact the Research Service.

E: ResearchService@genealogy.org.nz

Advice

The NZSG employs a Projects Co-ordinator, whose role is to manage national projects, provide guidance, assistance and information on transcription, indexing standards and the law in relation to privacy and copyright.

The Project Co-ordinator can help you establish a project with the appropriate indexing work sheets and supply you with the documentation for seeking permission for access to locations.

Contact the Project Co-ordinator, Carole Devereux, for advice and standards. E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Carole A Devereux, NZSG Project Co-ordinator
nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz

Family is the greatest gift of all

Give the gift of NZSG Membership this Christmas

We have memberships for everyone big or small. Share your love of Family History with your family.

www.genealogy.org.nz



Tawa Street

Sarah Hewitt

When I was a child, every December my parents would test the boundaries of my car sickness and drive us from Auckland to Wellington to stay with my Gran. She lived in a very intriguing house at the top of Tawa Street in Eastbourne, Wellington.

Coming from a relatively new late 1960s house to Gran's house was a step back in time. The house had no hallway. You came into the front hall, turned left into the lounge, which led into the kitchen, then into the bathroom, then into Gran's bedroom, then into my Dad and Uncle's bedroom back into the front hall. My mother often commented on how long the bath was (very!). There was no fridge until the Christmas my parents gave Gran one.

I always knew that the house had belonged to Gran's parents, but until I started researching the family I never realised just how much of a family enclave the end of Tawa Street had been.

My great-grandparents, Alfred 'Alf' James NICHOLLS (1874–1949) and Greta Marion (née O'CALLAGHAN) (1876–1949), had a nomadic life with Alf's long career with the Post Office. Starting in Christchurch, they had lived in Timaru, Dunedin and Invercargill, before ending up in Wellington.¹

There they decided to retire, buying a block of land and building a house at the end of St Ronan's Avenue, Lower Hutt in 1929. The land, house and mortgage were all in Greta's name

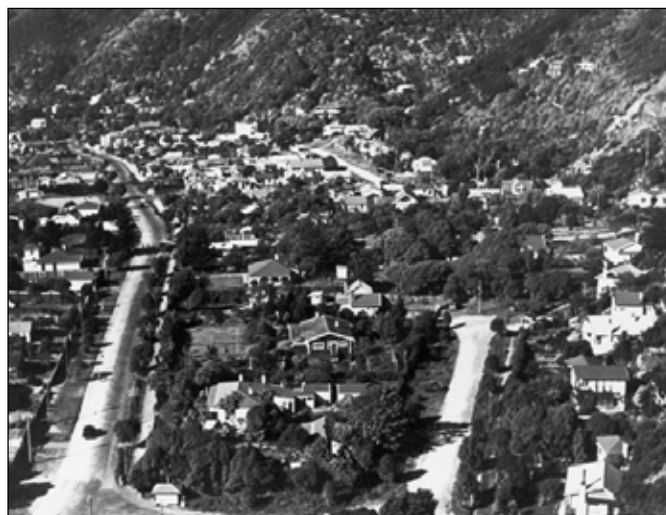
Also in Wellington were two of Greta's younger brothers – Gerald Charles O'Callaghan (1884–1953) and Gordon Harcourt O'Callaghan (1882 – 1947). For a while they owned a billiard saloon on Willis Street. It was as dodgy as it sounds with fines for gambling using a "mint-vending machine",² amongst others. By the late 1930s, as war approached, Gerald was living back in Christchurch and Gordon was boarding at 146 Abel Smith Street,³ before moving to 25 Epuni Street, Aro Valley.⁴

On 17 October 1941 Greta and Gordon jointly bought a piece of land at the end of Tawa Street, Eastbourne, previously called Allen Street. Somewhat confusingly, this block would eventually be known as numbers 11 and 28. This move was surprising and yet not.

The surprising part came from Greta's health. It is likely she suffered a stroke in March 1941. Her will dated 14 March 1941 is witnessed by nurses at Wellington Hospital. Eastbourne was much further away from Wellington Hospital. Hutt Hospital was yet to be built.⁵ And it was the middle of WWII with petrol rationing and blackouts along the coast; both of which would have made a sudden trip to the hospital difficult.⁶

The not surprising comes from her daughter Eileen's letters. It is apparent the family spent a lot of time in the vicinity of Days Bay and Eastbourne. There are many references to days out swimming and visiting friends and family in the area and the ensuing sunburn.⁷ Perhaps Greta chose Eastbourne because she wanted the seaside without the drive?

Ownership records for this period are all available on LINZ's property search,⁸ and those old enough to vote can be tracked through the electoral role. However, more information on the family and the buildings on those sites can be found in the building consents held by Hutt City Council. These can be found at www.huttcity.govt.nz/property-and-building/search-property-and-building.



View over the rooftops of south Muritai taken from the hill above Tawa Street, c1938. Tawa Street is on the right. Greta and Alf's house was built behind the lamp-post at the end. Historical Society of Eastbourne, held at Hutt City Libraries.

The block that Greta and Gordon had purchased appears to have only had a small bach on the western end of the site. Even before they had purchased the land, Greta had plans approved to build a house and garage on the eastern end of the site at the top of Tawa Street that eventually become number 28.⁹ The building cost £1,109. Unfortunately, there don't appear to be any plans of the inside layout with the building consent papers.

In 1942 Gordon got to work making alterations to the bach at no. 11.¹⁰ The building permit states "Wood dwelling with iron roof requires 2 new windows to replace & one window removed & boarded up, a small porch 5ft x 3'6 to cover front door to be added". This was priced at £40 and was built by W H Hewitt. This was my grandfather, Walter Hubert HEWITT, by then a civil servant but showing he was also very handy.

In 1944, Gordon appears to have knocked down the bach to build a cottage on the site. It cost £385 and was built by E W Wise, who was Mayor of Eastbourne as well as being a builder. Today we would view it as a studio – one large room with a sink in the corner and a bathroom off the back. Very much the home of a bachelor.

In 1942 Gordon had added to his holdings by adding a small block at number 9 next door. This contained a cottage built in 1917, to which a washhouse had been added in 1925. Plumbing was added in 1935. Into this house moved my Gran, husband Walter and their young son. The north-west corner of Tawa Street was now a family enclave.

In March 1949, came an event which changed the makeup of our little corner. Greta accidentally stabbed her foot in the garden. This led to her death on 19 March from tetanus. While there was a vaccination available, it was only routinely given to the military at that point.

Greta's death led to a rearranging of the family enclave.¹¹ Gordon moved back to Christchurch. My Gran and family moved from number 9 into Greta and Alf's house at number 28. Alf moved from number 28 into Gordon's cottage at number 11. On 12 August 1949 Gordon sold number 9 to his cousin Winifred Margaret BOWIE (1883–1965).¹²

As Greta owned the property, she left number 28 to her two daughters. Her will does not mention her husband Alf or her son. Alf died on 18 December 1949. In 1950, Gordon sold number 11 to his niece, Greta and Alf's daughter Eileen.

Eileen and her husband Guy POWLES quickly doubled the size of Gordon's cottage to fit themselves and their two sons. They spent the sum of £1,542 to add a living area and turn the old cottage into bedrooms.

Cousin Winifred Bowie was also busy making alterations to her new home at number 9, spending £390. Her November 1950 specifications give an insight into building of that era.¹³ The wood is to be rimu or matai. The old front door is to be reused as the new back door. She has one electrical point for the cooker, four 'hot points' and eight light points. The exterior is to be primed in 'red lead' and "to receive two good coats of best lead and oil paint". She made another addition in 1951 spending a further £940.

Gordon Harcourt O'Callaghan died on 28 May 1953 in Christchurch. He forgave any debts owed by my Gran and left her £400 and a fund for her sons' education.¹⁴ He left the rest of the estate to be split between his brother William Bell O'Callaghan and various nephews and nieces.

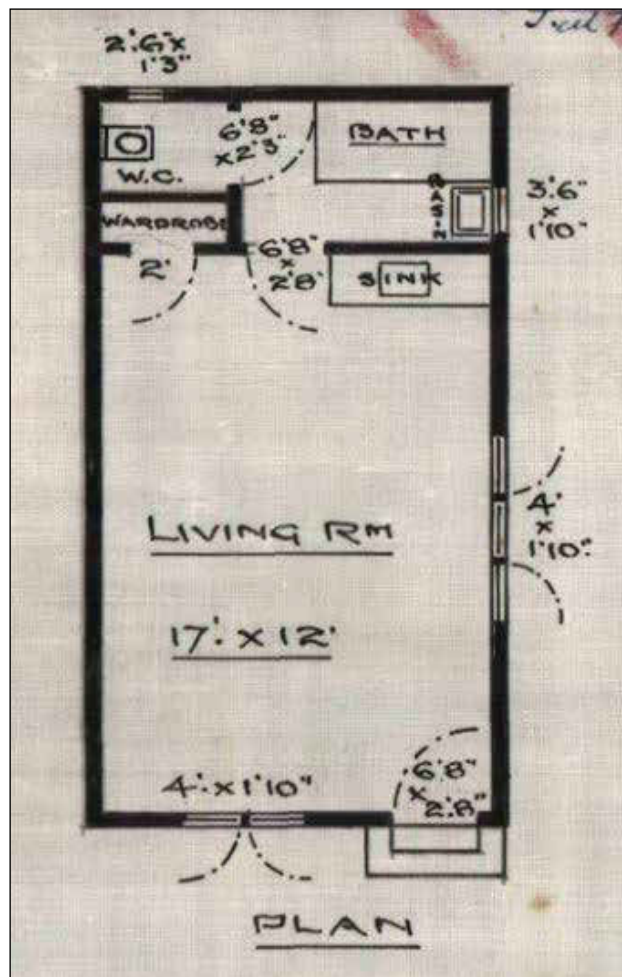
The title deeds issued in 1955 formally split the block of land bought by Greta and Gordon in 1941. Gran was the owner of number 28 and Aunty Eileen the owner of number 11. With her husband's work taking the family overseas, Eileen sold number 11 in 1962. Our corner of Tawa Street was beginning to leave the family.

Winifred Bowie died in 1965 leaving number 9 to her companion Hazel Margery GORRIE and various nephews and nieces. It was then sold out of the family. My Gran's death in 1982 led to the sale of the final piece of Tawa Street owned by our family.

Further information in the building files shows that the subsequent owners have kept building in Tawa Street, not always to the pleasure of the neighbours. As life moves on, so does the property our family owned.

Sarah Hewitt.

E: sarahmhewitt@yahoo.com.au



The plan for Gordon Harcourt O'Callaghan's bachelor cottage at 11 Tawa Street.

Hutt City Council Property and Building Information.

Notes

- 1 The "Stud" Books held by Archives New Zealand in Wellington show the progression of Alf's career.
- 2 'Held to be Illegal', *Evening Post*, 24 March 1932.
- 3 1935 Electoral Roll, probably Inverlochy House.
- 4 1938 Electoral Roll.
- 5 Laurie Barber and Roy Towers, *Wellington Hospital, 1847-1976* (Wellington, N.Z.: Wellington Hospital Board, 1976), p 90.
- 6 'Motor Lights', *Evening Post*, 7 June 1941.
- 7 For example, letter from Eileen Nicholls to Guy Richardson Powles, 7 January 1929, MS-Group-0480. Powles family: Papers 1855-1994.
- 8 www.linz.govt.nz/products-services/land-records/land-record-search – see article in the June 2021 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* for more on using this service
- 9 www.huttcity.govt.nz/property-and-building/search-property-and-building – search for 28 Tawa Street, ARCH18576-Envelope_1.pdf.
- 10 www.huttcity.govt.nz/property-and-building/search-property-and-building – search for 11 Tawa Street, ARCH18471-Envelope_2.pdf.
- 11 Letter from Alfred James Nicholls to Beatrice Maud Nicholls, 23 March 1949.
- 12 Winifred was the daughter of David Broom Bowie and Emma Harriet Haines Baker. Emma was the older sister of Greta and Gordon's mother Winifred Alice Baker.
- 13 www.huttcity.govt.nz/property-and-building/search-property-and-building – search for 9 Tawa Street, ARCH15841-Envelope.pdf.
- 14 Her husband Walter had died in 1951.



