



# March 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH	WEDNESDAY 16 APR	WEDNESDAY 21 May
<p><i>Looking Both Ways – Genealogy in the Past and the Future.</i></p> <p><i>Max Kennedy</i></p>	<p><i>Research Opportunities in Defence Records</i></p> <p><i>Robert Henry</i></p>	<p><i>Finding Jean Currie</i></p> <p><i>Kaye Batchelor</i></p>

Pre-meeting Discussion Group, 19 Mar, 6:00-7:15pm

**Please note the AGM this year will be held at our Branch Meeting 18 June 2025.**

## CONVENOR'S CORNER



Greetings members. Best laid plans and all that! If you read my last month's message you would have been surprised to see me at the February meeting after all. Unfortunately, my mother-in-law took a downturn, and I came home early from my trip to Australia. She is okay but we will wait and see.

It was lovely meeting up with my Australian and English cousins, who then came to see us in Wellington. The wife of one of my cousins was keen to meet me as I had been in contact with her father (now deceased) as he and I had both been researching our family history. It turns out I still have access to her father's Ancestry tree, but she does not, so hopefully I can help with that. Her father had made a photo book of her side of the family for her son, but never finished my cousin's side, so I am going to have a go at that. – another project LOL.

I was glad to attend February's meeting to hear Cathy's talk. It was fascinating and the range of sources Cathy used was very impressive. This month our very own Newsletter Editor, Max Kennedy will be talking. It is wonderful that our newsletters are full of members' stories. Talking about member participation, Ann had to step down from the committee suddenly, but Kaye, Christine and Mhairi have all stepped forward to take over Ann's roles between them. Thank you very much, Kaye, Christine and Mhairi.

Geraldine Needham-Girven,  
Convenor, Wellington Branch

Ed: This is a continuation of members stories of their ancestors arrivals (prior to 1860) in New Zealand. These paint a picture of life in the early days of European arrival in New Zealand. Thanks to those who sent them in.

## Ancestors who arrived in New Zealand prior to 1845

### **BAKER family**

By Celia Geary

George BAKER and his wife Susan GOODER (Susanna Goodyer) arrived in Wellington on the 'Lady Nugent' on 17th. March 1841. Originally from Devonshire, where their eldest child Harriett was born. They also had George junior born in London while they waited for their ship to sail. George BAKER snr. was contracted to build pre-fabricated houses for the New Zealand Company. He had been a carpenter in Devon and the NZ Company needed tradesmen to fulfil their contracts in NZ. The Bakers had a rough trip on the 'Lady Nugent'. It was poorly supplied with food and water and there were many violent storms. Mrs. Baker had suffered a scald to her leg in heavy seas, drunkenness among crew and passengers was rife and the ship had to call at Hobart as they had run out of water. George Baker was illiterate though he did sign his name 'Gorge' Baker on his marriage certificate in Exeter. Letters were sent to him from England but they were never collected from the Post Office. Susan Baker in later days, went around Wellington collecting rents on properties they owned and did the banking, according to one of her granddaughters who often accompanied her.

By the early 1850's gold had been found in Australia, so George Baker snr. took his son to Bendigo where they fossicked for gold. Whether they found any or not, when they returned to Wellington, they instigated a Gold Rush at Kaiwarra(sp) [Ed: Kaiwharawhara] Gulley. Nothing came of this, but the Short and Baker families had an interest in finding gold because of their Australian experiences. From the book by James Brodie, "Terawhiti and the Goldfields", I learned that by 1869 Geo. BAKER, Eb, Rueben and Job SHORT, James STOCKBRIDGE and others, set up the 'Baker Hill Mining Company' . 1869 to 1873 the whole valley was covered in miners camps. Today at Karori, 'Zealandia' holds an old gold mine entrance which belonged to the Baker's Hill Mining company, and unless things have changed in the last 20 years, you could still enter it, if you didn't mind the wetas.

My great grandmother Caroline Baker was born 2 April 1842. but her father neglected to record any of the children born in New Zealand until it became compulsory in 1848. Altogether they had nine children, but only four became adults. There is no more mention of Harriett after she arrived, but George junior became a builder and worked with his father, building in Wellington for many years. He married Emma STOCKBRIDGE and they had 12 children. The most famous being W.G. Baker, a well-known landscape artist of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Emily, Mary Ann, Susan and John Henry all died young. John Henry's death was recorded in the newspaper as a tragedy. He had been carting wood for his parents at their house in Karori, when the strap he had around his body towing the cart, strangled him when he fell over a bank and the weight of the cart was too much for him to release himself.

## Samuel WELLS (1810-1877), Martha HOLLOWAY (1813-1852) and Harriett Martha HUNT (1809-1883)

By Max Kennedy

Samuel WELLS was born on 16 Sep 1810 in Lasham, Hampshire, England and Martha HOLLOWAY was born in Shalden, Hampshire on 24 May 1813. They married in 1833. They had 3 children before emigrating. About 1840 Samuel and Martha made the decision to emigrate to New Zealand. What was somewhat unusual was that they emigrated on different ships to New Zealand. Samuel Wells emigrated on 27 Apr 1841 on the ship *Whitby* bound for Nelson. Martha Holloway and the two boys (one had died) followed emigrating on 24 Sep 1841 on the ship *Mary Ann* to Nelson.

This is understandable given that both the *Whitby* and the *Mary Ann* were part of a fleet of 7 ships which led to the setting up of Nelson under the Wakefield Scheme by the New Zealand Company. As Nelson was not yet set up, the first surveying expedition of the three ships the *Whitby*, *Will Watch* and *Arrow* was a men-only trip. This meant leaving Martha and the children to come out on a later voyage. These ships first headed for Wellington arriving late August - early September 1841. Samuel Wells and all the travellers on these first 3 ships were known as 'expedition men'.

Martha arrived in the newly set up Nelson on 05 Feb 1842 on the *Mary Ann*. Samuel worked as a builder and labourer. Samuel and Martha went on to have a total of 9 children (4 boys and 5 girls). Tragedy struck again when Martha Holloway died, on 04 Oct 1852 aged 39. She is believed to be buried in Fairfield Park cemetery in Nelson. The location of the grave is unknown.

After about 10 months Samuel married again. On 16 Aug 1853 Samuel Wells aged 42 married Harriett Martha HUNT aged 44 in Nelson. Harriett Hunt was born in Selborne, Hampshire, England in 1809. Harriett Hunt and her first husband William WINTER had come to New Zealand in 1841-1842 on the ship *Bolton*. William Winter died on 18 Jun 1847, aged 42 years, leaving Harriett a widow with 8 children. Samuel and Harriet had a combined family of 16 living children with 10 under the age of 14.

Samuel, Harriett and family farmed in 88 Valley Rd, Waimea South. In 1859 Samuel Wells became a founding member of the Oddfellows lodge in Wakefield. Samuel Wells died aged 67 on 09 Dec 1877 at his home. Samuel was buried in 11 Dec 1877 at St John's Church cemetery, Wakefield. Harriett Hunt died on 27 Feb 1883 aged 74, just over 5 years after Samuel. Harriett is also buried in the St John's Anglican Church cemetery, Wakefield.

St John's Anglican Church, Wakefield is noted for who designed it. *"Wakefield's St Johns is a rare example of a building designed by a woman in 19th century New Zealand and probably internationally...The first service in St John's on 11 Oct 1846 was led by the Revd Charles Lucas Raey, and it was his wife, Marianne Raey who designed the simple but picturesque structure with gabled nave, chancel and bell tower"* [Anon, St John's Church, Wakefield. Pamphlet, 2012]. Marianne was New Zealand's first woman architect. The church was made a category 1 historic place in 1983. It appeared on a Christmas stamp in 1981.



*Samuel Wells and Harriett Hunt*

# Ancestors who arrived in New Zealand 1845-1860

William and Sarah BALDWIN

By David Stevens



*William Baldwin (1810-1883)*

William was born in St. Johns, Waterford, Ireland in 1811 and Sarah, nee Shiel, was born in County Tipperary on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1816. They were married in the Catholic Church, Nenagh, County Tipperary on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1834.

William enlisted in the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot in 1831 and served in Ireland, England, West Indies, and Nova Scotia. In 1840 he was transferred to the Royal Newfoundland Veterans Regiment in which he served until late 1849 when he returned to England as he was discharged from the Army in consequence of disease contracted in the service. He was awarded a pension from 11<sup>th</sup> December 1849.

Sarah did not accompany William when he was posted to the West Indies and only reunited with him in Newfoundland about 1839. On return to England the family spent time in Nenagh and in Wigan, Lancashire.

On 14 January 1851 the family sailed from London (Gravesend) on the 565 ton barque "Inchinnan". On board were 78 Chelsea pensioners, 68 women and 113 children. William and the other pensioners were to join the Fencible Units which were stationed in Auckland, New Zealand. They arrived in Auckland on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1852 and were initially stationed in Howick.

As an enrolled pensioner William was granted land under the "Waste Lands Act 1855" in fulfilment of a promise under the Queens Regulations a parcel of land of 1 acre on 17 November 1857 in the village of Otahuhu. William was described as a tailor when he enlisted in the Army in 1831 and he continued in this occupation in Otahuhu. The family remained on this land until 1864 when it was sold and the family moved to Hawkes Bay where they lived in Petane, Hastings and Napier.

William and Sarah had 8 children; William 1836-1839, Michael 1839-1885, James 1840-1897, Honora 1845-1918, Patrick 1846-1851, John 1850-1879, Ellen 1853-1894 and Margaret Lois 1856-1918.

William died 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1883 at his residence in Awatoto, Napier and is buried in the Havelock North Cemetery. Sarah died 28<sup>th</sup> March 1885 in Napier Hospital and it is believed she is buried in the Napier Cemetery.

William and Sarah are the great great grandparents of David Stevens (NZSG 11874)

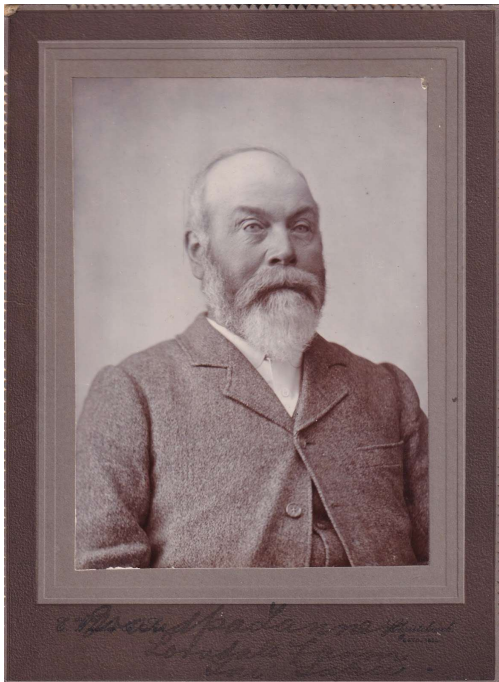


*Sarah Baldwin (nee Shields) 1816-1885)*



**Henry Nichols TANNER (born 1837 at Rodbourne, England and his wife Caroline BARNETT (born at Foxham in England )**

by Linda Fernandez



*Henry Nichols Tanner*

My great-great-grandparents were married at 17 years old and then travelled to NZ on a ship called the Caroline Agnes which arrived in Lyttelton in August 1855. They lived in Kaiapoi for a couple of years and then settled in Tai Tapu outside Christchurch where they ran their own dairy farm. They are buried in Springston Cemetery just outside Lincoln. Only two of their children survived - my great-grandmother who died at 44 years old and a son who married and had several children. Their first house in Tai Tapu was a cob house and later they built two wooden ones.

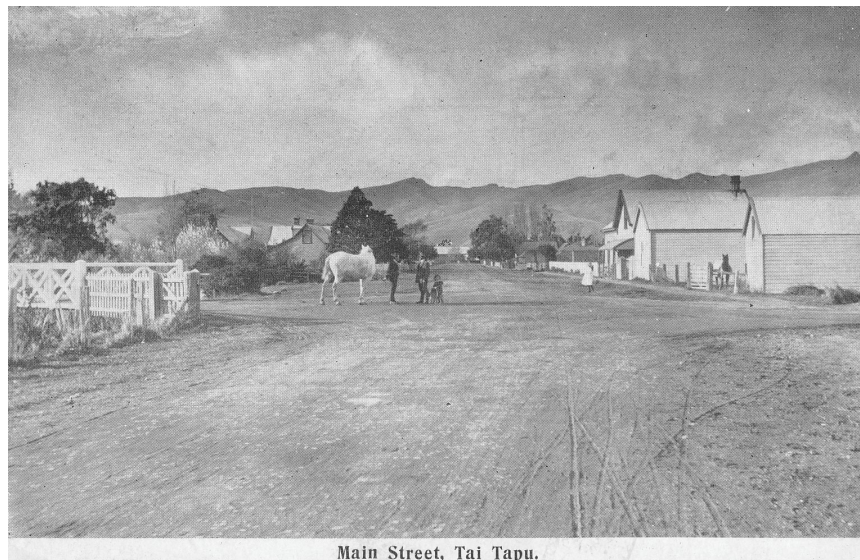


*Caroline Barnett*



*The ship Caroline Agnes*

In the words of my Aunt, “When the Tanners first arrived there was no vegetation, no fruit, no vegetables and they had only the basics of flour and sugar. Grandpa Tanner took the butter they made on his back and walked over the hills to Lyttelton where he exchanged it for the weekly groceries – again mainly basics.”



*Main Street, Tai Tapu.*





*The Tanners original cob house can be seen behind the house on the left. The house on the right is the third house they built but doesn't survive today.*



*Tanner Family*



My Grandmother was the 'Mrs A Brake' referred to in the newspaper clipping below. I haven't yet traced it to a newspaper on Papers Past. Henry Tanner was on the board of the original Tai Tapu School and during a Tanner family reunion this plaque (below) was placed near a tree that was planted in the school grounds on 1-3-1992.

Come to Nelson.  
 At a social held at Saltwater Creek, on Friday, Mrs Wilkinson, the school-mistress, who is leaving, was presented by the residents with a set of carvers and a salad bowl.  
 Mr and Mrs H. H. Tanner celebrated their golden wedding at Tai Tapu last Monday, and were presented with an address and purse of sovereigns by the residents. They entertained a large party in the evening. Mr and Mrs Tanner were married on March 27th, 1855, in England, and sailed in the ship Caroline Agnes about two months later, arriving in Lyttelton in August, 1855. After residing at Kaiapoi for a few years they removed to Tai Tapu. Their family now living consists of one son, Mr F. Tanner, and one daughter, Mrs A. Brake. There are eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The five young couples who sailed for New Zealand in the Caroline Agnes have all celebrated their golden weddings, Mr and Mrs Tanner being the last to do so, while Mr and Mrs Perrin, of Christchurch, are the oldest couple.

Communication with family back in England was difficult. A tiny envelope (just over 2 inches by 4-5 inches) survives with a little letter inside from Henry Tanner's brother George Tanner in England. Maybe it's delay was partly due to the Tanners moving to Tai Tapu. Written on the envelope:-



My Dear Mr & Mrs Watts

I wrote to My Brother Henry nearly two years ago, and have just had the letter returned to me again after staying at Kaiapoi for a twelve

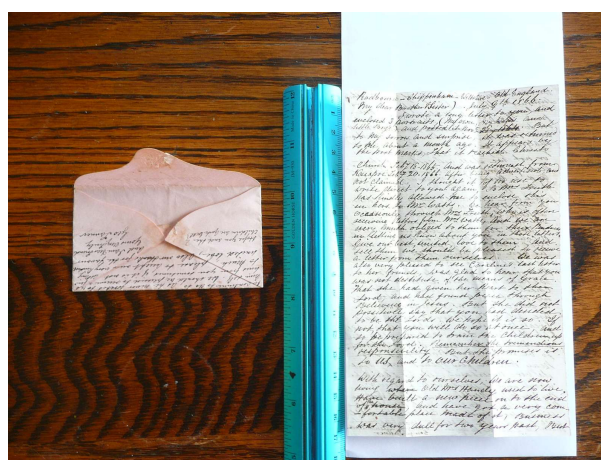
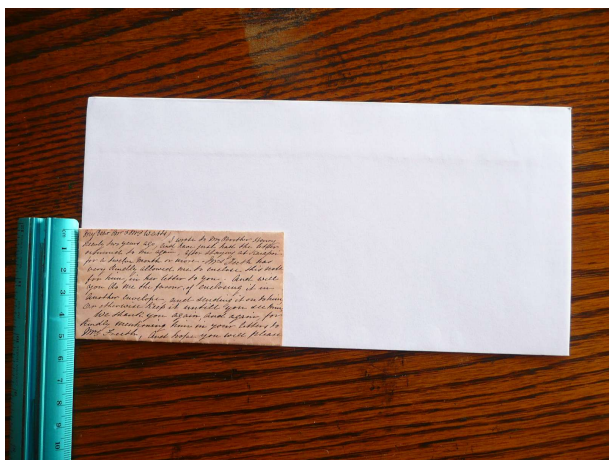
month or more - Mrs Feeth has very kindly allowed me to enclose this note for him in her letter to you. And will you do me the favour, of enclosing it in another envelope and sending it on to him or otherwise keep it until you see him.

We thank you again and again, for kindly mentioning him in your letters to Mrs Freeth, And hope you will please to confirm to do so, as he never writes to us himself. We should be pleased to receive a few lines from you sometimes, if it is not asking too much, please to accept our very kindest united love, Also our thanks for the favour. And I am Dear Friend,

Yours very Truly

Geo Tanner

Hope you and the children are quite well.



Ed: The following is a review of the talk given by Cathy Clarke to our February meeting. If you would like Cathy's references pls email Wellington@genealogy.org.nz.

## **Cathy Clarke – Using newspapers to trace a black sheep from Ireland via USA, Canada and Australia to Palmerston North**

By Kaye Batchelor

Cathy recounted the story of two disreputable direct ancestors and a relative, who she traced through a variety of sources, especially newspaper articles, but their stories showed that you should not believe what is written in such articles, as some or all of it may be exaggerated or simply incorrect. This is where using other sources is key to verifying stories in newspapers and passed down through generations.

She talked about her direct ancestors, James Montgomery Hannay, aka Paul Lee Hannay, and his wife Lucy Stuart, and Paul/James' likely brother Hugh Hannay.

Paul/James had 2 death notices, one in each name, inserted by different family members, and some details on his death certificate could not be verified. For example, it said he married in New York, but Cathy could find no trace of this. The family story was he left his wife and brought his eldest daughter Lily to New Zealand in 1866. Lucy eventually came to New Zealand and she and Paul/James remarried in Sydney in 1892, but separated within weeks, and Lucy went back to America in 1897. Lucy returned to New Zealand between 1905 and 1910, and her death certificate said she had first married in Toronto, not New York. That also proved elusive to prove but seems likely as tax assessments place them both in Toronto.

Luckily their second marriage certificate finally had the correct Hannay parent names, and using the British Newspaper Archive, Cathy found the parents John Hannay and Elizabeth Montgomery marrying in 1831. She also found the parents of Lucy Stuart, and verified Lucy was born in Scotland. Ida, their second daughter, was born in Cincinnati, USA.

Cathy searched a number of US newspapers and found articles that had to be read critically and verified. For example, Lucy wrote accounts of her missionary work at various times that proved on examination to be at best a stretching of the truth, and at worst, outright lies (for example, she said she was a widow after her husband left for New Zealand). There was also an article from a different source implying that Paul/James Hannay had absconded to New Zealand with \$3000 from his employer!

Cathy used shipping arrivals in newspapers to verify aspects of the stories – for example, another daughter suffered from a nerve complaint inherited from her father and went to Australia for treatment. Cathy found verification of this in passenger arrivals/departures in the Trove/Papers Past. Paul/James also spent time as a sole teacher of a school in Takaka, and she found reference to him in a book "Speaking a Silence" by Christine Hunt. This book also confirmed his nerve condition, "tic douloureux".

As for Hugh Hannay, presumed brother of Paul/James, Cathy had great difficulty in tracing him; he was a photographer in Cincinnati and then moved to New York, but finally with the help of other genealogists on the internet, Cathy discovered that he had been using the surname St Aldenheim in New York and Waterbury in the 1870 census, and she suspected that he might have been involved in the alleged missing \$3000. His widow's civil war pension application confirmed the family's movements in Canada and USA.



Cathy pointed out the difficulty with some optical character recognition of digitized newspapers - in one source, a reference to Hannay had been read as Han nay, so not found in a search. And where the same newspapers are available on different sites, it is worth searching both sites, as the indexing may be better on one site. Another tip was to make use of special “free” days for paid sites – Cathy found one article on a local newspaper that had free access for Mother’s Day in the USA. She also found the new-ish feature on Family Search to carry out full text searches very useful.

## 150 Years Ago in Wellington

By Martin Garcia

Selected snippets from *The Evening Post* in March 1875 indicate no shortage of complaints – about the cost of living in Wellington, pollution, prices charged by undertakers and the Hutt rail timetable. The St Patrick Day races at Pauatahanui were a pleasant distraction.

### *Wellington was an expensive place to live*

From an Auckland perspective, the *Southern Cross* newspaper considered Wellington to be an expensive city to live. “Land is rapidly rising in value, house rents have so increased of late that people of moderate means find the mere item of rent a far too large proportion of a moderate income, and dwellings of inferior description have to be paid for at a very high rate. ... those with tolerably large families and limited means find Wellington a very costly place to live in, with little prospect of reduction.”

### *Infrastructure continued to develop*



*Intersection of Featherston and Hunter Streets, and Lambton Quay, Wellington in about 1870. Wellington City Libraries <https://wellington.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/5255>*

opposite the shop of Mr. Jackson, stationer.” The Provincial Government contracted the building, and supply by 1 June 1876, of a steam tug for the Port of Wellington. “She is to be a paddle-boat, and of not less than 70 horse-power, and is to be fitted and maintained in such a manner as to be able to tow any vessels visiting Wellington.”

### *Pollution caused problems*

A Te Aro resident complained about smoke from the lime kilns in Webb Street. “. This surely would be a matter for the Inspector of Nuisances to deal with under the Public Health Act. If he has not power to stop the burning, he might compel the owners of the kilns to build chimneys of sufficient height to carry off the smoke.”

A new fire bell was installed on Lambton Quay. “To prevent a needless alarm of fire, we may state that the new bell at St. Andrew’s Church is to be sounded tomorrow, for the purpose of testing its tone.” And for the mail, “A pillar-receiving-letter-box will, we understand, shortly be erected on Lambton Quay,



*An unnamed paddle steamer in the 1880s at Queen’s Wharf. <https://hocken.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/52456>*

### *Undertakers' prices were contentious*

One mourner, under the *nom de plume* "Funeral Reform", wrote to the Editor of *The Evening Post*: "Last year I lost a member of my family, and will mention but two items in the bill furnished to me — a child's coffin, four guineas; use of hearse and pall, four pounds. My orders to the undertaker were for the coffin to be quite plain, and the funeral to be as quiet and unostentatious as possible. I need not enumerate the rest of the items, which resembled a lawyer's bill — their name was legion — making a very nice sum total for the undertaker's pocket ...."



NGAURANGA ON THE HUTT ROAD 1871

*Ngauranga on the Hutt Road [with the rail line at left]. PAColl-1574-16. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23104336*

secular festivities, we may mention the Pahautanui Races, at which a number of our citizens went out to "assist." ... The racecourse is on a sandy flat, liable at times to be overflowed by the sea, and part of it was somewhat heavy yesterday. This flat is rapidly rising, and in a few years will make an admirable racecourse. The hills around form a complete amphitheatre."

Primary source: *The Evening Post*, Volume XI, Issues 1-26, 1 to 31 March 1875

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/evening-post/1875>

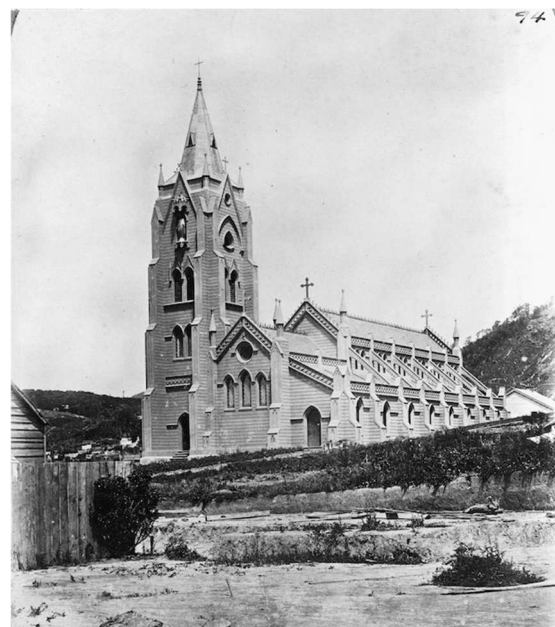
Text quoted includes spelling, punctuation and grammar as it appeared at the time.

### *The Hutt rail timetable was inconvenient*

The Editor of *The Evening Post* complained about mismanagement of the Hutt Railway by the Public Works Department. "The timetable is arranged in a most inconvenient manner, absolutely prohibitive to business people who would like to live at the Hutt. Government officers also cannot live out of town along the line, for they have to be at their offices at half-past nine o'clock, and the train does not arrive till ten."

### *St Patrick's Day was spent at church and the races*

Banks closed for St Patrick's day. "Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral this morning .... Of



*St Mary's Cathedral, Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington [ca 1880s]. Ref: 1/2-002467-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/23097886*



## Editorial

Our last two newsletters have been a wonderful celebration of our members' ancestors who emigrated to New Zealand. Currently we have covered Pre 1845 and the 1845-1860 arrival time periods. In the April newsletter we will cover the 1860-1870 decade. If any members have additional stories of ancestors who came to New Zealand in any of these time periods (pre 1845 to 1870), we would like to put them in the April newsletter (we will cover subsequent decades in future newsletters). We are after a short summary of a few paragraphs (up to no more than a page), with photos if you have them. Pls send them to [wellington@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:wellington@genealogy.org.nz) by the end of March.

Also articles with an ANZAC or military theme will be greatly appreciated for the April issue.

Max Kennedy

## Notices

The NZSG is looking for tips and tricks to add to their 'Overseas Resources' section on their website (From the home page-Resources/Overseas Resources/...) They are particularly looking for some helpful hints for non-English speaking countries. If you can help, please send your contribution to [wellington@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:wellington@genealogy.org.nz) and we will pass it on.

## DIRECTORY Committee



Convenor	Geraldine Needham-Girven	021 180 5166
Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Membership Secretary	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Speakers' Program	Kaye Batchelor	
	Prue Theobald	021 2345621
Treasurer	Liz Newport	021 815 846
Newsletter Editor	Max Kennedy	021 46 5483

KILBIRNIE	PORIRUA	HUTT VALLEY	KAPITI
Thursday 03 Apr, 10:00 am	Wednesday 12 Mar, 7:30 pm	Thursday 20 Mar, 7:30 pm	Tuesday 25 Mar, 7:30 pm
<i>Helene Ritchie: About her family history, including publishing a book.</i>	<i>Philippa Parsons: Four of the magnificent seven (London's cemeteries)</i>	<i>Luke Howison, Ancestor Search Helper + Research Evening</i>	<i>Bill McKeich: James McKeich, tunnel builder'</i>
Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St	Helen Smith Room Pataka Art + Museum, Porirua	Senior Citizens' Rooms, Forsyth Barr Building 45 Knights Road Lower Hutt	Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu