



# New Zealand FAMILY TREE



*Published Three Times Yearly*

Te Rakau Whakapapa o Aotearoa

P.O. Box 13-301, Armagh, Christchurch 8141

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| From the President.....                                   | 2  |
| The Fascination of Cemeteries.....                        | 3  |
| The Giant Children of Foxton.....                         | 10 |
| Field Trip to Nelson.....                                 | 16 |
| Clan Buchanan and the inauguration of a new chieftan..... | 21 |
| Submitting Articles.....                                  | 23 |
| Programme for May – July 2023.....                        | 23 |



*The Giant Children of Foxton – see article on page 10*



## From the President

I am writing this after recently returning from our annual field trip, this year to Nelson. What a wonderful occasion, walks, talks, history, visits to historic homes, graveyard tours, meals and presentations. Two highlights stood out for me, the Cathedral Steps tour, with Heather Thomas

from the historical society. On this tour she shared stories of locals, characters and events in Nelson's past. She was a great storyteller. The second highlight was a tour of the Wakapuaka cemetery, where a dedicated group of historians have refurbished and cleaned up most of the old headstones in the cemetery. Their work is to be commended. I wish their enthusiasm could be shared more widely, as most of the Christchurch cemetery headstones could do with a clean-up. Thanks must go to Simon Courtney for organising a wonderful weekend.

At the end of last year our mainframe computer failed. It was checked out, and the data was able to be retrieved, but it needed to be replaced. An application was made to the Rata Foundation for funding. As part of the application two letters of support were needed from prominent citizens. I asked local City Councillors, Jake McLennan and Victoria Henstock to come to the rooms and chat about our application. They were happy to write letters of support and were very impressed with the work we did for our members and local citizens. Jake also suggested that we apply to the CCC for replacement computers under the "Computers for the Community" scheme. Our application was successful and we now have two "all-in-one" computers available for use by our members. We have also made an application to the council for a discretionary grant to help with printing, rent, power and internet costs.

Tony Gordon has done a grand job loading all the genealogy software applications onto the computers.

# The Fascination of Cemeteries

by Kevin White

I've always been fascinated by cemeteries and in particular, the myriad of headstones that they hold. It probably started, when, as a youngster, I would be dragged on a pilgrimage to my grandparents and great grand-parents' headstones in Christchurch. My family lived in Lower Hutt in the North Island. My parents had nine siblings between them, and these siblings all lived in Christchurch, in the South Island, so on our annual visits to Christchurch to visit our relatives, we would always have to visit our relatives' graves.

Whilst my parents or aunties were attending to the weeds, I would wander off reading the headstones, looking out for unusual ones. On becoming a family historian, I could locate a large number of my family's headstones and share stories about their lives with my family, but it was always the unusual headstones that fascinated me, especially after my Auntie Maisie took me to the site of the infamous "bloody hand headstone" that used to be in the Barbadoes Street Cemetery. I was probably only about 5 at the time of the visit, but it left a lasting impression. The full story of the murder of Margaret Burke and her bloodstained headstone can be read at:

<http://genealogyinvestigations.co.nz/blog/the-blood-stained-handprint-grave-story-92>



As a student at Teachers College in Kelburn, Wellington in the late 1960s, I used to walk down from the college through the gardens, then through the Bolton Street Cemetery on my way to the railway station. I would wonder at the Richard J. Seddon's mammoth statue, so tall I was unable to make out what the statue figure on the top represented. Harry Holland's strikingly symbolic nude memorial, was nearby, at the top end of the cemetery. Then I would wander down to the Wakefield family graves, which are at





the bottom. The simple, informative headstone details Edward Gibbon Wakefield and his family's life. Nowadays a motorway cuts through the cemetery. The formation of this motorway was very controversial. There were many protests and marches, but in the end 3700 historic graves were disinterred and their remains placed in a mass crypt on the eastern side of the motorway. Such is the price of progress. Our family often went on Sunday drives around the Wellington area. One stop was the Massey Memorial on Point Halswell, where my father, a staunch returned serviceman would remind us *"this grave is the largest in New Zealand and it was paid for by the public, just to show how much they appreciated Mr. Massey's leadership in WW1."* It is certainly an impressive memorial standing on an old gun emplacement, overlooking Wellington Harbour. It is over 50 metres long! Our society visited it on our 2019 field trip to Wellington.

New Zealand family historians have a wealth of information at their fingertips when researching grave sites. There is an excellent New Zealand Burial Locator CD disk put out by the N.Z. Society of Genealogists, and there are two websites which include New Zealand graves.

They are:

Find a Grave at <https://www.findagrave.com/>

and

BillionGraves at <https://billiongraves.com/search>

By far the most useful site for New Zealanders is this site:

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~shipstonz/genealogy/cemeteries.html>

It lists 70 council cemetery databases and 35 other cemetery sites including minor cemeteries such as St. Bathans and Somes Island.

There are a few gravesites that have left an impression on me, not because they have family associations, but because they are unique, different and in some way morbidly quirky.

Our family would often camp in Taupo, a great holiday spot. We loved going to the famous De Brett's hot pools, on the Napier-Taupo highway. Not far from these pools is Opepe, a site of local interest. It is a lovely tranquil sacred site surrounded by native bush. There is a small graveyard set aside from the road. In 1869 Opepe was used as a campsite by the Bay of Plenty Cavalry. Te Kooti and his warriors took exception to their encampment and attacked. The



information board says it all. Surrounding this site are fabulous bush walks.

In Russell, near Waitangi is a very old church and church yard. The church (Christ Church) is the oldest surviving church in New Zealand. It was built in 1835. Christ Church holds a fascination for visitors, not only for its age, but the for the small dents and holes on the walls of the church. These were made by musket balls during the Siege of Kororāreka in March 1845.

In the churchyard is a wooden plaque remembering those who died from the crew of the "H.M.S. Hazard". It is a replica of the original which is displayed inside the church.



During March 1845, Kororāreka was under attack by Ngāti Hine lead by Te Ruki Kawiti. Governor FitzRoy had dispatched the "H.M.S. Hazard" with naval ratings to quell the uprising. This brought the defence forces to over 200 men, including soldiers, sailors, armed seaman and locals. However, at dawn on the 11 March 1845 the Chief Te Ruki Kawiti struck. He had joined forces with Hone Heke, and together they attacked the Church site where the Hazard crew were

stationed, whilst Hone Heke cut down, for the fourth and last time, the flagstaff overlooking the town. The flagstaff was not re-erected again until 1858.

Near Millers Flat in Central Otago, can be found the Horseshoe Bend Cemetery also known as the Lonely Graves Cemetery. Two graves stand side-by-side, one to William Rigby and the other to “Somebody’s Darling.”

According to popular legend, in 1865 William Rigney found the body of a young man washed up on a beach at Horseshoe Bend on the Clutha River. After the inquest into the death of the unknown man, the body was buried at the cemetery. Later Rigby erected a wooden manuka fence around the site and placed a headboard stating it was the grave of “Somebody’s Darling” The head-board states “Somebody’s Darling Lies Buried Here.”



Sadly, this is just a story, as 36 years later Rigney admitted that he had only placed the plaque, he had not found the body and not buried it. But the story stuck. Nevertheless, when Rigney died in 1912 he was buried beside “Somebody’s Darling,” and the words “Here lies the body of William Rigney, the man who buried Somebody’s Darling,” were placed on his gravestone.

Near Kaiapoi, Canterbury, is a unique cemetery dedicated to local Māori. The Te Kai a te Atua Urupa Cemetery holds the graves of many prominent Māori, including that grave of Sir Eruera Tirikatene (1895-1967). I was drawn to this grave when researching the history of Scouting in New Zealand. As a boy, Eruera lived at Tuahiwi Marae. In his memoirs he mentioned how much he loved being in the first New Zealand Scout Troop, he also claimed that he was in the first patrol, but his headstone gives the true story, that he was a patrol leader in the first Troop.





Nearby are two simple headstones, one for Solomon Pohio, known as “Long Bob” and next to it, is another headstone with the inscription “Long Bob’s wife” Surely somebody must have known her name!



In 2012 I held a “Family Get Together” for as many of my mother’s Christchurch family that I could muster. At the get together I sold disks of our shared family history. On the disks were completed family trees for all branches of the Tolchard, Jeal, Thomson, Perham and Coutts families as well as family photos and headstone photos. Prior to making the disks, I gathered together as many photos as I could. One headstone photo had alluded me for some time, it was the grave of John Thomson, my 3x great grandfather. John is my earliest New Zealand relative, having arrived in Lyttelton in 1856. He settled in Riccarton and his family were all involved with the Riccarton Coach and later the Christchurch Tramways. John died in 1888 and I knew from the records that he was buried in the Addington Cemetery.

I knew the probable gravesite location, but I just couldn’t find his headstone. One day, armed with broom and rake, I was determined to find it, (if it existed). I had narrowed the site down, by looking up neighbouring graves. I raked the probable site removing bark and pine needles and lo and behold a slab appeared. It was enormous but lying, inscription side down. It was so heavy I couldn’t lift it by myself.

I convinced my son Nicholas and wife Margaret to come back the next day with planks and a crowbar. After lots of heaving, we eventually managed to turn the headstone over and there was the inscription to John Thomson, Jean, his wife, and their daughter Margaret. I was delighted. I knew no living relative had ever seen the headstone standing upright, so after more huffing and puffing it was left leaning in place against a neighbouring headstone. I took plenty of photos. It was in surprisingly good condition. That night I contacted my auntie who was interested in my search. She was able to locate it the next day, then rang me to say well done and asked, “Do you want your crowbar back?” She had found it strewn in the nearby pile of bark! What would the sexton have thought if he found it?

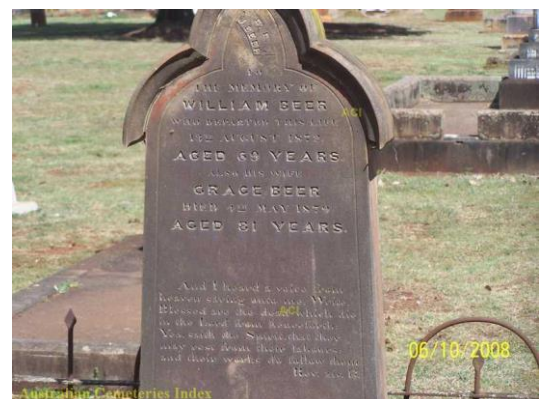


A year earlier, on an overseas trip, I had tracked down another 2x great grandfather, William Beer. He had married a Grace Clarke. They had lived in Dean Prior, in Devon, England. The Dean Prior cemetery was on the grounds of St. George the Martyr church, a Grade 1 listed church dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The grounds were overgrown and ramshackle, but I soon found William’s headstone.

*William Beer – Dean Prior,  
Devon*



More photos were taken and they too were on the Family History disk. A few months after selling the disks, I received an email from a relative in Toowoomba, Queensland giving more information on the Beer family whose children



had moved to Australia. I was delighted to receive these extra family facts, but imagine my horror when he produced a gravestone

*William Beer – Toowoomba,  
Queensland*



photo with the names of William Beer and his wife Grace who were buried in the Toowoomba Cemetery!

I had no idea that my William Beer had emigrated at the age of 60 and that the photo I had taken, published and sold, was William's cousin also named William Beer who had married an Ann – not Grace! I had the right name, supposedly the right location, but wrong headstone. How embarrassing!



# The Giant Children of Foxton

by Kevin White

During the Victorian era, and into the 1900's, Agricultural shows (A & P) and circuses were extremely popular in New Zealand. Agricultural shows were held in just about every town or county during the summer. As part of these A & P events sideshows provided amusement for the visitors. Merry-go-rounds, helter-skelter and coconut shy stands were very popular, as were other sideshows including "freak shows." At these sideshows, separate tents were often erected and an array of human and animal oddities were on display. We've come to know some of them through the popular musical "The Greatest Showman" where the bearded lady and General Tom Thumb were popular attractions.

Surprisingly, New Zealand was not immune to this "freak show" phenomenon. Not only did we have touring circuses, e.g. The Wirth Brothers Circus and their accompanying menagerie of giraffes, elephants, tigers and seals, but we also had touring human attractions or freaks. Thankfully times have changed, and the public are more aware of political correctness, but back then in the early 1900's people flocked to these sideshows.

The "Giant Children of Foxton" were a sideshow sensation in the early 1900's through to 1915. Ruby May Westwood (born 1893) and her younger brother Wilfred Westwood (born 1897) were two of Thomas and Sarah Westwood's seven children. The children's father Thomas Westwood (born 1864) arrived as a babe in arms with parents Edward and Elizabeth Westwood to Auckland, New Zealand on the Columbus, from Cheadle, Staffordshire on 16 June 1864. The Westwoods moved around before settling in Foxton, Manawatu, where Edward took up business as a store owner. Thomas had married Sarah Lisette Bly in 1887.



The Westwood family were of normal stature, but Ruby and Wilfred were enormous in comparison to their parents and other siblings. The debut showing of the “Giant Children,” as they became known, was at the Wanganui A&P Show on 22 Nov. 1900. At this time Wilfred was only three and weighed 7 stone (44kg.) and his sister Ruby aged 7 was 13 stone 5 pound (85kg.) and was 4 1/2 feet tall. They were a sensation.

The children came to the notice of The Fitzgerald Bros. of Australia who were circus owners. They made an offer to Thomas Westwood of £1000 plus expenses to exhibit the children at the Paris Exposition. Thomas declined and made plans of his own to exhibit the children around New Zealand. A children’s tutor was employed and the whole family began touring county and A & P Shows throughout New Zealand.

Known A & P shows they attended were Wellington, Auckland, Hawera, Christchurch, Palmerston & Taranaki. The family usually stayed in hotels and Thomas did all the promotions himself. The public were charged 6d (sixpence) to get in. Ruby usually played the piano and Wilfred would ride a bike.

According to newspaper articles the children were fit and healthy. Whilst in Dunedin at an A & P show, the children were examined by doctors and found to be normal in every way, except for their size. In 1902 & 1903, the family tried their luck at shows in and around Sydney. They returned to Foxton in Oct. 1903. Thomas resumed his storekeeping duties and was elected a borough councillor. They stayed in Foxton for a few more years before venturing off to the International Show in Christchurch in 1906.





### THE GIANT FAMILY.

The wonderful New Zealand giant children Ruby and Wilfred Westwood are again on view at the Exhibition and will receive visitors each day. These children are the most wonderful feature of the whole Exhibition. Their size is abnormal, Wilfred being over eighteen stone in weight. The medical profession agree that they are wonders of the age and cannot account for their enormous size combined with strong intellect and physical activity. Both ride bicycles and converse with visitors, and are features of the Exhibition that should not be missed.

*The Press 10 Jan 1907*

---

**EXHIBITION GROUNDS.**

**THE WESTWOOD FAMILY.**

**WILFRED**, age 9 years, weight 18st 12lb,  
height 5ft 1in, chest 52in.

**RUBY**, age 13 years, weight 16st 4in.

The most Remarkable Family in the world. Born at Foxton, North Island.

See them, with their Parents, Brothers and Sisters.

**Admission 6d; Children 3d. 1459**

---

Sadly, the children had to work long hours and were on display from 10 am – 10:30 pm.

In April 1907, Thomas decided to take a chance and travel to the UK with five of his seven children. The circus and showground circuit in England was very lucrative. Ruby May and Wilfred had continued to get larger and larger. Thomas did not give a second thought to the fact he was exploiting his children, if the public wanted to see them, he would show them. Thomas and Sarah had left two of their boys behind in Foxton with other family members.

|           |                    |    |   |   |   |             |         |   |
|-----------|--------------------|----|---|---|---|-------------|---------|---|
| Lyttelton | Westwood Mr Jhos   | 43 | 1 |   |   | Stratkeoper | English |   |
| "         | Westwood Mrs       | 38 | 1 |   |   | Nil         | "       | " |
| "         | Westwood Miss E.   | 16 | 1 |   |   | "           | hiz     | " |
| "         | Westwood Miss R.   | 13 | 1 |   |   | "           | "       | " |
| "         | Westwood Master W. | 9  |   | 1 |   | "           | "       | " |
| "         | Westwood Miss L.   | 7  |   |   | 1 | "           | "       | " |
| "         | Westwood Mr J.     | 19 | 1 |   |   | "           | "       | " |

The children were a sensation. Their appearances were part of travelling circus sideshows, where their role was to shock and wow the audiences. They toured extensively throughout the UK, from London to Edinburgh. Apparently, Ruby could play the piano and ride a tricycle. Wilfred would undertake feats of strength and also rode the tricycle.



Wilfred Westwood, aged 11, 1908. Weight: 308lbs.



By 1911 the family had exhausted the UK sideshow circuit and Thomas decided to try their luck in the USA. Barnum and Bailey were touring extensively, and the children became part of this sideshow circuit. It was a family affair, as Thomas wanted the audience, the fee-paying gawkers, to see

how large Ruby and Wilfred were compared to the rest of the family. By now the family had added singing, in English and Māori, to their repertoire.

At the height of their fame tragedy hit the family. In 1912, Ruby and Wilfred were on show in San Francisco. Ruby was picking flowers when she pricked her finger on a thorn and the finger became badly infected. The only solution was to amputate the finger, but the infection had spread and she was taken to hospital with blood poisoning. She died within one hour of arrival at the hospital.

After twelve years in the USA, Wilfred decided that he should cast off the “giant child” label. He realised that he could not continue his sideshow act into adulthood. There were few career options for an overweight teenager. He had always had a fascination with glassblowing. Glassblowers were often part of the sideshow circuit. He enthusiastically took up the challenge of training to become a skilled glassblower. Wilfred no longer performed as a sideshow freak even though he was well over 20 stone, but an entertainer in his own right, a glassblower. On his return to New Zealand his brother John, known to everyone as Jack, joined him. They toured all the New Zealand shows, Australian A & P shows and even ventured to Africa. This tour was part of a troupe of entertainers and included Miss Mae Kingsley who was promoted as “the world’s only woman glassblower.” Wilfred even began to manage other acts, including Mae Kingsley.

**AT THE WINTER SHOW!**  
Westwood Bros.' Enterprises Present  
OPENING MONDAY NEXT!      OPENING MONDAY NEXT!  
**MISS MAE KINGSLEY,**  
THE GIRL GLASS-BLOWER,  
And Her

**GLASS DRESS,**  
which can be worn and handled like ordinary material,  
And the  
**GLASS STEAM ENGINES,**  
made entirely of glass,  
In Full Operation,  
working under their own power.



**THE GLASS DRESS**  
And  
**GLASS STEAM ENGINES**  
are the work of this talented girl alone, and will be on exhibition in conjunction with her astounding exhibition of manufacturing all kinds of glassware novelties and souvenirs from the raw material to the finished article without the aid of moulds of any kind.

SEE THIS TALENTED AUSTRALIAN GIRL AT WORK.  
Location: SHED 45 (Opp. Tea Rooms).

**GIRL GLASS BLOWER.**

Miss Mae Kingsley, who astounded visitors to last year's Royal National Show with her marvellous exhibitions of glass blowing, has returned to Brisbane for this year's Show. Referred to as the Wonder Girl Glass Blower, Miss Kingsley and party have just returned from a tour of Africa, where they travelled thousands of miles by motor caravan, and gave countless demonstrations of their art. They are making another tour of the Commonwealth prior to departure for England, via South America. Miss Kingsley, who is assisted in her demonstrations by Mr. W. Westwood, an accomplished artist, will interest her audiences with the manufacture of all manner of glass novelties, and the processes will be explained at full length.



Wilfred eventually settled in Auckland, where he died on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1939 aged 42. In his later life he preferred his name to be spelt Wilfrid and signed his will as Wilfrid. Interestingly in his will, he listed his profession as a showman. Wilfrid is buried at the Waikaraka Cemetery, Auckland with his parents Thomas & Sarah and his brother Thomas. The headstone has a memorial to his sister Ruby.



**WESTWOOD.**—On September 28, 1939, at Auckland Hospital, Wilfrid Edgar (Will), of 87, Falce Avenue, Sandringham, son of Mrs. S. L. and the late F. Westwood, and brother of Jack, Bert, Eva and Loyls. Funeral will leave Watney Sibun and Sons' Chapel, Khyber Pass, Newmarket, 11 a.m. to-morrow (Saturday) for Waikaraka Cemetery.

## Field Trip to Nelson

by Margaret White

Nine years ago, in 2014 our President Kevin White mooted the idea of a weekend Field Trip away. He chose Kumara on the West Coast for the first destination, primarily because his son lived there and would be a willing guide. We set off across the Alps hoping for two things, to garner knowledge about the history of what to most was an unknown area and to enjoy a social time with our fellow society members. The most common comment at the conclusion of the weekend was, “in the past we have only ever driven through this town, we had no idea of its rich history.” Mission accomplished.

A unanimous decision was made that this would become an annual event.

Reefton, Oamaru, Akaroa, Geraldine, Wellington, Blenheim and Hororata/Oxford were equally as successful. Each area has its unique attractions and we have always been warmly welcomed by local historians and curators of historic homes and museums.



As luck would have it we just managed to get our 2020 trip in a few days before New Zealand went into lockdown, but sadly, we had to cancel our 2022 trip to Nelson because the area had suffered terrible flooding, however that was rectified in March 2023.

This trip was organised and ably lead by society member Simon Courtney.

Fourteen of us either flew or drove to Nelson and we met up on the Friday evening at one of Nelson’s oldest pubs, The Vic. After a drink and a nice meal Simon went over the weekend’s events and clarified meeting times. Everyone went away buzzing with anticipation, Simon had organised an amazing variety of venues.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny, we met at 10 am at Melrose House and what better way to start than with a delicious Devonshire tea served on delightful china. Our guide, Sylvia joined us and shared the history of the house that was built in 1879. Later we were able to wander around and see for ourselves how beautifully it



had been restored. The house had remained in the Adams family until 1944, when it was gifted to the Women's Division Farmers Union, WDFU, to be used as a rest home for country women. By the 1970s it had become uneconomical to continue, consequently a Trust set up by the last owners came into operation, whereby the citizens of Nelson became the owners. In 1974 the Melrose Society was formed and the Nelson City Council officially accepted the gift of Melrose House and gardens. The Society is responsible for the restoration and the City Council maintain the exterior and the gardens. Today the house is the venue for many occasions including weddings.

Our next stop was Nelson Cathedral, we walked through to the Chapel and met our guide Heather Thomas, who told us some tales of Horatio Nelson and how many street names related to the Battle of Trafalgar. She then took us on a walk around the centre of Nelson City, stopping to talk about various points of interest, one being South Street that has retained most of its heritage buildings, and is now a heritage precinct. She also spoke of the various interesting people who have lived and contributed to Nelson society.







Lunch at the Suter Art gallery followed, a lovely selection of food, a welcome break out of the sun and entertainment provided by a very enthusiastic waitress were the highlights. After lunch we met up at a New Zealand Tourism Award winning house “Broadgreen” in Stoke, one of the oldest surviving cob houses in New Zealand.



Broadgreen was built in 1855 for Mr. Edmund Buxton who with his wife and six daughters, came from Lancashire, England. The house is an excellent example of an early cob construction house. Although built fairly early in the history of the Nelson settlement, only two families have lived there. In 1965 the property was bought by the Nelson City Council, helped by a small grant from the Historic Places Trust. Since then, with the assistance of a heritage

architect and voluntary labour from the Broadgreen Society, the house has been refurbished to its present state.

We had two very knowledgeable volunteers from the society show us around the beautifully presented home.

During our group dinner that night everyone was talking very enthusiastically about the day's highlights.



Day two, those highlights just kept on coming along with Nelson's fabulous weather. We met at the Wakapuaka Cemetery which was opened in 1861. The site is quite steep so most carpooled to the top, a few hardy souls walked. Some of our members had accepted the offer made by the friends of the cemetery a while before, to have some research done on their relatives. This had been completed and all were able to see their relatives' gravestones, beautifully cleaned up just for us.

The site is now closed for burials except those who have family plots. We were divided into three groups and the wonderful volunteers took us to see the fabulous work they have been doing over the past three years. They have attacked the overgrowth and restored a large number of sites and gravestones to almost new. They even have an expert restorer of immortelles amongst





their group. Some work five days a week with this labour of love. We were so impressed and quite overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by these incredible volunteers. Their objective is to restore dignity and respect to what was a very neglected part of Nelson's heritage. We were treated extremely well, with chairs for the weary, bottled water and homemade muffins.

At the conclusion of our visit our President was presented with a book for our library called *Wakapuaka Cemetery* and a koha from our Society, was presented to them.



We met up for lunch at Founders Park, followed by a talk by author Karen Stade, who spoke about several books she has been commissioned to write, including one on the earliest Chinese settler in Nelson.

Some then chose to wander around the historic park, while others made their way to the airport or their cars for the long drive home.

Once again a fabulous field trip, with so many highlights. Thanks to everyone involved.



## **Clan Buchanan and the inauguration of a new chieftan**

The origins of Clan Buchanan go back to Auslan 'bui, son of O'Kyan, an Irish prince who came to Scotland in the time of King Malcolm II about 1016, and obtained the lands of Buchanan in the county of Stirling for his services against the Danes. These lands remained in the possession of the family for almost 700 years, until the death of John, 22<sup>nd</sup> Laird of Buchanan in about 1682.

McAuslan is the original patronymic name retained by some of the clan, and other names include Colman, Donleavy, Dove, Gibb, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Lennie, Lenny, Masterson, McCormack, MacGibbon, MacIndoe, McGilbert, McWattie, McWhirter, MacMillan, Murchie, Murchison, Rish, Ruskin, Watt, Watson, Yuill, Yuille, and Yule.

Gillebrid, seneschal to the Earl of Lennox, who lived about 1240 was the first man to be styled "de Buchanan". It was Celtic custom to give distinctive appellations to individuals and tribes from the localities where they lived. His father MacBeth, obtained a grant to the lands of Clar Innis, an island in Loch Lomond, in 1225, but the family owned these lands long before the feudal tenure by charter was introduced.

George Buchanan was born in 1506, a son of Buchanan of Moss, a cadet of the Buchanans of Druimikill. He was an historian who wrote the *History of Scotland*, and was fluent in the Gaelic language. Educated at St Andrews and Paris universities, he was imprisoned at the direction of Cardinal Beaton, but escaped to France. He acted as tutor to Mary Queen of Scots (who was Roman Catholic) and later her son King James VI (6<sup>th</sup> of Scotland and 1<sup>st</sup> of England). He was moderator of the General Assembly (Church of Scotland) and Keeper of the Privy Seal from 1570 to 1578. His Latin history of Scotland and his poetry earned him European fame. He died in 1582.

Sir John Buchanan in 1618 was "mortifying" or donating 6000 pound Scots for the maintenance of three students of theology in Edinburgh university and an equal sum for three philosophy students at the university of St Andrews.

The military history of the clan is notable. Sir Maurice Buchanan, the chief, would not sign the Bond of fealty to King Edward the 1<sup>st</sup> of England in 1296,

to which so few had the courage to withhold their names, and Buchanan sided with Robert the Bruce during his wars against England.

After the battle of Agincourt in 1415, France applied for reinforcement in view of the ancient league between Scotland and France. In 1420, Scotland sent 7000 men over to France, among who were some men of the clan Buchanan. In the battle of Baugé in 1421, Sir Alexander Buchanan met with the Duke of Clarence, and escaping his thrust, pushed toward him and pierced his eye with his lance. The Duke of Clarence falling down, Buchanan picked up his cap or coronet and bore it off on his spear's point.

The French King granted the victor of this battle a "*double tressure flory*", an augmentation of his coat of armour, and for his crest, a hand holding a cap of honour. Chief Buchanan and Chief Lennie both fell at the battle of Flodden in 1513, and the clan fought for Mary Queen of Scots at the battle of Pinkie Cleugh in 1547.

Sir George Buchanan had command of a regiment during King Charles' wars and the clan acquitted themselves well at the battles of Dunbar in 1650 on the side of Scottish Covenanters, and Inverkeithing in 1651 against the English.

Because the clan chieftainship became extinct in the direct line in 1682, the clan fell into some confusion and did not play a prominent role in Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745 against the Hanoverians.

The Clan Buchanan Society was formed in 1725 and is the oldest of the clan societies in the world and one of several Buchanan organisations.

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022, **John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan of that Ilk and Arnprior** was inaugurated as The Buchanan, chief of the clan, at the clan assembly or parliament held at Cambusmore Estate in Perthshire Scotland. The new clan chief stated: "*For centuries our ancient clan was left without a chief or clan parliament, but this year we are finally gathering in Scotland. This is a chance to restore Scottish traditions that have been confined to the history books for hundreds of years, bringing them back with a thoroughly modern twist.*"(see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/61172918>)

## Submitting Articles

Any members who may possess an interesting story pertaining to family or early historical matters and especially to the greater Canterbury area, or anywhere in New Zealand, are invited to write about it and submit it to the editor for inclusion in our future issues. Any matter may be written down or typewritten and provided facts of the story, names etc., are clearly indicated, we can do the editing if you consider you are not that good at putting down a story. If you have a computer and e-mail facilities, this is the best way to submit material as it can be edited on receipt and inserted directly into our publishing program.

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

If e-mail is preferred the address to send articles, photos and stories to is: [philipcreed@xtra.co.nz](mailto:philipcreed@xtra.co.nz) or address any correspondence to: The Editor, 28 Ensors Road, Opawa, Christchurch 8023.

## Our next issue will be published in AUGUST 2023

**Disclaimer:** *Whilst every effort has been made to accurately compile the information contained herein, The New Zealand Family Tree nor any of its contributors or advertisers accept no liability for any errors or omissions or any inadvertent disclosure of any information not meant for publication. New Zealand Family Tree neither endorses nor accepts responsibility for the products or services of any advertisers in this publication. Opinions expressed shall not necessarily be those of The Family History Society of New Zealand (Inc.)*

## Programme for May – July 2023

7 May David Hill - 13 migration stories of his ancestors to New Zealand

11 June Annual General Meeting 2 pm followed by “Unmarked graves of Sunnyside patients in Sydenham cemetery” talk by Glenda Rattray and Victoria Wisternoff.

9 July Midwinter dinner followed by a quiz.

Meetings are held at 2 pm at the Bowling Club, 5 Donald Place, St Albans unless stated otherwise.



## Family History Society of New Zealand Inc.

*“Te Rakau Whakapapa o Aotearoa”*

e-mail: [familyhistory.nz@hotmail.com](mailto:familyhistory.nz@hotmail.com)

### Patron

Jill Lord, QSM, FNZFHS

### Committee 2022-2023

President – Kevin White FNZFHS

Vice president – Heather Craw FNZFHS

Immediate past president\* – Philip Creed FNZFHS

Secretary – Margaret White FNZFHS

Treasurer – Pauline Taylor

Research officers\* – Jill Lord, Kevin White.

Committee – Jill Lord, Judith Munro FNZFHS, Heather Craw FNZFHS, Barbara Miller FNZFHS, Elwyn Martin

Editor\* – Philip Creed FNZFHS

Librarian\* – Jill Lord

*\* Denotes ex-officio committee members.*

Auditor – Lynn Prattley

Membership – Tony Gordon FFHSNZ

Society Contact – Margaret White Phone 021 210 8668

### ***New Zealand Family Tree:***

This is the official journal of the New Zealand Family History Society, which prints and publishes the magazine three times a year. The contents are copyright and all rights are reserved worldwide. The opinions expressed by the contributors and advertisers are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the society. The society's financial and membership year begins on April 1, and the subscription charges are listed below. All enquiries may be addressed to PO Box 13-301, Armagh, Christchurch, New Zealand. Persons interested in joining the society will be posted a prospectus on enquiry. Regardless of the time of joining, the full subscription for the year should be paid, and back copies of the magazine (if any) will be sent.

**Meeting times: 2 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of month**

**Library hours** – Every Monday 10 am to 12 noon, every Saturday 10 am to 12 noon. Closed on public holidays and public holiday weekends. Research fees \$30 per hour for non-members.

### ***Classes of membership:***

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

**Fee - \$40 per year, Family \$50 per year.**

**Associate membership** - Open to historical associations, genealogical societies, public libraries, and similar organisations. This entitles them to receive the magazine and advertise free of charge in the magazine on behalf of their organisations. These privileges do not extend to individuals in these organisations. **Fee - \$50 per year**