Moroccan cooking class in Fez, October 2022. The chicken in there was alive in the market an hour and a half earlier! Thank you and farewell Bruce ... more time for cooking!

The Wilkies and Wattersons voyage to Wellington in 1841

John Wilson

In 1841 two families from Cherrybank, Perth, Scotland arrived in Port Nicholson on two New Zealand Company emigrant ships. Mary WATERSON with her husband John & five children (Mary, 14, James, 12, John, 9, William, 6, George, 4) and Mary and George's widowed mother Elizabeth WILKIE née JOHNSTON were on the ship *Lady Nugent*.

On the *Olympus* George Wilkie with his wife Anne & five children (Elizabeth, 14, Catharine, 12, George, 10, John, 7, Peter Anderson, 3, and Isaac, born on the ship on 4 April. George and Anne may have left on the later ship because Anne was pregnant. Isaac was named for the ship's doctor Isaac Featherston, later a Wellington politician. Sadly Isaac drowned in the Hutt River in November 1842, aged 20 months.

George and Anne Wilkie are my great-great-grandparents. In 1847 their daughter Catherine married Thomas FRETHEY from Lostwithiel, Cornwall. Both George and Thomas farmed in the Hutt Valley near Wellington.

The Wilkie and Waterson families applied to the New Zealand Company agent in Dundee, McEwen & Millar, for passage as assisted emigrants.

Both ships left from Gravesend in 1840, the *Lady Nugent* on 21 October and arrived on 17 March; the *Olympus* left on 8 December and arrived on 20 April. Each voyage took over three months. The families probably went by stage coach from Perth, Scotland to London. Most Company ships sailed from Gravesend. The *Duke of Roxburgh* sailed from Plymouth, and the *Bengal Merchant* sailed from Glasgow to "The first Scotch Colony for New Zealand". There is an article by Celia Geary on this voyage of the *Lady Nugent* in the *The New Zealand Genealogist* of June 2013, pages 112–114.

The normal age limit for an 'assisted passage' with the New Zealand Company was 35, later 40 years, but the Company was evidently prepared to waive the rules for two married couples with children. Elizabeth put her age down to 60 years, and George, Anne, Mary, John put their age down to 36, but they were still over the usual age, going by their ages at death. George gave his occupation as gardener though he was a weaver when they married; probably gardeners would be of more use in a new colony.

Elizabeth, a nurse, claimed to be 60; but was born in 1767, so was about 73 in 1840, and she was 87 when she died in 1854. Her father John Johnston was a shipmaster of Shuttlefield. A family legend is that he rescued Isabella, a 'Spanish lady', from the French Revolution, and married her. Some descendants may have inherited a painting of the Spanish lady or a Wilkie bible. They applied to McEwen & Miller on 21 September 1840. Two James Wilkie applicants, one single and one with a wife Cecilia and two daughters aged three and one, also applied to McEwen & Miller, but from different addresses and applied on a different date so probably were not related.

Mary and John Waterson lived in Wellington. Mary was never robust, and died in 1847, aged 40 of dropsy. John remarried a widow, Mary Alexander HARVEY in 1849. Later John lived at Dalefield, Carterton, with his son George, who donated land for the road to his farm, called the Waterson Line. There is a Waterson's Road in Matarawa near Carterton.

The surname is generally 'Waterson' with one 't', but originally had two. When John signed a property agreement for land at Silverstream in the Hutt with two 't's his lawyer insisted he legally change to one. Many descendants lived in the Wairarapa, where a centenary celebration was held in 1941, and produced a booklet with a family tree, a copy of which is held in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

George Wilkie got a Crown Grant in 1853 for 26 acres where the Hutt Hospital is now, and built Ashby House there. Anne died in 1860, and George returned to Scotland where he lived in Cherrybank, Perth. He remarried, to Jane WALLACE in Perth on 20 July 1863, putting his age down to 57, although he was about 66. He died in Cherrybank on 2 June 1865. His will said he "was formerly of Ashby House, Lower Hutt, Port Nicholson thereafter residing at Cherrybank, Perth ...". George and Jane's daughter Georgina (1864–1949) married George Clark CUNNING of Stirling, Scotland in 1896. When their daughter Evelyn Cunning (1899–1982) died, the line died out.

Catherine Wilkie married Thomas Frethey from Lostwithiel, Cornwall, who arrived from Sydney, Australia, in the ship *Justine* in 1840. Thomas and Catherine Frethey had ten children. Thomas farmed in the Hutt Valley, including Frethey's Island in the Third River branch of the Hutt River. Raised in the 1855 earthquake, the area is now in the middle of the Hutt Racecourse. Thomas Frethey built a house about 1875, named 'Restormel' after a castle in Cornwall. The house, on the corner of Whites Line West and Trevethick Grove, was demolished in 1961. It passed to his son-in-law (twice) Charles Trevethick. About 1883 it had one of the first artesian wells in the Hutt.

Charles Trevethick and his wife Edith arrived from Lostwithiel in 1888. After Edith died, he married two daughters of Thomas Frethey, Elizabeth (Bessie), and then Eliza after Bessie died "to look after his many children by Bessie", according to my aunt. They had six. He made brushware and grew sweet pea seeds for export to Suttons at Restormel in Cornwall. Later he was a Lower Hutt City Councillor

Two of Charles' brothers later arrived in Wellington and joined his brushmaking firm. Jonathan and Arthur later moved to Auckland, where the Hon Jonathan Trevethick established a brushmaking firm, was an Auckland City Councillor, and was President of the Liberal Party. He was appointed to the Legislative Council (upper house) by United and then Labour governments.

Two nephews of Thomas Frethey from Lerryn and St Veep in Cornwall, sons of his brother John and Elizabeth née HEAYNS, arrived in Wellington. Thomas Frethey in 1866 and William Henry Frethey in 1867. Most of the Fretheys in New Zealand are descended from these three Fretheys. The Fretheys in Cornwall have been traced back by Peter Towey in England to Roger Freathy of Lanreath in the 16th century; he was in a muster roll in 1569 and died in 1599.

Wellington sources

New Zealand Company records: Photocopies of the New Zealand Company Application and Embarkation Rolls are held in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

Generally start with the Embarkation Rolls for the ship and follow the number on that roll back to the Application Rolls to find the date and number of application and name of the local agent to whom they applied. See who else from their locality applied. Note that younger children will be listed with their parents, but from about 15 years will be listed separately.

The Petone Settlers Museum of the Hutt City Council has details of passengers and ships that arrived in Wellington from 1839 to 1895. The Pioneer Family Register of family submissions are gradually being added to the website, although the original database of settlers is no longer available.

The *Wellington Pioneer Roll* in the Wellington Public Library has replies from descendants in 1939-40 to queries for a Centennial Roll, covering arrivals and residents to 1855. Some replies are quite detailed as the compiler often asked for more details.

The Turnbull Library has online records for the Bolton Street Cemetery, also called the Sydney Street Cemetery; the first Wellington cemetery to 1895. Early Catholic burials were in the Mount Street Cemetery.

L.E. Ward's *Early Wellington* (1929) has early ship lists, and a list of 'Old Pioneers' (up to 1850) in the Jubilee Procession of 22 January 1890. Seven carriages (Thomas Frethey was in the fifth) were followed by those on foot. Wi Hapu Pakau of the Hutt said he was one of the few Maori alive who recollect the arrival of the pioneers of Wellington.

Other lists for early Wellington are the Burgess Rolls for Wellington in 1842 and 1843 given in *The Birth of a City: Wellington 1840-1843* by A H Carman (1970). These only include the residents (about 350) prepared to pay a 'poll tax' of 20 shillings (£1), but the book has a nearly complete list of the candidates that each voter voted for in 1842; no secret voting then!

WikiTree

Most of my ancestors are now on WikiTree, which will be a permanent (and free) record open to contributions and corrections by others, and with links to contributions for relations from others. While the line in Scotland through George Wilkie's granddaughter Evelyn Jane Cuning (Cuning-363) has died out, the entry for George Clark Cuning (see Cuning-360) has been linked back to his parents by other contributors.

NZC Application Register.

NZC Embarkation Register.

You can go directly to anyone's profile by entering the surname and profile number into the right-hand search box (include the dash "-"):

- George Wilkie (Wilkie-2974)
- Anne Wilkie née Taylor (Taylor-83241)
- John Waterson (Waterson-277)
- Mary Waterson née Wilkie (Wilkie-2029)
- Charles Trevethick (Trevethick-19)
- Jonathan Trevethick (Trevethick-132)
- Catherine Frethey née Wilkie (Wilkie-2915)
- Thomas Frethey (Frethey-32)
- Thomas Frethey (Frethey-37) &
- William Henry Frethey (Frethey-38) the nephews

Website for WikiTree: <https://www.wikitree.com/>

A Wellington pub crawl through time

Catherine Clarke

Early Wellington hotels often have a colourful history – Barrett's, Alzdorf's and the Thistle Inn are well documented. Less well-known is the Eagle Tavern. The earliest newspaper reference for the Eagle Tavern is 1853, but it appears to have been established before this date. Advertisements and *Bull's Wellington Almanack*¹ refer to its location as Lambton Quay until 1865 when the south end of Lambton Quay (as far as Bond Street) was incorporated into Willis Street.²



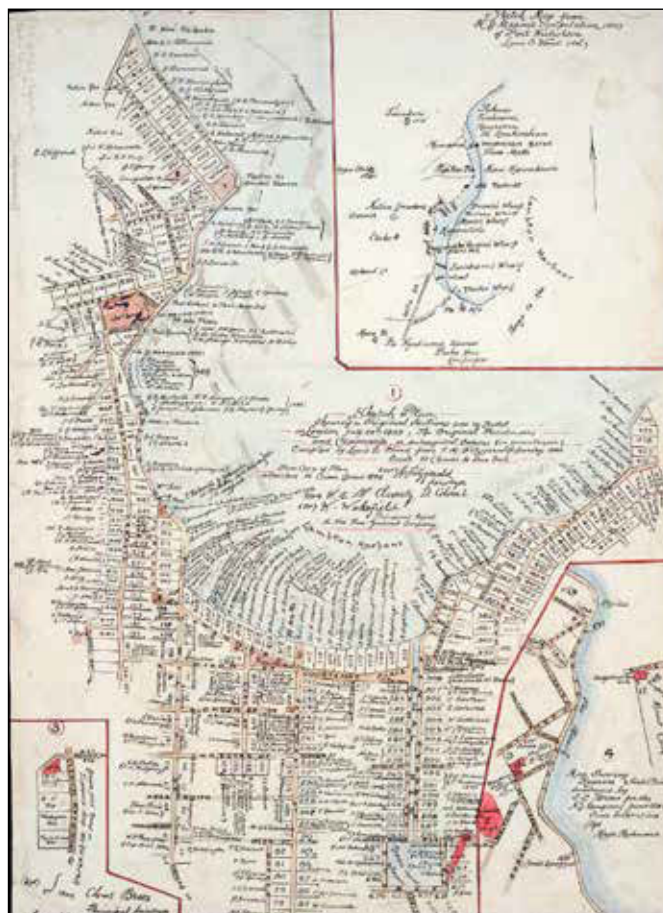
Looking south west along Willis Street, Wellington, towards Brooklyn. The Eagle Tavern was about six buildings down from the Commercial (later Grand) Hotel on the right. Taken by an unknown photographer in 1861. Willis, T M, active 20th century. Willis Street, Wellington. Ref: 1/2-029400-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23039328

My great-great-grandfather, Conrad DEIHL, was the proprietor of the Eagle Tavern from 1858 until 1863 when he sold the lease to William JONES. During Conrad's tenure it was a popular watering-hole with the soldiers from the Mount Cook Barracks. *The Colonist* reported that "two soldiers from the 14th Regiment drank two half-pints of rum for a wager; both fell down insensible, but while one was with difficulty recovered, the other expired from the effects of his intemperance".³

Conrad Deihl arrived in New Zealand about 1841.⁴ Of German origin, he was possibly born in 1821 at Lymington, Hampshire, the son of Peter (also known as Joseph) DIEHL, a soldier in the German Legion Artillery, and Mary DAWKINS.⁵ The youngest son of this family, James Diehl, was sentenced to seven years transportation to Moreton Bay on the *Mount Stewart Elphinstone* in 1849.⁶

An illegitimate daughter, Emily Louise Deihl, later LINKLATER, was born to Conrad and Elizabeth Ann WILLIAMS (née ALEXANDER) in 1850.⁷ He made one foray to the Australian goldfields, departing on the *Tory* in September 1852, where he met up with Thomas CLAPHAM, also from Wellington. They both returned on the *Rolla* in November 1853 and Thomas became the licensee of the Queen's Head Inn on Thorndon Flat. Conrad purchased part of Crown Grant section No. 579 in Pipitea Street⁸ and in 1857 he married Thomas Clapham's sister, Sarah Ann.⁹ They had two sons, Charles and Alfred.

Conrad mortgaged his Pipitea property to purchase part of section 509 (where the Eagle Tavern was situated) from William LOXLEY in 1858¹⁰ for £100, although he ran into financial difficulties after he sold the lease. He took Jones to court in an effort to recover £63, but was later the defendant in claims by James AKED for £15 and James GEAR for £17. In 1867 he signed an authorisation for W B RHODES to receive a Crown Grant for part of the town acre 509.¹¹



Brees, Samuel Charles, 1810?–1865. Ward, Louis Ernest, 1866–1938: Sketch plan. Showing the Original Sections sold by Ballot in London July 29th 1839; The Original Purchasers and Claimants, or subsequent owners (in parenthesis) Compiled by Louis E. Ward from T H Fitzgerald's Survey. 1840. Ref: MapColl-832.4799gbbd/1840-1916/Acc.16123. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22317278 Section 509 is labelled J.E. Aked (C. Deihl).

On 12 June 1868, at the age of 46, Conrad drowned after falling into Wellington Harbour. The family legend is that he went out to collect a debt and the fall may not have been an accident, but the inquest at the Crown and Anchor Hotel left an open verdict. He'd left home at daylight and his body was discovered near Queen's Wharf about 4pm with a slight graze on the right temple. In his pockets were "a bunch of keys, a pipe, some bills and a linen handkerchief...the front of the deceased's trousers were open when the body was taken from the water, otherwise the dress was not disordered".¹²

The administration documents for his probate are badly water damaged, but state that Conrad's will was not found after his solicitor, Charles ALLEN, "went to England and died

there a lunatic".¹³ His widow, Sarah, was left destitute and on 29 March 1873 she attempted suicide by jumping into the harbour.¹⁴ She was remanded in gaol on suspicion of lunacy for two weeks before being released. At the time her eldest son was in Wellington Hospital with a fever and the bill of £2 2s was paid by her brother William Clapham.¹⁵

The Eagle Tavern continued to operate under a succession of short-lived tenancies. Morgan O'MEARA, then Wallace LAWRENCE, who was declared bankrupt after his wife ran off with a hairdresser.

In 1867 the theatrical impresario, W H FOLEY, took it on renaming it Foley's Retreat Hotel, but found to his dismay that he was liable for eight months of unpaid rates. A year later it changed hands again, becoming the Melbourne Hotel under the proprietorship of Lorenz REISTERER.

Then in 1876 it was rebuilt. Designed by architect Charles TRINGHAM, it was "one of Willis Street's tallest buildings and required substantial excavation of the hill behind it. This interference with the escarpment resulted in a massive slip of 300 tons of rock, which all but demolished the hotel's dining room".¹⁶



Willis Street, Wellington. Miller, C O: Burton Brothers negatives. Ref: BB-2276-1/1-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22715410 Date: [ca 1885–1888]

A renovation of the Melbourne Hotel in 1888 included a name change to the Oriental under the management of a Mrs GRIMES.¹⁷ Nine years later the Wellington *Cyclopedia* described the facilities: "The Oriental Hotel, which was originally known as the Melbourne, was established nearly twenty years ago. It is a large iron building, three stories in height and contains fifty rooms, of which at least some forty-two are bedrooms. Of the four large sitting-rooms, two are devoted to the use of ladies. The dining-room is on the ground floor, and is a really pretty apartment, splendidly lighted on three sides. Two large tables are placed down the middle of the room, and eight smaller ones ranged along the sides, the seating accommodation being sufficient for sixty-five persons. The Oriental Hotel has, under Mrs ORMSBEE's management, become noted for its excellent luncheon provided from 12 to 2 pm daily, at a cost of 1s. per head".¹⁸

In 1901 the Oriental Hotel was gutted by fire and one man died the next day of his injuries. The hotel had been overcrowded with visitors attending the races, the fire-alarm failed to work, and an order to provide iron fire escapes had not been complied with — knotted ropes were the only means of escape.¹⁹

A new hotel was developed on the site named the Adelphi,



Print showing the Oriental Hotel in Willis Street, Wellington. Photographer unidentified. Ref: PAColl-10563-045-10 Evening Post Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library.



The fire that gutted the Oriental Hotel. This photograph was reproduced in *Old Wellington Hotels* by Pat Lawlor, published by Millwood Press, Wellington, 1974, reprinted here with permission of the publishers.

which later became the Carlton Hotel. This in turn was demolished in the 1980s. Wellington City Archives identify the site as 44-46 Willis Street — now occupied by the Spark Building, directly opposite Chews Lane.²⁰

Catherine Clarke.
E: catherine.clarke77@gmail.com

Notes

- <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/genealogy/Alm1864Lambton.htm> and <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/genealogy/Alm1865Middle.htm>
- Yska, Redmer Wellington: *Biography of a City*, Reed Publishing, 2006, p 47.
- The Colonist*, 19 July 1861.
- Intention to Marry declaration 1857 – length of residence 16 years.
- Hampshire Baptisms, Hampshire Genealogical Society.
- Class: HO 11; Piece: 16, Australian Convict Transportation Registers.
- New Zealand Birth registrations 1850/2604.
- Claim No 1049 R6287140 & Report 963 R6287153, Archives New Zealand.

(Continues on page 151) →

Wanganella – a disaster, but not a tragedy

Colleen van der Laan

Over the years, the liner MS *Wanganella* sailed into Wellington Harbour many times. But it was her first post-war trans-Tasman trip from Sydney to Wellington in January 1947 that was her most memorable. My mother's eldest sister Lyle BICKHAM was one of the 400 passengers on board, so the *Wanganella* is part of my family's history.

Four months was a long time for Lyle to be separated from her family in New Zealand. She had gone to Melbourne to care for her father-in-law while her mother-in-law was in hospital. Her husband Reg remained in New Zealand, as did their only child, eight-year-old Barbara. Barbara spent this time with extended family in Auckland and Waiuku.

Lyle would have been excited at the prospect of arriving back into the Port of Wellington on the morning of 20 January 1947. She had possibly planned how she could spend the day there before catching the overnight train back to her family in Auckland.

It was approximately half an hour before midnight (local time) on 19 January. The night was clear in Wellington when the Captain (Commander R DARROCH) mistook the flashing buoy in front of Barrett's Reef to be the light to guide ships into Wellington harbour. The *Wanganella* ran aground the reef and was stuck fast.

Most on board would have been asleep when the grating sound of steel scraping on rock occurred. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries to passengers or crew. Lyle was interviewed by media and quoted in a *Northern Advocate* article saying, "I heard a grinding noise like a stone crusher, then there was a crash, and the ship stopped dead. We were not alarmed, but I knew we must have struck a rock".¹

It would have been the end of sleep for all on board. Lyle told the newspaper, "Everyone went smartly to their boat stations, but nobody panicked. The crew was wonderful". Plans had to be made to get everyone onto dry land the next morning. The Eastbourne ferry *Cobar* was called upon to take the passengers and most of the crew ashore.

A photo of Lyle appeared in one of the newspapers. As dawn was breaking, she is shown making her way from the rescue vessel and onto Queen's wharf. She is still dressed in her nightgown, but with a coat over the top. Lyle can be seen clasping a pillowcase that she had managed to put her most important possessions in to take with her to shore. The passengers were met at the wharf by Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister of the day. Personnel from the Salvation Army were present serving refreshments to the passengers.

My sister Shirley remembers the *Wanganella* episode well. Barbara was staying with Shirley, who was nine years old at the time. They had been told Lyle was bringing them dolls home from Australia. There was relief when they heard she was safely back on shore, but there was also concern for her luggage which had been left behind.

Shirley cannot recall how long they waited to see Lyle again, but eventually they received their dolls that had been carried ashore in the pillowcase. But, oh dear, Shirley's one was a sleeping doll and Barbara's was not. Barbara was told that it would be kind if Shirley got the sleeping doll, as they were very treasured at the time. Barbara agreed, but remembers being a little envious. Shirley named her doll

Wendy Nella and had her for many years. Their grandmother Christina STRID was in the closing few years of her life, but she still managed to make clothes for both dolls.

The *Wanganella* remained stuck on the rocks of Barrett's Reef at the entrance to Wellington Harbour for the next 18 days. Several tugboats failed in their attempts to refloat the stricken vessel. Wild weather from the south is well known in Wellington. Should this occur, there were fears that the *Wanganella* would sustain further damage and be lost to a watery grave. But luck was on her side as day after day the weather remained calm. For years afterwards Wellingtonians would refer to similar calm summer days as 'Wanganella weather'.

Crowds took advantage of the nice weather to visit vantage points to see the *Wanganella* in her perilous position. Another source of onlookers were people sailing on the inter-Island ferries between the North and South Islands. Two passengers returning to Wellington aboard the *Rangatira* were seven-year-old Brian and his mother. As they got closer to the harbour entrance passengers moved to the side of the ferry to get a good look at the *Wanganella*. The Captain had to ask half the passengers to go to the other side of the ferry. He then sailed past the *Wanganella* twice so that all on board got a chance to view her. Little did Brian know that his future mother-in-law had been a passenger at the time of the disaster.

It was not until 6 February, that the *Wanganella* was freed from the reef. A combination of "tides, good weather and hard work" led to this achievement.² Late in the day she was towed slowly stern-first across the harbour to Aotea Quay. An assessment of the damage sustained showed there were two large gashes under the water line. These required patching over before she could be moved to the Jubilee floating dock.

