



Preservation Post

Newsletter of the
Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

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Issue 61 – February 2018

“Looking to the future to preserve our past”

Christ Church Taita

Upcoming Events:

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18 April, 7.30 pm

At the Church

164th Annual Service

Sunday 6 May, 2.00 pm

Feature family:

Frances Underwood

**will speak about her connection to both
the Harris and Hooper families**

Annual Christmas Service – 7 December



The week prior to the annual Carol Service, the church was part of Te Omanga Hospice's Ten Christmas Tables fundraiser event, which drew around 200 visitors to view the church, beautifully decorated for Christmas by Belinda Juno. She kindly agreed to leave the decorations up for our annual Carol Service. The publicity resulted in the service being very well attended. Our thanks to President, Rev John Daysh for conducting the

service and The Take Note Singers for once again providing beautiful music.



In memoriam

Since our last newsletter, three of our life members have passed away. We extend our condolences to their families.

Charles George Hardy – died on 16 November. His funeral was held at Christ Church on 23 November and his ashes interred in the family grave alongside other members of the family. (Arthur Lloyd Hansell and his wife Polly). Arthur Hansell was the Vicar of Lower Hutt from 1914 until 1933 and took services at Christ Church. Charles was an engineer who worked in senior positions for the Wellington Harbour Board.

Ernest Roy Savage – Roy was a committee member of the Society for many years and a huge benefactor to the Church – the lighting is entirely due to his inspiration. The church was floodlit in 2000 and in 2003 an extension to the path culminating in a garden seat with floodlighting extended to the rear of the grounds. Roy's parent are buried in the graveyard.

Dorothy Grace Carter – died 5 January 2018 in Auckland. Dorothy's mother Mrs Grace Rees served as Secretary for a number of years while Alex Protheroe was

President of the Preservation Society. She was Mr Protheroe's Secretary in his legal firm.

We are delighted that Dorothy's sister Rosemary Marryatt will continue membership of the Preservation Society.

Heritage Visitor Centre/Cottage Museum



Progress is being made on this important national heritage project to enhance Christ Church as a place to celebrate New Zealand's early settlers.

- We have a sale and purchase agreement with Chris Pynenburg to buy the section next to Christ Church for \$195,000 of which we have received over half in donations and grants pledged. We now need \$92,000 to complete payment for the section.
- Thank you to all who have donated so far and to those who have shown interest in the Cottage Museum and are planning to contribute. Every donation is needed and much appreciated.

- We have a new Trustee John Kennedy-Good who has strong connections with Christ Church where his father and mother are buried and his wife descends from the pioneer John Daysh.
- We have received good national and local publicity through newspapers and National Radio.
- Fundraising is proceeding well with John Terris applying to relevant Funding agencies and letters sent to friends of Christ Church
- We are in discussion with the owner of a local 1863 pioneer cottage so expect to confirm arrangements soon.
- We have assurances from Heritage New Zealand (was NZ Historic Places Trust) that they will back us to NZ Lotteries to match-fund our fundraising for our Cottage Museum.
- To discuss a contribution please contact one of our Trustees: John Terris 0274 440 081, Ian McCulloch 027 283 0000, John Daysh 021 277 2056 or John Kennedy-Good 04 385 4549.

Rayner-Daysh family history and records 1811 – 1989

The Society has received a box of the last of this family history, printed for the family reunion in 1989. These books are in homes all over New Zealand and no doubt overseas. However, if any Rayner-Daysh descendants would like to secure a copy (cost \$10 to cover p & h), please contact the Secretary, Janice Henson, Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz.

Bequests for Christ Church Taita

Including a bequest for The Christ Church Preservation Society is a wonderful way to honour those who

have gone before us and to ensure that we can continue to preserve and develop Christ Church.

Ashes Wall

A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 plus GST. Contact Janice Henson, Secretary, for further details. Janice-klaw@xtra.co.nz



Weddings

24 February 2018

Angela Burgess to Aaron Buxton

Funeral

23 November 2017

Charles George Hardy

Death of a Pioneer Colonist – George Avery. 1821 – 1903

Extract from 'The Pahiatua Star'

At the Tai Tai, Hutt District, on the morning of the 8th inst. there passes peacefully away at the ripe age of 82 years, George Avery, soldier and pioneer settler. Deceased was father of Messrs Charles, Thomas, Steven and James Avery, and Mesdames Burt, W and J Brown, all well-known settlers in this district, together with nine others who are scattered throughout the colony. Born at Staplehurst, Kent, he accompanied his parents on board the ship "Bolton", despatched by the New Zealand Land Company – which arrived at 'Port Nicholson' (Wellington), in 1840. He assisted his father to erect a hut to accommodate the family who remained aboard meantime.

The site of the Empire City at that time was covered with scrub and flax. In company with his parents he endured the hardships of early pioneer life. Previous to the outbreak of hostilities with the natives, he was familiar with the rebel chief, Rangihaeata the leader of the party who committed the massacre at Wairau and led the natives against the whites in the Hutt – who on more than one occasion partook of his hospitality. At a later period, however, they fought against each other. Deceased was in the employ of the late Mr Peter Hume, about 1845, and was on his way to Wellington with a bullock dray on the morning of the massacre at Boulcott's Farm (Hutt). It was at that massacre that a bugler boy attached to the Imperial Forces was brutally murdered. When he sounded the alarm, a native cut his arm off with a tomahawk. Picking up the bugle with his left hand he continued to sound the alarm until that member was severed from the body. Deceased subsequently saw the boy with his head and arms severed from the trunk. Mr Avery was ordered to pick up the wounded convey them to Wellington and was accompanied by an escort. The escort was followed by natives who, believing them to be hostile, fled, leaving Mr Avery alone to guard the wounded. He taunted the escort with cowardice. They urged him to accompany them, but he said he would not desert the wounded while his hand was capable of using the bullock whip. Some of the wounded, being alarmed, left the dray and hid in the bush. Mr Avery arrived safely at the Hutt, and subsequently returned in search of the wounded, two of whom died on the journey to Wellington. It was afterwards elicited that the natives who had caused the alarm were friendly. At about this time the Hutt militia was called out, of which the deceased was a member. He took part in most of the engagements and assisted to build the stockade at Tai Tai. The stockade was completed in one night, as the party were expecting to be attacked. On one occasion after a brush with the natives, volunteers were called to obtain a doctor to attend the wounded. Mr Avery offered to go alone. The bush was swarming with natives at the time. He left the Tai Tai during the night and returned with a doctor before daylight. Mr Avery was one of twenty picked men under Major McDonohu, who went to the relief of some soldiers who were attacked by natives, while en route from the Hutt to the Tai Tai. The natives who were attacked from the rear, were driven across the Hutt River, and the party was relieved. The hostile natives were subsequently driven from the Hutt Valley and were followed by the Hutt Militia over the ranges out to the west coast. Various engagements took place

and several pahs were captured. It was in one of these engagements that Major Blackburn was shot dead and was carried out of action by deceased under heavy fire. Deceased also rescued during a subsequent engagement and under heavy fire, a man-o-wards-militia. This was a very daring thing to do as the wounded man was exposed in the open. The unfortunate fellow died the same night. The natives stood in great awe of the militia who were about 62 strong and under the command of Captain Rhodes. They were all young, strong, hardy men, used to the bush; and when fought, adopted Maori tactics. When fired at by the natives they sought shelter and crept from cover to cover, never retiring. Their tactics were in marked contrast to the Imperial soldiers, who thought it was cowardly to seek shelter, and were popped of in the open. The militia would make a sudden attack upon the Maoris while engaging the soldiers from the flank and rear. These attacks had a very demoralizing effect upon the natives. Deceased and his companions suffered great hardships while pursuing the natives to the West Coast. They had to exist on what food came into their hands; and when they ultimately arrived at Waikanae they were in sorrowful plight.

Deceased as a young man, was of splendid physique and very powerful; fearless, but not foolhardy; quiet and unassuming. His reward for services rendered during the war was the New Zealand War Medal. His experiences of the early days would fill many volumes. Deceased came from a fighting stock. Two of his uncles fought at Waterloo with the Life Guards, and another in the Crimea, receiving two medals for valour. The surviving members of the old Hutt Militia are Messrs Milne (TaiTai), George Farmer (Manawatu), G. Whiteman (Upper Hutt) and Mr Swanson.

[George Avery is buried in the graveyard at Christ Church].

Committee member Ian McCulloch is a descendant.

The Society is grateful to Brother International (NZ) Limited for printing this newsletter

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