



New Zealand FAMILY TREE



Published Three Times Yearly

Te Rakau Whakapapa o Aotearoa
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An Unexpected Find, by Kevin White

In an earlier article in this magazine, I mentioned that my great-great-grandfather **James Miles**, was buried at the Old Woolwich Cemetery, London. His son, my great-grandfather **Benjamin Miles** is buried with him and his death notice states that he *"was buried in the family plot."* The website **Deceased online** informed me that the plot contained six burials. The site also gave me the grave reference number U/169 and a map.

interment details		
authority	Royal Borough of Greenwich - London	
cemetery	Woolwich Cemetery	
grave reference	U/169	
Sort By:	Deceased name	
	Results per page:	10
name	date	date of death
Miles, Sarah Georgina	20 Aug 1954	17 Aug 1954
Miles, Benjamin	07 Dec 1943	01 Dec 1943
Mason, Mary Ann	31 Jan 1940	26 Jan 1940
Miles, Mary Ann	02 Jan 1896	26 Dec 1895
Miles, James	29 Dec 1866	21 Dec 1866
Miles, James	28 Jul 1864	23 Jul 1864

Margaret and I headed to Old Woolwich cemetery in search of the Miles plot. When we arrived, we were dismayed to see that very few headstones remained. The local Greenwich Borough Council (Greenwich), in its determination to turn the old, now disused cemetery into a park (dog park), removed old headstones. They decided that uncared for headstones, and headstones deemed to be more than fifty years old could be removed as of

right. We noticed that some headstones were placed along a fenceline, but not ours. Site U/169 was bare.



Disappointed, having travelled quite a distance, by tube and train to get to the cemetery, we decided to look around at the remaining monuments, especially a very large cross, standing alone near the edge of cemetery.

It turned out to be a public memorial for victims of the

Princess Alice disaster.

The cross marked the burial place for 120 unnamed victims, lost in the *Princess Alice* disaster on the River Thames, on 3 September 1878 when the pleasure paddle-steamer *Princess Alice* was struck by the collier steamer *Bywell Castle*. This commemorative cross was erected by a national sixpenny subscription to which over 23,000 people contributed.

In Victorian times, pleasure trips were very popular. The paddle-steamer *Princess Alice*, named after Queen Victoria's daughter, was returning from a twilight trip to Rosherville Gardens.

The *Princess Alice* was making what was billed as a "Moonlight Trip" from Swan Pier, by London Bridge to Sheerness and back, stopping at Blackwall, North Woolwich and Rosherville Gardens, a popular pleasure park.



It was unknown exactly how many passengers were on board, as their tickets were interchangeable and they could hop on and hop off at their leisure. The cost was about two shillings.

The master of *Princess Alice*, Captain William Grinstead, aged 47, let his helmsman disembark at Gravesend, and replaced him with a passenger, a seaman named John Ayers. Ayers had little experience of the Thames, or of helming a craft such as *Princess Alice*. As they came within sight of the North Woolwich Pier, where many passengers were to

disembark, another vessel *Bywell Castle* was sighted. The *Bywell Castle* was a collier and had a raised forecastle, which restricted the vision of its helmsman. As it was getting dark a seaman was placed on lookout.

All those on board the paddle steamer were in good spirits, the band was playing as they were nearing the pier at North Woolwich. Suddenly the iron coal steamer appeared, heading at speed towards the pleasure paddle steamer. The inexperienced helmsman was unable to avoid the collision as it rammed into the mid-quarters near the paddles.



She was almost cut in two. Passengers including many children, spilled into the murky water, clinging to whatever they could. The Thames was 5.5 metres deep at this point and the *Princess Alice* sank in about five minutes.

The fate of those flung into the Thames was decided there and then. They died, not because many couldn't swim, but because the water that they gulped into their stomachs and lungs was almost pure sewage. Only 150 or so survived initially out of 800 passengers, despite the fact that it happened in one of the busiest rivers in the world. Several vessels were close enough to help. What would have certainly harmed every man, woman or child at the point where the collision took place was a deadly brew of chemicals from nearby tanneries and untreated sewage.

Sir Joseph Bazalgette had begun to implement his riverbank sewage system. At this time in 1878 this system did not treat the sewage it merely diverted it from the Thames in central London, where the notorious ‘Great Stink’ of 1858 had prompted urgent action, to various points downstream. In September 1878 the main release point was the Great Northern Outfall, a little to the east of North Woolwich. Here, thousands of litres of microbe-laden sewage and toxic hydrocarbons from nearby factories were being discharged into the Thames night and day. Some survivors died many days later of typhoid. Some bodies would never be identified, as whole families died together, leaving no-one to identify them.

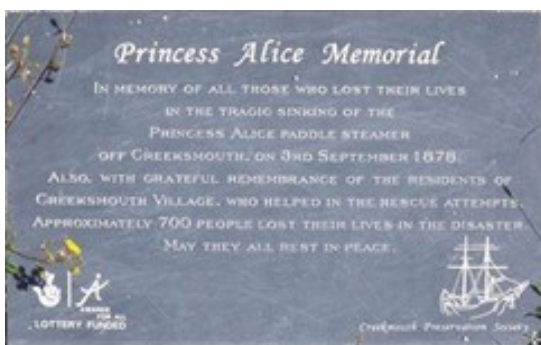
The memorial in the Old Woolwich cemetery has about 150 unidentifiable bodies buried nearby.

The plaque on the memorial reads:

*“The saloon steamer **Princess Alice** returning from a pleasure excursion was wrecked off Tripcock Point by collision with the steam collier **Bywell Castle** on the night of September 3rd, 1878. It was computed that seven hundred men women and children were on board. Of these about 550 were drowned. One hundred and twenty were buried near this place. To the memory of those who perished this cross was erected by a national sixpenny subscription to which more than 23000 persons contributed.”*

"In the midst of life, we are in death."

Further down the river was the village of Creekmouth. It was a semi-isolated village with marshes all around.



Creekmouth memorials – Thames River

On seeing the disaster, the villagers toiled in the dark to pull ashore as many as they could – dead or alive. Their heroism did not go unnoticed. The authorities decided to put up another memorial and later a memorial plaque.

For days after the tragedy, the boatmen of Creekmouth toiled to recover bodies. They earned a "grisly prize" of **five shillings** for each body they recovered from the sewage-polluted river. These bodies were buried nearby. The Miles plot at the Woolwich cemetery may not have had a headstone, but the identity of those buried in the site were known and named, unlike the unnamed poor souls buried near the impressive ***Princess Alice*** memorial in the same cemetery.

Programme of meetings – April to August 2026

12 April 2026 Visit to Soldier's Block, Queen Mary Heritage Reserve, Hanmer Springs. Carpool by meeting at 8:50 a.m. outside 401 Papanui Rd. Meet 12 p.m. at Queen Mary Heritage Reserve, gold coin admission. **Mark Inglis** will guide us around and speak about this historic place.

3 May 2026 2 p.m. Adrienne Shaw, talking on "Chinese ANZACS"

7 June 2026 2 p.m. Annual General Meeting of FHSNZ and speakers

5 July 2026 12:30 p.m. Midwinter Christmas dinner, venue TBA.

2 August 2026 2 p.m. Natasha Wells, "Think like a detective" TBC.

All meetings commence at 2 p.m. at the Elmwood Park Bowling Club, Heaton Street, on the 1st Sunday of the month, unless otherwise advised. A \$3 door charge applies for meetings at the Bowling Club. Afternoon tea follows the meetings.

The Sarah Miles (nee Taylor) Mystery, by Kevin White

To round off my paternal side of the family tree, I decided to clarify the fate of **Sarah Taylor**, born 1821 in Charlton, near Woolwich, who had married my great-great-paternal grandfather **James Miles** on 5 November 1837 in Ratcliff, Stepney. This was the first marriage for both of them.

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1837. Marriage solemnized by Banns in the Parish of Stepney in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
215	November 5	James Miles	17 ^{1/2} yrs	Bachelor	Labourer	Ratcliff	James Miles	Labourer
		Sarah Taylor	17 ^{1/2} yrs	Spinster		Ratcliff	John Taylor	Waterman

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, Wm. Birt *Eccles. parson*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Miles and Sarah Taylor in the Presence of us, Wm. Birt and Mary Taylor

On 25 October 1842 Sarah and James had their only child, a son **John Miles**.

John was born in Plumstead according to this baptism record, or Kennington on his 1851 Census papers or Walworth on his 1881 census or his false baptism papers of 1853 (more about this baptism later).

From 1842 onwards James's interpretation of the truth starts to unravel.

In 1847, he remarries, this time to **Mary Ann Taylor**. *Sarah Taylor and Mary Ann Taylor are unrelated. Sarah's father is John a waterman of Ratcliff and Mary Ann's father is Samuel a steel moulder of Plumstead.*

The marriage certificate of **James Miles** states that he was a widower.

London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921 for Mary Ann Taylor
Greenwich > St Nicholas, Plumstead > 1847

1847. Marriage solemnized at the Church in the Parish of Plumstead in the County of Kent

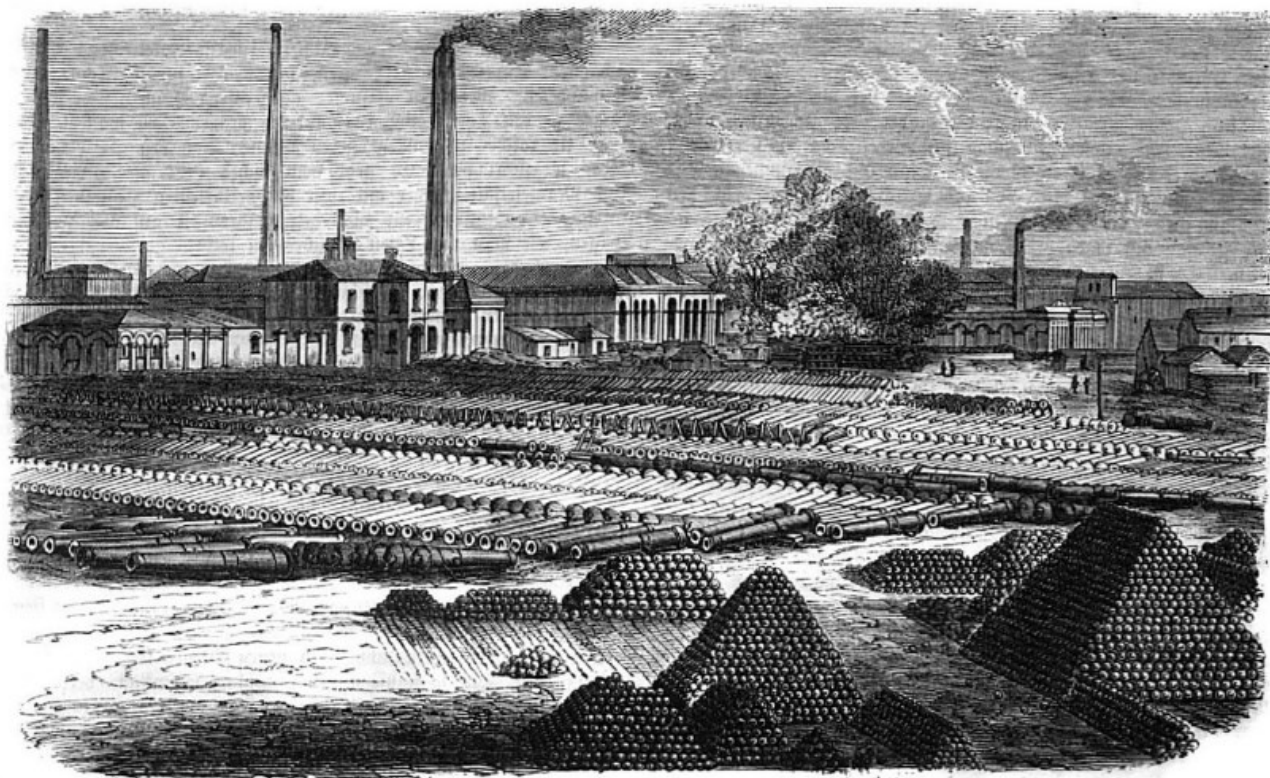
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
70	Aug 3	James Miles	26 yrs	Widower	Iron Founder	Plumstead	Jr. Miles	Iron Founder
		Mary Ann Taylor	26 yrs	Spinster		Plumstead	Sam. Taylor	Black Smith

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by me, Edwin Lick *Eccles. parson*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Miles and Mary Ann Taylor in the Presence of us, Edwin Lick and Robert Miles

To be a widower, his first wife Sarah, must have died, **between 25 October 1842 (when John was born) and 3 August 1847 (when James remarried)**. There is no record of a death of Sarah **Miles** in Plumstead or Woolwich that could be found. Later in the article you come to realise that **this is James's**

first lie, his wife was still alive in 1881! James lived in Plumstead and worked at the Arsenal Foundry as a brass / iron moulder.



Part of the Woolwich Arsenal where James and his sons worked. This drawing is from 1868.

Why did **James Miles**, when he married for the second time in 1847, state that he was a widower? You could only remarry, in Victorian times, if your wife had died or you were divorced. Even if Sarah and James had had a falling out, divorce would have been out of the question, because in those times (1847) full divorce (allowing remarriage) required a private Act of Parliament, costing thousands of pounds. Between 1700 and 1857, only 314 such Acts were passed.

The second marriage to **Mary Ann Taylor** produced six children including my great-grandfather **Benjamin Miles**. On 17 July 1853, James decided to baptise two of his children, John (from the first marriage) and Mary Ann (from the second). This was John's second baptism 11 years after he was born. John's baptism paper is false, because James has entered John's mother's name as Mary Ann, not Sarah.

July 17	James	Miles	Plumstead	from W. A. ...
No. 373.	Mary Ann	Born October 25 th 1842	Foundry	Woolwich
July 17	Mary Ann	Miles	Plumstead	from W. A. ...
No. 374.	Mary Ann	Born May 26 th 1853	Foundry	Woolwich

She should have been entered as **Sarah Miles (deceased)**. The statement of **Mary Ann** as John's mother is **James's second lie**.

On the 1851 Census, James, his new wife Mary Ann, son John from the first marriage to Sarah and a niece were living at 166 Greenwich Road. James died in 1866 in Plumstead. He is buried with Mary Ann in the family plot in Old Woolwich Cemetery.

In 1871 the census has Mary Ann as widowed and living with three of her children, Thomas, Mary Ann and Benjamin. On the next census, 1881, she is living with two of her children including my great-grandfather **Benjamin Miles** and his sister **Mary Ann (Polly)**.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Sanitary District of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Electoral Parish or Town of
Plumstead			Greenwich		Plumstead		St. Andrew
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, ALLEY, or No. or NAME of HOUSE	NAME and Residence of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	SEX	AGE last Birthday	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WEEKS WORK
204/37	Green St	James Lawrence	Husband	Male	59		20
205/34	20	Mary A. Miller	Wife	Female	59	Labourer	20
		Benjamin	Son	Male	23	Labourer	20
		Mary A.	Daughter	Female	24		20
206		William A. Brown	Husband	Male	3		20
		Thomas White	Head	Male	45		20
		Mary A.	Wife	Female	45		20
		Thomas J.	Son	Male	16		20
		Charles	Son	Male	13	Labourer	20
207/41	0	Emily K.	Wife	Female	12		20
		James G. G.	Head	Male	24	Labourer	20
		John	Son	Male	8	Labourer	20
		William	Son	Male	0		20
		James	Son	Male	4		20
208		Elizabeth A. G.	Head	Female	47	Labourer	20
		Elizabeth A.	Wife	Female	37		20
		William A.	Son	Male	14	Labourer	20
		James A.	Son	Male	5		20
209/43	0	James G. G.	Head	Male	46	Labourer	20
		James	Son	Male	42		20
5	Total of Houses				43	66	2

But, at the same time on the UK 1881 Census, wife **Sarah** reappears, living with her son John and his wife Susan. **Sarah is named as Mrs. Miles, Mother, living in Lambeth!** The census calls her Mrs. Miles having been born around 1821 in Charlton (near Woolwich). These are the exact details of my so called “dead” great-grandmother!

141	Mary J. G.	Wife	Female	54	Engine Driver	Waltham
	John Miles	Head	Male	54		Waltham
	Mary G.	Wife	Female	60		Waltham
	M. G.	Mother	Female	60		Waltham
	John W. Mansell	Nephew	Male	14		Waltham
	Thomas Smith	Head	Male	50		Waltham

On the census we note a **John W Mansell**, Susan's nephew.

John Miles was a sailor. He was married to **Susan Elizabeth Garrett** and they had no children.

In 1871 John was invalided and living in a seaman's hospital and Susan was living with her husband's uncle **Henry Miles** and her sister **Amy Garrett**. There was no sign of **Sarah Miles** in 1871.

The only conclusion I can safely come to, regarding James's remarriage, was that he wanted a new wife and decided to lie about it. He called himself a widower, which he clearly wasn't, with his first wife still alive in 1881. **That makes him not only a liar but also a bigamist!**

Maybe James decided to claim that he was a widower, as Sarah had separated from him and could not be located invoking the 'seven-year desertion rule'.

By the early 19th century, the courts had developed a presumption rule stating that a spouse who had not been heard of for seven years could be presumed dead. This, then, is the origin of the much-misunderstood 'seven-year rule'.

But in James's case, it had only been five years, not seven, since John's birth. **Caught out as a liar again!**

Family History Field Trip to Westport and Reefton, 13-15 March 2026, by Margaret White

Each year, our field trip rolls around with the same mixture of curiosity, anticipation and the hope that the weather will be kind to us of course. This year the west coast did not disappoint. We visited a fascinating collection of places that deepened our understanding of the region and its stories. We gathered in Westport, on Friday evening for dinner at the Cosmopolitan hotel. Although only six of us were able to make the first meal, the size made for an especially relaxed and enjoyable evening. A seventh joined us the next morning.



At 10 a.m., we met at the local Museum, Kawatiri (incorporating the former Coaltown Museum). We were treated to a wonderful guided tour by Rama Port, an exceptionally knowledgeable guide, and manager of the museum. The Kawatiri museum, which is a new addition to the town, offered a fascinating insight into the history of the region. We were particularly impressed by a remarkable display developed by Weta Workshop. The exhibit featured an explanation of the formation of gold, coal and pounamu (greenstone) and the story of the indigenous peoples of New Zealand.

After lunch we made our way up to Denniston, once the site of a major coal mining settlement. As we stood in the old secondary school room, we were given an excellent talk by Gary James, a very knowledgeable local man. Remarkably he is one of only six people now living on Denniston and he is passionate about keeping its history alive.



The Denniston Incline was a remarkable feat of engineering. It was built in 1879 to bring coal off the plateau, down to the railway below, where it would travel to the port at Westport and out to the world. From top to bottom it dropped 1,770 feet, a near vertical descent carved into the hillside. Loaded wagons full of coal were sent down the steep track, their great weight pulling empty wagons back up. The people who lived on the plateau, often had little choice but to use it themselves. Miners and their wives sometimes rode on top of the coal, clinging to the hooks on the side. No one could be buried on Denniston because of the rocky surface and so coffins also had to be transported down the incline in the same way. In 1967, after decades of service, it ceased operation. Today the remains of the incline are still there, a reminder of the ingenuity, bravery and determination of those early miners, engineers and their families.

That evening we enjoyed dinner at the aptly named *Denniston Dog*. With its relaxed atmosphere and lovely food, it proved the perfect place to round off a very interesting day.



Two members were energetic enough to climb part of the incline pictured on left

The next morning, we had to be up early as we set off for Reefton, over an hour away. We met outside the Blacks Point Museum; a wonderfully quaint place filled with remarkable resources and historical material. There we were to meet yet another wonderfully dedicated coaster, John Taylor. We spent over two hours with this former mining engineer, who generously shared his knowledge with us. He guided us through the museum's extensive treasures and records, explaining many aspects of the region's rich gold mining history.

One of the highlights was being taken out to a shed, which housed an old water-powered gold stamper battery. He switched it on for us, demonstrating how the crushing machinery once worked in the processing of gold ore.



After lunch we went to visit a recently renovated hydro-electric power station and water race, remembering of course that Reefton was the first locality in New Zealand to have reticulated electric power. The peaceful scenery provided a striking contrast to the industrial history we had been learning about.

Five of us stayed on for another night, which gave us time to relax and enjoy a walk around the charming little town of Reefton. A huge vote of thanks must go to Nigel Larsen for organizing such a wonderful trip. He provided a fascinating programme of places to visit, and he also managed to find some excellent spots for us to eat - always an important part of any successful trip.

*"Damn Denniston
Damn the track
Damn the way both there and back
Damn the wind and damn the weather
God damn Denniston altogether."*
Anonymous traveller 1880s.

This was our 12th Field Trip and once again it reminded us of how rewarding they can be. One of the real pleasures, is spending time in some of the smaller towns, that we might otherwise have driven straight through. Trips like this enrich our understanding of the past but also strengthen the connections we share as a group. We are already looking forward to the next one.



Exchange Magazines Received By The Society Library

Did you know that we exchange e-journals with 48 other family history societies from around the world?

If your ancestors came from any of these countries, regions or areas, then look up their latest e-magazine.

The magazines are downloaded onto the computer by the kitchen bench and printer in our library. (no internet needed)

Good reading

Kevin White

Journals Exchange co-ordinator

Australian

Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies

BegaValley FHS

Bribie Island Family History Association

Coffs Harbour & District FHS NSW

Cooroy-Noosa Queensland

Mornington Peninsula FHS

Narre Warren & District FH

Queensland FHS

Queensland (Central) FHS

Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory

Richmond Tweed FHS

South-East FH Group South Aust.

Society of Australian Genealogists (NSW)

Tasmania

The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra (The Oliver Society)

Wendish News

Toowoomba FHS

UK and Ireland

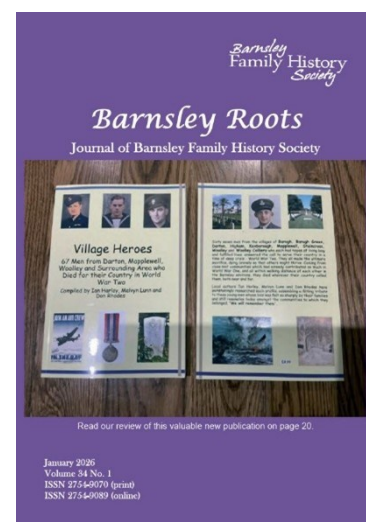
Barnsley FHS

Berkshire

Buckinghamshire FHS



Family History Society of Cheshire
 Calderdale FHS – Halifax and Districts
 Chesterfield FHS
 Cleveland, North Yorkshire & South Durham FHS
 Doncaster
 East Yorkshire FHS
 Felixstowe FHS
 Hertfordshire FHS
 Ipswich Genealogical Society
 Liverpool and South-West Lancashire FHS
 Manchester
 Nottinghamshire FHS
 Society of Genealogists
 Suffolk FHS
 Surrey (East) FHS
 Surrey (West) FHS
 Waltham Forest FHS



Scotland

Aberdeen & North-East Scotland
 Central Scotland
 Glasgow & West of Scotland
 Highland Family History Society
 Lanarkshire
 Lothians

Canada

Ontario Genealogical Society
 British Columbia
 Newfoundland & Labrador FHS
 Manitoba Genealogical Society

New Zealand

Canterbury Genealogy Society
 A total of 48 Societies, as of 1 February 2026



Lowering The Colours: Part 4 - Southern Tour And Test Matches

FHSNZ president David Hill continues his series of articles about the England women's hockey team's 1914 tour of New Zealand.

After the defeat to Canterbury, the England team travelled south to Invercargill by train, where it played Southland on 16 September. England proved to be too strong, winning by 8-1.

Returning to Dunedin, the England team recorded an emphatic 6-0 win over Otago.

The England team made a brief visit to Queenstown, but it did not go entirely to plan with Miss Robinson being injured after a fall while climbing Ben Lomond.

The Sun newspaper reported on 19 September that the New Zealand team had been announced for the first test in Wellington:

Goalkeeper M Arthur (Taranaki), full-backs E Birchley (Manawatu) and D Tinney (Wellington), halves M Malcolm (Poverty Bay), D Rabbidge (Southland, captain). and M Swain (Hawke's Bay), forwards M McDonnell (Wellington), S Kruse (Canterbury), R Malcolm (Poverty Bay), M Pearce (Canterbury) and R Nielson (Wairarapa). Three players were yet to be selected.

Miss M Arthur seems to have been Eva May Arthur. May Arthur was born in 1894 and was the daughter of John Geake and Sarah Emma Arthur. John Geake Arthur is listed in the 1881, 1893, 1896 and 1911 Electoral Rolls as a gas works manager in New Plymouth. Miss Arthur played for the Whakatika club, began playing hockey in 1906 and first represented Taranaki in 1909.

Miss Arthur was voted by her New Zealand team mates as the “most useful” player in the team and received a trophy. England captain Miss Gaskell said Miss Arthur was “*the safest goalkeeper the England team had met on the tour, and even better than Miss Wetherell*”. She worked as a rate clerk at the local borough council and later moved to Auckland in 1918.

Henrietta Gertrude (Etta) Birchley was praised for her defensive work during the test series. She was born on 31 December, 1897, the daughter of John Joseph and Helen Birchley. She married Alexander Joseph John Samuel Brown in 1927 and died in 1977 at the age of 79.



New Zealand 1914

Record ID: AWNZ-19141008-44-07. Auckland Weekly News. Auckland Libraries
Goal: Miss May Arthur (Taranaki); Backs: Miss Etta Birchley (Manawatu) and Miss D Tinney (Wellington); Halves: Misses M Malcolm (Poverty Bay), D Rabbidge (Southland, captain), Muriel Swain (Hawkes Bay); Forwards: Misses M McDonnell (Wellington), S Kruse (Canterbury), R Malcolm (Poverty Bay), M Pearce (Canterbury), R Nielsen (Wairarapa). The other two unidentified players are likely to be Hilda Emms (Nelson) who played in the final test, and Jeane Robertson (Hawkes Bay) who is the reserve for the match.

Daisy Eleanor Tinney was listed in the 1925 Electoral Roll as a spinster in the Wellington East electorate. She was born in 1893, the daughter of John and Eleanor Agatha Tinney. John Tinney was listed in the 1893 and 1896 Electoral Rolls as a painter in Wellington. Daisy Tinney was buried in the Karori Cemetery in 1962, having died aged 69 years.

The Malcolm sisters seem to have been Mary Hamilton Crawford and Alice Ruth Richmond Malcolm, who were twins born in 1893 to Frank Souter and Alice Fanny Malcolm, based on a search of the Birth, Death and Marriage



England v New Zealand Wellington 1914

Record ID: AWNS-19131008-47-01.

Auckland Weekly News. Auckland Libraries. Showing six snapshots of the first ladies' hockey test match between English and New Zealand representative players at the Basin Reserve, Wellington.

historical records. Frank Souter Malcolm was listed in the 1911 Electoral Roll as an auctioneer in Gisborne. Mary Hamilton Crawford Malcolm married Allan Lambert Davidson in 1916.

Dorothy Shand Rabbidge was born in 1894 and was the daughter of Samuel

and Elizabeth Baxter Rabbidge. Samuel Rabbidge was listed in the 1881, 1893, 1896 and 1911 Electoral Rolls as a draper in Invercargill. Dorothy Shand married Walter Alexander McLean in 1920. She died in 1963, aged 69.

There was a Mary Catherine

McDonnell born in 1892 to John and Mary McDonnell. There is an intention to marry listed for John McDonnell in Wellington in 1891. There are two John McDonnells listed in the 1911 Electoral Roll in Wellington – a settler in the Wellington Suburbs electorate and a fruiterer in the Wellington East electorate. A Mary Catherine McDonnell is listed as a spinster in the 1925 Electoral Roll for the Wellington Suburbs electorate. She was buried in the Karori Cemetery in 1983.

A possible candidate for Miss R Nielson, is Alice Rachael Nielson, who was born in 1899 to Lars and Hanna Nielson. This would have made her only 15-years-old in 1914, but this is not entirely unusual for this era, as many of the female hockey players playing provincial hockey seem to have been teenagers and barely out of school. There was a Lars Nielson who was buried in the Mauriceville Lutheran Cemetery, near Masterton in 1937 aged 74, which places

him in the Wairarapa region. Hanna Nielson is also listed in the 1893 Electoral Roll as a married woman in Mauriceville in the Masterton electorate.

Miss M Swain was Muriel Swain, daughter of Mr JWC Swain of Napier, born on 30 August, 1891. A newspaper report in 1915 referred to Miss Muriel Swain, of Napier, as *"the clever little left half-back who played in all three test matches against the English eleven"*. She was set to be married on 7 April to Mr Arthur HH Unwin. The wedding of Miss Edith Muriel Swain, daughter of Mr and Mrs JWC Swain, and Mr Arthur Henry Hibbert Unwin took place in Napier Cathedral on 7 April 1915. She died in 1976, aged 84. While the England team was in Dunedin, the newspapers reported that the Dunedin Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) executive committee expressed its "disapproval" at the OLHA arranging an excursion down the Otago Harbour for the England team on a Sunday. Encroaching on the Sabbath was said to be a bad move.

But the newspaper column *"For the Womenfolk by 'Chryssa'"* expressed concern the England team might consider New Zealanders *"a nation of prudes."* After all, did the "Almighty" make the Dunedin Harbour *"so disgraceful that it is unfit for respectable English girls to look upon it on the Sabbath."*

The England team stopped off in Oamaru and played North Otago on Saturday 26 September, winning by 9-5 in front of a large attendance. After the game the English boarded the train to head overnight up the South Island and across to Wellington on the ferry for the first test on Wednesday, 30 September.

The strenuous itinerary would then see the England and New Zealand teams return to Christchurch for the second test on Saturday, 3 October. The teams caught the overnight ferry steamer from Wellington to Lyttelton on the Wednesday evening after the test match.

The first test resulted in a thrilling 6-5 win to England. Gaskell scored early for England, but Pearce equalised a moment later. England dominated in the first half, with B Tuke scoring and Gaskell scoring her second goal to put the visitors ahead by 3-1 at half-time.

The New Zealand team came out strongly in the second half, with Nielson scoring early and then, after *"some considerable attacking play,"* Kruse scored the equaliser before R Malcolm put the home team in front by 4-3. The crowd *"went delirious with delight and urged the 'All Blacks' on encouragingly."*

Leacroft scored for England to tie the game up at 4-all, but Pearce scored her second goal to put the home team back in front, before Gaskell scored her third goal to make it 5-all with minutes to play. In the dying moments the New Zealand goalkeeper Arthur *"knocked the leather into the back of the net when attempting to clear,"* to give England the win by 6-5.

England 6 (Gaskell 3, B Tuke and Leacroft goals, own goal), New Zealand 5 (Pearce 2, Nielson, Kruse and R Malcolm goals).

The reports of New Zealand's 3-1 second test win on Saturday, 3 October, were glowing. ***The Sun*** newspaper reported a crowd of 6000 to 7000 people.

The England team wore white blouses and red skirts, while the New Zealand team wore *"all black with a silver fern on the left breast, borrowed from the New Zealand footballers."* The Lyttelton Times described the home team as *"All Blacks."*

New Zealand scored the opening goal after McDonnell and Kruse took the ball down field and centred, but R Malcolm missed the centring pass. However, Kruse scored a moment later to put the home team in front.

England responded with Elwell putting in a good run and then centred for Gaskell to put in a shot, which was stopped by Arthur. But Arthur fell over and Gaskell was able to score. Half-time came with the score locked up at 1-all.

The visitors attacked early in the second half, but a shot by Gaskell was saved by Arthur. Neilson then took the ball down the field and attacked, but England was soon able to clear. Soon after Rabbidge set the forwards going again and an in-field pass from the right wing set up R Malcolm, who put New Zealand back in front.

Later Pearce attacked and shot at goal, which was saved, but Kruse was on hand to intercept the clearance and shot the goal to give New Zealand a 3-1 lead.

New Zealand 3 (Kruse 2 and R Malcolm goals), England 1 (Gaskell goal).

Goalkeeper Miss Arthur was given special mention for her performance in only conceding one goal, after the disappointing end to the first test. *"Any doubts as to the wisdom of her selection were quickly dispelled by the sterling game she put up here."*

The New Zealand captain Miss Rabbidge *"played the prettiest hockey on the field."* *"She is exceptionally clever with her stick and never gave Miss Gaskell a chance to shine."*

As for the Canterbury players, the report noted Miss Pearce was heavily marked by her opponents, *"who kept a strict watch on her movements"* while Miss

Kruse, despite scoring 2 of New Zealand's 3 goals, apparently suffered from *"laziness."*

In contrast the Malcolm sisters, from Poverty Bay, both put in strong performances, and left-wing Miss Nielson *"quickly distinguished herself by her tremendous pace and her headlong rushes up the line earned the enthusiasm of the crowd."*

The third test was played at Remuera in Auckland on Saturday, 10 October, and resulted in a 1-all draw, meaning the series was drawn with both teams winning one test each. Trams and trains were available to the ground, while admission to the ground was one shilling, with entry to the stands being sixpence extra, and children were half price.

There was one change for the New Zealand team for the third test, with Miss Hilda Emms, of Nelson, replacing Miss S Kruse, of Canterbury, while Miss Eames made a return to the England team after earlier injuries. The New Zealand team's reserves were listed as back Miss Jeane Robertson (Hawkes Bay) and forward Miss Kruse (Canterbury), while Mr A W Manning was once again listed as one of the referees.

There was a Hilda Emms listed in the 1911 Electoral Roll as a spinster in Motueka in the Takaka electorate. Hilda Emms is listed in the birth, death and marriage records as being born in 1889 to Arthur and Mary Emms. Arthur Emms was listed in the 1893, 1896, 1911 and 1925 Electoral Rolls as a saddler in Buller and then in Motueka. He died in 1929 and was buried in the West Takaka Cemetery.

Leacroft scored for England in the first half, while Emms scored for New Zealand in the second half. It seems this match drew a much smaller crowd, with just 2000 spectators recorded.

England 1 (Leacroft goal), New Zealand 1 (Emms goal).

In all, England played 26 games on tour, with 22 wins, 3 losses and 1 draw. Goals for 163, with 36 goals against. Presentations were made to the players after the game. It was announced that five England team members would be leaving for Sydney by boat on Tuesday, to board ship back to England, while the rest of the team would disperse on sightseeing tours before departing for home.

Joan Elizabeth Crooks 10 Nov 1941 – 22 July 2016, by Jill Lord

Joan Crooks (nee Marley) was a founding member of the Armorial and Genealogical Institute of New Zealand (A.G.I.) in 1969. The first Annual General meeting is recorded as being held on 2 March 1970, with 14 people present. At a meeting on 13 July 1970, Mrs Crooks was elected General Secretary. At this time Margaret Weir was the Chairman. Margaret Weir was a patron of the present society until her death in January 2019.

The group was meeting in private houses – member's homes. In August 1972, a meeting was held at 159 Springfield Road, the home of Joan and Norman Crooks. So, Joan's home became the almost permanent home of the Institute, and this continued through until 1974-75. In 1978 Joan, an officer and committee member, had a brief retirement when her third child Matthew Crooks was born.

By later in 1978 she was back, and secretary on the committee, along with Grace Smith, Margaret Weir and Lyn Prattley. All familiar names. Also note the annual sub was then \$5.50 (!!!) with a donation from then Patron Edward Roberts of \$15.00.

With Joan Crooks as chairman, the final meeting of the A.G.I. was held at 87 Normans Road on 25 March 1981. On 9 April 1981, the following motion was put

“That the Constitution which has the name Armorial and Genealogical Institute of New Zealand, be changed to that of The New Zealand Family History Society, in title and everywhere it appears in the constitution. Moved by Mrs Tobeck and seconded by Mrs Smith,” and it was carried.

The first AGM of the New Zealand Family History Society followed at 8 p.m.. Mr Edward Roberts spoke on the Victoria County Histories (of England). Mrs Weir spoke about the Australian conference she had attended, and Mr Creed suggested that all members list names being researched.

This has always been a busy group with Joan and Grace keeping activities moving. There was always a good programme of speakers and many social events too. This was an era where in one year we received 573 pieces of mail. Much of this correspondence was asking for research information. Another of Joan's jobs. Cemeteries were being recorded, typed and made available for

members. It was also Joan who put the magazine together; the issues were in February, April, July and October.

All the material for the magazine was typed onto stencils, which were then printed on a Gestetner machine, page by page, by laboriously winding the handle for however many copies of the pages were needed!! Then they were collated, stapled and finally sent out in envelopes.

We have much for which to thank Joan Elizabeth Crooks. She was truly dedicated to the Society and to genealogy. She later founded Clan Cochrane Society in New Zealand, and was made their Commissioner by Lord Cochrane, Head of the Cochrane clan in Scotland [Clan Chieftain - Editor]. Of course she produced a magazine for this society too. A great friend, a genuine personality, thoughtful and always fun.

Editor's Note: Joan Crooks was born in Cobden, Greymouth, daughter of John Stanley Marley (1906-1994) and Margaret Sarah Marley (nee Guthrie) (1907-1984). She was a passionate genealogist, and a dedicated cemetery transcriber for the society, the editor having accompanied her on many cemetery transcription trips. Latterly Joan lived in Searells Road, Strowan, off Normans Road, where some committee and social meetings were held.

Joan and Norman Crooks had three children, Cheryl, Royden and Matthew. On her burial record, Joan's occupation is recorded as "genealogist", a fitting tribute to one who contributed so much to the hobby of family history.

Submitting Articles

Any members who may possess an interesting story pertaining to family or early historical matters and especially to the greater Canterbury region, or anywhere in New Zealand, are invited to write about it and submit it to the editor for inclusion in our future issues.

Any matter may be written down or typewritten and provided facts of the story, names etc., are clearly indicated, we can do the editing if you consider you are not that good at putting down a story. If you have a computer and e-mail facilities, this is the best way to submit material as it can be edited on receipt and inserted directly into our publishing program.

Regarding photographs: the best way is to submit electronic images in either a JPEG, TIFF or PDF format as reproduction proves better and sharper. However, a good photocopy will generally be adequate.

If e-mail is preferred the address to send articles, photos and stories to is: **philipcreed@xtra.co.nz** or address any correspondence to the editor, 28 Ensors Road, Opawa, Christchurch 8023.

Our next issue will be published in AUGUST 2026.

The deadline for the next issue of NZ Family Tree will be 15 July 2026.

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Family History Society of New Zealand Inc.

“Te Rakau Whakapapa o Aotearoa”

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New Zealand Family Tree:

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Meeting times – 2 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month at Elmwood Park Bowling Club, Heaton Street, Strowan.

Library hours – 401A Papanui Road. Every Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon, every Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Closed on public holidays and public holiday weekends.

Classes of membership:

Full membership – Open to individuals and entitles them to receive a newsletter.

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