



# March 2024 Newsletter

**UPCOMING MEETINGS: THE HUB, 33 JOHNSONVILLE RD, 7 FOR 7:30 PM**

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH	WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL	WEDNESDAY 15 MAY
<i>New Zealand Remembrance Army Working in Wellington</i>	<i>Wartime secrets from the family home</i>	<b>AGM &amp;</b> <i>Pandora's Box to Pandora Research</i>
<b>Simon Strombom</b>	<b>Tom McGrath</b>	<b>Dawn Chambers</b>



Greetings everyone

I was very sorry to miss our February meeting especially as I was going to tell you about my mother's wedding dress. However, sometimes family must come first. One of my sons has been working towards his private pilot's license since he was 16, four years ago. He has been passionate about flying and aeroplanes since before doing a trial flight for his 11th birthday. He has paid for his flying lessons himself through scholarships and part time work and studied for the six flight exams in his school and uni holidays. So, a great achievement! He sat his final test the day of our

meeting and I wanted to be with him to celebrate.

To turn to the story that I was going to tell you about my mother. From age 13 to 15, she studied dressmaking at a technical school in the UK and when she married at age 18, she made her own wedding dress. This was a lace under dress with a sheer over dress. I now have the lace under dress or petticoat. She kept on sewing for most of her life until health issues stopped her. It's lovely to have this wonderful memento of both her love for my dad and for dressmaking.

Thank you to all those who responded with requests about wanting books from our library. Our committee has decided that we are not going to keep the library going. We are very grateful for Sally for keeping the boxes for the past two years. Robin will be contacting those people who have already asked for books. The rest of us will have the opportunity to ask to have books from the library, for a donation (some of them are quite expensive to buy). Watch for an email from Robin.

Geraldine Needham-Girven, Convenor, Wellington Branch

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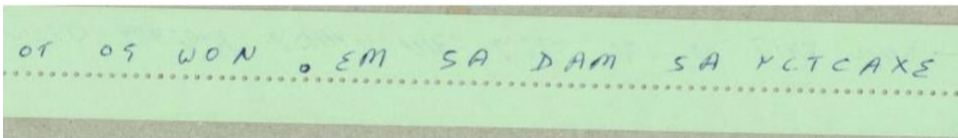


## FEBRUARY'S MEETING: TOKENS OF LOVE / MEMORABILIA OF LOVE

Five members gave short talks about mementos of love they (or other relations) have saved. These demonstrated that love comes in many manifestations and at various stages of relationships: teenage love in all its wackiness; a soldier's letter to his fiancée after his release from POW camp; an extract from a story written by a woman whose husband was going off to war; a poem remembering a first kiss while awaiting the birth of a first child; a mourning brooch commemorating a grandmother and grandson who died in the same year; and a letter written by a new grandmother to her daughter about her new grandchild. The two war-related items will be covered in the April newsletter; the other four are briefly summarised below. It was a very special and poignant meeting, sharing such intimate moments of family histories.

### YOUNG LOVE

**Ann Ball** wrote about her parents' teenage love and printed the only surviving love letter from her father to her mother in the February 2024 newsletter (pp 5-6). She also discussed various coded messages used by lovers there. At the talk, Ann expanded on NORWICH: (k)nickers off ready when I come home. Ann and her then boyfriend, now husband, wrote in code to each as teenagers – just because! One letter from Jerry (1977) was written on computer tape, backwards. It must have worked; they married on 12 Aug 1978.



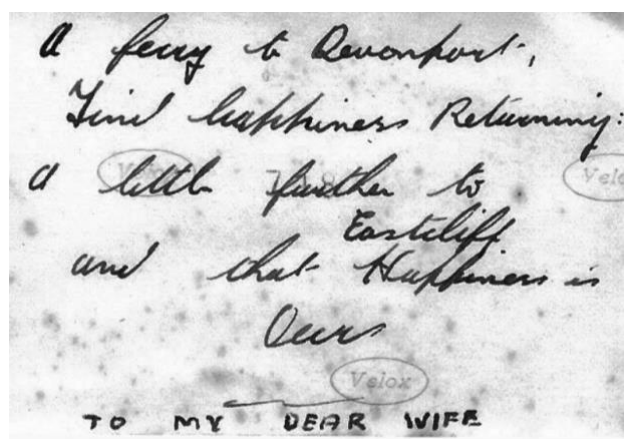
### POETIC LOVE



A ferry to Devonport  
Final happiness Returning  
A little further to Eastcliff  
And that Happiness is Ours

TO MY DEAR WIFE

**Robin Mossman's** father is shown to the left, looking very poetic. He came to NZ in 1947 and met Robin's mother here. They married in 1948. The photo was taken in England before he left, and I think he must have liked it – or perhaps Mum did! The poem was written on the back of the photo and commemorates their first kiss on the Devonport ferry – they were yelled at, by the Captain, for obscuring the view! Eastcliff was the maternity home where Mum had me, and Dad sent the poem to her while she was waiting to come home. Eastcliff was in Campbells Bay on Auckland's North Shore and they would have taken the car ferry to Devonport to get there.





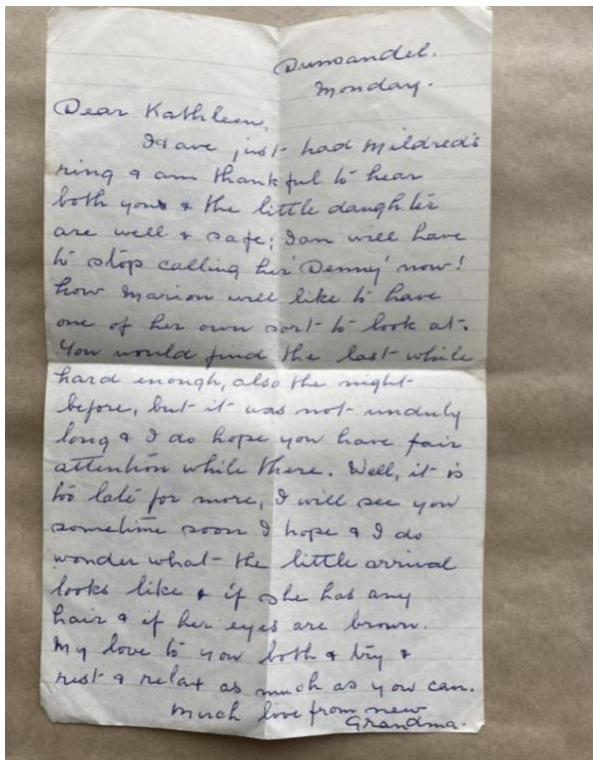
## MOURNING A BELOVED DEAD PERSON

**Angela Potts** and Dawn Chambers spoke about the extraordinary brooch shown below. It was made in memory of Sibella Francis, d. 15 January 1813, aged 74; and her grandson William Hocken Harris, d. 9 March 1813, aged 18. They died within 3 months of each other in Crediton, near Exeter. (Sibella Francis is Angela's 4X great-grandmother.) The front of the brooch looks like a parquet floor and is thought to contain hair from grandmother and grandson, plaited together. Mourning jewellery made with plaited hair was a popular way to remember a loved one from the 18<sup>th</sup> century on, and particularly in the Victorian period, but combining the hair of two people, if correct, was probably unusual.



## A GRANDMOTHER'S LOVE

**Susan Wright** is shown below with a letter full of love, written by her grandmother to her mother about her, shortly after Susan's birth. She is 'thankful to hear both you and the little daughter are well and safe. I will have to stop calling her 'Denny' now.' (Was she expecting a boy?) 'I do wonder what the little arrival looks like and if she has any hair and if her eyes are brown. My love to you both...much love from new Grandma.





## A HIDDEN CEMETERY NEAR TAUPO by Ann Ball

If you drive out of Taupo for 15 minutes, on State Highway 5, on the way to Hawkes Bay, you'll find a small cemetery. It is part of the Opepe Scenic and Historic Reserve. At the reserve there are two walking tracks. The 'southern' track takes you to the site of an old saw mill (about a 20 minute walk). The 'northern' track (30 minutes) leads you into a lush podocarp forest filled with mature native trees. A five minute diversion from this track takes you to a cemetery where nine members of the Bay of Plenty Cavalry were buried in 1869.