It took twenty-two months to complete the repairs, but the *Wanganella* eventually returned to the trans-Tasman service. Over the years, the Bickham family made more trips to Australia and in 1952 Lyle, Reg and Barbara returned to New Zealand aboard the *Wanganella*. Reg commented that he hoped Lyle was not going to be a 'Jonah' with her presence back on board.

Postscript

On 10 April 1968, the real tragedy of Barrett's Reef occurred. The Union Steamship vessel the TSS *Wahine* struck the reef in stormy weather as she attempted to enter Wellington Harbour. Fifty-one people perished at that time.

The Wanganella

The *Wanganella* began life in a shipyard in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She was built to serve on the West Africa to Britain mail service and was launched as the *Achimota* in December 1929. Due to financial difficulties, that never occurred. The *Achimota* was bought by Huddart Parker, an Australian Coastal Shipping Company and in January 1933 was renamed *Wanganella*. The liner was used to take passengers across the Tasman Sea, mostly between the cities of Auckland and Wellington in New Zealand, and Sydney and Melbourne in Australia. These crossings took three and a half days.

During World War Two, the *Wanganella* was converted

[\(Continues on page 151\) →](#)

Christchurch Family History Expo 2022

Fiona Lees

Planning began over three years ago for a Christchurch Family History Expo, to be held at Tūranga (Christchurch City Library), along similar lines to the annual Auckland Family History Expo. We planned for a two-day event for 2020, and at the last stages, due to Covid, we had to change to a one-day virtual event. This was a great start, but not the in-person event we had planned. With the technology available now, this is at least an option.

We planned again for a two day event in 2021, and again, due to a lockdown, had to change to a one day virtual event. Auckland had been able to hold their Expo the previous weekend. The advantage to these virtual events was that people from further afield, who wouldn't be able to come in person, were able to attend.

Finally, our in-person Christchurch Family History Expo 2022 was held from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 August 2022.

WOW – what a great weekend! After three years of trying, we had a two day, in-person event with lots of talks, workshops and plenty of real people to talk to.

Christchurch City Libraries, in collaboration with Memories In Time, hosted three days of family history fun. There was a range of speakers, talks and workshops covering

a variety of topics by genealogists, local and family history enthusiasts, and international experts in family history research. There were also information stands and displays in our exhibition space during the weekend including booths for Ancestry, Memories in Time, New Zealand Society of Genealogists, Canterbury Genealogy Society, Mentis, New Zealand Micrographic Services, Christchurch City Council Archives, FamilySearch, The Family History Society of New Zealand, Antique Print Gallery and more.

The Expo opened on the Friday evening with a welcome function, and a talk by Fiona Brooker on 'Hidden Women', with her initiative project to find the women who are recorded mainly as daughters or wives in the records, without their forenames.

Across Saturday and Sunday there were 25 talks or webinars, and 13 workshops. These were well attended, enjoyed and appreciated by many. There was a real buzz of being together with other genealogists, as well as people coming along to see what we are about.

Thanks to the Expo organising committee – Fiona Brooker & Jenny Lowe from Memories in Time, Annette Williams, Lyn Gifford and Dawn McMillan from City Libraries and Fiona Lees from Canterbury Genealogy Society. Thanks also to City Libraries for hosting the event at Tūranga.

Fiona Lees

→ (Continued from page 150)

into an Australian hospital ship. She was fitted out with operating theatres and had many medical staff. In June 1940 she was involved in the rescue of passengers and crew of the RMS *Niagara*, after she hit a German mine and sank off the northeastern coast of New Zealand. During the *Wanganella's* war service she carried over 13,000 sick and wounded evacuees home to Australia and New Zealand from various theatres of war in Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific.

The *Wanganella* spent her final working days as a floating hostel for nearly three hundred workers employed on the Manapouri power project of the 1960s. She was moored in Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, from 1963 to 1970. It was reported that at the completion of the project it was difficult for the tugs trying to tow the *Wanganella* away. This was due to the number of empty beer cans and bottles thrown overboard by the workers during their stay. She was eventually towed to Hong Kong, then on to Taiwan, where she was broken down for scrap.

Colleen van der Laan. E: colleenvdlaan@gmail.com

Sources

'Liner *Wanganella* refloated in Wellington Harbour', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/liner-wanganella-refloated-barrett-reef>,

(Ministry for Culture and Heritage)

McLean, Gavin *New Zealand Tragedies – Shipwrecks & Maritime Disasters* Grantham House New Zealand, 1991. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MS_Wanganella

Notes

1 *Northern Advocate*, 21 January 1947. Mrs R.P. Beckham (sic).

2 Reuben Goossens, Maritime Historian. Retrieved from <http://ssmaritime.com/Wanganella.htm>



NZSG Student Memberships available, see page 124.

→ (Continued from page 149)

9 New Zealand Marriage registrations 1857/1534.

10 Claim No 1370 R6287141 & Report 1386 R6287156, Archives New Zealand.

11 R24437097, Archives New Zealand.

12 R24269871, Archives New Zealand.

13 R22207310, Archives New Zealand.

14 *Evening Post*, 31 March 1873.

15 R2263268, Archives New Zealand.

16 Hodgson, Terence *Colonial Capital* Random Century, 1990, p 101.

17 *New Zealand Times*, 21 August 1888.

18 <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc01Cycl-t1-body-d4-d47.html>

19 *Evening Post*, 25 November 1901.

20 Wellington City Council Archives, 00009-6/1576.

The genealogy of a building. The Tunnel Store, Northland, Wellington

Sue Dinsdale

Discovering the genealogy of a building can be as fascinating as searching for your ancestors. There is a building in Glenmore Street, Northland, Wellington, which sits on the right-hand side of the road just before you sweep around the corner to enter the Karori Tunnel.¹ It has sat there for many years and is still in existence and still being used as a business. This particular building has always interested me as it is a rather elegant building and it holds a very special place in my father's childhood memories. My father, Leonard Leighton COLCLOUGH, recently passed away just shy of 100 years old and I decided it was time to find out about the building, its origins, and the owners and tenants who have frequented it over the years.

I started off with what I knew; it was probably Victorian or Edwardian judging from its design; it had been a store of one kind or another since at least the 1930s when my father became acquainted with it; Dad always referred to it as 'The Tunnel Store'; it had been an art gallery and is now owned and used by an insurance broker.

I began my search by putting 'Tunnel Store, Northland' into Google and a wonderful photo, circa 1925, appeared, courtesy of the National Library, so that was a good start.² I needed an address so I added 'Glenmore Street building historical' and up came an interesting article on Heritage Shop Fronts' on the Wellington City Council website.³ This gave me the address of the building as 190 Glenmore Street, Northland, with the same National Library photo and a note saying that the building was almost unchanged since the photo was taken in 1925.

I couldn't find much more, so my next stop was the Wellington City Council Archives website to see what they held for the building. A note on their files talked about a building permit application by F & W Ferkins. I wanted to discover who the Ferkins were so I went on to the NZSG Kiwi Collection and found 35 entries for the family name. One of the F & W Ferkins turned out to be William Joseph FERKINS and his entry was in the New Zealand Bride and Groom records. Working from Kiwi Collection entries, and searching through NZBDM, Findmypast and Papers Past, I learnt about the Ferkins family. William Joseph's father, James Ferkins, was born in Birmingham, England, in 1849 where he was a jeweller, a trade which he continued when he came out to New Zealand around 1889 with his wife Annie and their two sons. An obituary in *The Evening Post* dated 19 January 1910, said that James had been a resident of the Wellington district for 23 years and died at 22 Heretaunga Street, Petone, on 18 January 1910, aged 61 years. It also said that for the last 20 years James Ferkins had been an invalid. He was survived by Mrs Ferkins and one son (Mr W J Ferkins) a builder. The eldest son was James Frederick who was born in 1875 and died at the age of 29 years in 1904 of peritonitis. He was married to Annie and they had one child Daisy, who I found in the NZSG Kiwi Collection in the School Records as being born on 12 July 1898, and attending schools in Island Bay, Wainuiomata and Petone.

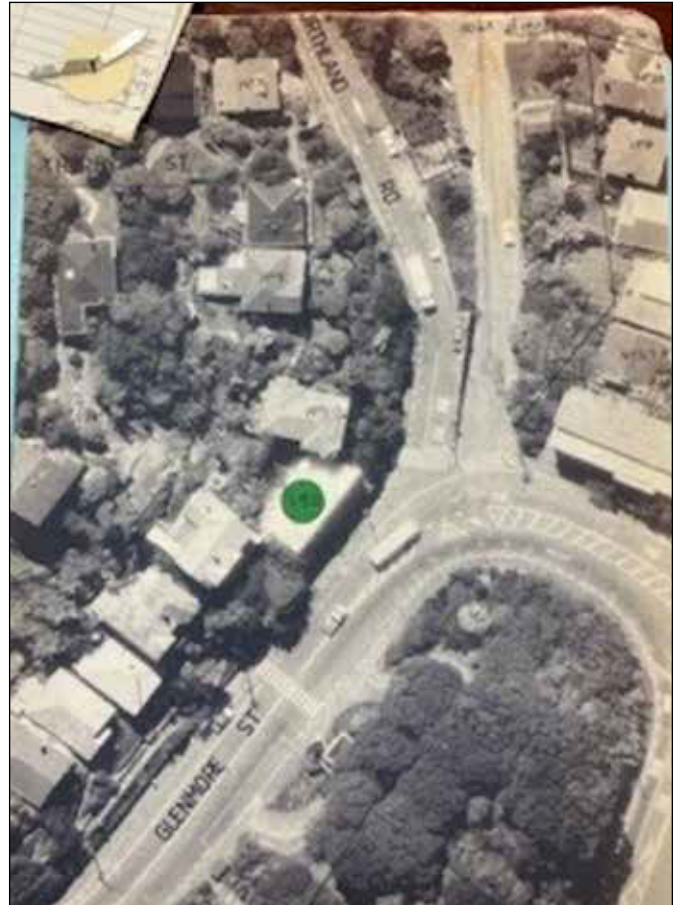
The other son, William Joseph married Minnie Catherine

McLEAN in 1903. Together they had four children: Frederick William, born 1905, died 1908; Roland McLean, born 1907; Max, born 1912 and Joan Lorraine, born in 1917. The Kiwi Collection School Records had them living in Island Bay.

I decided a visit to the Wellington City Council Archives was required, so I booked an appointment. I arrived at the appointed time, duly masked as it was during the Covid Orange level. A small bundle of papers was waiting for me. Unfortunately, due to the covid requirements, I only had one hour to peruse the papers, but an interesting story emerged.

The piece of land the shop sits on was once part of Thorby's Farm. Pieces had been sold off and F & W Ferkins had purchased this land from Mr John NICOL. On 4 February 1908 F & W Ferkins were issued with a permit to build two shops and a dwelling for Mr Ferkins' own use. F & W Ferkins had earlier applied for this permit, on 16 December 1907, which was described "to erect building as shown on Section 14, Old Karori Road, Northland, estimated cost £600".

I went through all the papers and had just started reading the last document, which was proving to be the most informative, when the archivist came in and said sorry my time was up. I told him I would need to return as this final document was probably going to turn out to be the most useful. He suggested an alternative to another visit. For \$10.00, they would digitise the document and it would be available online for me, and anyone else who wished to read it. That



Map showing 190 Glenmore Street; WCC Archives, undated. Referred to in footnote 1.

sounded like a perfect solution and by the time I had returned home, the WCC Archives had sent me an email with a link to pay my \$10.00, which I duly obliged. They said it would take up to five working days before the document was ready, but in fact, much to my delight, three hours later I had another email from them with the link to the digitised papers.

This document turned out to be a Cultural and Heritage Assessment Plan for 190 Glenmore Street, prepared in 1998 by Adelene Han of Victoria University of Wellington.⁴ The Assessment included a history of the building, which was exactly what I wanted.

The property is described as a two-storey Edwardian style shop building, built by a Wellington builder, William Joseph Ferkins. The area of the building is 392 square metres and it is not registered as an historic building. As I had earlier ascertained, the land for the property had been purchased from John Nicol, a Wellington plumber, who had bought the land from Kate PEERS, a widow who sold much of the surrounding land after the death of her husband. William Joseph Ferkins had designed and built the building with the ground floor to be used as a retail space and upstairs a residential dwelling.

The property is described “as having period charm, of historical and architectural merit and features the image of shop fronts reminiscent of the early 1900s when early settlers brought their English building influences to New Zealand”. The report has a chronology of most of the owners and occupiers of the building up to 1998.

On 20 September 1910, John Rainbow STANSELL purchased 190 Glenmore Street from F & W Ferkins. He opened a real estate firm in one of the shop areas on the ground floor while leasing out the other space. He owned the property from 1910 until 1918.

John R Stansell was born in England around 1843 and came to New Zealand with his parents in 1858 where they arrived in Lyttelton. He married Cecilia POPPLEWELL in 1868. He had a varied life, living at Burkes Pass, then Timaru, where he ran the Criterion Hotel and purchased the Theatre Royal. He lost money on both ventures and they moved to Petone, where they owned the only hotel there at that time. Losing money on that as well they moved to Foxton, where after some years he became the mayor, ran coaches to Koputaroa, Levin and Shannon, before moving to Wellington where he purchased 190 Glenmore Street and established the real estate business.

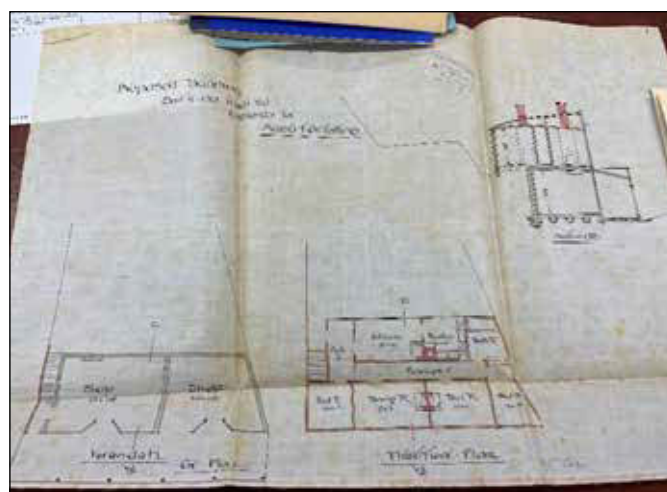
In 1920 the property was purchased by Antonio PANIO who appeared to own it until his death in 1953 when his shares in the building were transferred to the Public Trustee in 1954, then later transferred to three members of the BARNAO family. Antonio Panio was born in 1875 in Stromboli, Sicily, his father being Batolo Paino and mother Angelina Barnao. He married Theresa Rose LUXTON in Wellington in 1907 and died in 1953 in Wellington, aged 78.⁵

Edward Betts MCGAVIN started a store on the premises in 1924 until 1930. The Kiwi Collection informed me that in 1903 he married Margaret Edith REES. Edward was a grocer, died in 1943 and is buried at the Karori Cemetery in Wellington.⁶

From 1933 to 1940 one of the shops was occupied by Thomas E WILKINSON.⁷ He ran a boot repairing business for many years on the ground floor of the building. Thomas was born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1878 and came to New Zealand with his wife and young family in 1911, settling in Northland, Wellington, where he became involved in the local community. He served for many years on the Northland School Committee, was a member of the Labour Party, as well as the Justices of the Peace Association and President of the



Shop on Glenmore Street, Northland, Wellington, c.1925; New Zealand Free Lance: Photographic prints and negatives. Ref: 1/2-099988-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand Records: 23109078. Referred to in footnote 2.



Proposed Building Section 14 – Old Karori Road, Northland for Messrs F & W Ferkins, dated February 1908, Wellington City Council Archives.



The area around Glenmore Street from up above the old Kelburn Viaduct taken by an unknown photographer in 1927, showing the Tunnel Store; Reference: 1/2-051414-F; Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington; <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/23098336?search%5Bpath%5D=photos&search%5Btext%5D=Glenmore+Street>

(Continues on page 154) →

→ (Continued from page 153)

Northland Tennis Club. Thomas was also very interested in horticulture, with hydrangeas his speciality, and for which he won many prizes at various shows around Wellington.

As well as learning about the owners and occupiers of the property, the papers at the WCC Archives cover fascinating snippets of various interactions with the Council.⁸ For example, there was a 'Council Inspections for Rodents', when on 25 November 1973, "Mr Davidson saw a mouse run across the counter in the Tunnel Dairy at 190 Glenmore Street". A thorough inspection was made by the Council and no evidence of any type of vermin infestation was found. It was decided it was an isolated incident, so no further action would be taken. It was, however, discussed with the occupier of the dairy the different methods of vermin control. In another instance, in 1969, an application was lodged with the City Planner at the Council for an extension of licence as Mr Oscar Gothard BERGH wished to extend his grocery and dairy business to include the manufacture of doughnuts. "The Council had no objection to this request provided the doughnuts were for sale through the shop only and not for distribution to other retail outlets." There is a note at the bottom of the page stating that "this proposition has not gone ahead as the business has now changed hands".

The ground floor property has been leased out as shops from the time it was built until 1993 and the upstairs space a residential dwelling.⁹ It became the Ferner Gallery until 1998. From 1998 to 2003, it housed a real estate agency and a hair dressing salon. Justin Smith & Associates, Insurance Broker, has owned and occupied the building since 2003.¹⁰

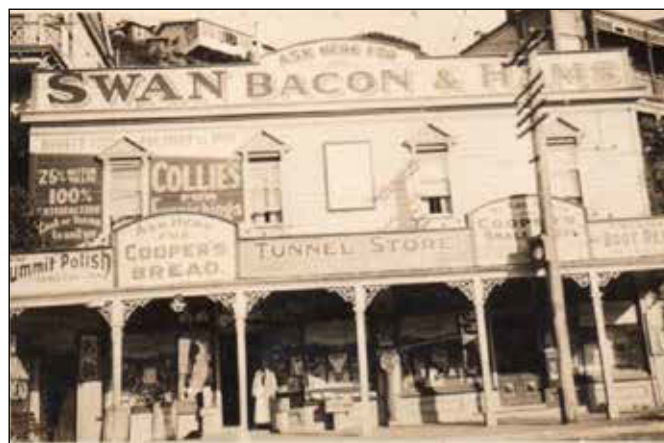
As I said earlier, my interest in the building is my father's reminiscences of visits when it was occupied by his Uncle Colin and Aunt Alice LEIGHTON. Uncle Col worked at the Tunnel Store from 1928 until 1937. He and Aunt Alice lived upstairs in the residential dwelling for a number of those years. Dad remembers, as a young boy, coming down on the train from Hāwera with his parents to stay with them. It made a huge impression on him and he talked about it often. Dad remembered watching Uncle Col transferring flour, sugar and other items from big sacks into paper bags for sale. He said the place had a wonderful smell from all the different products on display. He recalled staying in the dwelling upstairs and said the hallway was long and wide and they used to play cricket down its length. Dad loved looking out of the upstairs windows watching the traffic coming over the new Kelburn Viaduct opened in 1931, and the trams coming up the hill, around the corner and past the Tunnel Store to go through the Karori tunnel.

It has been an interesting experience searching out the genealogy of this building. It enriches our family history, and as it is still in existence, it is something I see often when driving past and I recall the happy reminiscences of my father.

Sue Dinsdale. E: familydins@gmail.com

Notes

1. Map showing No. 190 Glenmore Street, Northland, Wellington; undated; WCC Archives
2. Shop on Glenmore Street, Northland, Wellington, c. 1925; New Zealand Free Lance; Photographic prints and negatives. Ref: 1/2-099988-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23109078
3. 'Heritage Shop Fronts', prepared by the Wellington City Council for the City Council District Plan and Heritage Advice, 1982; <https://wellington.govt.nz/-/media/arts-and-culture/heritage/files/heritage-shop-fronts.pdf>



Tunnel Store, c.1935 – Uncle Colin Leighton is standing in the doorway of the Tunnel Store on the left-hand side. Thomas Wilkinson, Boot Repairer, occupied the right-hand store. (From my family photo collection).



The Tunnel Store today, October 2022. Photo: Sue Dinsdale.

WANTED TO SELL.
RASPBERRIES.
RESIDENTS Karori and neighbouring districts should place their Orders for Choice Greytown Raspberries at once. Picked and delivered same day. E. B. McGavin's, Tunnel Store, Northland, 26-606; D. McGavin's, Kash and Karry, Karori West, 27-803; or direct to W. Phipps, Fruiterer, 98, Main-rd., Karori, 27-638. 10s 6d per bucket, delivered.

Evening Post, 10 January 1928, page 3, 'Wanted to Sell'.

TO LET. Shop, next to McGavin's Store, Northland, good opening boot repairer; also Small Garage. Apply McGavin's Store.

Evening Post, 28 November 1940, page 4.

4. '190 Glenmore Street, Cultural and Heritage Assessment'; Author: Adelene Han, Victoria University of Wellington; prepared in 1998; Wellington City Council Archives, 00736-96.
5. Antonio Paino; <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LRKY-LYF/antonio-paino-1875-1953>
6. Edwards Betts McGavin; NZSG Kiwi Collection
7. Thomas E Wilkinson; 190 Glenmore Street, Cultural and Heritage Assessment; Author: Adelene Han, Victoria University of Wellington; prepared in 1998; Wellington City Council Archives, 00736-96
8. WCC Archives – various files.
9. '190 Glenmore Street, Cultural and Heritage Assessment'; Author: Adelene Han, Victoria University of Wellington; prepared in 1998; Wellington City Council Archives, 00736-96
10. Justin Smith & Associates; WCC Archives 1998–2004, 190 Glenmore Street; Record Identified 600726.

Feeding the Hungry Ghost

Catherine Clarke

“14 July 1903

Dr T H A Valintine

Assistant Chief Health Officer

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have, in compliance with your instructions, isolated the Chinaman, Kim Lee, recently removed from Adelaide Road, to a hut on Somes Island. Since his confinement he has been well fed and exercised and made to take daily baths in the sea with the result that his leprous symptoms are gradually improving.

I am your obedient servant,
William Achison
Principal Lighthouse Keeper”

There are many names for my people in this new country, Mr Achison – Celestial, John Chinaman, Mongolian. Those cheeky boys call me Ching Chong Chow, not Mr Lee, when they tip off my hat, throw stones on my roof. We have saying: “Beginning of wisdom is to call things by right name”, but here true wisdom is knowing when to stay silent.

Another Chinese saying, Mr Achison: “Don’t open shop unless you like to smile”. Maggie, the moon-faced wife of Choo Poye, never learn this. She sit frowning behind counter and shop takings down. She scowl even more at Chinese men that come to Choo Poye, wave summons, ask for help to speak in court on matters they not understand. “No savvy”, we say to queue of custom officers, police, and health department men that come to do business like regular customers. The Inspector of Nuisance has right name.

“Mr George Allport,
Marine Department Secretary.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint you that the presence of the Chinaman, Kim Lee, on Somes Island has given rise to complaint among the prisoners undertaking the tree planting and repair of fences. I regret to report there have been unwarranted incidents of larrikinism directed towards the Chinaman and the vegetable garden he tends. I therefore respectfully beg to ask, whether you would kindly consider permitting his transfer to the small islet off the northern end of the island. I shall be obliged if you will advise me of your decision as soon as possible.

I am, sir, your obedient servant
William Achison”

Maggie and Choo Poye have three sons, Mr Achison. Maggie already have two children, but no husband, when she marry Choo Poye in Greymouth. When oldest son reach ten years, Choo Poye want to take him back to China, learn Chinese ways. But no money, so Fan Tu bring opium for Choo Poye to sell. Maggie not like this, she tell Choo Poye: “Charge more for translation, less trouble.” She wrong. Choo Poye charge £25, make Ho Kee bankrupt and Official Assignee take money back. Choo Poye now in court himself, he protest loudly, but must pay extra £18 or prison for eighteen days. Maggie have face like cloud of thunder. Choo Poye tell her “Not worry, my little dumpling”. Maggie more like *cha siu bao*, steamed pork bun, he tell me later – looks plump and doughy but sweet and tender inside.



Memorial plaque, Somes Island.

“Marine Department Secretary.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that owing to the bad weather of late I have been unable to row across the channel with water and supplies for the Chinaman, Kim Lee. We have rigged up a flying fox to enable delivery of hot soup, rice and fresh fruit. I would again respectfully remind you that we are still not provided with materials to construct accommodation for the Chinaman and he is sheltering in a cave. Please give this matter your early and favourable consideration.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
William Achison”

So, Fan Tu return with opium and Choo Poye now provide different service. You think, Mr Achison, smoking opium

(Continues on page 156) →

→ (Continued from page 155)

worse than your powders and tinctures for medicine purpose? The white-winged horses come, ease tired muscles, feed hunger from within, and carry us back home in net of golden light. Trouble begin when Young Hee start petition, ask government to pass law, stop import of opium for smoking. It make Chinese more of target, I tell Louis Tung KITT, and not sign his petition. He angry, say I give Chinese bad name, but I laugh – already we have such names.

“Marine Department Secretary.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your memo 543/257 re the Chinaman, Kim Lee. With regard to the concluding sentence of your memo you may certainly trust, Sir, that I shall endeavour in future, as I have done for many years past, to prioritise lighthouse duties above those of the quarantine station. I am of the opinion, however, that Mr Lee's health is now sufficient grounds to allow his return to China. Trusting I have not incurred any displeasure with this letter.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
William Achison”

Maggie not want to go to China. She give list of opium smokers to Louis Kitt, when he deliver vegetables. Fan Tu very cunning, he pay police to not claim reward for conviction, but Louis Kitt instead go to Collector of Customs. When raid happen Fan Tu say “You know me, I no tell lie”, but they find opium tins under sack. Louis Kitt also tell Inspector of Nuisance about my bad leg. They close my shop, bring me here to island. Choo Poye write that he fined, but Fan Tu hire clever lawyer, who say opium imported before 1901 Act. Ha! Evidence dismissed, Mr Achison.

The Evening Post, 15 March 1904.

“Kim Lee, the Chinese fruiterer who was a few months ago removed from Adelaide Road to Somes Island, as he was found to be suffering from leprosy, died at the quarantine station yesterday afternoon. Only recently the Health Department announced that the spots had disappeared from the man's body, and that he was progressing satisfactorily. A few days ago, however, internal complications set in, and although Dr. Valintine and his staff did all that was in their



Mokopuna Island, Wellington Harbour.

power, the man breathed his last yesterday. The body was interred on the island this morning. The Health Department gave every opportunity to the deceased's friends to attend the funeral.”

Catherine Clarke. E: catherine.clarke77@gmail.com.
W: www.catherineclarkeauthor.com

Sources

Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives, 1904. Session I, H-31

Archives New Zealand. Customs inwards Letters and Registered Files R17946095. Record No: 34/21/6-7.

Possession of opium – Joe Yee Wah and Fan Tu
Beaglehole, Helen. *Always the sound of the sea*, Nelson, Craig Potton, 2009.

Bradshaw, Julia. *Golden prospects: Chinese on the West Coast of New Zealand*, Greymouth, Shantytown (West Coast Historical & Mechanical Society Inc.), 2009.

The Evening Post, 9 March, 31 March 1897; 11 July, 14 July, 18 July, 23 July, 8 September 1903; 11 February, 15 March 1904.

Ng, James. *Windows on a Chinese past Vol. 2*. Dunedin, Otago Heritage Books, 1993.

Nicol, Gwynne. ‘How Leper Island was named’ in *Stories of York Bay*, ed. Ann Paterson, 1983.

Rumble, Gail. Matiu/Somes Island Burials http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/matiu_somes_burials.html

Book review

The Sterling Affair by Nathan Dylan Goodwin (2019)

Reviewed by Bruce Ralston

The genealogical crime mystery genre has become increasingly popular and now includes a good number of authors. One of the more prolific is Nathan Dylan Goodwin, an Englishman, teacher, genealogist and local historian. Nathan has developed several series based around different investigators.

One of the series concerns Morton Farrier, Forensic Genealogist. Farrier is a husband and father who seems easily distracted into taking on cases that have a strong genealogical and research component.

In some ways *The Sterling Affair*, which I thoroughly enjoyed, is quite sophisticated in operating in at least four different time periods (2019, 1974, 1956 and 1944) as it untangles a story of home life, a personal DNA investigation, and scones, along with espionage, the Suez

crisis, politics, identity theft. Visits to archives and description of the research process, the documents, and even the staff, allow us to read with a knowing smile. Analysing photos plays an important role too.

Dylan self-publishes his books. See his website www.nathandylangoodwin.com for options to purchase, including online outlets, and in both electronic and paperback formats.

Now to find time to tackle some of the other titles. The other Morton Farrier titles are: *The Asylum*, *Hiding the Past*, *The Lost Ancestor*, *The Orange Lilies*, *The America Ground*, *The Spyglass File*, *The Missing Man*, *The Suffragette's Secret*, *The Wicked Trade*, *The Foundlings*.



An Englishman's home is his castle

Christine Clement

In 1874 George Vesey STEWART organised a 'special settlement' of mostly Ulster families with adequate capital to settle at Katikati on the Tauranga Harbour. This first party arrived in Auckland on board the *Carisbrooke Castle* on 8 June 1875. He followed this with a second party for Katikati in 1878, and a third for Te Puke in 1880. He eventually raised six parties of settlers and is credited with bringing about 4,000 emigrants to New Zealand.

Before leaving for Katikati in September 1875, the first party settlers were entertained in Tauranga where they were told by Venerable Archdeacon MANSELL that "... no doubt that they would be very dissatisfied with their houses, but he could assure them that they would be palaces to what he himself had to be satisfied with."¹

The Bay of Plenty Times of 27 November 1875 then reported on a court case between Stewart and one of his settlers, Stephen GOSS, over a claim of £4 for the balance due for the erection of a raupō² house at Katikati settlement. Stephen Goss was the son of a surgeon and had been well educated in England, and had farmed 131 acres, employing four men and one boy, near Heanton Punchardon in Devon in 1871.

Vesey Stewart told the court that Mr Goss, along with other Katikati special settlers gave him an order to erect a house at a cost not exceeding £10. Stewart received £5 on account and Mr Goss promised to pay him the balance on arrival. As he received the orders for the houses, Vesey Stewart sent them to Captain Archibald C TURNER of Tauranga, and requested him to have the best value possible provided for the settlers in the shape of houses. After Akuatua (Akuhata or August) Tupaea,³ withdrew from an agreement, Captain Turner organised with Peter GRANT of Greerton to build these at £9 per house.

Peter Grant, formerly of the 1st Waikato Regiment and resident of New Zealand since 1863, then built 36 raupō whare on the banks of a river (Tuapiro, Rereatukahia and Uretara) for the convenience of the Katikati settlers. At the time of the court case the whare were not all occupied as some of the settlers had not yet arrived on the block.

Goss said "... I can state that I had to move twice in one night out of the way of the rain; one of my friends described it as like being in a hamper; the whares in some cases have also had to be tied down ...". William TRIMBLE deposed: "I have slept at the whares at the Katikati; I should say they were neither wind-tight nor water-tight; I had to put up posts one night to prevent a whare being blown over". Mr Eric C GOLDSMITH, Tauranga District Surveyor, deposed: "I have slept at the whares at Rereatukahia and Uretara; I do not consider them wind-tight or water-tight, they are not built in my idea as the Maoris would build them. Mr Stewart replied that if the whares had been lined it would have added considerably to their expense."

The judge decided "... from the evidence adduced a raupō whare had been erected and placed at the defendant's disposal, in terms of his authority, judgement would be given for plaintiff [Vesey Stewart] for the full amount and costs £6 14 shillings".

The problem was possibly that the settlers' expectations of a house was not necessarily the same as colonists like Peter Grant and Captain Turner, to whom a raupō whare was



Drawing of Rev A N Brown's house at Te Papa, Tauranga, 1839.
Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections 4-2535.



Martin, Josiah, 1843–1916. 'Picturesque Māori Houses' [Te Waiiti, Rotoiti], The New Zealand Graphic and Ladies' Journal, 3 March 1894, p.196. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections NZG-18940303-0196-02.



Cooper, Alfred John, 1831–1869.
[Cooper, Alfred John] 1831–1869: [Interior of settler's house, Mohaka 1855? Lavin's first house, Kaikaia, Mohaka]. Ref: A-235-005. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. / records/2273259

probably a luxury after some of their sleeping accommodation in New Zealand. During the court case the word changes from 'house' to 'whare' once Peter Grant is questioned. Many of the Katikati settlers were still living in their raupō whare in January 1877.

Notes

- ¹ Bay of Plenty Times, 15 September 1875.
- ² Raupō or bulrush (Typha orientalis) grows in fertile swamps with a fairly high water table.
- ³ Eldest son of famed Ngāi Te Rangi chief Hori Kingi Tupaea, he operated businesses in Katikati, including twice weekly boat trips to and from Tauranga.

Never give up!

Elaine Boyd

As I look back over about 20 years of family history research, those words kept me persevering when I seem to be hitting yet another 'brick wall'. The following are four examples where determination has either seen me through or set my determination to an even higher level. Written with the encouragement and assistance of my husband, Colin Chipperfield.

1) The Swedish connection

I have great-grandparents and grandparents who came to New Zealand from England, including the Isle of Wight, Scotland, including Shetland Islands, and Sweden. So I am fortunate there is a lot of variety. My husband was born in England – like all his ancestors – so his searches seem a bit boring in comparison to mine. Until I began my search, 'the Swedish connection' was only hearsay and I had no details about it.

It is this Swedish part of my ancestry which has provided the most challenges and thus the most reward when a puzzle is solved. I had no idea where to start as both my parents had died by the time I was 35, and it was another 20 years before I became interested in family history. At that time my GP was keen to start me on lipid lowering medication to control my high cholesterol levels. As a registered nurse I was somewhat reluctant to start this without doing my own risk versus benefit assessment. I began by ordering death certificates for my grandparents and great grandparents (both my parents had died from cancer), which I think were free or at least very inexpensive to order from the Registrar General's Office back then. This enabled me to build a family tree with ages and causes of death I was able to show to, and discuss with, my GP.

But more importantly for me, the death certificate for my father's maternal grandfather, John PETERSON, who died in Dunedin in 1917, aged 84 years, stated that he was born in Sweden.

Where to go from here? Fortunately at that time there was still a Swedish consulate in Auckland, and I called them. In response to my question about how I could find out more about John Peterson, I was told that according to their records he was born in 1835 in Stamnared, County Halland, in Sweden and he arrived in Dunedin in 1860. His name was anglicised from Johan Anton PEHRSSON to John Anton Peterson. This



The house in Stamnared, Halland County, Sweden where Johan Anton Pehrsson was born.



Sergeant William Cuthbert Peterson in Canterbury Mounted Rifles uniform, prior to leaving for Europe.

was a common occurrence. In fact I read somewhere that Swedes changed their names almost as often as their shirts! Johan was a chainman (surveyor's assistant). The person I spoke to at the consulate kindly copied the page from their register and mailed it to me together with a copy of *Tracing your Swedish Ancestors* and also a copy of a booklet about Swedish traditions and festivities. No charge for any of this back then either; how commercial it all seems in comparison now.

I was particularly busy for the next three or four years, not only with work but also the arrival of eight of our many grandchildren.

With the start of a new century I was spurred to research 'the Swedish connection' further. By now I was a lot more internet savvy and found a Swedish genealogy website that included a question and answer section, and although most of the questions were from people living in the USA, and most were written in Swedish, I decided that it was a case of nothing ventured, nothing gained. I posted my own query about Johan Anton Pehrsson and his family from Stamnared. Almost daily for the next month I rushed straight to the computer to see if there was a response. Almost daily I was disappointed. I decided it was not going to happen and forgot about it, until almost one year later. Much to my surprise after all this time, there was a response, and what a response.

The writer and his brother had been researching their



William Cuthbert Peterson's medals.

own family history in the parish records of the church in Stannard, and had noticed my request, so kindly researched all of my great-grandfather's family in great detail. What a gift that was for me. I am eternally grateful to them.

Postscript: These Swedish 'friends' were able to visit me in NZ in 2018. They kindly gave me copies of the *History of Stannard* and photos of the house where my great-grandfather was born.

2) The mystery of the missing WW1 medals

John Anton Peterson married an English born 21-year-old woman in Dunedin in 1881 when he was 46 years old. They had six children, the eldest being my grandmother Matilda Ada Isabella (known as Ada) Peterson, subsequently MASTERS. There were three other daughters and two sons, the younger of whom, William Cuthbert Peterson ('Billy'), was killed in Belgium in November 1917. I had obtained a copy of his service record and noted on it that he was awarded three medals, which were sent to Edie his youngest sister. I had already noted that this sister, although she married after WW1, did not have any children, and both she and her husband had both died. So I began to wonder where those medals had got to. I hasten to add here that I didn't personally want them, just wanted to make sure they were still safely in the care of family and not with an unknown collector.

What to do? Where to start? Well I had noticed a display of medals at The Armoury at Auckland Museum so rang there first. They did not have the medals, but advised me to try the Army Museum at Waiouru or the RSA. This I did, but with no luck. I wondered if Edie had left them to someone else in the family and tried a search on Archive New Zealand's Archway as a 'long shot' and there it was – Edie's probate that I could order a copy of. I still didn't dare hope that the medals would be mentioned in the will, and no, they weren't. But there were the names of three nephews, one of whom had an uncommon surname. I was able to trace him through White Pages directory and called him. He was unable to shed any light on where the medals might be, but gave me the contact details for the other two beneficiaries of Edie's will. I contacted them and neither were able to help as far as the whereabouts of the medals, but one said that he thought that the Public Trustee had cleared out Edie's home after she died and so all of her belongings would have been sold.

I have to say here that although I didn't find the medals at this stage, I made some wonderful new connections with these relatives.

I thought I had come to the end of the road with my medal

search. However, one evening when I was on the computer, I googled William Cuthbert Peterson's name for no particular reason. Much to my surprise the top listing was of William Cuthbert Peterson's three WW1 medals, plus his diary containing letters and photos as well as other information that had sold on Trade Me about one month prior to this. I almost wept! If only I had thought to do this five weeks previously. The vendor was a dealer, but the buyer appeared to be a private person.

The following day I rang Trade Me to see if I could contact the buyer, explaining my reason for wanting the medals, or at least photos of them. Trade Me were unable to tell me for privacy reasons (I was not surprised), but said they had gone to a collector and would be in good hands. I thought that would be the end of the road, but then I became like a dog unwilling to give up its bone.

I decided to call the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and tell them about my experience. Their view was that the medals should not have gone out of New Zealand and if they were with someone who would be looking after them that was good. They suggested I could try putting my reasons for wanting them, or photos of them, in an email to the vendor (the dealer) requesting that he forward my email on to the buyer – which I did.

Some time elapsed. Eventually I received an email from the buyer with photos of all the items attached. Not as good as having the actual items, but better than never seeing them at all.

Postscript: About a year later through telling this story to someone else, I was able to do a deal through an intermediary, and I now have the medals and other relevant items in my possession.

3) The WW1 diary

My late father-in-law Leslie Oswald BOYD 'gave' his WW1 diary to a young man who was writing about soldiers' experiences in WW1. Les had given me his diary to read before this happened and the thing that I remember most from reading it is the many days that he started his entry with "I feel dreadful today". I have tried many possible places where it may have ended up including Alexander Turnbull Library, Archives New Zealand and Waiouru Military Museum. All to no avail. Like the medals, this is also likely to be with a collector or dealer and sitting on a shelf somewhere simply gathering value. I will not give up until I locate it.

Postscript: One of my adult grandsons has taken over this search for his great-grandfather's diary.

4) What ever happened to baby Amelia?

My mother's paternal grandmother, Jane Louisa FOUNTAIN, died in 1872, aged 35, from bronchitis, in Surrey, England. She left four children, the youngest, Amelia Maria, only nine months old. Her husband William emigrated to New Zealand with the children two years later, but we can only confirm that the three older children arrived with him. I have searched English census records, and marriage and death records, including deaths at sea – in Britain and New Zealand to no avail.

There is a diary of the voyage kept by another passenger that notes several children died on the journey. No names are given. It is possible that Amelia was one of these, but such a tragedy would surely have been mentioned by her older

(Continues on page 160) →

→ (Continued from page 159)

siblings at some time in their lives. Sadly, the Surgeon's report of the voyage appears not to have survived.

It is quite possible she was adopted out after her mother's death either to a family member, neighbour or close friend and therefore her name may have been changed. But I will not give up looking for her.

I have written this in the hope that it will encourage others to keep going with their own challenging searches. The only other 'tip' that I can offer is for those who would love to visit the home town of their ancestors, to walk in their footsteps so to speak, but are unable to do so due to poor health, age or financial constraints.

Recently I discovered that the whole of the village of Stannared, Sweden, where my great-grandfather was born, has been filmed from a drone (see Stannared Farsdag 2014 on YouTube). When viewing it you feel as though you are actually on the drone having a low flying bird's eye view! It is quite probable that other towns and villages around the world have been filmed in this way.

Elaine Boyd. E: elco@xtra.co.nz

RIGHT: Corporal Leslie Oswald Boyd,
New Zealand Medical Corp, Field Ambulance.



History of Colonial Armed Forces in New Zealand 1840–1870

Tor Riley

With the recent addition of Armed Constabulary indexes to the Kiwi Collection, it might be helpful to members to provide a brief history of New Zealand's early military evolution.

Following the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in 1840, British Imperial troops from a variety of regiments were transferred from Australia and overseas and became responsible for maintaining New Zealand's security. The last regiment departed in 1870.

During this 30 period, the Imperial troops were supplemented by local Militia units under the Militia Ordinance 1845, triggered by the Wairau Affray (1843) and the Flagstaff War (1845).

In 1858 the newly-created New Zealand Parliament revised and expanded the Militia Ordinance and replaced it with the Militia Act. The Defence Act 1886 reclassified the militia as volunteers, the forerunners of the current Territorial Force. There had been informal volunteer units from as early as 1845 although they were not approved or regulated until the Militia Act 1858 came into force. Members were exempt from militia duty but might serve anywhere in New Zealand.

The first regular force was created in 1863 with the passing of the Colonial Defence Force Act 1862. This force was mounted and comprised both Maori and European settlers. It was limited to 500 men based in six different districts across the country. All were volunteers who were expected to serve for three years. Recruitment was slow, numbering only 375 by November 1863. By October 1864 the Government reduced the size of the Colonial Defence Force to 75, with three units of 25 men each based in Wellington, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki (these units were apparently known as 'Squadrons', e.g.

'Colonial Defence Force, Auckland Squadron'). At this time Imperial troops in New Zealand numbered about 10,000, with about the same number of volunteer and militia forces.

A defence review in 1865 proposed an armed constabulary force of 1,500 supported by friendly Maori, Volunteer and Militia to replace the Imperial troops for the maintenance of internal security.

The years 1863–1867 saw the creation of numerous small local-defence volunteer units beginning with Bush Rangers, which were later joined by Rifle Volunteer, Cavalry and Artillery units. See *New Zealand Medal to Colonials* by the late Richard Stowers for more information.

The Colonial Defence Force (and many of the Volunteer units) was disbanded in October 1867 with the enactment of the Armed Constabulary Act 1867. Its members transferred to the new organisation which became the only permanent force in New Zealand. The Armed Constabulary initially had a dual militia and police function and is recognised as the direct ancestor of both the modern New Zealand Police and the Defence Force. Given that the Armed Constabulary also used gunboats and steamers it can also claim parentage of the Royal New Zealand Navy. In 1886 the militia role of the Armed Constabulary was transferred to the New Zealand Permanent Militia under the Defence Act 1886.

Returning to the indexes in the Kiwi Collection, these are supported by transcriber's comments to clarify or correct an entry or to add context.

The individual Record Source Notes contain contextual information about each index such as statistical information (age and height, previous occupation), potted biographies of officers and senior non-commissioned officers, abbreviations (rank and previous unit) and a list of further reading.

Tor Riley. E: heke1843@gmail.com

Branches

Hamilton

Hamilton Branch reaches fifty

Saturday 8 October 2022 dawned as one of those exceptional spring mornings – crisp, a low breeze with a warming sun. The warmth of human friendship was about to be rekindled as our 65 members and guests arrived at the picturesque rural locale of Zenders Café and Venue, located just a few kilometres out of the city, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hamilton Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The many hours of discussion and planning by the 50th Committee of Colleen Osmond, Gail Thompson, Grace Wyatt, Kaye Forster-Hill, Marilyn Richer and Raewynne Leigh was to finally become a reality.

Beginning as most New Zealand gatherings do, we had coffees and teas with scones while people arrived and The Zaal (the Netherland Barn) was soon humming with conversation. Adding character to the scene, some arrived in their ancestral dress including Bohemian, Chinese, Scottish and Victorian.

Great interest was created by our tables decorated with differing ancestral themes, each arranged by individual members with heirlooms and artefacts fossicked from members' shelves and storage chests. The themes recalled days gone by with craft (sewing), communications (writing equipment), land development (Kauri gum), male interests (shaving set and books), music (bugle and sheet music), religion (family bible), social gatherings (tea set) and transportation (horse statues and stirrup).

Our 'Times Past' table displayed old reference books and registers, poppies accompanied soldiers' hats, photograph albums and history records of the Branch, plus the inclusion of the iconic child's buzzy bee.

Surrounded with gold, white and black balloons, and under the many flags of our heritage countries, we were welcomed by our convenor, Christine Barbour, followed by a nostalgic look back at the ways we researched in a presentation by our own member, Lynne Blake.

The ceremonial cutting of our celebratory cake was performed by two of our foundation members, Elizabeth Rossiter and Virginia Graham, and then we progressed to our awards: Beth Hooper received a Life Membership to



Virginia and Elizabeth cut the anniversary cake.



Awards: Marilyn, Graeme, Beth, with Raewynne in the front.

Hamilton Branch, Raewynne Leigh a 30-year Service Award, Marilyn Richer a Branch Service Award and Graeme Richer a Certificate of Recognition.



Branches

With much hilarity and between the catchup chats, we obliged the photographer when summoned for decade group photos and then an 'everyone'. We were thrilled to have with us Elizabeth, Lynne, Virginia, Bev Woolley and Allan Hawke, five members from our first decade and twelve from the second. Several of them still members of our group.

Lunch followed and the conversation never hesitated as older members caught up with friends from three, four and five decades past, and made new acquaintances.

Following lunch the formal part of our day ended with a musically backed PowerPoint dedicated to the over 600 past and present members of our Branch. Many of them have volunteered numerous hours on transcribing projects and register recording. Most were involved in hosting and participating in the interest groups, and quite a number had been elected (was it voluntary or was there some coercing, maybe even bribery?) onto committees over the 50 years.

We know that the celebrations have not ended there, with old friendships renewed, our newer members discovering the 'people' behind the names of our founders and earlier members, and present members enjoying the comradeship of the Branch.

Graeme Richer,
Newsletter Editor,
Hamilton Branch



RIGHT:
Writing display.
PREVIOUS PAGE:
*Men's interests display
and music display.*
BELOW: *Everyone.*



*Gold Team 1972–1982. Lynne, Allan, Virginia at back,
Bev and Elizabeth in front.*



Interest Groups

Irish

Exploring the Dublin's Port Name Book

Did your ancestor work on the docks for the port of Dublin a century ago? Learn about Dublin Port Company's new digital archive including the 'Name Book' of employees. The Dublin Port Company, state-owned operator of the port of Ireland's capital, has announced the opening of the Dublin Port Digital Archive online at <https://www.dublinportarchive.com/>. The port authority holds archives from 1707, before the harbour was developed with the South Bull Wall and the Poolbeg Lighthouse later in the 18th century.

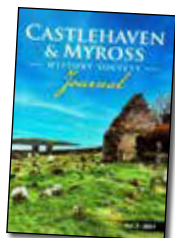
The holdings include: A 'Name Book' listing employees from 1906 to 1925; 75,000 photographs; 30,000 engineering drawings; 600 historical registers; Yearbooks 1926–1994; historical maps, newspaper clippings, books and paintings of the port. The collections are currently being catalogued and digitised under the direction of Lar Joye the Port Heritage Director who explains the project in a video. Selected materials from the collections are now online.

Mapping Ireland

'Mapping urban Ireland' explores the cartography of Irish cities and towns since the seventeenth century. The maps of Irish towns that are preserved in the Royal Irish Academy were produced for a variety of purposes over the last four centuries. Some had a military or propaganda function while others were drawn to assist in planning the future developments of towns. While the accuracy of the early maps varies, they are always a fascinating resource for the study of the development of Irish towns over time. In recent years, many historical maps of Irish towns have been used for the series of atlases of Irish cities and towns published by the Royal Irish Academy's Historic Towns Atlas project. Royal Irish Academy www.ria.ie

Castlehaven & Myross

Another anthology of serious yet light-hearted stories is assembled in the second Castlehaven and Myross journal. "It's all about the Parish of Castlehaven, gratefully anchored close to the rolling sea in West Cork, written by, for and about the people who live and have lived in this neck of the woods. This year we have lived in the best and worst of times and we sadly remember many departed parishioners. 'When an Elder dies, a library burns to the ground.'"



The Castlehaven & Myross History Society Journal Vol. 2 – 2021.

Irish Roots

Irish Roots 'provides readers with high quality informative content to assist them to overcome the many hurdles so often encountered in Irish genealogy. Working with an accomplished team of genealogists the Editor prides himself in providing a publication that has become an imperative and powerful resource tool for all those who endeavour to discover more about their individual family history. This magazine offers valuable content for everyone from the budding family history enthusiast to the more experienced genealogist.'

Over recent issues 120–123 the regular feature *Tracing Your Ancestor* by James G Ryan covers Counties Cavan, Antrim, Wicklow and Roscommon.

Irish Roots magazine is now also available in digital format, view <https://www.irishrootsmedia.com>

Irish Family History Centre

"Where your family history comes alive. Explore our vast library, join a community and get help discovering your Irish ancestry."

www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com Under the heading *Resources* you can access all back issues of *Irish Lives Remembered*, free to download or read online. The Irish Family History Society are the support behind EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum www.epicchq.com



Irish Lives Remembered

Irish Lives Remembered is a FREE e-magazine dedicated to helping you to trace your Irish ancestors. Each issue is packed with coloured pages of Irish Genealogy resources; there is something for everyone! www.irishlivesremembered.ie

In Issue 57 Summer 2022 on pages 106–109, past Editor Patrick Roycroft has published an article 'Guidelines to Authors'. The headings to sections within this article cover summary of guidelines, target audience and general advice, article tips, length and need for illustrations, article title and written text, figures and their captions, and references/sources used.

Family Search

Almost 119,000 parish registers and nonconformist records have been added to free family history website FamilySearch www.familysearch.org The largest addition was to the collection England, Middlesex Parish Registers 1539–1988 which benefited from an extra 197,709 entries for christenings, marriages and burials that took place in the county between 1538 and 1916. The England census returns from 1841–1861 recorded an extremely high percentage of Irish born persons living within Middlesex boundaries. Extracted from WDYTYA, September 2022.

Tourism Ireland

With tourism restarting if you are travelling to Ireland make sure one of your first 'ports of call' is Tourism Ireland New Zealand. A selection of maps and brochures are available along with assistance provided on any general travel questions. Check out their promotional material on our webpage under Tourism Ireland www.Ireland.com

Tourism Ireland invites you to preview the premiere of an exciting Ireland show case, a film clip narrated by Liam Neeson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQQZWbLqKSc>

Memorial notice for long time NZSG and IIG member Michael Coyne

I cannot claim to have known Michael Coyne well, for our meetings always took place amidst the hubbub of NZSG gatherings of Irish enthusiasts. On those occasions his deep and lively interest in matters Irish and historical often brought us together for furtive and lengthy chats. He was proud of his Irish grandfather, Robert Kernahan, one of Whangarei's leading citizens a century ago, and expressed curiosity about my current challenge in writing the New Zealand history of that most Irish of institutions, the Loyal Orange Order. More than that, he did some very useful digging for me in Papers Past, printing off the results and frequently adding some wry or perceptive comment. He kept up to date with Irish historiography, often cornering the new titles until he had digested their contents. I will remember Michael for his intellectual curiosity, his whimsical sense of humour and his unfussy generosity. RIP.

Rory Sweetman

Geraldene O'Reilly, Convenor Irish Interest Group.
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.

SEEKING

CLARKE / Teeth extraction

My father's father, Eric Manley CLARKE JP, was a dentist and Dad, Eric Reay Clarke, like his brothers, had good teeth. However, in 1942 at the age of 40, he was called up into the army and sent to do his training at the Papakura Military Camp. One of the first things they made him do was go and have all his teeth extracted and replaced with false teeth.

Why? In case he might get toothache and be incapacitated.

I have often wondered if this was a common practice in armies or if some local officer was just putting a personal theory into practice.

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

T: 09 6388566

DAVIS

Who was Arthur Wilmoor Davis? He died on 8 September 1936 at Paengaroa, near Te Puke, and is buried in the Old Te Puke Cemetery. There was a death notice in the *New Zealand Herald* on 15 September:

"DAVIS – On September 8, at Paengaroa, Arthur Willmoor [sic], late of Carterton, 18th Reinforcement, N.Z.E.F., dearly beloved husband of Agnes Sinclair Davis; in his 43rd year."

There is no obvious Arthur in the 18th Reinforcements, NZEF and the Arthur Davis born 1891 in Featherston who served during WWI (service no 16195), died in June 1960. There is no obvious Agnes Sinclair Davis, and no probate to check for further information.

His death certificate says that he was a sharemilker, but no record of his parents or any marriage is recorded. However, it did give his place of birth as Wairarapa. He was recorded as aged 43 pointing to an 1892/1893 birthdate. We checked the New Zealand births for 1891 +/- 2 years using ancestry.com for births in the Wairarapa using, Arthur, Davis (and variations) and then using no first or last names. Nothing obvious found. We checked the Wairarapa newspapers, but again nothing obvious.

In fact, the only place that the name Arthur Wilmoor/Willmoor Davis appears is on the death notice and the death certificate issued. Wilmoor/Willmoor didn't appear to be a surname used in New Zealand though Wilmore/Willmore is, and of course Davis could have been Davies, Davey etc.

So why would someone pay for a death notice for a non-existent person? If anyone is missing someone who fits our man, please let us know.

Christine Clement, Te Puke.

E: cmclementnz@gmail.com



Thank you and farewell Bruce!

Wellington conference, February 1978.

I don't remember them all, but these

Hawke's Bay members include

Marion Crawford (second from left)
and Rosemary Lewis (right rear).

In middle front Virginia Graham has
been my genealogy and garden friend
and correspondent ever since.

Letters

Seeking PIERCE photo album

I am looking for a missing photo album. In 1890 my grandfather James PIERCE arrived in New Zealand from Wigan, Lancashire. His family gave him as a parting gift a leather and brass bound album, about A4 size.

He was the seventh of 15 children, his parents were David and Elizabeth Pierce. Born in Wigan in 1865, he died in New Zealand in 1938. James married Elizabeth ROBERTS in 1892 and they farmed for many years in Eltham, Taranaki.

The first photo in the album is of a boy's bicycle with a basket attached to the front handlebars. As his parents were fishmongers, I guess this was the delivery bike.

I am trying to find this album last seen in my parents home in Oamaru about 1953, when my mother and I left father. He remarried some years later.

I would very much like to recover this album as it is full

of family photos. Any help would be appreciated either to recover the album or to have copies of the photos. I am prepared to negotiate either way.

June, née Pierce. E: james.pierce8291@gmail.com

Offering BUCKBY / WHITELAW photo album

I have been looking after a large album of Dr Arthur Grey Hesilridge Buckby, who lived in Kamo and Whangarei. He has origins in England and Ireland.

I have scanned all the photos and would like to forward the album on to someone, but I cannot identify descendants of the Buckby or Whitelaw families.

We are moving to a retirement home next year and I would hate to toss this out.

Pamela Mare, former NZSG member.

T: 04 2389906. E: maremp@xtra.co.nz

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.LowerNlsig@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

Lookups for births and deaths c1940 to date from *The New Zealand Herald*. Email request to northshore@genealogy.org.nz, or to Dennise Cook, Research Officer, North Shore Branch NZSG, PO Box 89045, Torbay, Auckland 0742. A small donation to the branch will be welcome, depending on results.

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

Updated Dec 2022!



Don't know where to start your family history research?

The Kiwi Collection is your online gateway to 12 million records, helping you to connect the dots and compile your to-do list!

www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi

