

Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand  
Society of Genealogists



## News & Views

May 2020

Issue 388



### Greetings Everyone,

I hope you are all keeping well.

The Covid19 Lockdown means the Hutt Valley Branch will have to be closed during May and June. The committee expects to meet in June with the first regular meeting of the branch being our AGM in July. However this will depend on what the Covid 19 level will be at the time.

To those of you who have borrowed books, Susie Fraser (Librarian) will be in touch with you once the Petone Library building re-opens.

Membership renewals are now due. If possible, pay using on-line banking to ANZ 01 0530 0289489.00. Please put your name in the reference section. If paying on-line is not an option, payment may be by cheque to the branch P O Box 31 024, Lower Hutt, 5040.

If you require assistance with your research please email the branch [HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz) and we will do our very best to find someone who can help you.

Regards *Helene*

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**Ian Hutchison FYFE, RIP, 15 April 2020**

**NZSG Member No 2706**



*Thanks to Dawn Chambers for the photograph of Ian, taken 2010 at FHM Open Day.*

Ian was a very dedicated member of the Hutt Valley Branch, joining the branch in 1984. A regular Heritage Volunteer at Petone Library, a fountain of knowledge concerning Scottish research and always willing to help anyone.

He manned the Scottish Interest Group table at many Family History Open Days, and nothing was too much trouble for him to assist people who were just getting started on their research or to exchange knowledge with other interested parties.

*I have happy memories of Ian Fyfe at the NZSG Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington's annual research afternoons in the Hutt Valley. He was a regular attender from our first winter afternoon get together at the Hutt Bridge Club rooms in July 2003, and a reliable stalwart on our organising committee from 2005 to 2018.*

*For four years from August 2006 our weekend research afternoons were upstairs in the Thompson block at St Orans College where Ian had a caretaker responsibility, facilitated our booking and College security.*

*The meeting room at the Petone Library was our annual research venue from August 2010 with Scottish resources from our group, from SIG resources in Auckland and sharing of his personal Scottish resources and keen knowledge. Ian was always involved with any Scottish family history activity in the Hutt Valley and particularly at the Hutt Valley Branch combined family history days in the autumn of 2012 and 2013 at Petone Library.*

*Ian certainly "did his bit" for sharing Scottish genealogy in the Hutt Valley.*

*For auld land syne*

*Pen Brown, Convenor, SIG-GW 2002-2013*

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## **Blackbridge Cemetery, Knox Presbyterian Church, Lower Hutt:**

<https://jewelian.wixsite.com/blackbridge-cemetery>

The information on this website was researched and recorded by Ian Fyfe. It records the names and lives of all the people, and others involved in the development of the Presbyterian Chapel in the Hutt, most of whom came to New Zealand in the mid-19th century.

Many of them came from Scotland, but there are also several folks from England, at least one from Ireland, one born in India and even one from Paris.

Many of these people had quite an impact on the development of the Hutt Valley and this is some of their stories.

Although the cemetery was closed early in the 20th century, a memorial stone was erected about 1950, containing the names of those who were known to be buried there.

This record of these families will continue to be a valuable resource for genealogists in future.

[https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Getting-it-Right\\_1715.aspx](https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Getting-it-Right_1715.aspx)



Starting your family history can be daunting! **Getting It Right** is a series of learning resources with a New Zealand focus to help you with your family history research.

In these presentations you can discover practical steps you can take to start on the fascinating story of your family!

Each resource consists of a video and a set of notes. The notes can be downloaded and saved to your own computer.

These resources are divided into three sections. Click on each of the photos to watch the videos:

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### **Remote Access to Hutt City Libraries Ancestry and FindmyPast Websites:**

We have remote access, temporarily, for the lockdown period, to Ancestry.com and Findmypast via our library eresources pages until the end of May.

For Ancestry access, log into the library site with your library card number and password on the home page, top right corner.

If you don't know your password, email the library team at [Libraries@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:Libraries@huttcity.govt.nz) or phone the contact phone number.

For Findmypast, if you want access, email the library team for the link and password to use.

You will need to access the database via the eresources page.

There is a limit of 500 records viewed (not searched) on Findmypast for any 24-hour period.

***From Tricia Meehan, Petone Heritage Library***

## Can you Identify where these Photographs were taken in the Hutt Valley?

The Petone Heritage Library has had an enquiry from England - This family rented a wooden house in the Hutt Valley from 1964 to 1967 then returned to England. The enquirer has an idea that the house could be in the Bell Rd area. Contact Tricia Meehan [tricia.meehan@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:tricia.meehan@huttcity.govt.nz)



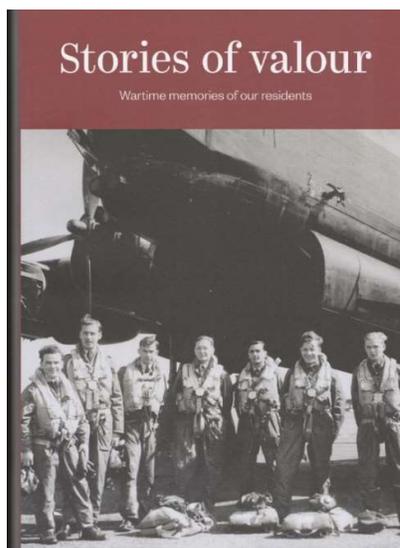
This photograph with the lawnmower was taken on their lawn.

There appears to be major road works on the Wainuiomata Hill Road in the background.

The photograph taken of the two girls on the street is probably outside their house with the background of what appears to be an Art Deco - Style house and a commercial building next door.



## New in our Library:



### **Stories of Valour**

To Commemorate Anzac Day, Ryman

Healthcare have put together this book to share the amazing wartime experiences of some of the residents in their villages throughout New Zealand.

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### **Branch Newsletters Received during March and April:**

- South Canterbury-March to April
- Kilbirnie-March, April and May
- Palmerston North-March and April
- Nelson-March and April
- Porirua-April
- New Plymouth-March and April
- Canterbury -March and April
- Hawke's Bay -April
- Riccarton-March and April
- Wairarapa-April
- Otaki-March
- South Waikato- March and April
- Whanganui- January to March
- Hawera- February to March

Member who would like to receive any of these newsletters please email Anne Martin, Secretary [HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz)

## **Find Family and Friends in Museum Photography Collection:**

<https://collection.canterburymuseum.com/search>

Canterbury Museum wants to identify people and places in thousands of photographs taken by New Zealand's longest-running photography studio, Standish and Preece.

A project to digitise and catalogue the images has been underway since 2019. The first batch of about 32,000 photos has just been uploaded to the 'Collections Online' area of the Museum's website. Here people can help by adding their own knowledge about people and places.

Frank Standish and Alfred Preece founded the studio in Christchurch in 1885. While their partnership only lasted 5 years, the business operated until 2011, closing after the Canterbury earthquakes.

Standish and Preece photographers captured a multitude of faces and the social history of Christchurch for more than 126 years. Many of the photographs are individual or family portraits but they also include school groups, sports teams, weddings, and corporate events.

Fashion trends, changing demographics and even the growth and development of Christchurch's architectural heritage can be seen across the decades.

Standish and Preece donated their photographic negatives dating up to the 1960s – around 36,000 photos – to the Museum in 1992. Another 39,000 photographs dating from 1960 until the studio's closure in 2011 were donated to the Museum in 2017 by John Hunter, the last owner of the business.

Three full-time staff members began scanning and cataloguing the negatives in 2019. The three-year project has been funded by the Lottery Grants Board and from a bequest by former Honorary Museum Curator, Rose Reynolds.

The collection of 75,000 images will be uploaded to Collections Online in batches every few months.

Many of the photos came with a record of the name of the group, organisation, or family, but not the names of the individuals in the image. The Museum hopes the public will be able to supply more details.

We would really like people to browse through the images, hopefully see some faces they recognise and supply the Museum with names and stories via the Collections Online comments box,” he says.

In the future, this information could be used to help people find photos of their relatives and be useful to family and social history researchers.

Dr Jill Haley, Curator Human History, says the collection is a window into life in Canterbury through the decades. “You can see fashion trends develop, demographics change and even the growth and development of Christchurch itself”.

“There are some quirky images in the collection as well, like the portraits of people’s pets. We’d love to know more about all of them – even the names of the pets!”

### **Also, in the Collection – The Macdonald Dictionary**

In 1952, George Ranald Macdonald volunteered to collect biographical information on early Canterbury settlers for Canterbury Museum.

The G R Macdonald Dictionary of Canterbury Biographies, presented in 1964, represents twelve years of his research and is made up of around 12,000 entries on nineteenth century Cantabrians.

While it is often relatively easy to locate information on those prominent in public life, it is Macdonald’s inclusion of people from every stratum of Canterbury society that has made this Dictionary such a valuable biographical source.

The information included often goes beyond the basic facts and gives a rare insight into the lives of early residents, the businesses they founded, the institutions they were prominent in and the areas in which they lived.

It is one of the most valuable and widely used sources of information on Canterbury people.

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**Papers Past** <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Latest additions to Newspapers (April 2020):

- Gisborne Times (1901-1937)
- Hokitika Guardian (1917-1940)
- Opotiki News (1938-1950)
- Saturday Advertiser (Jul 1875-1878)
- Wanganui Chronicle (1860-1869)

**Some helpful Links Taken from a Couple of Forums:**  
***Thanks to Susan Wilson***

1. Write your memoir

Caroline Gaden, a member of the YorksGen group, has very kindly posted her guide to writing your life story. You can view the post at:

<<https://tinyurl.com/wsbup6q>>.

2. DNA Basics

Learn How To Integrate Your DNA With Your Online Family Tree  
Daniel Horowitz, the genealogy expert at MyHeritage, explains DNA basics, plus how to use the DNA tools on the website to transform your research into your genes.

A free video and downloadable handout.

<<https://tinyurl.com/ybrgyqhr>>

[posted by Lynne on the UK forum]

3. Irish first name variants

A helpful list of Irish first name variants for those starting out with Irish research:

<<http://www.rootsireland.ie/help/first-names/>>

[posted by Lynne on the UK forum]

The Home pages for these forums, and how to join them if you are interested:

UK forum, Home page at <<https://groups.io/g/United-Kingdom>>

YorksGen (Yorkshire) forum, Home page <<https://groups.io/g/YorksGen>>

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**The Knowledge Bank** <https://knowledgebank.org.nz/>

The Knowledge Bank is an ever-growing digital record of Hawke's Bay and its people.

Stories of the events, people, celebrations, tragedies, and day-to-day life that helped form the culture and landscape of the Bay we know today are gathered here in an easy-to-access format.

Volunteers collect personal and business stories, photos, memories, and magazines, digitising them for everyone to read and enjoy.

Included in their collection the Hawkes Bay Photo News 1958-1967



**Forgardenny Church  
Cemetery,  
Perth and Kinross,  
Scotland**

A quite substantial moss and lichen covered granite headstone stands in the Forgardenny Church Cemetery, erected by the Marshall Family. The headstone dated 1791, was erected in memory of two sons and three babies born to Duncan Marshall and Elspet Paton, children who predeceased them between 1768 and 1789. This stone now very weathered, reddish in colour, remains standing although it has sunk into the ground some 40cm. The headstone is about 1.2m wide, 1.5m high to its shoulder and a further 0.4m to its peak.

This headstone and another in Forgardenny Church Cemetery carry the record of a significant piece of early Marshall Family History.

The stone erected in 1791 carries on its east face the names of Duncan and Elspet's children, Janet (Janet) 1768 age 1yr, twins Grizal age 1 day and Piter age 6 days 1769, James (James) 1788 age 28, and Robert 1789 age 24.

The inscription carries no records of the deaths of either Duncan or Elspet.

The west face of the 1791 stone carries a pictorial engraving of some interest. Considerable research has been carried out on Scotland's graveyards and of the 18<sup>th</sup> century folk art found on headstones. **Hamish Brown** one such researcher, suggests the common practice of engraving symbols into a headstone to our mind might seem grotesque and morbid, but at the time when many folks were illiterate, the use of symbols would convey significant meaning.

He says much of the headstone symbolism expresses various guild trades; there are also some simple but beautiful biblical scenes. Common among through the 16<sup>th</sup> through to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century are two basic categories, the "emblems of mortality" and the "emblems of immortality". The former will be low down on the stone and the latter at the top of the stone. Earth. Heaven.

The symbolism of the 1791 family headstone is simple in design and style. At the base of the stone there is the simple, almost crude, shape of a skull and alongside a pair of crossed femur bones (now hidden from view due to the stone settling into the ground). This gruesome image is a reminder of one's mortality, the earth. We live. We die. Directly above the skull and crossed bones is a ribbon inscribed with the Latin words *Memento Mori* 'memory in death'.

Above this ribbon is a shear and coulter, flanked on either side by what looks like four ears of wheat. Here is a symbol which clearly indicates the family's strong links to the land. Finally, in the peaked top of the stone the "heaven", is the representation of the immortal in the form of a head, or round face of an angel, embraced on either side by a feathered wing.

At first glance of this stone one's thoughts are caught up in the story of what must have been a devastating experience for Duncan and Elspet; the death of their beloved children. On one side of this stone are the names of the five of the eight of their family who had died and for whom they grieved. While on the reverse side of the stone is the symbolism telling of the family's farming life, while also giving expression to their spiritual belief and faith.

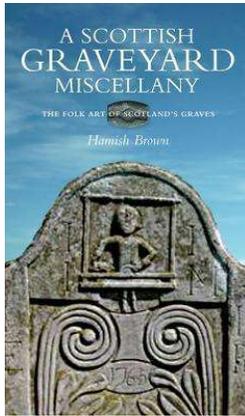


*Headstone erected 1791 by Duncan Marshall and Elspet Paton in memory of their children James, Robert, Janet, Grizal and Piter.*

**NOTE:** *I am a direct descendant of Duncan Marshall and Elspet Paton. This article was written as part of the book for the Marshall Family Reunion held at Leeston, Canterbury in 2017.*

*Thanks to Winston Marshall for all his research.*

*Helene Philpott*



## **A Scottish Graveyard Miscellany: The Folk Art of Scotland's Graves**

By Hamish Brown

In "A Scottish Graveyard Miscellany", Hamish Brown explores in words and extraordinary pictures the folk art of Scottish graveyards from the eighteenth century (when gravestones began to be widely used) to the present day. Each old kirkyard is a riotous celebration of folk art: there are skulls and skeletons, ships and lighthouses, angels galore, carved portraits of our forebears and even a gravestone decorated with a picture of Bart Simpson and his skateboard! More than mere memorials, the graves are a collection of pages in stone taken from the history of Scottish everyday life. Scotland's kirkyards are not gloomy places to be shunned, but places to find vivid stories from the lives of people, without distinction of class or creed.

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### **Letter to all Wellington Area Branch Members:**

I am an archivist and historian who has worked in Government curating exhibitions based on stories I discovered in the archives. Now I am working with a genealogist, local historian, and a writer to tell local and regional histories in schools.

We have talked to several history teachers, historians, and principals. They all reaffirmed our belief that most students are engaged when learning about their local area and people.

We are trialling a pilot project on two topics, one on the history of Lower Hutt schools' uniforms and the other on Lower Hutt's urban history from the 1920s to 1950s. We would like to contact genealogists who hold histories of individuals in Lower Hutt relating to school uniforms or to housing and urbanisation. For example, in relation to urbanisation we are interested to hear about the market gardeners, iwi, builders, state house tenants, Government town planners and administrators.

If you would like to contribute to school students in knowing their history or are curious to find out more, please contact me.

My contact details are - Jennie Henton, [ruruproductionsnz@gmail.com](mailto:ruruproductionsnz@gmail.com)  
m 027 419 7970