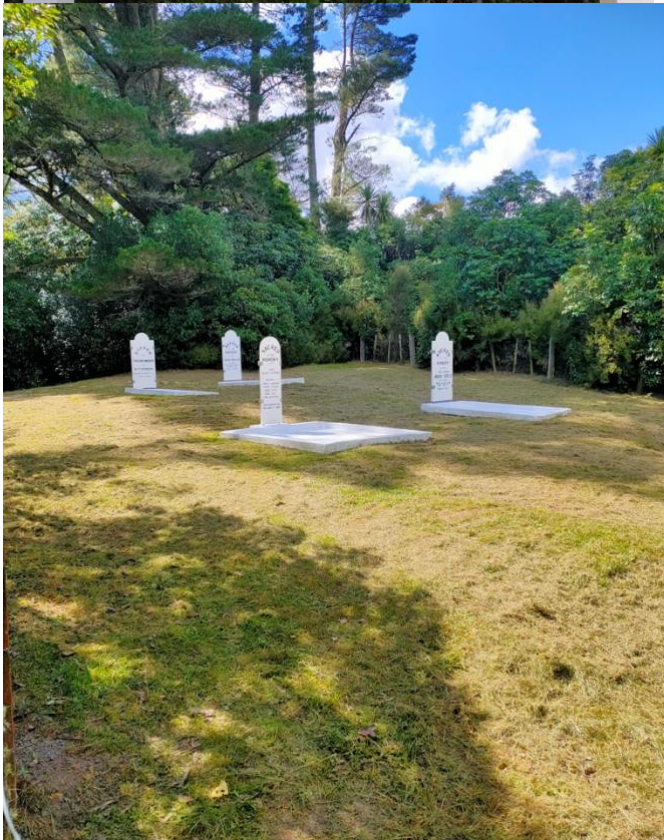
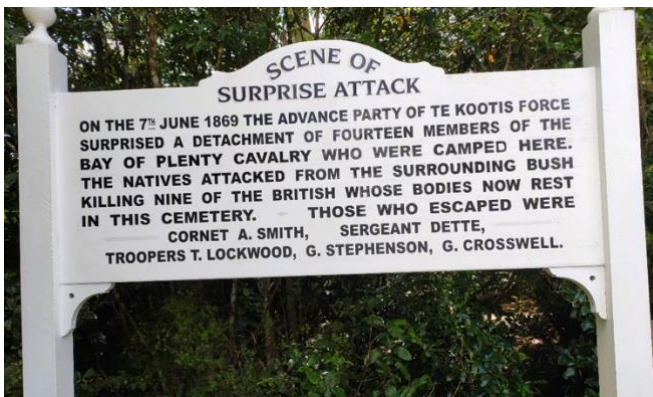
The lovetaupo website ([Opepe Scenic and Historic Reserve | Family-Friendly Walks in Taupo | Taupo Official Website \(lovetaupo.com\)](https://lovetaupo.com)) describes what happened:

In its heyday, the Ōpepe township boasted a hotel, a store, homes for about 120 residents and an Armed Constabulary stockade on the western edge. It was also the scene of a one-sided skirmish between European militia and Māori in June 1869. Nine Bay of Plenty Cavalry members died when a band of warriors led by Māori leader and guerrilla fighter Te Kooti attacked their camp. Trooper George Crosswell, who had been drying his rain-drenched uniform, managed to escape and travel naked across 64 kilometres of rough country to report the attack.

You can hear more about what happened at <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/video/attack-opepe-roadside-stories> and read about it in the Hawkes Bay Herald at <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/HBH18690625.2.13>.

The headstones have obviously been replaced recently – the text on them is crisp and they are held in place by metal stands.

If you are in the area, this cemetery and the bush walk are well worth a visit.





## TWO MEMORIALS

by Geraldine Needham-Girven

My husband's great-grandmother has two large memorials in two different places, which is unusual though not unknown. She was born Martha Tunnell on 6 Sep 1876 in Andersons Bay, Dunedin. Her father was a very interesting person, having been transported at age 15 to Tasmania for ten years; he became a landowner in Melbourne, then a gold miner in Manuherikia, Otago, before ending up as a brickmaker in Andersons Bay!

Martha married William George Butcher at St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, on 25 Jan 1905. William had come to New Zealand with his family in 1884 from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. They settled in Kaiapoi, but bought land between Rotorua and Taupo, which they called Strathmore Station, and William was sent to manage it by 1899. William and Martha had three children at Strathmore Station, a boy in October 1905, and two girls in 1908 and 1909.

A neighbour, E. E. Vaile, who arrived in 1907, wrote a book in which he described Mr Butcher as the 'first permanent white settler between Rotorua and Taupo'. Another book, *The Wilderness Conquered: the History of the Reporoa District*, said that Martha 'was much loved by the Māori people'. Martha died on 15 September 1914 in Hamilton of an embolism. She was probably visiting friends, as this would have come on suddenly without warning.

She has a headstone in the Hamilton West Cemetery; see photo below, left. There is also a memorial at Otaki-taki (this might be what is now known as Ohaaki, although I think that is too far south), in the Tanirau and Moke family cemetery; see below, middle and right.



ABOVE, LEFT: Hamilton West Cemetery. Inscription reads: 'Martha, beloved wife of William George Butcher, died 15 September 1915, aged 38 years.' Her death certificate and the Council cemetery record say 1914, but the gravestone says 1915.

ABOVE, MIDDLE: This is the photo I was originally given of the memorial to Martha Butcher at Otaki-taki. However, through a step-descendant of Martha, I was able to visit in 2020, and...

ABOVE, RIGHT: ...this is what I found. The spire had fallen down and was broken in two. There are memorial inscriptions for three people on this memorial stone: Maata, wife of Wira Putia; Kepa Heperi; and Martha Butcher. The inscription is the same as on the other memorial, 'In memory of Martha, dearly beloved wife of Wm. G. Butcher' except it says she died on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1914. I think she must have been a very special person, as there are no other non-family in this small cemetery.

Willy, as he was known, went on to marry again in 1916, and he married Martha's niece, also called Martha! They had 5 children and she died in 1926 of an ectopic pregnancy.

## ‘IN LOVING MEMORY OF NORMAN H W HARRISON’ by Christine Franzen

In the Sept 2022 newsletter I wrote about William Kennington, a first cousin 4x removed of my husband's. William kept a journal of his departure and voyage to NZ in 1858. He settled near Blenheim. They are both descendants of **William Harrison (1781—1825)** and **Mary Perrin Harrison (1784—1871)** of Lincolnshire. When I wrote that article, I didn't realize there was another Harrison descendant who came to NZ and is particularly relevant to this month's newsletter. William and Mary Harrison had 12 children, and this one is descended from their second child:

**Henry Harrison** (1806, Dunholme—after 1881) married his first cousin **Mary Faith Harrison** in Aug 1831. He was a butcher and grocer in Bardney. They had 7 children, but only one concerns us here:

**Thomas Henry Harrison** (1835, Bardney—1896, Lincoln) married **Isabella Clarke** (1837—1916) in Oct 1861 in Lincoln. He was an inland revenue officer, bachelor, and she was spinster, daughter of a coal merchant. They had 3 sons:

**Percy Tom Harrison** (1870—1959), the youngest, was a schoolmaster at Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He never married. **William Henry Harrison** (1866, Waddington—1936, Laverstock, Salisbury) was the eldest and his life is described in the next article in this newsletter (pp 7-8). **Cecil Clark Harrison** (1868, Lincoln—1956, Christchurch, NZ), the middle son, provides this contribution to cemetery month.

**Cecil Clark Harrison** became an ironmonger and joined the Windsor Castle Masonic Lodge in 1898. In 1901 he was living at 8 Peascot St, New Windsor, single, an ironmonger & shopkeeper, just opposite Windsor Castle. He remained there until 1924.

In Oct 1901 **Cecil** married **Agnes Monk** (1872, Berkshire—1949, Christchurch). **Agnes Monk** had gone to NZ with her parents and two younger brothers around 1889, aged 17. Agnes and her parents were living in New Plymouth in 1893, and her father was a farmer. The rest of her family remained in NZ all their lives, but sometime before 1901 Agnes returned to England. In the 1901 census, Agnes, aged 28, was living in Beckenham, Kent, described as 'nurse' to the Head of household, with occupation: 'Hospital sick nurse'. The Head was Frederick Weekes, 43, ironmonger. His wife, Martha, 38, of Berkshire, was Agnes' half-sister. It was from near here, Bromley, that Agnes married **Cecil Harrison**, ironmonger, who lived in Windsor, 30 miles away. It isn't clear how they might have met – perhaps via the ironmonger connection?

By 1911 Cecil and Agnes Harrison had 3 children: Helen May (1905—82), Miriam Margaret (1908—after 1946), and **Norman Henry William** (1910—42). They were all still at 8 Peascot St, Windsor, in 1921, and Cecil was now 'Purveyor of ironmongery to His Majesty'. In 1924, the whole Harrison family immigrated to NZ – 35 years after Agnes' first arrival here. Agnes' parents, William and Georgina Monk, were both dead, but her brothers John and Harry were in Hokitika. All five members of the Harrison family remained in NZ for the rest of their lives. There are descendants but I have been unable to trace them.

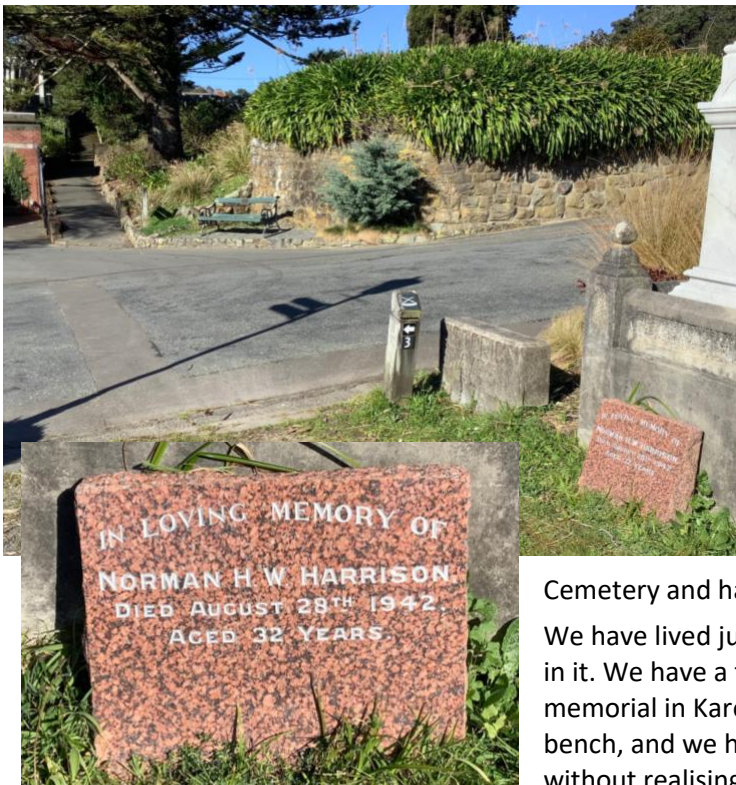
Cecil and Agnes Harrison's only son, **Norman H W Harrison**, was 13 when he arrived in NZ, and almost certainly went to Christchurch with his parents, where his father was again an ironmonger. By 1935 Norman was in Wellington, first at 34 Hapua Rd, Hataitai; later at 115 Pirie St, Mt Victoria; and then at 116 Novay Rd, Miramar. He was a photo engraver. In 1939 Norman married **Doris Lilian Baunton**, and by 1942 they had two children, David and Margaret.

In April 1942 he was on a NZ WW2 ballot list, and on 28 August 1942 **Private Norman H W Harrison** died at Wellington Hospital after a short illness. He was only 32. 'Find-A-Grave' said he was buried in Karori

Cemetery and had a photo of his memorial stone.

We have lived just outside Karori cemetery since 1989 and often walk in it. We have a favourite bench. Last year we found Norman Harrison's memorial in Karori Cemetery: it is immediately opposite our favourite bench, and we had been sitting not 13 metres away from it for years without realising it was there or that such a cousin even existed.

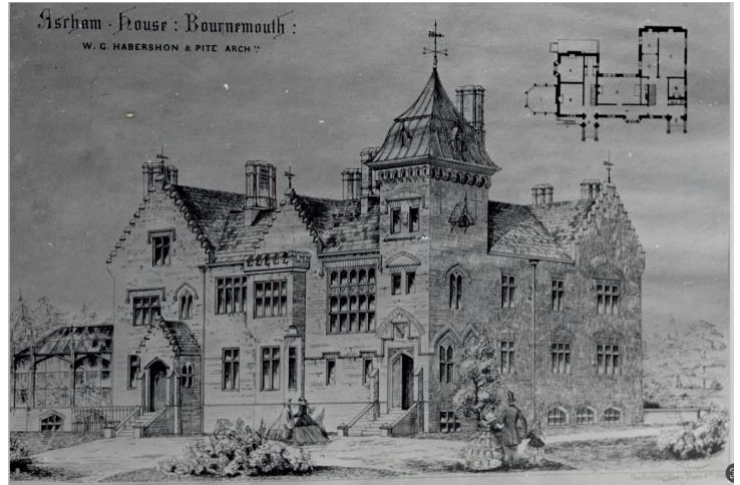
**Norman H W Harrison** is my husband Robert's 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed.





## ‘YOUNG BARONET’S TRAGIC END’ by Christine Franzen

**Norman H W Harrison**’s uncle (brother of Cecil Clark Harrison) was **William Henry Harrison** (1866, Waddington, Lincolnshire—1936, Laverstock, Salisbury); see previous page. In 1891, aged 24 and unmarried, William was a tutor at a small boarding school, ‘The Limes’, Crooms Hill, Greenwich, which was for boys joining the navy. In 1901, he was at Ascham House, East Cliff, Bournemouth, a larger boarding school (see right). Ascham School had been founded in 1865 for boys of delicate health, but became a well-respected school for boys; in 1918 it became a municipal girls’ school. In 1902 William Harrison was captain of the Bournemouth Cricket Club.



On 4 Aug 1904, **William Henry Harrison**, bachelor, 38, schoolmaster in Cheam, Surrey, married **Lady Anne Josephine**

**Moselle Ames Domville**, widow, 36, at St Bartholomew’s, St Pancras. Lady Anne was the widow of **Rear-Admiral Sir William Cecil Henry Domville (1849—1904), 4th Baronet of St Albans, Hertford**. Sir William had had a distinguished naval career: Commander of the Naval Brigade, Suakin in 1885; Naval Attaché to the Maritime Powers in 1887; and Companion, Order of the Bath. Sir William succeeded as the 4th Baronet Domville in



1887 and married Anne Ames on 29 Dec 1888. They lived at The Chantry, Ipswich (see above), a mansion with 20 bedrooms and over 15 servants, and had 3 sons:

**Lieut. Sir James Henry Domville, 5th Bt. of St Albans** (10 Dec 1889—13 Sep 1919)

Capt. Sir Cecil Lionel Domville, 6th Bt. of St Albans (1892—1930)

Sir Gerald Guy Domville, 7th Bt. of St Albans (1896—1981)

When Sir William Domville died suddenly on 22 April 1904, aged 55, Sir James, aged 15, became 5th Baronet.

**William Henry Harrison** had been a schoolmaster at some fairly exclusive boarding schools (Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and King Charles III both attended Cheam) but his father was an inland revenue officer and one brother was an ironmonger. The Domvilles could trace an unbroken line of descent from Hugh de Domville, who came across with William the Conqueror. William Henry Harrison and Lady Anne seemed to be in quite different social circles. It’s hard to imagine how William Harrison and Lady Anne could have even met, let alone married, only three and a half months after the death of her husband.

In the 1911 census, William Harrison (retired schoolmaster), Lady Anne, their daughter Gabrielle (5, their only child), and step-son Cecil (18) were living at Branksome House, Bournemouth, a 17-room house, with 5 servants. Presumably Sir James, now 22, lived elsewhere or was with the Navy, and the youngest step-son, Sir Gerald, was away at school.

In 1912 **Sir James, 5th Baronet**, married **Kathleen Charlesworth**, and they soon had 2 daughters, Valerie and Louise. He had received the rank of Lieutenant at the end of 1911 but resigned in June 1912 and was put on the emergency list. In 1914-15 he was in command of destroyers involved in minesweeping. In May 1915 he was noted for gallantry:

‘Lieutenant Sir James Domville’, states the official communique, ‘remained at the wheel after the skipper was wounded, personally worked the helm, and generally handled his ship in a seamanlike manner under heavy fire to avoid being torpedoed.

‘He also took effective measures to call attention of HMS. Leonidas in order to convey to her the information which led to the subsequent destruction of the enemy vessel.’ (*Nottingham Journal*, Monday 15 Sept 1919, p 6)

But things began to go downhill for reasons which are not completely clear. His brother, Captain Cecil Lionel, testified that James 'got enteric very badly in 1918. Since he had been in the Mediterranean he had never been the same man' (*Gloucester Journal*, Saturday 20 September 1919, p 3). At some point, he left his wife. In response to her attempts to get him to return, he wrote to her in Nov 1918:

'Oh. Kit, dear. I am feeling rottenly miserable and wretched. I've got to go up to London for dental treatment, and am tired of life. I'm almost on the verge of suicide sort of thing.

'I hate everything and everybody. I've been sort of changing for some time, and none of my old interests appeal to me. I feel I want to become a hermit.

'I'm still fond of my friends and of you—but somehow all thoughts of love, as we know it, have become anathema to me.

'It is perfectly awful, and I am enduring a little hell. Please don't come and see me just at present. I may get later [sic] when I'm well. At present I'm only fit for a lunatic asylum.—Jim' (*Hull Daily Mail*, Thursday 10 April 1919, p 6)



*Sunday Mirror*, Sunday 14 Sept 1919, p 8

In April 1919 Sir James' wife sued for the restitution of conjugal rights. He was ordered to return to her, but did not.



**William Henry Harrison,**  
10 Sept 1924

Finally in September a receiving order for bankruptcy was filed against him in *The London Gazette*. The following night, 13 Sept, 1919, Sir James shot himself in his room at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, leaving behind a note:

'Dear Sir. —I much regret that my death should take place in this club, and I should be glad if you would convey this sentiment to your committee, pointing out at the same time that I have paid them the compliment of dressing for the occasion. — Yours truly, J. DOMVILLE.'

He was not yet 30. I wonder if PTSD would be diagnosed now. Sensational accounts of his death, including portions of the letters, were published in many newspapers, which must have been very distressing for the family. A sample of some of the headlines:

*Dundee Evening Telegraph*, Monday 15 September 1919, p 11: 'YOUNG BARONET'S TRAGIC END. Love That Was Anathema. Remarkable Letters.'

*Pall Mall Gazette*, Monday 15 September 1919, p 2: 'SIR J. DOMVILLE. BROTHER'S STORY AT TO-DAY'S INQUEST. SUICIDE VERDICT. PHYSICAL, FINANCIAL, AND DOMESTIC TROUBLES.'

*Leicester Evening Mail*, Tuesday 16 September 1919, p 4: 'DRESSING FOR SUICIDE. Sir J. Domville's Letter to Club'

*Westminster Gazette*, Wednesday 24 September 1919, p. 2: 'LATE SIR J. DOMVILLE. MEETING OF CREDITORS AT THE BANKRUPTCY COURT.'

Sir James' brother Cecil became the 6th Baronet and also died young, aged 38, in 1930. Like Sir James, Sir Cecil had only daughters. The youngest son, Sir Gerald, became the 7th Baronet and held the title until his death, childless, in 1981, when the title became extinct.

**William Henry Harrison** (seen to the left, best man at the wedding of a cousin) died on 23 Dec 1936 at Lavenstock House, a private mental asylum in Salisbury. One of the servants appearing on the census records of 1911 and 1921 was Matilda Cooper, nurse (domestic) – was it possible that signs of his illness (whatever it might have been) were already apparent? His widow, Lady Anne, did not remarry and died in 1957, aged 89, having outlived two husbands, two of her three sons, a granddaughter (probable suicide), and all six siblings.

**Sir James Domville** is the step-son of my husband Robert's third cousin  
**William Henry Harrison**



## FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL CARDS

By Susan Wright and Christine Franzen

Such cards became popular from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Funeral cards served as invitations to the funeral and gave very basic information: name, date of death, date and place of funeral, etc. Memorial cards were produced by family members sometime after the death. They were more informative and more personalised. Often they included a photo. Because family members provided the information, it is reasonably likely to be accurate, and these cards can be a valuable resource for genealogists. The Society of Australian Genealogists has an interesting article about them; see: <https://sag.org.au/Memorial-cards> and follow the link 'Further details'.

It is clear from the examples below that printers offered a range of designs and motifs to which personal information such as name, dates, favourite verses, etc, could be added. Black with gold or silver lettering was popular as well as white with a black border. All the examples over the next two pages are memorial cards.

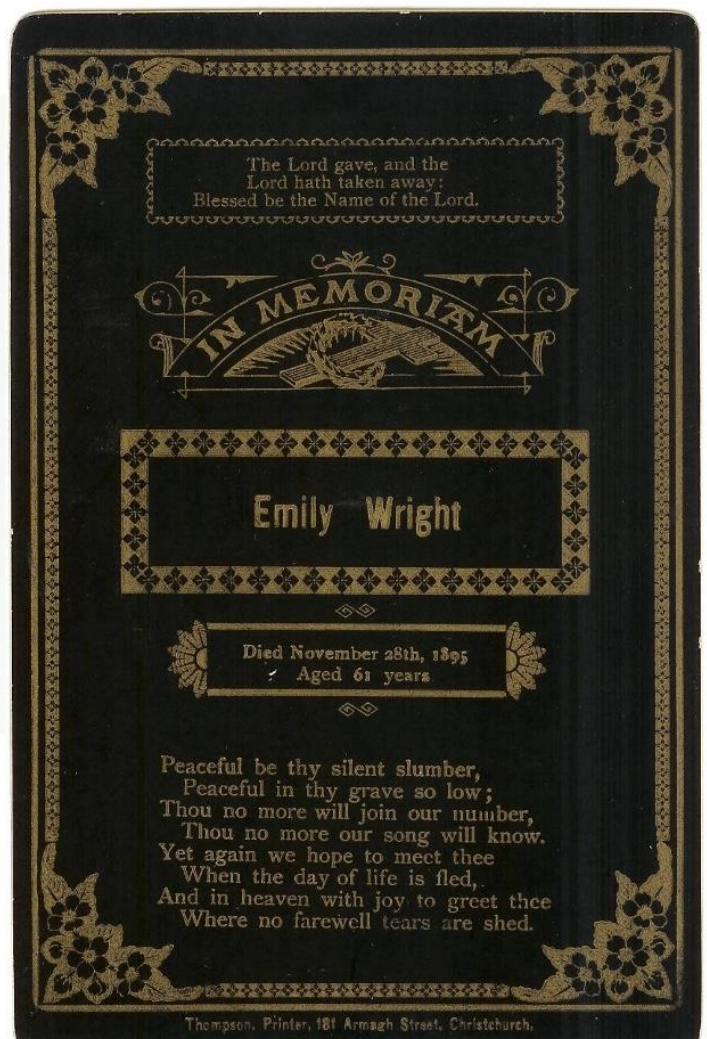
**EMILY WRIGHT's memorial card** (below) tells us only her name, date of death (Nov 28, 1895), and age at death (61), from which the approximate date of birth can be derived. All the rest of the information below has been provided by Susan Wright from other sources.

Emily Perry married Joshua George Wright just before they sailed from England for Moreton Bay in Australia aboard the *Blenheim* in 1857. They travelled with her Perry parents and sisters. George Wright, their first son, was born in Australia before the family group sailed into Port Chalmers aboard the *Ocean Queen* in 1859.

Joshua had been a straw and hay carter in Middlesex. While hay and straw might not have been in the area, Joshua is reported to have had one of the first bullock teams in the busy port.

They purchased land in Sawyers Bay, which was later acquired for a much needed water reservoir. They moved to Kakanui and bought land to farm in the special microclimate that the place is famous for.

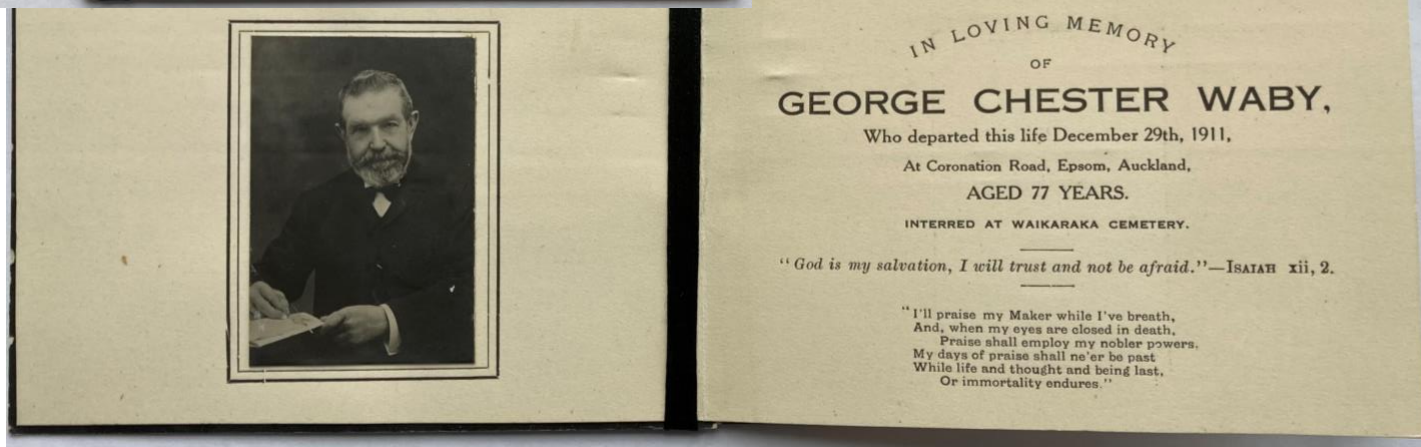
This memorial card with its black card and gold printing is typical of the era.





## GEORGE CHESTER WABY

Susan Wright has provided a second example of a memorial card. This one is more elaborate in design, and offers a bit more information.



## MARGARET BROWN by Christine Franzen

This very simple memorial card was found in a box of old photos and family things at the house of a friend for whom I have been doing family research. He didn't know who **Margaret Brown** was, but his grandmother was **Elizabeth Brown**, who died in Hawera in 1941, aged 69, and had been born in Scotland in 1871. That was about all he knew of her, and he was very keen to know more of that side of the family. **Elizabeth Brown** was married in New Plymouth in 1905 but her future husband lived mainly in the triangle between Awatuna, Eltham, and Hawera so she must have spent time there. My friend thought her family might have lived in Nelson too. He didn't know when she had come to NZ. It is very difficult to search on a common name like **Elizabeth Brown**. **Margaret Brown** was born in 1855 and was 16 in 1871 when Elizabeth was born; Margaret was thus very unlikely to be Elizabeth's mother. But I was convinced that they must have come to NZ together. **Margaret Brown** must have been a close family member for her memorial card to be sent to Hawera and saved for 120 years.

It took a while but I finally worked out how they were related. 'Find-a-Grave' provided crucial information. The only **Margaret Brown** who died in Nelson in 1905, aged 50, was the wife of **John Brown** (1851–1897, Nelson). A hint on Ancestry.com [ancestry margaret brown hint](#) brought up the screen to the right, and clicking on the URL [finda grave margaret brown](#) brought up all the rest of the information below. Three children were cited just on this page; I later found out that they had nine in total (1872–92), with two dying in infancy and one killed in WW1. All were born in the Nelson/Tasman area. John Brown was a coal miner. There are many descendants.



Name	Margaret Wiseman Brown
Maiden Name	Barr
Birth Date	28 Aug. 1854
Birth Place	Scotland
Death Date	11 Feb. 1905
Death Place	Nelson, New Zealand
Cemetery	Wakapuaka Cemetery
Burial or Cremation Place	Nelson, Nelson City, Nelson, New Zealand
Has Bio?	N
Spouse	John Brown
Children	James Brown Archibald Barr Brown
URL	<a href="https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124882369/margaret-wiseman-brown">https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124882369/margaret-wiseman-brown</a>



# Margaret Wiseman *Barr* Brown

<b>BIRTH</b>	28 Aug 1854 Scotland
<b>DEATH</b>	11 Feb 1905 (aged 50) Nelson, New Zealand
<b>BURIAL</b>	<a href="#">Wakapuaka Cemetery</a> Nelson, Nelson City, Nelson, New Zealand <a href="#">Add to Map</a>
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	124882369 · <a href="#">View Source</a>



## Family Members

### Spouse



**John Brown**  
1851–1897

### Children



**James Brown**  
1877–1880



**Archibald Barr Brown**  
1879–1879



**Pte. William Ralston Brown**  
1884–1918

‘Find-A-Grave’ allows photos, ‘flowers’, and messages to be left on memorial pages. ‘Anonymous’ left the message to the right on the memorial page for **Margaret Brown**: ‘To the Memory of my Great Grandparents, who were from Lanarkshire, Scotland, sailed from London 22nd July 1874 and arrived in Nelson New Zealand 26th October 1874 on board ‘Chile’, with their first born John.’ As with any user supplied information, I had to be cautious but all of this was confirmable. The date of arrival and the comment ‘first born John’ eliminated any possibility that **Elizabeth Brown** was their daughter. The passenger record confirmed that the only Browns on board were **John** (21, labourer), **Margaret** (19), and John (1). It was then possible to find their marriage date and place: 7 Jun 1872 in Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

To work out **John Brown**’s relationship to **Elizabeth Brown** I had to work backwards. **John** had an older brother **James Brown** (1849—). Their parents were **JOHN BROWN** (b. about 1819, Ireland—1855, Airdrie, Lanarkshire) and **ELIZABETH KILPATRICK** (b. about 1822, Ireland—1855, Lanarkshire). They probably married in Ireland, and seemingly were Irish Catholic. They probably fled the Great Famine to look for work in the mines in Scotland.

In 1855, **JOHN** and **ELIZABETH KILPATRICK BROWN** both died, **JOHN**, 36, in a mining accident, and **ELIZABETH**, 33, of consumption, leaving their two children orphans: **James Brown** (1849—) and **John Brown** (1851—97, Nelson, NZ). Nothing further is known of **James** and **John** until 1861:

In the 1861 census **James** and **John Brown** were in the **Glasgow St Johns Catholic Orphans Institute**, aged 12 and 9, respectively. This appears to be a family-run institution with 40 boys aged 13–7, all described as ‘scholars’, headed by John McCollach, 47. **James** and **John** were 6 and 4 when orphaned, and may have been too young for such a place then. I don’t know where they might have been before this or where they went after they left.

**John**, the younger brother, as I said above, married **Margaret Barr** in 1872 and left for NZ in 1874. They lived the rest of their lives in the Nelson/Tasman area.

**James**, his older brother, was probably out on his own by 1864 (aged 15) at the latest, and he likely headed to the mines for work. It seems the mines he chose were near Kirkintilloch, about 13 kms northeast of Glasgow.

On 24 Feb 1871 **James Brown** married **Mary Dunn** in Kirkintilloch. They already had a daughter **Margaret**, aged 3.

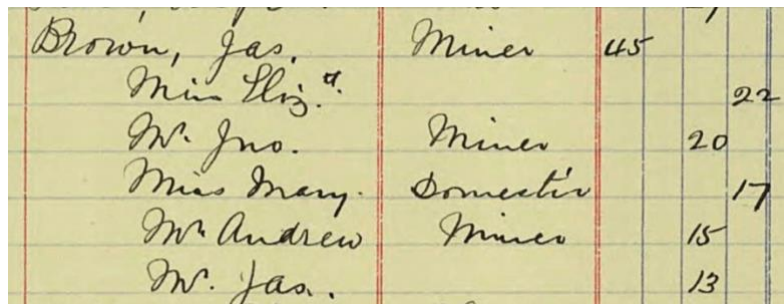
On 11 Oct 1871 **Elizabeth Brown** was born in Motherwell. **James** and **Mary Dunn Brown** had 4 more children: **John Brown** (1873—), **Mary Brown** (1877–1946, Auckland), **Andrew Dunn Brown** (1879–1962, Huntly), **James Brown** (1881—after 1921).

In 1894 **Mary Dunn Brown** died in Kirkintilloch, aged 49.

To the Memory of my Great Grandparents, who were from Lanarkshire, Scotland, sailed from London 22nd July 1874 and arrived in Nelson New Zealand 26th October 1874 on board ‘Chile’, with their first born John.

Left by **Anonymous** on 6 Apr 2022

On 27 Jun 1894, not long after his wife's death, **James Brown**, miner, 45, and his children **Elizabeth**, 22; **John**, miner, 20; **Mary**, domestic, 17; **Andrew**, miner, 15; and **James**, 13, left for New Zealand on the ship Ruapehu (see right). In 1891, **Elizabeth** had been a **cotton weaver** like her Dunn ancestors, including her mother. But this hand craft had almost disappeared and certainly would be of no use in NZ. She gives no occupation on the shipping list.



Brown, Jas.	Miner	45	
Miss Eliz.			22
Mr. John	Miner	20	
Miss Mary	Domestic		17
Mr. Andrew	Miner	15	
Mr. Jas.		13	

It was 20 years after **John Brown**'s arrival in NZ that his widowed older brother **James** and his five children arrived.

**Margaret Brown** (of the memorial card) was the wife of **John Brown**'s brother **James** (**Elizabeth Brown**'s uncle.)

I don't know what happened to **James Brown** after 1894, but I suspect he returned to Scotland with sons John, Andrew, and James; Andrew and James definitely returned. The names John and James Brown are too common to trace. Only his two daughters, **Elizabeth** and Mary, clearly remained in NZ for the rest of their lives. I don't know why **James Brown** came to NZ, bringing his whole family (though perhaps his visit was delayed by his wife's illness and then death?), or why he returned to Scotland. I assume James visited his brother John, who died of syphilis in 1897 and may well have already been ill.

**By 1901, James Brown's son Andrew** (1879, Kirkintilloch—1962, Huntly, NZ) was back in Kirkintilloch, a miner, where he married Janet Jack (1882—1965). **Andrew** and Janet Brown had 13 children there between 1903 and 1921 before they and all but the eldest of their 9 surviving children immigrated to New Zealand in 1922 or 1923, almost 30 years after Andrew's first trip in 1894, aged 15. They settled around Huntly, and he was a miner. Three more children were born in New Zealand. He has a **very large number of descendants in NZ**.

**Elizabeth Brown** (**Andrew**'s sister) married in New Plymouth in 1905, eleven years after arriving in NZ. The only probable evidence of her I have found in NZ before that is the Electoral Roll for Hawera in 1897, a dairywoman. She hardly appears at all in *PapersPast* after her marriage: performed no songs, poured no tea at social events. My friend doesn't remember her since she died when he was only 2.

I haven't been in touch with 'Anonymous' of the 'Find-a-Grave' message, but I will be. They are my friend's third cousin. **Margaret Brown** was the sister-in-law of his great-grandfather, and her memorial card was in the family's possession for 120 years, but my friend knew nothing of her and her many descendants in the Nelson/Tasman area. He also knew nothing of his Huntly cousins, descendants of his grandmother **Elizabeth Brown**'s brother Andrew Brown. A memorial card and 'Find-a-Grave' were amazingly useful genealogical tools.

## 'Scotch Cemetery' or Addington Cemetery, Selwyn Street, Christchurch

While the Canterbury province was very 'English' in nature and the Anglican Church was prominent, Scots immigrants established this cemetery in 1858, and it was often called the 'Scotch Cemetery' in funeral notices in the past. It was not the 'first cemetery' in Christchurch but it was the first 'public cemetery' where the performance of any religious service 'not contrary to public decency' was allowed. Plots are not grouped in religious denomination. The link below is to an excellent 50-page guide to burials in it. Well-known NZers such as Kate Sheppard are buried here, as well as many others whose names were given to local landmarks. The guide has short biographies and much fascinating detail, written in an engagingly irresistible, gossipy tone, for example, 'In the 19th century a woman who lived with and had several children by a man who was not her husband was a being from beyond the pale. Edith Ann Lawry was one such person' and 'Older people will remember the phrase: "Are you married or do you live at Brighton?"' [Scotch Cemetery Guide](#)

'Blood & memory: Victorian colonial death, memorial practices, and the dynamics of local society at Christchurch's Addington Cemetery' is an interesting 2019 MA thesis by Karell William King, Univ of Canterbury: [Blood & memory](#).

The author of the guide to Addington Cemetery, cited above, has also done one for another Christchurch cemetery: [Bromley Cemetery Guide](#)

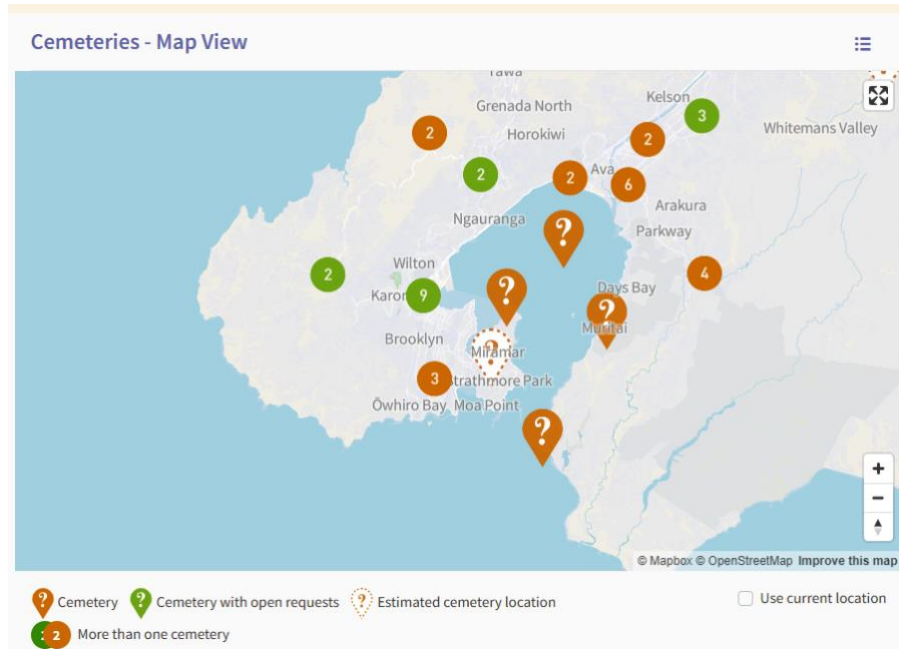
Susan Wright



## FINDAGRAVE.COM by Ann Ball

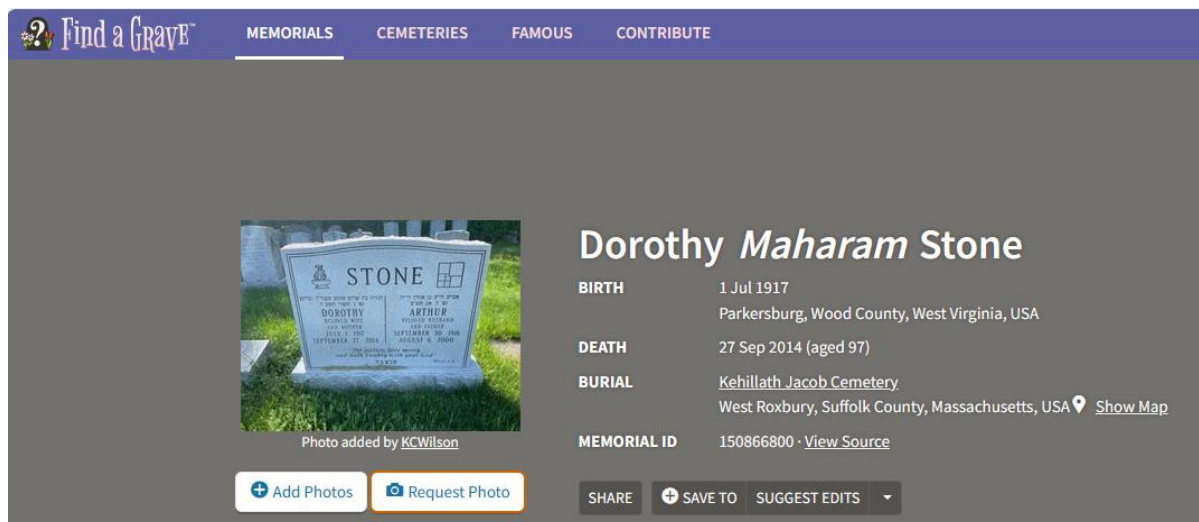
I've recently been looking at a lot of death notices, tombstone consecration notes, and obituaries for my mother-in-law's family in the Jewish Chronicle. I accessed the newspaper articles using the MyHeritage website but I found I was using the 'Find a Grave' website a lot too.

I started using Findagrave.com because hints came up on Ancestry for people I was adding but then I started going straight there. The coverage of cemeteries is huge; they claim 569,556 cemeteries in over 250 different countries! Below is a map of their coverage in the Wellington area.



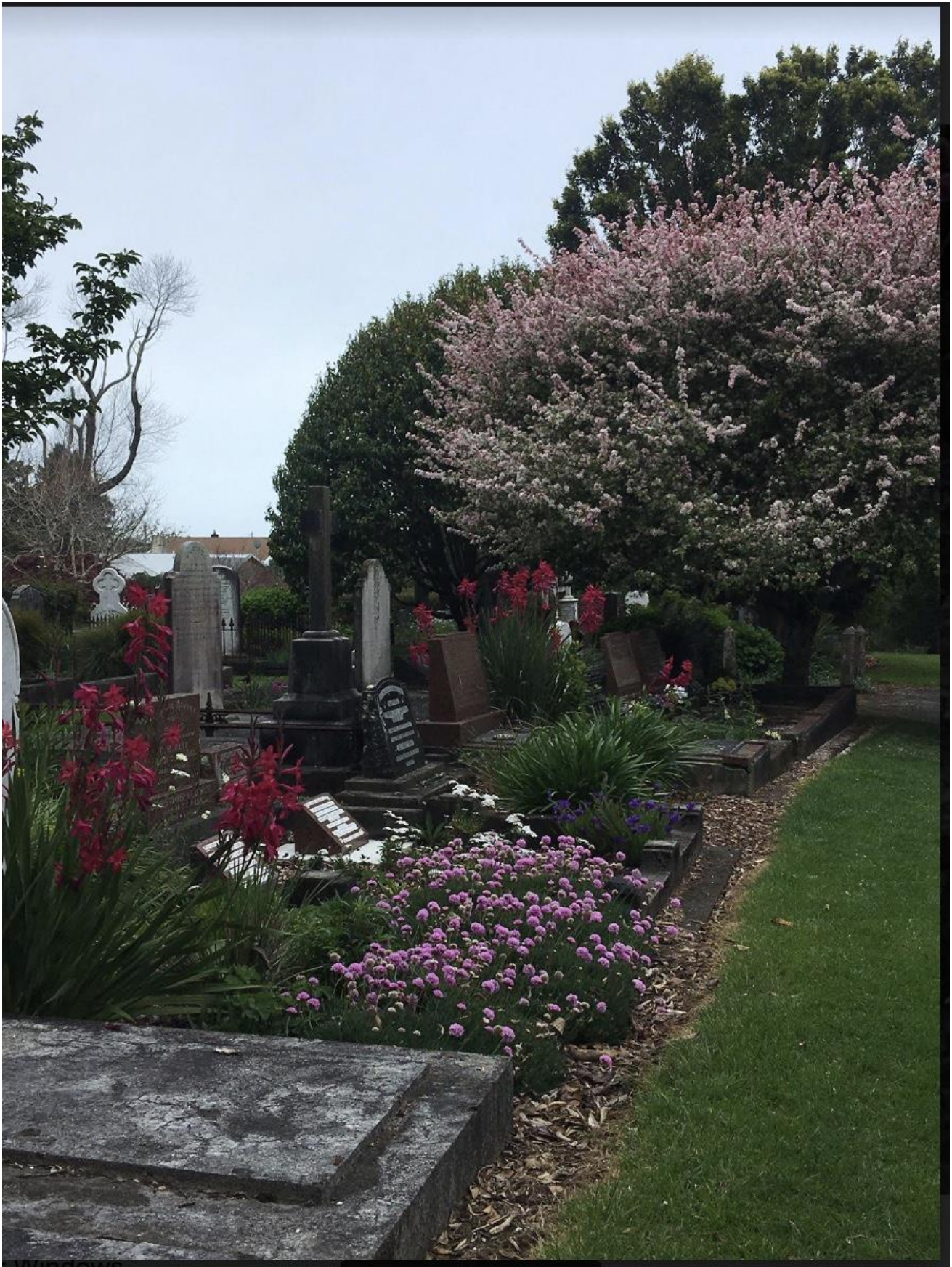
The green blob means that someone has put in a request for someone to find a grave in that cemetery, probably to take a photo of a grave.

Using findagrave.com is really easy. To just search you don't have to sign into an account. You just type in the name and details of the person you are looking for. If you are lucky you will get a photo. See below the details of a distant cousin of my husband and his wife: Arthur Stone and Dorothy Maharam Stone.



If you want to request a photo or you wish to contribute then you do need to create an account. This is easy to do. But remember to read the terms and conditions.

## TE HENUI CEMETERY IN NEW PLYMOUTH by Susan Wright



Te Henui (New Plymouth Cemetery) was begun in 1861. The most remarkable aspect of it is the effort that gardeners put into its upkeep. The volunteers put in a huge amount of work to have it looking like this mid-October. This cemetery is worth visiting to enjoy the love and care that is lavished on the area. For those interested in history, it has many secrets to discover too.



## OBITUARIES AND NEWSPAPER ITEMS

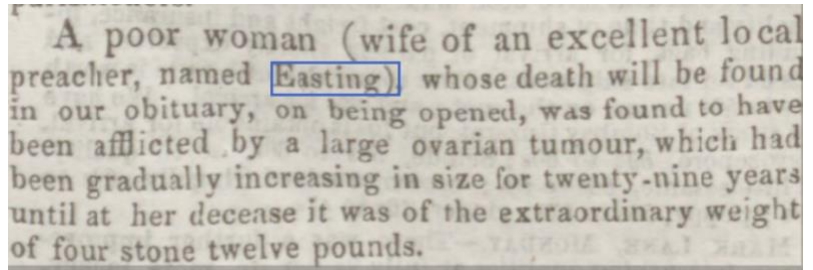
### As sources of otherwise unknown information

**Hannah Betony Easting:** We were horrified to discover what had afflicted my husband's great-great-grandmother: *Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser*, Saturday 1 September 1860, p 4:

Under 'Deaths': 'At Louth, on the 21th ult., Hannah wife of Mr. Geo. Easting, aged 70.'

Under 'Local Intelligence / Louth':

'A poor woman [**Hannah Easting**] (wife of an excellent local preacher, named **Easting**), whose death will be found in our obituary, on being opened, was found to have been afflicted by a large ovarian tumour, which had been gradually increasing in size for twenty-nine years until at her decease it was of the extraordinary weight of four stone twelve pounds.'



This is about 31 kgs. She must have suffered greatly. Ovarian tumours of this size are very rare. A recent one of 36 kgs is called 'extremely giant': [www.hindawi.com/journals/crig/2021/1076855/](http://www.hindawi.com/journals/crig/2021/1076855/)

**George Easting:** Hannah Easting's husband, who died 14 years later. We knew he was a Wesleyan lay preacher in the Louth area but not how popular he was nor how expressive:

*Stamford Mercury*, Friday 6 March 1874, p 4, under 'Louth':

'**Mr. George Easting** otherwise "**Bishop Easting**," and once called "**the weeping prophet**." died suddenly on the 26th ult. He had been a Wesleyan local preacher for 58 years. Monday a considerable number of local preachers and class leaders belonging to the Wesleyan and Free Methodist churches attended the funeral in the cemetery.'

*Boston Guardian*, Saturday 28 March 1874, p 2, under 'Local and District News / Louth':

'The Late **Mr. G. Easting**. Last Sunday evening the Rev. J. Willis preached a sermon in the Wesleyan chapel, in improvement of the death of **Mr. George Easting**, from the text "Well done, good and faithful servant." The choir, assisted by members of other churches, sang "Vital Spark."

**Percy Andrew Bailey:** A relation of my friend's who died at sea, on the Titanic. The information below is from his Find-A-Grave 'Memorial' by Trevor Baxter, a Titanic researcher. I have not verified all of it.



'Mr Percy Andrew Bailey, 18, was born in Cornwall in 1893. The son of James Bailey of 25 Gwavas Street, Penzance. He was travelling to New York City to visit his uncle (Harry Jennings) before going on to Akron, OH to the home of a friend of his father, Mr J. Bailey. He had been hired by a firm in that city as an apprentice butcher.'

'Bailey initially booked on the White Star Line vessel Oceanic, but transferred to Titanic when he heard that several friends were booked for that steamer. He travelled as a second class passenger (ticket number 29108, £11 10s.).

He arrived in Southampton on April 9th from where he sent a postcard to his parents.

'Bailey shared a cabin with Harry Cotterill and George Hocking also from Penzance, none of whom survived the sinking.'

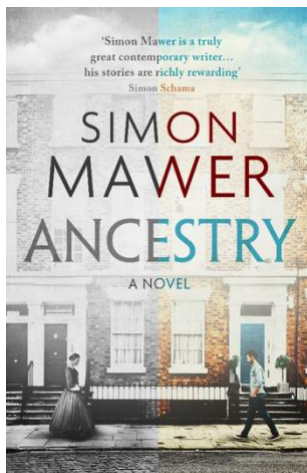
£11.10 in 1912 is worth £1,680.57 today.

*The Akron Beacon Journal*, Sat 7 Apr 1912, p A6 notes that nine residents of Cornwall survived the sinking, and three died. The dead were Bailey and his two young friends.

### Obits in a lighter vein:

'Passed after a 13 year battle against cancer and not as a result of being shot by a jealous lover as he wished.'  
(provided by Susan Wright)

'It is with great sadness that our Dad passed away at the grand old age of 91 and a half...Finally, he's made it in to the column he checks every week....' ('Uncle Maurice,' a friend of Ann Ball's parents)



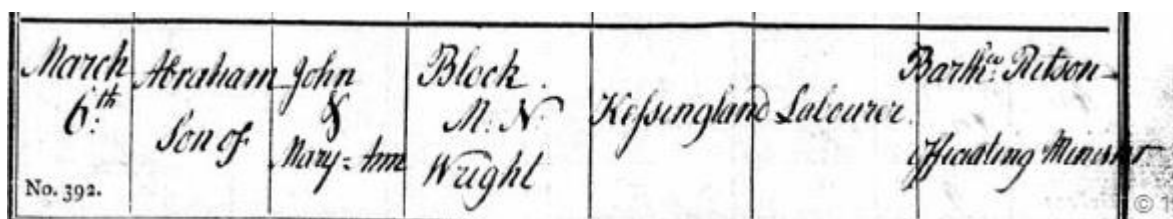
## BOOK REVIEW *Ancestry: A Novel* by Simon Mawer

Published by Hachette Australia, 2022; reviewed by Ann Ball

I borrowed this book from Wellington City Library. It is only available as a book. It is available from Unity Books and other good book shops for around \$28. Check out stocks using [bookhub.co.nz](http://bookhub.co.nz).

Most genealogists try to look beyond the documents for the stories about their ancestors. My husband has asked me from time to time whether I could turn my family research into a bestseller. I couldn't, but Simon Mawer has done so with his family. He has crafted a novel around the lives of four of his great-great-grandparents, Abraham BLOCK and Naomi LULHAM, and George MAWER and Annie SCANLON. The book is dedicated to Naomi and Annie.

The stories themselves are told in an entertaining way, as in a 'normal' historical novel. But from time to time Mawer breaks the fourth wall and explains where he got the information. The first example of this (on p 13) is a copy of Abraham's baptism entry from Kessingland in Suffolk. I've copied this from Ancestry.com. Later on there are copies of shipping records, censuses, birth certificates, and other documents.



In part one we are introduced to Abraham Block and then Naomi Lulham. Abraham was born in a seaside village and dreamt of going to sea. We follow him through his apprenticeship on coal ships and then as he travelled further afield. Naomi moves from Hastings to London, and eventually they meet. It is at this point that the author worries about the story he is telling:

Abraham Block, Naomi Lulham, these are real people with whom I am playing – their lives, their loves, their innermost secrets. I feel the obligation to place the pieces with infinite care. Each piece placed on the board influences the other pieces, but each piece must also obey the rules... and the rules are those limits created by documents, by the registers of life and baptism, of marriage and divorce, of death. (pp 80-81).

In the second part we meet George Mawer, a soldier, and Annie Scanlon. George gets moved around every six months or so. The theory was that this would stop the soldiers getting too friendly with the locals, which would make it harder for them to enforce order if required. Annie follows and is given board in the barracks. The description of their army life is very interesting. I knew nothing of 'The Great Camp' of 1853, a massive army training exercise suggested by Prince Albert. Their lives both change when George goes to fight in the Crimean War. I realised I knew very little about this war – only the Charge of the Light Brigade and that Florence Nightingale looked after the sick and injured. Mawer's description is of George's war, although he does add in some relevant high level comments about strategy. When George 'went East' Annie lost not only her husband, but the board and lodging the Army paid for her and their children. Once George was overseas, the Army had no use for or interest in her.

In the third part the author investigates a family story passed down through the generations about George Mawer's mother Ann and a man called Broomfield or possibly Broomhead. He suggests various scenarios – and uncovers what was right and wrong about the story.

One of Annie's children died in Islington, and the author includes the register entry. Imagine my surprise when I see that the registrar was W MESSER. This is William Messer, brother of my husband's 2x great-grandfather. The author imagines a conversation between Annie and William. It is a very small world!

The epilogue tells us what happened to subsequent generations but I wish the author had included a family tree and some maps at the back of the book as well.

I highly recommend this book – a good tale and an interesting use of family research.



# WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWS

A warm welcome to two new members, Gill Percy and Alan John Taylor.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this month's newsletter: Ann Ball, Geraldine Needham-Girven, and Susan Wright. **Next month is ANZAC month** and contributions on ANZAC or military topics in general will be much appreciated: (love) letters, tributes, memories, extracts from diaries, military records, photos, poems, whatever helps us remember them.

**Our May meeting will include the AGM when we will elect the committee for 2024-25.** We encourage you to consider joining—it can be a very satisfying.

Our recent accomplishments include: a venue change, a new computer purchased, the rationalisation and organisation of our computer files, records, and forms (including the disposal of a lot of paper (!)), the operations manual brought up to date, a branch constitution written, and the branch library about to be dispersed. We have had successful interactive meetings and are working on ways to increase this. We are trying to make ourselves better known in the community: more posters distributed, our Facebook page kept up-to-date, and notices of meetings in the local newspaper; we are considering setting up a website. A lot of groundwork has been done, and we have had an encouraging number of new members. The committee needs new members; already about half have joined within the last 4 years. New members help us look to the future. Regardless of how long you have been with the branch or working on family history, your perspective is very valuable. Please consider it! We meet once a month, by Zoom.

**Workshops:** We are negotiating to have one of the small meeting rooms next to our large meeting room available from **6:00-7:30 pm, immediately before our meetings.** Some members are interested in meeting for informal discussion and individual help. If you are interested, as a trial, on 20 March, come then prepared to tell us what your main priority or area of interest is, who you are doing your research for, what a manageable initial goal might be, or what question you want answered. If possible, write a **short** piece on one of your ancestors or yourself and send it to us a few days before so we can help and encourage you. I guarantee you will get a lot of support! If you are interested, let me know via [wellington@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:wellington@genealogy.org.nz). I will also send a message through the emails I have for the writing group. Bring a takeaway if you like!

**The FamilySearch Desk** is now up and running again at the National Library. The desk is currently located on the opposite side of the floor from the Main desk – but may move due to the building work that is going on. Every week day that the National Library is open there will be a volunteer at the desk between 10am and 2pm. On some Saturdays there will be a volunteer there between 10am and 1pm.

The volunteer will be there to help you navigate your way around FamilySearch and to answer your family tree questions if they can. Not all of us are experts on everything.

If you'd like to help on the **FamilySearch Desk** (and possibly get time to do your own research at the National Library) email [Kilbirnie@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Kilbirnie@genealogy.org.nz) for more information.

Christine Franzen, Newsletter Editor

## DIRECTORY



### Committee

Convenor	Geraldine Needham-Girven	021 180 5166
Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Treasurer	Barbara Marriott	021 756 860
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Membership Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Speakers' Program	Ann Ball	027 6410646
Newsletter Editor	Christine Franzen	021 1129730
	Prue Theobald	04 232 0241
Library Liaison	Sallie Hill	04 232 4622

### POSTAL ADDRESS

9 Cashmere Ave  
Khandallah 6035

### EVENING MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of the month  
February through November  
7:00 for 7:30 pm start  
Collective Community Hub  
33 Johnsonville Road

### COMMITTEE CONTACT

[wellington@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:wellington@genealogy.org.nz)

### BRANCH WEBSITE

[genealogy.org.nz/Branch-details/11084-s1100084/](http://genealogy.org.nz/Branch-details/11084-s1100084/)

### FACEBOOK PAGE

[Facebook.com/NZSGWellington](https://www.facebook.com/NZSGWellington)

## WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH?

KILBIRNIE	PORIRUA	HUTT VALLEY	KAPITI
<b>Thursday 4 April, 10:00 am</b>	<b>Wednesday 13 March, 7 pm</b>	<b>Thursday 21 March, 7:30 pm</b>	<b>Tuesday 26 March, 7:00 pm</b>
<i>Presentation from NZ Defence Force</i>	Members' presentations: <i>Interesting grave markers</i> and Debbie Evans: <i>Find-a-grave</i>	<i>Family Search</i>	<i>The Enigma of Mavis Higgins</i>
Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St	Helen Smith Room Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua	The Masonic Centre 65 Udy St, Petone	Martyn Wright  Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu