

PROSPECT

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Mount Eden's water supply

by John La Roche

Auckland's volcanic cones are a unique feature of our city with Maungawhau/Mount Eden at 196m above sea level being one of the highest in the isthmus area. Maungawhau was the site of a large Maori pa with terracing and palisade defences on its summit. Although the region was highly prized and populated by Maori, by the time European settlers arrived it had been mainly deserted after intertribal fighting. The area was generally covered by scrub and bracken fern. Because of the porous nature of the volcanic soils the ground was dry and there were few streams, but fresh water springs issued from the ground at various locations.



Te Ipu Pakpore spring, woodcut of a sketch by Charles Heaphy

From: *New Zealand: Its physical geography, geology and natural history*, by Dr Charles Ferdinand von Hochstetter, translated version from German original.
Published by J G Cotta, Stuttgart, 1867

Early Auckland water supplies

Auckland's first piped water supply came from Auckland Domain in 1866 where the extinct Grafton Volcano had formed a crater with springs where the present duck ponds are located. Soon after it was installed, this piped water supply from Auckland Domain became totally inadequate for the city's growing population. Disastrous fires regularly destroyed whole

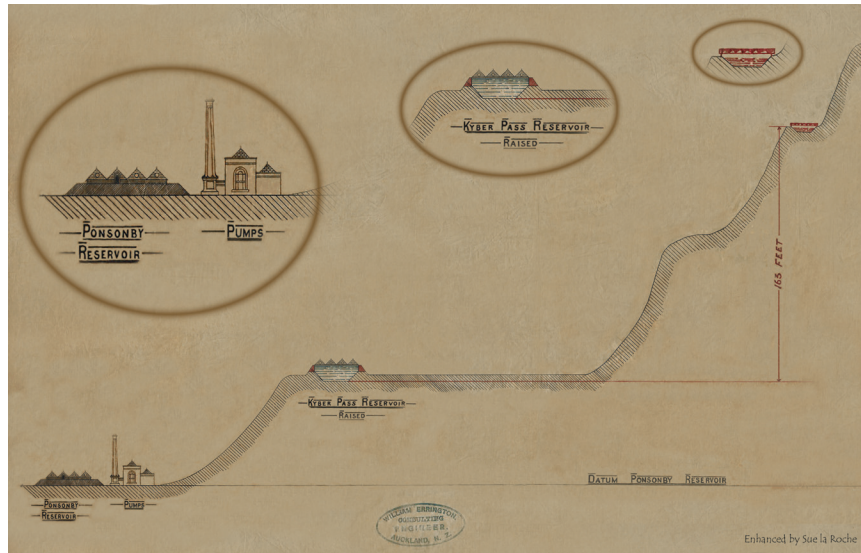
blocks of wooden buildings in the city when there was insufficient water for firefighting.

But Mount Eden also had a spring (see previous page) that had been highly prized by Maori, Te Ipu Pakore (the broken calabash), which came from the ground into a large pool near Water Street, close to the railway. Maori tradition recalls the fighting at this pool where a group of Waiohua women were killed by Ngati Whatua warriors and hence the name Te Iku Pakore. The spring was a valuable source of water for early colonial residents of Mount Eden, but when the railway was constructed in 1880 the spring was drained and it disappeared.

After many years of procrastination by Auckland City Council, it was decided to utilise the water from Western Springs as the source of a piped water supply for the city. The beam engine pumping station at Western Springs was brought into service in 1877 to pump water to new reservoirs at Ponsonby and Khyber Pass. The central city and port area were served from Ponsonby Reservoir, while Khyber Reservoir provided water to the higher regions of the city. There was much debate and argument over water pressure in some areas. When extra pressure for fire-fighting was required, valves were opened to utilise the greater pressure from Khyber Reservoir.

High points for reservoirs are essential for storing water and providing the desired water pressure. It wasn't long before Mount Eden was recognised as a very desirable location for a water reservoir. William Errington, the city waterworks engineer, and designer of the Western Springs pumping station and reservoirs, recommended to Auckland City Council in 1882 that Khyber Pass Reservoir should be raised by 10 feet to provide extra pressure and double the storage capacity. There had been many complaints from Parnell residents about the poor water pressure from Khyber Reservoir and improvements were necessary. Errington had taken levels on Mount Eden and foresaw the time when a reservoir would be required on top of Mount Eden.

In 1886, William Errington was instructed to prepare plans for a 500,000 gallon reservoir on Mount Eden and construction began later that year. The contractor was McLean & Sons whose tender of £1919-16-0 was accepted. After some problems and a clerk of works being dismissed for not following specifications, the reservoir came into operation in January 1888. At the final inspection the reservoir was described as 'having been constructed in accordance with the specifications.' Water was now pumped to Khyber Reservoir and then to Mount Eden using a new steam engine



William Errington's sketch drawing showing Ponsonby Reservoir and the steam pumping station which pumped to Khyber Pass reservoir where the side walls are raised by 10 feet. These original types of reservoir were excavated in the ground with sloping sides, a low buttress wall and a corrugated iron roof. A possible reservoir on Mount Eden is shown.

Auckland Council Archives Series No ACC015 Record No 1127

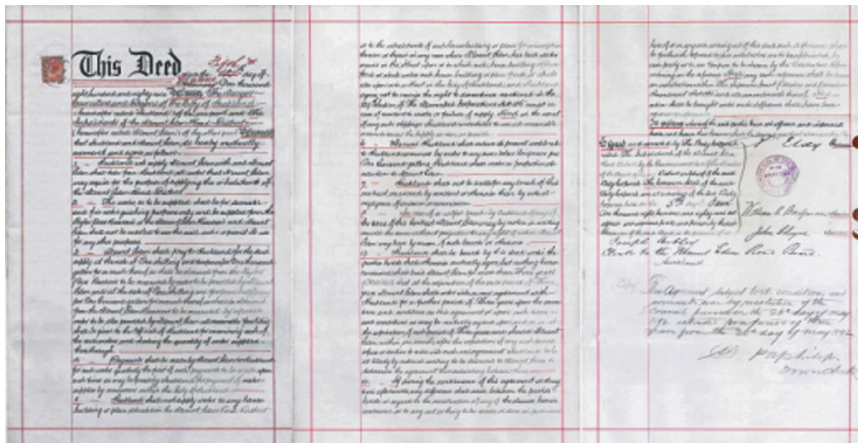
at the recently completed Ponsonby No 2 Reservoir. Additional pressure from Mount Eden Reservoir was used to provide pressure for firefighting in the higher areas of the city such as Newmarket and Parnell.

Auckland city water consumption grew alarmingly in 1888 and 1889. The new Mount Eden Reservoir and additional consumers joining the supply required more water. Additional springs had to be tapped at Western Springs. With a severe economic depression in 1889 and a policy of retrenchment, the services of William Errington were dispensed with. He retired to Melbourne, aged 57 in poor health.

In 1895, in order to pump water to Mount Eden, the Ponsonby steam engine was moved to Khyber Pass to reduce the smoke nuisance to local residents. It was replaced at Ponsonby with an 'Impinge' electric motor driving one large pump in place of three smaller pumps, one of the very early electrical installations in the city.

A water supply for Mount Eden

At a public meeting of Mount Eden ratepayers on 9 September 1887 in the former schoolroom on the corner of Valley and Mount Eden roads, the Mount Eden Road Board chairman, Mr R. Udy told ratepayers that the board had been actively making enquiries and gaining all the information that it could about a public water supply for the district. The Provincial Council had paid an instalment of £1,000 to the board on condition that a poll be taken regarding a water supply loan. A successful poll was taken on 26 September 1887. At its meeting on 24 November, the board received seven tenders for installing water pipes ranging from £5,481-17-0 to £6,988-7-8. An agreement was signed with Auckland City Council on 5 June 1889 when it was agreed that Auckland City would sell water from Khyber Pass Reservoir at one shilling and twopence per 1,000 gallons and water supplied from Mount Eden Reservoir at one shilling and fourpence per 1,000 gallons.



*Copy of Deed of Agreement between Auckland City Council
and Mount Eden Road Board dated 5 June 1889*

Auckland Council Archives Reference ACC 219 Box 68 Item 29/75

As more of Auckland's surrounding boroughs and road boards received water from Auckland City, there were many complaints that the charges were too high. A meeting of the Auckland Suburban Local Bodies Association in August 1910 resolved that the charge of one shilling per 1,000 gallons should be reduced to tenpence. Auckland City did not agree to this

request, although on 10 February 1911 the city agreed to reduce the cost of water supplied to Mount Eden Borough and Remuera Road Board from Mount Eden Reservoir from one shilling and threepence to one shilling per 1000 gallons. By 1937 the City Council was again charging Mount Eden one and threepence per 1000 gallons, less one penny for prompt payment. Mount Eden Borough Council applied to the Department of Internal Affairs for an inclusion in the Local Legislation Bill that the price of water should be fixed at one shilling per 1,000 gallons for a period of seven years. Interest at the rate of 8% would be paid on amounts unpaid more than three months from the date of the demand.

When Waitakere water became available through a temporary pipeline from Nihotupu stream in 1902, the demand for water supply increased and additional reservoir storage was needed. In reports to the Auckland City Council in 1907 and 1908, the waterworks engineer James Carlaw proposed new reservoirs at Arch Hill and Khyber Pass and recommended increasing the capacity of Mount Eden Reservoir within the next five years.

A report by the city engineer to the Council in December 1910, recommended a new reinforced concrete reservoir at Mount Eden to hold one million gallons. However once work started by cutting away the crown and disfiguring the main peak of the mountain, there were a string of complaints from residents and the Mount Eden Borough Council.

At its meeting on 19 June 1911, the Mount Eden Domain Board resolved to order Auckland City Council to stop work at once. It was suggested that photographs be taken of the peak for purposes of reference. The Mount Eden Borough Council Mayor, Mr Oliver Nicholson pointed out that a former board had granted Auckland City one and a half



Horses and carts excavating for the new reservoir on Mount Eden in 1911

*Auckland Weekly News 6 July 1911 Sir George Grey
Special Collections,
Auckland Libraries AWNS-1910706-6-6*

acres on which to build their reservoir and that the city was quite within their rights. At a conference between the city engineer Walter Bush, City Council members and representatives of the Domain Board on 21 June 1911 the situation was resolved. The city engineer stated that “when the work is completed there will not be any sign of the existence of the reservoir and the spot will be more attractive than it was before”. The city mayor, Mr C J Parr, said that the new reservoir was absolutely necessary to meet the demands for water in the suburbs.

The contractor J. T. Julian completed the new reservoir in June 1912, increasing the storage capacity of the combined reservoirs from 500,000 gallons to 1,602,000 gallons. The new reservoir was described as reinforced concrete with earth support for the walls. Auckland City laid new water pipes from Khyber Reservoir to Mount Eden and also from Mount Eden to Mount Hobson. However when the reservoir was tested there were problems of leakage from a crack where the walls joined the floor. Remedial measures were taken using bitumen, but leaks still persisted.

Collapse of Mount Eden Reservoir Sunday 4 March 1929

By 1928 a further reservoir on Mount Eden became necessary. Fletcher Construction were given the task of building the new reservoir. When excavating alongside the existing reservoir they found leaks and requested that the water level be lowered. Instructions to the waterworks superintendent were that the water level should be lowered from 17 feet to not more than 7 or 8 feet. At 5-30am on Sunday 4 March, a 39 foot section of the old reservoir wall collapsed discharging the 800,000 gallon contents of the reservoir down the mountain taking with it many tons of rock and scoria, and blocking Mount Eden Road from the foot of the hill to Sylvan Road. Trams could not run and a bus service was provided as a temporary measure while workmen quickly cleared the debris off the road. It was extremely fortunate that no lives were lost because the collapse occurred early on Sunday morning.

Auckland City Council commissioned Mr F. W. Furkert, chief engineer of the Public Works Department, to report on the collapse. Furkert found that although the original design indicated that the walls had to be supported by earth filling, there was sufficient strength in the reinforced concrete without the earth support. Leakage from the old reservoir had obviously been taking place for many years, unnoticed because it drained away into the scoria foundations. The resulting corrosion of the

THE AUCKLAND WEEKLY NEWS

With which is incorporated "THE WEEKLY GRAPHIC AND NEW ZEALAND MAIL"

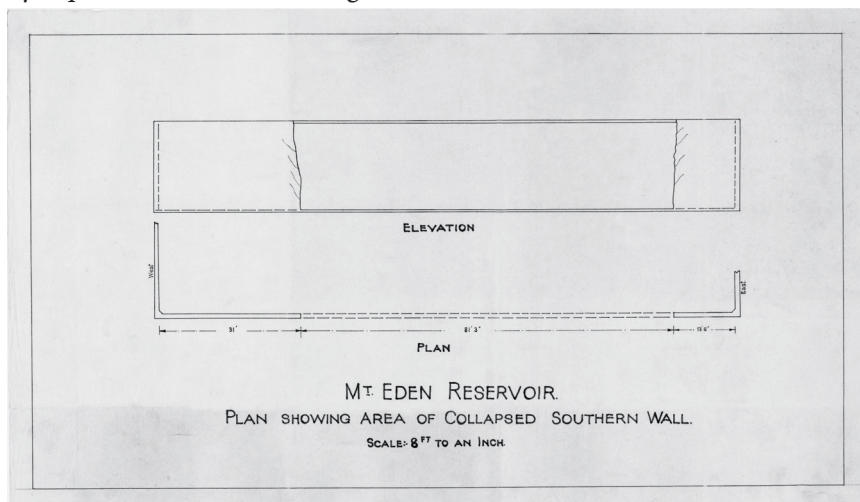
AUCKLAND, N.Z., THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1929.



Destruction from the bursting of Mount Eden Reservoir 4 March 1929
Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries' AWNS-19290307-35-0

reinforcement at the wall to floor joint and excavation alongside for the new reservoir weakened the support under the wall, leading to its collapse. Blame for the collapse was levelled at council officers.

Before the collapse, the city engineer in consultation with his assistant engineer decided after calculation of stresses that the water level in the old reservoir should be reduced to between 7 and 8 feet. The verbal instruction was issued to Mr Carr the waterworks superintendent, who was under the impression that 10 feet would be alright. He was concerned about maintaining the supply to customers, but gave no special instructions to the man in charge of pumping from Khyber to Mount Eden Reservoir. The water level on Sunday morning of the collapse was recorded at 11 feet. The city engineer was criticised for not issuing an instruction in writing. Mr Carr and his supervisor Mr Tyler were also criticised for not following instructions. It was recommended that all of the city reservoirs be inspected by a qualified water works engineer.



Mount Eden Reservoir plan showing area of collapsed southern wall

Auckland Council Archives Series 219 Box 68 Item 29/175

The city engineer Walter Bush recommended repairs and a party wall in the new reservoir to support the repaired old wall. A new floor would be placed over the top of the old floor. Fletcher Construction were brought in to repair the old reservoir at a cost of £1,999-9-2 including damages to work and loss of material from the collapse.

Mrs Jean Allen, a widow who purchased the Mount Eden Kiosk for £1,000 in 1927, was left bankrupt after the collapse of the reservoir. The City Council refused to pay her compensation for losses as they deemed the reservoir accident was an 'act of God'.

In 1945 the Mount Eden Soccer Club, with 120 boys playing every Saturday morning, asked Mount Eden Borough Council for help to find a suitable playing field as there was no full sized soccer field in the borough. The mayor, Mr R. J. Mills suggested that if the borough was approached, it might be possible to provide a soccer field on top of the Mount Eden Reservoir.

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New Zealand Herald, 29 September 1888.



Mt Eden Reservoir rebuild

Photo: Jeanette Grant, 25.11.2010

My roaring forties

By Jack Baker

Nineteen forty-two, my last year at Auckland Grammar, was eventful. After Pearl Harbour the Japanese push south gained momentum. Communication then was slow, unreliable and inaccurate. Evacuation drills at Auckland Grammar School (AGS) were stepped up. An alarm would sound and the whole school (then about 900) had to drop everything, and in reasonably orderly fashion, hasten out of the building, across Mountain Road and deploy into the large bush area then there. All this in two minutes as I recall.

Rumours were rife. Several times we were sent home with the possibility of the Japanese arriving later that day. Personally I recall pedalling flat out down Mountain Road and Gillies Avenue to our home at 97 The Drive. My thoughts? To protect Mum and Fay (my sister at Epsom Girls' Grammar School). Rape, then and still, is a horrible word. What could I have done? On these occasions Dad would come home by car as the Farmers Trading Company shut and staff went home. If quick transport home was not available for some people, they were gathered into a suitable safe area. The only contact we had was a small five-valve radio.

There was a lot of idle talk of strange planes overhead and flashing lights off the coast. New Zealand troops were overseas in Europe, Italy and in the desert. We were just so vulnerable. The Americans arrived and how grateful and relieved we were when the American Navy halted the Japanese advance and turned the tide at the 'Battle of the Coral Sea'. But war in Europe and the desert raged on for another three years.

I cannot speak highly enough of AGS Headmaster Mr Colin Littlejohn during this critical time. He was always a strong, calm tower of strength—with pride and dignity—a man for the times—as were the staff.

Nineteen forty-two of course, the year of one of my most horrible memories. When playing for the AGS First Cricket XI against Takapuna Grammar, I dropped an easy catch off legendary New Zealand batsman Bert Sutcliffe—first ball. He went on to score about 150. That memory still haunts me. Team mates, most of them now gone, never forgave me I believe.

And 1942, because of player shortages I played for the First Hockey XI in the morning and Grammar Old Boys senior team in the afternoon. In a vital match, old boys were playing Varsity when Ken Lowry (Old Boys)

and Henry Cooper—later Sir Henry—(Varsity) got embroiled and Henry received an accidental hard blow across the head. Blood flowed freely and Henry was rushed to hospital. But such was his toughness and competitive nature he appeared at assembly in the school hall on Monday morning, head swathed in bandages, in charge of his form, 3A.

December 1942, at 17 years, my Auckland Grammar years ended; it was time to find a job. My ambition then was to be a journalist—especially sports—to Dad’s disappointment. His words were:

“Be an accountant. You’ll get a job anywhere.”

However one day in January 1943 he arrived home and said:

“You’ve got an interview with Mr J. M. Hardcastle, Manager of the *New Zealand Herald*.”

Dad accompanied me and I was offered a position to start in the Reference Library with Miss Money. Dad always seemed to have a bit of influence with his business and sporting contacts.

But I needed clothes. Next to the narrow Queen Street entrance of the *Herald* was prestigious Milne & Choyce. The smallish *Herald* entrance gave no indication as to what lay behind—a huge complex stretching right back to Albert Street. Anyway we never shopped at Milnes—only the Farmers where Dad’s position allowed us to buy with a card reading ‘15% on Cost’. This must have saved us a small fortune over 40 years or more. I still recall leaving the *Herald* on the day of the interview and looking in Milne’s display window and seeing a model about my height dressed in a wonderful Donegal tweed pepper-and-salt flecked suit. I wanted it badly and as the Farmers didn’t stock similar suits, Dad bought one, my size, plus later a very sharp wide shouldered longish sports coat (zoot suit?) made to measure from Jaffe’s. I treasured both for years.

Many years later when I picked Nancy up from her Epsom Garden Club, a woman recognised me and said she’d never forgotten my tweed suit. She was Alison Hunt who had worked on the *Herald* front counter at the time. Her father was Auckland’s top police officer for many years.

One Monday towards the end of January 1943, and not to be late, I walked up Onslow Avenue and caught an early tram to the city. I’d been used to a tuppenny-halfpenny fare but in my new suit it was fivepence. A lass at the *Herald* counter ushered this nervous young fellow through a warren of corridors to the Editorial Department to a door labelled ‘Reference Library’. Miss Money was friendly, shortish and middle-aged. Her room was filled top to bottom with filing cabinets and a large table with cuttings

and very large scissors sitting on top. Miss Money then explained the system. Everything, yes everything no matter how small, in the News section of the daily *Herald* was cut out and filed under two (or maybe three) headings—subject matter, date, etc. Very seriously she stressed that under no circumstances was I to let a file leave the office without the person requesting the file signing for it. That seemed straightforward. How wrong I was; 10am was Miss Money's morning tea and with "I'll be back in about 15 minutes, shouldn't be any problems," I was all alone. The door flew open and a largish, bespectacled, florid man bustled in and in a loudish voice demanded a certain editorial file. My mind went blank as I fumbled around till I heard this voice behind me "Never mind; move over; I'll get it myself." Which he did and went to stride out.

"Please sir will you sign for it?" I mumbled. I've never forgotten his reply: "Young man, don't you know who I am? I'm L. K. Munro, the Editor"—and he never did sign!

Not a good start to my working life but I enjoyed my stay with Miss Money until I was moved to a large room on the first floor housing the Accounts Department under the strict eye of manager Mr Taylor and accountant Mr Phil Bowrie, a prominent hurdler who had represented New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games. After the excitement of the Editorial Department—reporters coming and going, phones ringing etc, the Accounts Department was so quiet with many heads bent over desks under the watchful eye of Mr Taylor.

But here is a little diversion before leaving the Reference Library. How true is the saying 'What goes around, comes around'. Many years after my *Herald* first day, I attended a Grammar Old Boys function at a lounge in Remuera. I then owned a couple of taxi licences. During the evening I visited a cubicle for Henry Cooper, now AGS Headmaster, and his distinguished guests. Slumped across the settee was a figure in a rather garish red jacket, bow tie etc, half asleep and not very coherent. Henry said to me:

"Jack have you got your taxi? Would you mind taking Mr So-and-So home?" and gave me the address. With two or three helpers we managed to bundle Mr So-and-So into the cab—and off we went. Yes you've guessed. It was Mr L. K. Munro.

The Accounts Department had a large staff—all ages. To a new 18-year-old, Miss Nixon and Charlie Moffat looked well past retirement age. Ray Stewart, a New Zealand Hockey Rep, and I were the youngest. My job was to mark all the advertisements in that morning's *Herald* with a special

coloured pen as to whether it was a once only insertion and to be deleted, or whether it was to appear again tomorrow, or every second day, etc. Quite a responsible job. Miss Nixon sitting next to me had done a similar job for the *Weekly News*, our red-covered weekly magazine for a long lifetime. Little did she know—or a blind eye was turned—that we all knew—that under her spread out *Weekly News* was a crossword she completed every day. Chas Moffat too was always bustling about the office with a handful of papers going goodness knows where! They had spent all their working lives at the *Herald*. The pay was not good but to many it was a home away from home.

One night a week, Ray and I would work late and I was quite proud that I was a *Herald* man with an identity card, when I dined in the evening with reporters, advertising men etc at an old-fashioned dining room, the Burlington, on the corner of Queen Street and Fort Street. I always enjoyed its cottage pie. It was at this time too, that Mr Les Guiney—Sports Editor and a friend of Dad’s—gave me one or two small reporting jobs—evening table tennis tournaments or weekend bowls tournaments, etc.

A close neighbour of ours, a Mr Jordan, we very rarely met. He had been a ‘reader’ at the *Herald* for years; always seemed worn-out and red-eyed. He started work late afternoon and finished early morning. His job was to read and check all the copy from reporters etc before final printing, for spelling mistakes and grammar etc. There were several of these ‘readers’.

It was about this time that I decided to explore a little in my lunch hour and find out more about the vast cavernous building that lay beyond its narrow, unimpressive Queen Street entrance. I’ve mentioned the exciting Editorial and Advertising departments, but behind more walls and passageways was a huge darkened cavern throbbing with the sounds of the printing presses with oil and ink-stained men climbing perpendicular iron ladders to service their charges, and staff you never met because of the different times worked. And way up on the roof, a tennis court. Miss-hit balls probably landed in Queen Street.

But the quite long front counter was the lifeblood of the *Herald* where the public met the paper staffed with, to an 18-year-old, quite a few attractive young ladies. One I knew quite well appeared again when I saw her about January 1945 on board an old troopship, *Ruahine* (built in 1913), en route to the UK. I was then in the Navy and a few wives were aboard on the way to the UK to join up with hubbies repatriated from Europe etc. Unfortunately she was caught one day on deck in the Tropics in a compromising position

with a Navy officer. The wind had blown away their covering rug. A mate of ours, Bob Scott, on watch on the bridge with Captain Lettington, was told to go below and request them to cover up.

Over the long troubled voyage she always failed to recognise me. Sometime later she wrote a story to the *Weekly News* describing meeting her doctor husband in the UK and the storms and U-boat attacks our 60 ship convoy encountered on the way over. My Dad posted me a copy—which brought much amusement to my shipmates.

However that, too, was digressing. Towards the end of 1943, war was still waging and one day I noticed an advert in the *Herald* for Navy enrolment. The next day at lunch time I visited their office and obtained my papers. Dad and Mum refused to sign until my 19th birthday on 12 April 1944, hoping the war would end. I seemed to be in a dead end at the *Herald* and wanted some excitement. I left and was offered a position at D. Henry & Co. David Henry had just started New Zealand Forest Products with a few trees and Sid Jolly—their salesman—had a threepenny rate book listing his sales, sometimes only five or ten sheets of Pinex a day. It was a happy firm with a great future but after about six months my ‘call up’ came. I passed my medical and was away on the *Ruahine* about three weeks later. I made a lot of friends at D. Henry. It was a sound firm. We found that one of their ‘Starkie’ hot water tanks had lasted about 50 years when we finally left our Epsom home.

I’ve written elsewhere about Navy days on leave in London for VE and VJ days and nights and standing a couple of hundred yards from Churchill when he gave his victory speech. On return I had nearly three happy years as a reporter on the *Northland Age* in Kaitaia—circulation 900 once a week; twice when I left. Kaitaia then was so faraway and isolated. Mysterious too. It would have been the first place the Japanese would have landed. I had three years of work, sport and a little romancing.

However it all must end. I’d been away from home too long and I was offered a good position with I.C.I. (NZ). Imperial Chemicals had just moved to New Zealand having taken over Campbell Bros, agents for Nobel Explosives. I was their Agricultural Chemicals Rep and at one stage Resident Rep in Whangarei—talking to farmers through stock and station agents about fertiliser and the new hormone weedkillers 24D and 245T, etc.

I.C.I. pioneered helicopter spraying of gorse, blackberry, buttercup, thistle, willow, etc. For years I was more or less covered in the stuff, not knowing its dangers. But so far at 90 I’ve lived to tell this tale.

Two Epsom names on a Mount Eden honours board: *Ada and Philip Hawken*

By Helen Laurenson

There are 39 names on a brass plaque in the Mount Eden Village Methodist Church porch, honouring those who served overseas in World War I; among them there are three women linked with that church who volunteered as nurses. Six of those 39 listed are marked with a cross, and one of those marks of sacrifice, with all the tragedy it implies, is beside the name of Ada Gilbert Hawken.

On 11 January 1915, Cabinet gave approval for the formation of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service (NZANS) and the Defence Force Act was amended to make provision for its establishment. During World War I, 550 nurses served overseas as members of the NZANS and 17 Kiwi nurses died serving their country. Ten of those lost their lives when the *Marquette*, an unmarked transport ship, was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea on Saturday 23 October 1915, with 19 male Medical Corps staff and three New Zealand soldiers also killed. On the same day a clearly marked but empty hospital



*Ada Gilbert Hawken 1911
nursing graduation photo*
Supplied from Hawken family
archives

ship had also set off from the same port. The decision to use the grey-painted transport ship carrying troops and ammunition as well as medical staff, a clear target for German submarines, had been a disastrous one. New Zealanders' grief deepened at the news of this dreadful loss as well as the continuing tragedy of Gallipoli's great death toll.

Ada was not on that ill-fated ship although she was to die shortly afterwards. She had been born in 1887 to a well-known farming family in the north. Ada's father, Gilbert Hawken, was the son of William Hawken who died aged 83 in 1879 in Whangarei. William was a lifelong member of the Wesleyan (Methodist) Church, and in 1859,

with his wife Phillippa and nine children, had come from Pelyunt, near Liskeard, Cornwall, to the Whau Valley, Whangarei. It is interesting to see the link with the Udy family whose membership is delineated in Jeanette Grant's comprehensive article in this publication.

Gilbert and his wife Agnes Kate Jenkins were married in 1875 and Ada was the third of their five children. She trained as a nurse at Auckland Hospital, graduating in 1911, then qualifying in midwifery at St Helen's Maternity Hospital in 1913. Under the Public Health Act, Sister Hawken was appointed to Kawakawa Hospital, Bay of Islands, in the Native Health Nursing Scheme and became Matron.

In 1915 her services were accepted by the Defence authorities and in July she embarked on the first sailing of the New Zealand hospital ship *Maheno*, together with Mabel Kittelty (North), one of the other two nurses named on the Mount Eden Methodist Church memorial plaque.

Ada was stationed at the 19th General Hospital, Alexandria, Egypt. In March 1915, the base of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force had been transferred to Alexandria from Mudros and the city became a camp and hospital centre for Commonwealth and French troops. During the Gallipoli campaign, Alexandria remained a very important hospital centre and the port was busy with hospital ships and troop transports bringing reinforcements and carrying the sick and wounded from the theatres of war. Sadly, in her work in the typhoid ward, Ada contracted the disease which caused her death on 28 October 1915 aged 29 years, after four days of illness. A 'much-liked' sister among her nursing colleagues, she was recorded as having been inoculated for typhoid, but in that pre-antibiotic era it claimed many lives. She was buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

Ada's young brother and sister Muriel and Philip were active members of the Mount Eden Methodist Church, for the family had moved to nearby Epsom, Auckland, and lived at *Boscoppa*, 16 Ranfurly Road. (*Boscoppa*, Cornwall, was Gilbert's birthplace.)

Her name appears on various memorials, including the roll of honour on a carved screen adjacent to the 'Five Sisters' window in York Minster, England. It is a memorial for over 1370 women of the Empire who laid down their lives in the Great War. Now, it commemorates all the women who died in service in both World Wars.

Ada's young brother Philip Henry Hawken's name also appears on the honours board in the church which he attended as a young man. Born in



Philip Hawken

Photo: Herman Schmidt, 1917
Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland
Libraries, 31-H2953

1894, he enlisted as a corporal in the New Zealand Rifle Brigade H Company and embarked in April 1917 on the *Pakeha* which left Wellington for Plymouth, England. Before enlisting, he had already passed several pharmacy examinations, serving his apprenticeship with Alexander Eccles, a well known chemist in Auckland city.

Philip fought at the Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres. The capture of the Belgian village, near Ypres in West Flanders, became an objective that cost the lives of thousands of New Zealanders in 1917 and has become a by-word for the horrors of the Great War. Although Philip survived, in April 1918, he was reported as in hospital, but not in a serious condition. The family story goes that he suffered a shrapnel

wound between the first and second fingers of his hand and the medical team decided that the fingers should be amputated. Philip reckoned that his occupation as a chemist would be so compromised by the operation that he discharged himself, disappeared for a time and was cared for by Belgian peasants until returning to his regiment. No questions were asked in the chaos of that fearful time.

There are other stories, too, of his travelling by troopship, when each man was assigned a hammock. Philip was well over 6 feet tall—and found it difficult to make himself comfortable in such a constrained position. After lights-out, he would stretch himself out on the mess table and sleep in relative ease.

He stood firmly against the evils of gambling, not only as a result of his



*Hawken's chemist shop (left of centre, second shop from tram), showing blue tiled street level façade. Photo from *The History of Epsom*, p.291*

Methodist background, but also because he thought it unfair that by the end of the troopship's voyage back to New Zealand, one or two men had stripped most of the servicemen of their hard-earned money in games of chance.

Returning to New Zealand he completed his qualifications as a chemist in 1919. He married Clematis Morton Bell in 1921, and in that same year established a business at Greenwoods Corner, Epsom, as the local chemist and druggist, serving that growing community and living for many years at what is now 135 The Drive, from where he could walk to his pharmacy.

Initially his was a small shop at 569 Manukau Road, set up with capital borrowed from his mother, but business prospered and he bought the vacant section next door and expanded, installing expensive light oak fittings and a distinctive blue-tiled exterior, creating a very modern and well-lit space. Remembered as a tall, upright man with a military bearing, he 'dispensed medicines as well as providing helpful advice on numerous minor ailments' as Janet and Jim Millar recalled in their 2006 *Prospect* article. In 1926 he was elected to the executive of the Northern Pharmaceutical Association.

Three children were born to Clematis and Philip, Ada Bell (born just ten years after her aunt Ada had died), Graeme Gilbert and Denis Renton. Denis (Toby) Hawken started work as a chemist with his father in 1951

and took over the business when Philip retired in 1965, after 44 years at Greenwood's Corner.

Philip Hawken died in 1986 and Clematis in 1997. The shop that was identified as 'P. H. Hawken Chemist', has now become 'Simply Wonderful Clothes', featuring smart dresses and separates for women. The whole nature of Greenwood's Corner as a shopping centre has changed during the past half-century and there is no longer a chemist and druggist. As in many parts of Auckland, cafes and restaurants dominate yesteryear's ribbon developments of suburban shops where local people regularly used to walk and 'do the messages'.

If you can negotiate the heavy traffic that flows through the Greenwood's Corner intersection, there are still a few retailers who reflect those traditional patterns of purchasing locally, including a butcher, a book shop, a florist, Stirling's plant shop, a hair salon, a convenience store and dairy.

As New Zealand commemorates the centenary of the country's involvement in World War I, the moving stories of those who served in so many different ways are being widely shared in the media. These individual micro-histories help us to better understand the mood and emotion of the times, of patriotism and the urgent nature of the call to action in battlefields half-a-world away. The brave contributions of Ada and Philip Hawken are stories which enrich our own local heritage, within the wider communities of Epsom and Mount Eden, as well as the nation's legacy.

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Mount Eden School 1877

‘To higher levels rise’

By Jeanette Grant

State education began in New Zealand in 1877 after the Provinces were abolished and the central government took control of education. The Education Act 1877 established free, compulsory primary education up to standard six (year eight) for all New Zealand children, and public schools were set up by 12 regional Education Boards. Of the approximately 730 public primary schools in 1877, 78% were country schools with only one or two teachers and provided education for about half of primary-school-age children.

In Mount Eden, school fundraising began in 1876 with a meeting on 18 January at the YMCA in Wellesley Street to discuss setting up a fund for the Mount Eden residents to build a classroom on the corner of Mount Eden and Valley roads. This was a small site belonging to the Reformatory & Women’s Home Trust (RWHT) which had bought it for £90 from Thomas Morrin on 26 January 1874. The Auckland Education Board (AEB) had agreed to start a day school provided residents raised £50 towards the cost. Public talks were delivered to raise funds, and ratepayers met on 14 November 1876 to elect a School Committee. The corner site was leased from the RWHT on condition that any buildings would be removed if the trustees wanted to build on or sell the property.

In February 1877 the Education Board called tenders to build a single wooden classroom (55 feet x 25 feet). This was built by John Cornwell at a cost of £287 and in June the board supplied furniture and appointed Percy Stevens as teacher. The school opened in August 1877 with 23 pupils. Miss Carr and Miss Sykes were later appointed as assistant teachers. There were three classes taught in the one room and the roll continued to grow. The water supply came from tanks and the playground was a rocky wilderness. As the roll grew, the headmaster’s salary was increased from £160 to £176 a year.

From March 1879 to 1882, the head of the Mount Eden District School was the Rev Percy Scott Smallfield. In October 1880 the AEB had to rent ‘St Barnabas Hall in View Road’ [sic] to hold senior classes while another classroom was built. This second classroom and teacher’s room were added at the rear of the building by Alex Keyes at a cost of £355. The school

building still stands. The average attendance in 1881 was 194 and the staff grew to five. The AEB limited the roll to 260 and the next year many children had to be turned away, The RWHT tried to get the AEB to pay a higher annual rental (£25) or alternatively to buy the site. However they felt the AEB's offer of £600 and later £800 was not high enough. Instead, on 2 November 1882, a larger four and a half acre site on the corner of Valley and Sherbourne roads was bought for £1100 from Mr Ebenezer Fitness as a site for a new school and teacher's house. The original school building was deemed impossible to move to the new site and was sold to the Free Methodist Church for £300. Mr A. J. Haszard's tender of £1437 to erect a new school building was accepted on 27 July 1883.

The local population was growing fast. By September 1889, the roll was 435 and the school committee was debating whether or not to appoint a truancy officer to enforce the Act which required all children between the ages of 7 and 13 living within two miles of a school to attend unless ill or getting adequate private tuition. In such cases the school committee could issue a certificate of exemption. Defaulting parents could be fined £2 by order of two JPs. The school was frequently appealing to parents for financial assistance to maintain the grounds and repair the stone walls on the road frontage.

The flying of flags at school was inaugurated at Mount Eden when the Governor-General, the Earl of Ranfurly, raised the New Zealand Ensign on a 55 foot flagpole on Mafeking Day, 18 May 1900.

Volunteer parent labour helped create playing fields and in 1909, the headmaster Mr Alfred Hosking began fundraising for the Mount Eden baths, although he did not live to see them opened. He organised school concerts and subscription campaigns and the school raised £400. However the volcanic rock of the site made it too expensive a job for the school to carry out so they approached the Mount Eden Borough Council (MEBC) which agreed that it was a public work. They used the school's money to buy the adjacent land from Mr Brown in Bellevue Road and then borrowed £1000 to finish the job. The pool was opened on 15 November 1911. An account in the *Auckland Star* that day says:

The pool itself, hewn from the solid rock, and concreted on bottom and sides, is open overhead. It is 75ft. in length and 30ft. wide, its gently sloping floor allowing for gradations in depth from three feet to eight feet, while a pipe rail runs round the pool a few inches clear

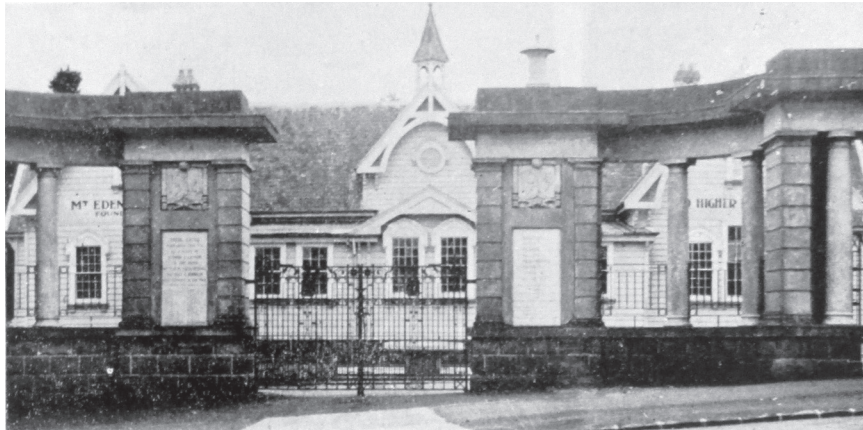
of the water's surface to serve the purpose of lifelines. Thirty dressing rooms are ranged on either side of the pool, with the space between the pool and the rooms cleanly covered by asphalt and concrete. There are six shower baths provided and separate lavatory accommodation for swimmers of both sexes. The pool can be emptied and refilled in nine hours, and it is intended to have the water changed twice weekly. A caretaker will be appointed by the Council . . .

The Council gratefully acknowledged the public-spirited action of the Auckland City Council in agreeing to supply water to the baths at sixpence per 1000 gallons, instead of the usual rate of 1/3—one shilling and threepence—per thousand. Initially the pool was 25 yards long but was later extended to 33 1/3 yards. The council intended that the baths would be free of charge to the school pupils in perpetuity, but in 1964 they were sold to the Mount Eden Swimming Club and in 1979 went into private ownership. A sand tray, the first of its kind, was built at the school by subscription in Mr Hoskings' memory, but today only a commemorative tablet remains.

By 1910 roll numbers were 1222, 10% above capacity. Four rooms were added to the original building and a second building of four rooms added. Despite the opening of Maungawhau School in 1913, the roll continued to increase and in 1920 St Barnabas Hall was again rented as an overflow school. When the Kowhai Junior High School opened in 1922, the Standards 5 & 6 pupils of Mount Eden School were sent there, reducing the roll by 225 to 760. Within two years the school was again overcrowded but the opening of Brixton Road School in 1925 relieved the pressure temporarily.

The War Memorial gates in Valley Road were unveiled by Governor General Viscount Lord Jellicoe on 16 February 1925. The tablet contains the names of 32 old boys who served in the Great War. The cost of the gates was met by public subscription, the contributions of school children and a gift of £200 from the MEBC. In later years the ornate wrought iron panels between the columns were removed and replaced by lighter gates.

In 1928 the school received a bequest of £100 from the late Mr. J. M. Johnston. The school committee added additional funds and over 600 books were purchased to establish class libraries. The books, which were selected by the various class teachers, covered a wide range of subjects, suitable for children of every age, and a reference library was set up with such books as the *Children's Encyclopaedia* for the use of pupils during school hours. With the aid of the Education Department, which grants



School memorial gates, unveiled 16 February 1924

Photo: Mount Eden School: celebrations 1963: demolition

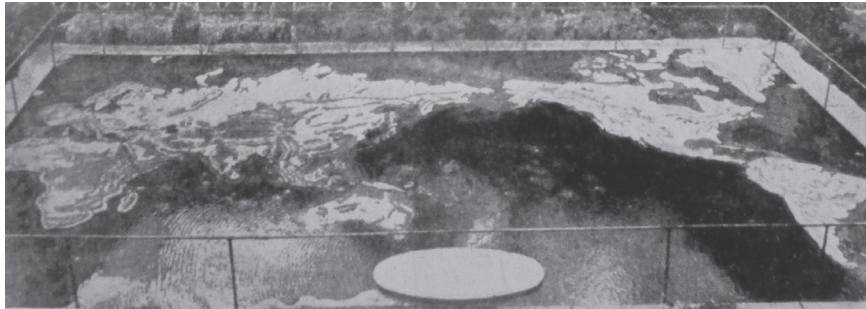
subsidies on funds raised by schools, the committee bought a piano for £26 to assist in teaching singing. The school also possessed two gramophones, which were in constant use, new records being obtained with the proceeds of school entertainments.

In 1929 the school celebrated its jubilee and a booklet was produced to celebrate this. There were complaints that although football and basketball fields had been levelled and two tennis courts laid, the rocky nature of the land made the work very difficult and expensive while the buildings were shabby and old-fashioned and in need of replacement. A fair was conducted in connection with the jubilee in aid of funds to improve the grounds and playing fields.

In 1936 a large concrete map of the world was constructed by Mr F W Sinclair in front of the old Standard block, but after 30 years of weather and vandalism it was finally covered over in 1965.

It was not until 1938 that the longstanding and persistent requests of successive school committees for remodelling of the school reached the point of getting a set of blueprints approved for a new open-air type of school. However, World War II put an end to those plans.

Construction of the present school did not finally start until July 1962 and most of the Standard classes moved into their new accommodation in October 1963 when the demolition of the old school buildings began. A special reunion of old pupils and teachers was held on October 5 and 6 to celebrate and a movie made of the contractor's bulldozer making several

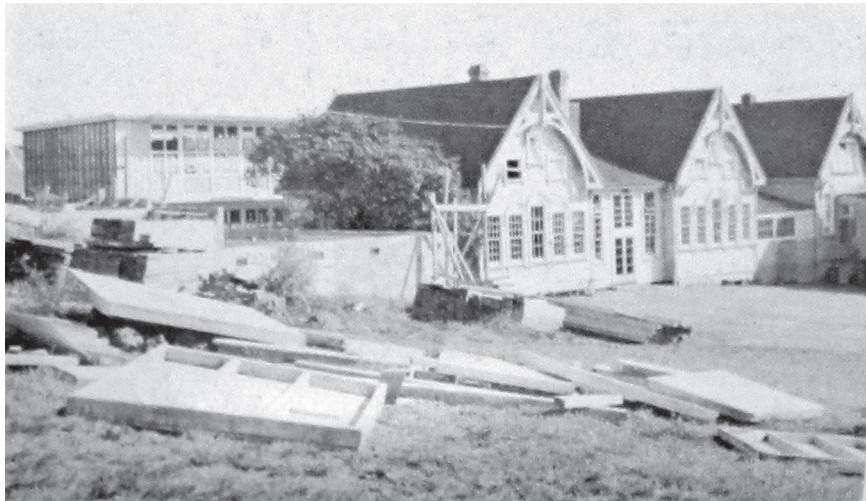


Mount Eden Normal Primary School world map, 1936

Photo: *Mount Eden School: celebrations 1963: demolition*

attempts before finally toppling the 80-year-old building. Finally in 1964, the rebuild was complete—the administration block was occupied in February and the infant block in June.

When Sir Douglas Robb officially opened the new school on 6 March 1965, it had a new name and a new role. From then on, it has been the Mount Eden Normal Primary School—MENPS—associated first with the Auckland Teachers' College and later with the University of Auckland's Department of Education as a practice and demonstration school for the training of teachers.



Completion of first section: Mount Eden Normal Primary School, 1960s

Photo: *Mount Eden School: celebrations 1963: demolition*



Close-up of Mount Eden normal School memorial gates showing the 1914–18 Roll of Honour

Photo: Jeanette Grant

In April 2004 Mount Eden Normal Primary School celebrated its 125th jubilee over the weekend. Events included an open day for former pupils, a heritage parade in Victorian dress along Dominion Road led by vintage cars and a pipe band, speeches from school staff and guest speakers, performances by current and former students, and a formal dinner with music and dancing.

The *Central Leader* reported on 12 October 2005 that:

Six new classrooms have been added to Mount Eden Normal Primary School. Pupils from both the

past and present attended the unveiling. The Education Ministry put more than \$1 million towards the project with the Parent Teacher Association contributing more than \$20,000 and the Trillian Trust donating about \$23,000 towards the computer centre.

School and education have changed greatly since the school opened. Here are a few contemporary facts to show what school life has become. In 2014, the school's website had what it called 'A Snapshot' of the school:

700 Students (at the end of each year)
 31 Learning Spaces, as well as Learning Centres
 Te Reo, Music, Visual Art, Drama & Sport programmes within and outside of the school day

Ethnicities: NZ European 67%; Maori 7%; Chinese 7%; Indian 6%;
Pacifika 2%; Other 11%

As well as the principal, Mr John Faire, there was a deputy principal and two assistant principals. The staff of 28 teachers was divided into six teams with 18 assistant and support staff plus seven administrative and property staff. Only 10% of these 50 staff is male and there is a ratio of 50:700 or one adult to 14 children. Because of the pressure on the school roll, only pupils from within the school Home Zone are accepted and there is no balloting for Out-of-Zone places, nor are overseas students currently accepted.

Pupils are instructed not to arrive before 8.30am and are expected to leave the grounds by 3.15pm. The school uniform is compulsory and includes the wearing of a regulation cap or hat in Terms 1 and 4. Cell phones are forbidden at school. There are four 'Walking School Bus' routes organised to see children safely to school from Walters Road, Grange Road, Leamington Road and Wynyard Road. They operate at specific times and are accompanied by an adult parent/caregiver. Pupils may not ride bikes or scooters to school unless accompanied by an adult. On enrolment, every student has to sign a Cybersafety User Agreement. School lunches may be ordered online and the School Newsletter is posted on the website every Thursday.

The annual March Food and Fun Fair organised by the PTA is a major fundraiser and in 2014 it raised \$50,000. This is essential to the running of the school as its high decile rating means it gets minimal government funding. Just as in the days when it first opened, the school depends on local support.

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Burnnand's Band at the 'Epsom Trots'

By Graham Bush

Right up until the last third of the twentieth century, brass bands were extremely prominent in the musical and cultural fabric of all our big cities, many provincial centres and even enterprising suburbs. Some enjoyed military links, while many had official status as municipal bands. The Auckland Municipal Military Band formed in 1924 was one such example. The bands gave regular concerts in the parks and town halls, entertained spectators and played the national anthem at major sporting events, and competed at the prestigious national brass band championships.

With very few exceptions, the musicians were not fulltime professionals. A few taught music in secondary schools, while a handful played in dance bands such as those at the Orange Hall in Newton Road or the Peter Pan Cabaret in Queen Street. However, overwhelmingly they were amateur enthusiasts who practised and participated for the sheer enjoyment they received.

The intertwined history of Alexandra Park and the Auckland Trotting Club is covered in Chapter 19 of *The History of Epsom*. A rich source of information which was drawn on was *Harness Heroes*, written by longtime trotting author and expert Ron Bisman, to mark the hundredth anniversary of the Trotting Club's founding. Both these sources give a feeling for just how popular 'going to the trots' was in the pre-television era, with trams and trains conveying crowds, often in the many thousands, flocking to the Epsom course.

Although there were usually only eight races 'on the card', it was a long day's outing, with the normal gap between each race being 45 or even 50 minutes, quite unthinkable to today's on-course bettor. The principal reason for the time lapse was the breathing space needed to balance the totalisator by a technology limited to adding machines. The patrons were therefore thought to need some diversionary entertainment while they waited for the next race, and the principal offering was a brass band.

As a growing teenager, the author regularly attended the Auckland trots in the late 1940s and early 1950s, not to bet, but because of an inexplicable interest in the equine sport itself. And unlike the majority of punters who were totally oblivious of the instrumental entertainment, although not particularly musical, I actually did 'listen to the band.' At this distant

remove I can only regret that at the time I failed to discover more about its membership and provenance.

The uniformed group who gloried in the title of ‘Burnnand’s Professional Concert Band’ was very likely a ‘make-up’ outfit, that is, it was not entirely composed of permanent members, although a core possibly fell into this category. It played from an uncovered low-level bandstand (scarcely grand enough to be called a rotunda) situated towards the front of the lawn sweeping out from the main stand built in 1924. Incidentally, the main stand is still in existence though virtually deserted on race nights.

Research indicates that the band was performing at trotting meetings as early as 1923, although its director, Ballantine Burnnand, whose full name was Frederick Charles Ballantine Burnnand, was recorded as bandmaster of the Auckland Central Mission Band in 1910 and holding a similar position with the Ellerslie Town Band in 1916.

Ballantine Burnnand seems to have conducted at Alexandra Park continuously for more than twenty years until shortly before his death in 1944. The usual renditions included medleys of numbers embracing popular brass band items, marches, excerpts from light opera and ‘pop’ pieces of the day. The final item was always the National Anthem—presumably *God Save the King*.

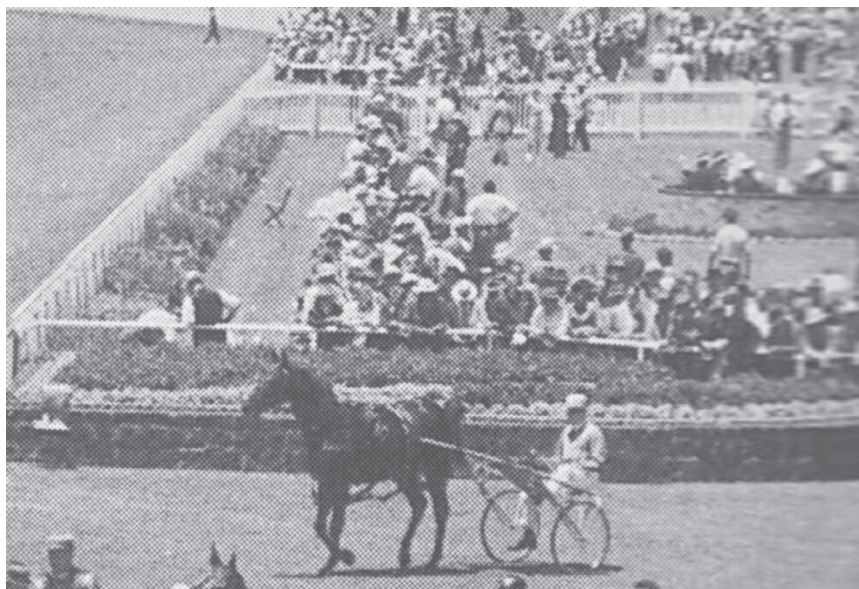
Notwithstanding the death of its founder, in the best of traditions, the band played on, from 1949 under the baton of a well-known veteran pipe-smoking bandsman with the euphonious name of Foley Orrell. This arrangement continued for another decade, with each meeting’s racebook listing the programme to be presented. However, from 1959 any reference to such entertainment ceased.

In an era when the governments imposed strict limits on the number of horse race meetings, the Auckland Trotting Club was permitted to stage only eleven days of racing each year, one of which happened to be December 31st. (Until the late 1950s all meetings were daytime.) And on each December 31st occurred the one time Foley Orrell’s band was actually listened to by the majority of racegoers at Alexandra Park. Played before the last race was *The Miner’s Dream of Home* followed by *Auld Lang Syne*. The words of the first verse and chorus of the former were printed in the racebook and lots of the crowd joined in with great gusto. But why?

The Miner’s Dream of Home was composed in Britain the late nineteenth century: its melody was hauntingly moving and its lyrics frankly sentimental, but it swiftly achieved huge recognition as an acclaimed

music hall ballad. First listed in the racebook in 1941, its appropriateness for a New Year's Eve trotting meeting at Epsom sprang from the last two lines of the chorus which ran: 'For the bells were ringing the old year out and the new year in.'

Fashions change, and rather sadly, the tradition of playing *The Miner's Dream of Home* ceased with the advent of night trotting at the end of 1958. No longer relevant, the band disappeared from 'the trots' at Alexandra Park. On a personal note, a classmate of the author's in his early secondary school years at the Seddon Memorial Technical College was a Gary Orrell, probably an immediate relative of Foley Orrell. Inevitably, Gary Orrell was a member of the school band, and by a strange coincidence he probably used an instrument first played by the Auckland Municipal Military Band in the 1920s and 1930s, the stock of which was eventually donated to the school after the band's dissolution.



Under Foley Orrell, the white-capped bandmen playing just prior to the running of the Auckland Trotting Cup in December 1955. The rotunda is in the upper right of the photograph.

Photo: Auckland Trotting Club Hall of Fame Archive

'The Miner's Dream of Home' (1891)

Words by Will Godwin 18?–1913

Music by Leo Dryden 1863–1939

1.
It is ten weary years since I left England's shore,
In a far distant country to roam,
How I long to return to my own native land,
To my friends and the old folks at home!
Last night, as I slumbered, I had a strange dream,
One that seemed to bring distant friends near,
I dream of Old England, the land of my birth,
To the heart of her sons ever dear.

CHORUS [sung twice after each verse]
I saw the old homestead and faces I love,
I saw England's valleys and dells,
I listen'd with joy, as I did when a boy,
To the sound of the old village bells.
The log was burning brightly,
'Twas a night that should banish all sin,
For the bells went ringing the old year out,
And the new year in.

2.
While the joyous bells rang swift I wended my way
To the cot where I lived when a boy;
And I looked in the window, Yes! there by the fire,
Sat my parents! my heart filled with joy.
The tears trickled down my bronzed, furrowed cheek
As I gazed on my mother so dear,
I knew in my heart she was raising a prayer
For the boy whom she dreamt not was near!

3.
As the door of the cottage we met face to face,
'Twas the first time for ten weary years;
Soon the past was forgotten, we stood hand in hand,
Father, mother, and wand'rer in tears!
Once more in the fireplace the oak log burns bright,
And I promised no more would I roam;
As I sat in the old vacant chair by the hearth,
And I sang the dear song 'Home, Sweet Home!'

Dr Constance Helen Frost: General practitioner, bacteriologist, pathologist

By Valerie Sherwood

It was around 1879 when Thomas Frost and his wife Mary Ann, née Antwis, emigrated to New Zealand, settling in Onehunga. Accompanying them was their daughter, Constance Helen, who was then around seventeen years old, having been born in London in 1862 or 1863. Her desire to study medicine was first signalled publicly when the *Auckland Star* reported in January 1884 that one Constance Helen Frost, having studied at the Auckland Training College, had passed the medical preliminary examinations. Otherwise, however, little is known of her further activities until 1900, when she was one of four women graduating from the University of New Zealand Medical School, at Dunedin, Otago. Two of her fellow women graduates were Daisy Elizabeth Mills, who married to become Dr Platts-Mills, and Alice Woodward, who married the chemist, Arthur John Horsley.

Although hospital positions for women medical graduates were almost



Otago Medical School students, c.1890

Jane Kinder is identified in the front row wearing a scarf. Constance Frost is thought to be sitting immediately behind, with her hand on Jane's shoulder.

Note the skeleton which appeared traditionally in Medical School photos.

Photo: Hocken Library, University of Otago, Acc. No. S15-156a

non-existent in New Zealand, the *Observer* indicated early in 1900 that Dr Constance Frost would be appointed to the position of house surgeon at Auckland Hospital. However, when this did not eventuate, Constance and the fourth woman graduate, Jane Kinder, elected to go directly to South Australia to take up roles as resident medical physicians at the Adelaide Hospital. Here they were welcomed, as male doctors were in short supply. Although these positions were temporary, each young woman was reappointed the following year. Unfortunately Dr Kinder suffered ill health which forced her to resign, and led to her death a short time later. Constance Frost was appointed to a new position at Adelaide Hospital in 1902, as assistant bacteriologist, where she gained good experience in this field. For a period of approximately eighteen months she held the charge position in this laboratory.

In 1903 Constance returned to Auckland, applying herself initially to general practice. At first she held daily clinics at three sites within the city; at Fenton's Pharmacy in Karangahape Road from 11-12 noon, Edson's Pharmacy in Queen Street from 2-4 p.m., and also at her then place of residence in Wellesley Street East, from 9-10 in the mornings and 5-7 in the evenings. If urgent, emergency calls to the nearby suburbs, including Mount Eden, would be given priority to the clinics. This would seem a busy schedule demanding an urgency of pace travelling from surgery to surgery, which might explain why, in June 1905, the young woman doctor was charged in court with 'driving on the wrong side of the road in Symonds Street', and 'driving around the corner of Khyber Pass Road and Symonds Street at other than walking pace'. Dr Frost's explanation, that she was on the right-hand side of the road to avoid the likelihood of horse trams colliding with her carriage, was not sufficiently convincing for her to avoid being fined 5/-, with 14/- costs.

Later that year Constance won the position of honorary bacteriologist and pathologist at Auckland Hospital; the second woman, following Dr Alice Horsley, to have filled that role. This appointment by the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board was a temporary one, and made reluctantly, due to the opposition of male staff to the appointment of women practitioners. However, the fact was that no male doctor would accept the poor working conditions in the makeshift laboratory. Constance, though, managed to persuade the rest of the medical staff to support her in her demand for a very necessary upgrade of the obviously inadequate equipment, which would allow work to be carried out efficiently.

At the time of the appointment there was no actual laboratory set up for the specific purpose of clinical research. With the knowledge and experience she had gained at Adelaide she was able to create an area within which she could carry out her work to keep abreast of the ever increasing requirements of the hospital and the advances of pathological research. She acquired various basic items of laboratory equipment, though was provided with only the most necessary. As part of her workload in the hospital position, the pathologist was required to take swabs and blood samples from patients around the city, including those at hospitals such as St Helens and other establishments. Many reports on these would later be produced as evidence in official inquiries, post mortems, etc.

Although she was acknowledged to be a 'skilled bacteriologist' her hold on the position was tenuous. In an endeavour to gain a male replacement, the hospital advertised the position annually, and each year, when there was a lack of male appointments, Constance would be reappointed. In her hours away from the hospital, she made herself available to those requiring medical attention, particularly in the Mount Eden district, where she had later taken up practice at her home in Dominion Road.

Although she had some supporters among the other 'honorarys', tension existed between her and several members of the medical staff. The appointment as an unpaid staff member was accompanied, however, by what she saw as some benefits, such as being included in all meetings of the honorary staff and the delivering of lectures and training of nurses, but these duties were quietly eroded over time, while the little support she had received gradually disappeared.

Late in 1904 Constance was one of several doctors on the Auckland Hospital staff called to give evidence before a meeting of the Hospital Board. It was revealed that dissension had existed between male staff members over a period of ten years. When Constance, was called on to give evidence she explained that she had experienced problems with a Dr Neil, for with little laboratory experience and without authority, he would enter the laboratory and proceed to carry out unsafe experiments developing anthrax cultures, a dangerous practice of which she had voiced her strong disapproval. Despite her opposition to his presence in the laboratory the doctor, demonstrating his lack of respect for his colleague, had persisted in continuing with his experiments even though this had interfered with her own work.

In April 1906 the *New Zealand Herald* reported that the chairman of the

Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board had complimented Dr Frost on her work as honorary bacteriologist, stating that the bacteriological department in connection with the hospital was quite equal to anything of the kind in the colony. The work carried out was really of a most searching character, and most valuable. He thought the time had come when Dr Frost should receive an honorarium for her services. Similar sentiments were expressed by other members of the board and the matter was referred to the Hospital Committee. But the latter committee was comprised of the male hospital doctors, who once again declined to give their consent to the wishes of the board.

A further setback for the personal position of Constance Frost was the appointment in 1911 of Dr Charles Maguire as senior resident medical officer. Strongly biased against the appointment of woman doctors, his attitude exacerbated the already difficult situation to the point where she had few friends on the staff. Dedicated to her work, though, she was determined to endure the disdain of her male colleagues. However, in that same year, she was appointed physician in charge of the observation cottage, and granted an honorarium of 20 guineas per annum in recognition of her services. Since 1908 she had also been in receipt of a small income which accrued from her position as City Council bacteriologist, undertaking periodical testing (monthly) of the city's water supplies at a fee of a guinea each service, as well as testing milk and other water on various occasions as required, for the same fee.

In this early period of the 20th century a growing population led to increased demand for public hospital services. The ensuing increase in the throughput of the laboratory resulted in Constance having less time to devote to her private practice which meant a lowering of income. In a letter to the board requesting recognition of her laboratory work in the form of an honorarium, she demonstrated that by her efforts she was able to save the board £150 a year. With the assistance of Dr Florence Keller, who was the only woman member sitting on the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board she was finally awarded a small honorarium for her laboratory work. Until 1913 she remained the sole woman doctor on the hospital staff. During that year, too, she was called on to take up the role of a public vaccinator for the Auckland district when there was great anxiety about the severe outbreak of chicken pox which threatened the community and the Maori people in particular.

Although Constance Frost would appear to have been fully extended

with work engagements, she felt a responsibility, as did other doctors, to share her medical knowledge with the community. This led her to present courses of instruction, in the form of lectures and demonstrations to various societies. These included general first aid for St John groups, and lectures on midwifery to the Women's Branch of the New Zealand Natives Association. She made a point, too, of attending local conferences of the British Medical Association. In general society, she was included in an elite group, enjoying such occasions as the Vice-Regal Garden Party in May 1913, at the invitation of Their Excellencies, the Earl and Lady Liverpool. There is evidence of holidays taken from her busy schedule, however, and at such times she tended to travel as far as Melbourne, as she did in April 1915, for a planned holiday and to update herself on current laboratory techniques.

It was not until 1918, that Constance achieved her goal of a full time appointment at the hospital. Her appointment to the updated full time position brought an annual salary of £500. Only a short time later, though, in January 1920, she contracted influenza through her laboratory work at the hospital, and tragically succumbed to this on 29 January, dying at her home in Dominion Road.

Following a private funeral, Dr Constance Helen Frost, aged 58, was interred at Purewa cemetery. An obituary published by the *New Zealand Herald* included the tributes that since Dr Constance Frost had practised in Auckland, 'her professional skill, kindly disposition and the capacity for self-sacrifice won her the esteem of an extensive circle of friends.'

A male doctor, Walter Gilmour, was appointed to fill the hospital vacancy, and within two years, with the importance of the laboratory position now recognised, he was earning £1000 per annum, to become the second highest paid medical person at the hospital.

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The Udy Family of Mount Eden

By Jeanette Grant

The name Udy is not common in New Zealand but it is by far the most popular surname in Cornwall, being present in 35 parishes since the 16th century. It is also familiar to Mount Eden residents who pass the small Udy Reserve on the corner of Mount Eden and Balmoral roads which commemorates a large Udy family who were among the early farmers in the area.

George Udy

Born in 1801 at St Issey, Cornwall, he appears in the 1851 UK Census in Fowey as a farmer of eight acres employing one man. He had a wife Jane, aged 44, born in St Coloumb, Cornwall, and nine children. They were: Jane 1832–1910, William George 1834–1911, Hender Cornelius 1836–1912, Mary 1838–1924, John 1840–1932, Richard 1842–1905, Elizabeth Johanna 1845–1910, Frances Catherine 1847–1923 and Ann Maria 1849–1910.

The first member of the family to come to New Zealand was the middle child, John. He came alone on the sailing ship *Excelsior*, landed on 16 March 1859 and for the next year worked on a farm at East Tamaki. After his mother Jane's death, his father George brought most of the family out to New Zealand to join him. The eldest son William had married Mary Nicholls in Liskeard in 1858 and they were the only family members to stay in England but do not seem to have had any children.

On 17 January 1860, George with his other two sons and five daughters arrived in Auckland on the *Nimrod*. In 1863 George and John Udy bought Lots 68 and 70a, plus 70, 71, 72 and 73—a total of 82 acres which stretched along the east side of Mount Eden Road from Windmill Road to present day Glenalmond Road. The last four lots were originally purchased by William Mason in November 1842. Farming here at first was more cropping than grazing; wheat and maize were grown and the land produced 70 bushels to the acre. In 1844 Mason had bought two acres adjoining his land and built Auckland's first flour mill 'Eden Mill' which gave its name to Windmill Road. Formed by the government in 1848, it was the only new road constructed in the area at this time. He built his house 'Eden Grove' on the high land between Mount Eden and Penrhyn roads but it was destroyed by fire on 6 December 1845 when a piece of paper thrown on the fire was carried up

the chimney by a strong draught, landed on the thatch and set it on fire. He then sold these lots to the Rev Walter Lawry in 1846 for £400. Walter Lawry gave it to his son Henry Hassall Lawry in 1853 who on sold it to the Udy ten years later. Before long, George moved to Waiuku and in 1864 John bought land in Pakuranga to which he moved in 1871. It was later named Udy's Road in the 1930s. In 1871 all the Mount Eden land was conveyed to the youngest son, Richard Udy, who farmed it for the rest of his life. The Udy farm survived longer than most in the area as subdivision proceeded all around them. On Richard's death in 1905, probate was granted to his widow Alicia Charlotte Udy and his nephew George Hedge.

George Udy never remarried and was for some years a resident in Waiuku. In 1865 his name appeared on a list of people applying to the government for compensation for 'Losses caused by the Native Rebellion'. He claimed £233.16.6 and was awarded £190.10.6. Unlike his sons, he never took any active part in public life and entirely eschewed politics. He devoted his life to farming pursuits and was essentially an old-fashioned and fairly successful farmer, but he had a dislike of all that he considered new ideas. For some years before his death, his health had been failing, but it was only within the last three days that he had to keep his bed, and he passed peacefully away on 24 September 1893 at his son Richard's residence, 'Eden Grove'. He was 92 years old. His obituary in the *New Zealand Herald* of 25 September 1893 said:

Another veteran colonist has passed away in the person of Mr. George Udy, of Mount Eden, who expired at his son's residence yesterday in his 93rd year . . . for some years past he has given over active work and lived a peaceful, calm life in his declining days. He was greatly esteemed as a friend and neighbour. His memory up to the last was wonderfully good, and he frequently spoke of his recollections of the battle of Waterloo, in which, however, he took no part. Mr. Udy was a native of Fowey, Cornwall.

Eden Grove

The 82 acre farm George, John and Richard bought was still known as 'Eden Grove'. The replacement farmhouse was situated on the same site as the original house at the southern end of the property between Mount Eden and Penrhyn roads. It was demolished sometime after 1940 and the Mount Eden Motel now stands there with an entrance from Balmoral Road and the Eden Epsom Tennis & Squash Club just to the north. All the family

were experienced farmers, and changed from arable to dairying. For several years, with a dairy herd of 60 cows, they delivered milk in Auckland. The only mode of transport was by horseback, as there were no roads suitable for vehicles.

John Udy

John Udy was born in St Coloumb, Cornwall, on 17 April 1840. Before leaving the Mount Eden district, he superintended the making of the present road from the mountain side to the original tram terminus at Pen-carrow Avenue, and was the first to be given permission by the Government to use the scoria from the south side of the mountain for road work. He recalled that about 1866 there used to be a toll-gate at the Eden Vine Hotel, near the junction of Mount Eden Road and New North Road. The charges were threepence for a saddle-horse and rider, and ninepence for a horse and vehicle.

On the outbreak of the Land Wars, John joined the Auckland Cavalry Volunteer Corps, under Captain Hardington, and continued in the corps until the end of the war in 1868. The headquarters and stables were situated on the site of John Court



Aerial photo showing Eden Grove, 1959
Source: Auckland City GIS Viewer



Aerial photo showing Eden Grove, 2002
Source: Auckland City GIS Viewer

Ltd, currently Whitcoulls (soon to be Farmers), in Queen Street. Each member of the corps had to supply his own horse and accoutrements, personal clothing and boots. The Government supplied a revolver, carbine, sword, top-coat and rug to each man. The pay allowance was five shillings a day, and three shillings a day allowance for the horse, but the pay was forthcoming only when the men were on active duty, which was chiefly carrying despatches and protecting the provision and ammunition wagons.

The following account appeared in the *New Zealand Herald* on 24 June 1871:

TRIAL OF A NOVEL DRAINING PLOUGH. A very successful trial of a draining plough, designed by Mr. John Udy, farmer, Tamaki, and manufactured by Mr. Wallace, Otahuhu, took place yesterday on the farm of Mr. Dornwell, Three Kings. There were present Messrs. J. May, Y. Gardiner, W. Bailey, of Taranaki, R. Udy, and several of the neighbouring farmers, and the plough was unanimously pronounced a perfect success. The plough was supposed to require six horses, but four staunch horses 3 yoked abreast were found sufficient to make a drain eighteen inches deep and one and three-quarter inches diameter, at the rate of two miles per hour. The ground was sloppy, and immediately there were fifty yards drained, the water rushed out as if from a barrel. It was ascertained that stones four or five inches in diameter, were no impediment. There was no turning up of the grass sod, only a half-inch opening on the surface, which closes after a few hours. The plough can be seen on the farm, and a more extensive trial will take place in a few days.

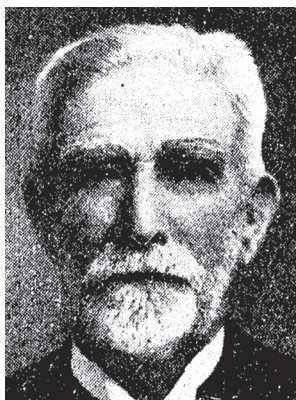
In 1864, John Udy had purchased the farm he named 'Underwood' at Pakuranga but did not take up residence there until 1871. From that year he lived in the district, took a keen interest in a variety of local affairs, and was frequently a judge at agricultural shows. He was chairman of the Pakuranga Road Board for 12 years and in 1888 chaired a conference of Road Boards held in the Pakuranga Hall. In 1889 he was made a Justice of the Peace and in that year chaired a meeting of the Howick and Pakuranga Literary Society. In 1893 he was elected to the executive committee of the Auckland Provincial and Agricultural Association and was also in the chair of the Otahuhu Fruitgrowers' Association.

On a lighter note, this appeared in the *Observer* on 31 July 1897:

The last of the *Sporting Review* ten £1 cheques, which Arthur Cleave sent up in balloons on Jubilee night, has come in to be paid. Some of these balloons travelled exceedingly well. Some of them were picked up between Remuera and Howick, though two were found in the Domain, while the last of the ten was picked up at Pakuranga last week by Mr John Udy, of Underwood Farm. The balloon idea was a capital one, and served to focus public attention for a time on that excellent sporting paper, the *Review*.

A family story says that John had developed a rust resistant strain of wheat by noticing one unaffected plant and growing it in his garden for seed which he collected and intended to sell to a seed merchant. Unfortunately his son George fed the special wheat to the hens!

George was a mechanical enthusiast. He used a stationary engine to pump water from their bore and developed a mechanical pea picker, potato harvester and an improved reaper and binder. It was probably his influence which determined that in the 1920s, John was one of the first to invest in a traction engine which he would contract out to cut hay or harvest wheat and oats. The original barn from the family's farm was moved to the Howick Colonial Village in 1977 where it may still be seen.



John Udy

Source: *NZ Herald* 6 Apr 1929

In 1871 John had married Emily Robinson of Howick, daughter of Thomas Robinson, a Fencible who came out to New Zealand on the *Minerva* in 1847. They had four children but she died after a painful illness on 20 August 1910 aged 56. A widowed daughter, Mrs Ada Mary Massey (1874–1949), lived with her father at 'Underwood', and their son, George John Udy (1878–1939), lived next door and ran the farm. Their other daughters were Ellen (1872–1941), who married John Till in 1892 and Inez Gatley (1876–1939) who married Robert Laurie on 1 June 1899.

When John died on 15 September 1932, his obituary stated that he had enjoyed remarkably good health and was able to take a keen interest in farm work. It called him a man of sterling character, and said his loss would be much felt by the community generally.

Family of John Till & Ellen Udy

1) **Ellen Udy** was born on 13 October 1872, and married John Till on 24 February 1892 at All Saints Anglican Church, Howick. John and his parents Samuel & Sarah Till came from Windsor on the steamer *Tainui* in 1885 and lived at 581 Mount Eden Road near Pencarrow Avenue and in 1905 and 1909 the parents were advertising villas in that area for rent. Samuel



Till & Son Bakery

Photo: Jeanette Grant, 2015

farmed near Three Kings for a while, then set up a bakery on the corner of Mount Eden and Essex roads. He died in 1911 aged 69 and his wife Sarah died in May 1931 aged 91. They had only the one son John Till who joined his father and later took over the bakery. The name 'TILL & SON' shows clearly in this July 2015 photo.

The *Auckland Star* of 20 June 1899 has an account of his prosecution under the 1894 Factories Act for having an apprentice working on a Saturday afternoon after 1pm. John and

Ellen lived in Fairview Road and had four children between 1893 and 1900. Ellen died in 1941.

2) **Ada Mary Udy** was born in Pakuranga on 6 June 1874 and in 1892 she married Robert John Massey (1864–3 July 1918). They lived in Pakuranga and in April 1911 he was nominated for the Pakuranga Road Board. After she was widowed, she lived with her father at 'Underwood', Pakuranga. She died on 24 November 1949 and was buried with her husband in the churchyard at All Saints, Howick. They had two sons, in 1897 and 1907.

3) **Inez Gatley Udy** was born in Pakuranga in 1876. On 1 June 1899 she married a brick-maker Robert Laurie junior (1867–1931) at All Saints, Howick. The Laurie family had arrived in New Zealand on the *Duchess of Argyll* in 1842. The family consisted of a widow, Mary Laurie (1799–1876), one daughter, Janet Miller and four sons. By the 1850s three sons Robert

senior, James (1823–67) and Matthew (1816–68) were engaged in brick-making in the Newton area, behind the site of the George Court building on Karangahape Road.

The Laurie Brothers then purchased 100 acres beside the Whau River (present day Hepburn Road site) and had three cottages built there. This purchase adjoined on three sides a 10 acre site purchased by the brick-maker John Malam that year, but the Laurie family was only able to obtain title to this piece of land after John Malam's death in 1899, and even then the purchase was not finalised until 1907.

The Laurie brothers were still living at Newton in the late 1860s, but by 1869 the surviving brother, Robert senior (1829–99), had set himself up in West Auckland. He had married Elizabeth Alison in 1857. Their first seven children including Robert junior were born in Newton; the other four after they moved to 'Lauriston' at Waikumete. His business seems to have been called both 'Whau Brickyard' and 'Laurie Brickyards' and was in operation through the early 1870s. The Laurie family were involved with the setting up of the first school in Henderson, operating the 'Railway Store' in Henderson township by 1881, and also had a brick-making operation in Waihi.

When Elizabeth died on 25 December 1911, her obituary in the *New Zealand Herald* said:

In 1857, Mrs. Laurie married and settled with her husband, the late Mr. Robert Laurie, on the banks of the Whau Creek, between Waikumete and Henderson. Even in this place, so near to Auckland, they did not escape the effects of war, for during the threatened incursion of the Ngapuhis [sic] from the North she and her family had to seek shelter in the city when Albert Park was a fortified place. Apart from minor absences Mrs. Laurie occupied Lauriston for half a century, and was widely known and respected in the Henderson and Waikumete districts. Of her family of eleven, six only survive her, three of the sons residing at Lauriston and two at Waihi.

Robert junior died on 16 May 1931 and was buried at Waikumete. Inez died on 5 September 1939. The *New Zealand Herald* on 6 September 1939 said:

LAURIE.—On September 5, at her residence, Te Atatu Road, Henderson. Inez Gatley, loved wife of the late Robert Laurie, and dearly-loved sister of Ellen Till, Ada Massey and George Udy. The

funeral will leave her residence for Waikumete Crematorium at 3.45 p.m. to-day (Wednesday).

Robert and Inez had no family.

4) **George John Udy** was born in Pakuranga on 12 November 1878 and as an adult lived next to his father John in Udys Road, Pakuranga, and managed the family farm. He was of a mechanical bent and developed many labour-saving devices for the farm. On 18 June 1928, 'Rashleigh, T. P. K., Udy, G. J., and Herbert, F. W.' applied for a UK patent described as an 'improvement for a motor vehicle headlight' which was granted on 7 October 1930.

On 19 February 1904 at Panmure, he married Mabel Mary Thompson [1878-1920], daughter of Andrew Stevenson and Mary Jane Thompson of Pakuranga. They had five children including twin sons between 1906 and 1914

In 1922, George remarried—to a cousin Olive Gertrude Hawken (1882–1963) the 13th child of Charles Hawken and Elizabeth Johanna Gatley née Udy. He died in 1939 and was buried at St Matthias Church, Panmure.

Hender Cornelius Udy

The oldest son to come to New Zealand in 1860 was Hender Cornelius Udy. He was born in St Coloumb, Cornwall, in 1836 and only stayed in this country long enough to marry Elizabeth Muir in 1864 and have three children. They appear on the New Zealand Births Deaths and Marriages Index as follows. (Note there is no mention of the son 'William' later listed on the US Census. Mary Anne Elizabeth also appears in the 1865 Death Index—aged six days.)

1866/24548	Udy	Annie	Elizabeth	Hender
1865/9475	Udy	Mary Anne Elizabeth Udy	Elizabeth	Henry Cornelius
1866/9871	Udy	Hart Alexander	Elizabeth	Heuder Cornelius

In 1871 this family emigrated to the USA. In the 1880 US Census, Hender was a farmer in Murray, Alameda, California, with a wife Ellen (aged 44, born in England) and a son William aged 13 born New Zealand i.e. born 1866 or 1867. Elizabeth aka Ellen must have died soon after as he remarried in 1887. The 1900 census shows him still as a farmer in Murray, Alameda, but married to Mary (born 1826, Maine) for 13 years. In 1910 he was again a widower and he died in Oakland California on 2 January 1912.

Richard Udy

The youngest son of George and Jane, Richard Udy, was born in 1841 and came out to New Zealand on the *Nimrod* in January 1860. As well as running the Udy dairy farm in Mount Eden, he became closely involved in local politics and in 1884 there were many people who wanted him to stand as MP for Eden.

He was elected a member of the Auckland Education Board in July 1880 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Frank Lawry. He was re-elected in March 1887, 1890, 1893 and served five years as chairman. In March 1899, he retired from the board when his term of office expired, and did not offer himself for re-election. From 1885 he was on the Mount Eden Domain Board and was chairman from 1897 until his death in 1905.

The Eden Epsom Tennis & Squash Club in Penryn Road owes its existence to Richard, as he leased a small section of his dairy farm adjacent to his own house to a foundation group of 12 men at a nominal rental and the first four grass tennis courts opened on 30 November 1886.

In February 1886 he was elected to the Mount Eden Licensing Committee. Like his brother John, he was made a JP in 1889. In October 1889 he was appointed to represent the board as one of the commissioners charged with the administration of education reserves. He held that office until the day of his death, having been six times re-appointed by the unanimous vote of the board.

He also served for many years on the Mount Eden Highway District Board (which became the Mount Eden Road Board from 1 January 1882) and served as its chairman from 1886-91 and from 1900-1905. At a meeting of the Road Board after his death, the chairman Oliver Nicholson paid him a tribute which stated: 'His sound administration of the affairs of the district in the past had in great measure contributed to its present prosperity, and he had allowed no motives to swerve him from the strict path of duty, nor to violate the trust reposed in him by the ratepayers he represented . . .'

Richard Udy also represented the board as a governor of the Auckland Grammar School from April 1893 to April 1899, and in 1896 was an ex officio member of the Council of the Auckland University College where he took great interest in the question of endowments.

He married Alicia Charlotte Harris (1851-1937) at St Andrews Anglican Church, Epsom, on 10 September 1879 and they had two daughters, Ethel Gately Udy (1852-1967) who married Alan Stuart Oxley in 1915 and Eden Daisy Udy (1853-1928) who married William Amyott Brown (1882-1954)

in 1911. William Brown was a bank clerk and went overseas as a Lance-Corporal with the Auckland Infantry Company with the NZEF in April 1917.

'Eden Grove' was well known in the social sphere. This account appeared in the *Observer* on 5 November 1910:

Mrs Udy's dance on Wednesday week at her residence, Mount. Eden, was a great success. Mrs Udy wore black silk. Miss Udy, blue voile trimmed with Maltese lace. Miss Daisy Udy, black crepe de chine, relieved with white ninon. Mrs Walker, white satin. Miss Beatrice Dawson, green charmeuse, veiled with black chiffon. Mrs Barnard, green silk. Mrs Cooper, black and white. Mrs Nicholson, black. Mrs Milne, black silk. Miss T. Walker, embroidered net over white chiffon. Miss Martin, white satin. Miss Blades, a white muslin. Miss Oxley, pale pink satin. Miss Tibbs, white. Miss Price, white chiffon, embroidered in blue. Miss B. Oxley, pale pink satin. Miss Wilson, pale blue. Miss Milne, white dress. Miss Metcalfe, green satin, veiled with black net. Miss Stephenson, red crepe de chine, veiled with chiffon.

The *Auckland Star* reported on 7 March 1928:

At last night's meeting of the Auckland Lawn Tennis Association it was decided to accept the offer of Mrs. Oxley, sister of the late Mrs. W. A. Brown, to present a shield to perpetuate the memory of Mrs. Brown. The late Mrs. Brown, who, as Miss Daisy Udy, was well known on the Auckland courts, was the first player in Auckland to win all three women's championship events in one year. She was responsible for much valuable work in coaching younger players, and she was untiring in her efforts to encourage the game among women. It is suggested, by the donor, that the trophy should be competed for annually among junior women players.

On 13 December 1928 the *Auckland Star* included the information that: 'A cup, to be known as the Daisy Udy Cup, was received from Mrs. A. S. Oxley, for competition among girls under 21 years of age.'

Alicia died on 10 April 1937 at 'Eden Grove'. Her obituary in the *New Zealand Herald* of 12 April 1937 said:

MRS. ALICIA UDY The death has occurred of Mrs. Alicia C Udy of Eden Grove. Mount Eden, at the age of 86. For 57 years she lived in

the same home at Mount Eden. Born in 1851 at Abington, Northants, England, she arrived in New Zealand in 1875 in the sailing ship Carnatic after an adventurous voyage of four months. The ship was three weeks in the English Channel, there were dissensions among the crew and because of the length of the voyage food ran short. She joined her brother at Waiuku, and a few years later she married Mr. R. Udy who was then farming 200 acres at Mount Eden. There were then only two houses between her house and the top of Symonds Street, the district being a farming one. Mr. Udy died in 1905. Mrs. Udy is survived by a daughter, Mrs. A. S. Oxley of Balmoral Road. Another daughter, the late Mrs. W. A. Brown, as Miss Daisy Udy, was for some years the leading woman tennis player in Auckland and was one of the best players in the Dominion. There is one grandson.

The piecemeal sale of the Udy farm had begun in March 1897 with the subdivision of Allotments 70 and 70a around Windmill Road. In November 1902 Richard sold Allotments 72 and 73 south of Balmoral Road to Benjamin Hawkins who dedicated Chamberlain (now Kakariki) Avenue and continued selling sections until 1909.

After Richard's death in 1905, Allotment 71 was broken up by the Udys themselves who put in Penrhyn Road and were still selling sections in 1925. It is probably no coincidence that the two roads formed on this last part of the Udy property have the Cornish names Pencarrow and Penrhyn. The corner section at the crossroads now known as the Udy Reserve was then donated to the Mount Eden Borough Council in 1925 by Richard's widow. The *New Zealand Herald* of 9 June 1925 reported that: 'An offer to convey 15ft. of land on the corner of Balmoral Road and Mount Eden Road was received from Mrs. Udy and her son-in-law Mr Oxley. It was decided to accept the gifts and a vote of thanks was passed.'

When Richard Udy passed away on October 30, 1905 at his residence 'Eden Grove' after a long illness, his estate was valued at £13,658 and in 1908 a pulpit was dedicated in his memory in St Barnabas Church, Mount Eden. George Udy's five daughters all married in New Zealand and had families.

1) *Jane Udy*, the eldest, was born in St Coloumb, Cornwall, in 1832 and married Sgt John Hedge (1833–76) in 1864 and they had one son George Hedge in 1866.

John had come to New Zealand in 1860 on the *Northern Bride*. He was very active in local affairs—had been Sergeant of the Waiuku Troop, Rifle Volunteer Corps, on the Waiuku School Committee, vice-president of the Waiuku Agricultural Association and was described as an energetic member of the Waiuku Good Templar Lodge. He was killed while duck-shooting on 21 April 1876 when a barrel of his shotgun exploded while he was reloading. A full account of the inquest appeared in the *New Zealand Herald* on 15 April 1876.

After his death, Jane stayed in Waiuku until her health deteriorated and she spent the last months of her life in Te Aroha with her son George. She died in Hamilton Hospital on 22 April 1910 aged 78 and was buried in the Waiuku Cemetery.

Their son George (1866-1959) married Agnes Smith [1869-1942] in 1892 and they had four sons and two daughters between 1866 and 1910.

2) **Mary Udy** was born in 1838 and married Thomas Wakelin (1840-1916) in 1865 and they had three daughters and four sons between 1867 and 1879. His association with Kamo began in 1858, when he took over the property on which he then lived for the rest of his life.

The online 'History of Kamo Village' just says:

Thomas Wakelin, a farm worker and a butcher who became a cattle dealer and auctioneer, built the first sale yards and the first hotel, on the corner of Ruatangata Road.

Mr Wakelin led a very active life, however, taking part in the proceedings of several local bodies, including chairmanship of the Kamo Town Board for a number of years and membership of the Whangarei County Council. In 1871 he became a member of the Ruatangata Highway Board and in the 1877 County Council elections he was elected to the Hikurangi Riding and was on the North Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board.

He built the first butcher's shop in Whangarei and the first hotel and first blacksmith's shop in Kamo. In 1874 he founded the oldest stock auctioneering firm in New Zealand and on 11 May 1876 Thomas Wakelin, Whangarei, is on a list of those issued with auctioneers' licences. His sons Frank and Walter joined the firm which was finally sold by a grandson T. W. Wakelin in 1946.

Thomas died on 23 October 1916 and Mary died on 25 December 1924. They were both buried in the Ketenikau Cemetery—on land he had bought

from local Maori on condition that he would not desecrate the graves, as Ketenikau Hill was traditionally a Maori cemetery.

3) *Elizabeth Johanna Udy* was born in St Coloumb in 1845 and married Charles Hawken (1840–1936) at 'Eden Grove' on 8 February 1864 and they had ten daughters and seven sons between 1864 and 1891. Charles was born in St Austell on

11 May 1840, the fourth child of William Hawken and Philippa Harding. In 1857 Charles left England for Australia on the *Castilian*, arriving in Sydney June 1858, and went to the gold rush at Port Curtis where he lost all his savings as the field proved valueless. In December 1859 he arrived at Auckland on the *Lord Worsley*, and took up land at Pukekohe where his house was the first to be burned by Maori during the Land Wars. Later he moved to Maungatapere and then in 1886 to Maunu. He was on the Maunu Road Board for 14 years and had several spells as chairman and for many years he was on the Marsden Licensing Committee. His property at Maunu became one of the show farms of the north, and he was well known as a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. On 11 May 1933 the *New Zealand Herald* said:

An old resident of the district, Mr. Charles Hawken, of Maunu, will celebrate his ninety-third birthday to-morrow. He was born at St. Austell, Cornwall, and went to Australia in 1857. He came to New Zealand two years later. In 1861 he went to Pukekohe and was there when the Maori War broke out. Later he went to Whangarei, where he was engaged in farming at the Whau Valley and Maunu. In 1864 he married Miss Elizabeth Udy, Truro, Cornwall. Mrs. Hawken died 23 years ago.

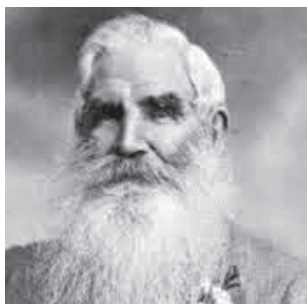
Mr. Hawken remembers arriving in Whangarei when there was only a bridle track in the tea-tree. Mr. Hawken has been prominently identified with the development of the district and was for a number of years a member of the Maunu Road Board. He is still a member of the Whangarei Cultural and Pastoral Association. He enjoys

A WHANGAREI PIONEER.

The widow of the late Mr. Thomas Wakelin, died at Kamo on Christmas Day in her 88th year. Mrs. Wakelin was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Udy, and arrived in the Dominion with her parents by the ship Nimrod, in 1859. She leaves three daughters, Mrs. Copeland (Mititai), Mrs. Ovens (Mangere), and Miss Wakelin (Whangarei), and four sons, Messrs. Frank and Walter Wakelin, auctioneers, Whangarei, Mr. Oliver Wakelin and Mr. Arthur Wakelin, Kamo.

excellent health. He has seven sons and nine daughters, all living, and 25 grandchildren.

Elizabeth died on 26 April 1910 and was buried the next day at Maunu Cemetery. Charles survived her by 26 years and was in good health until he died in his sleep on 21 May 1936. One obituary in the *Evening Post* reads:



Charles Hawken

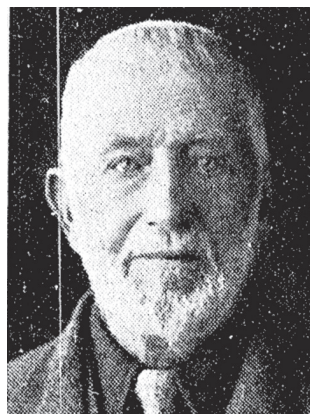
Source: *NZ Herald* 23 May 1936

WHANGAREI, This Day.
Mr. Charles Hawken, one of the best-known figures of Northland for the past seventy-five years, died today, aged 97. A native of Cornwall, he arrived in this district in his early twenties and made a model farm out of the dense bush country. He reared a family of seventeen, of whom fifteen survive.

4) **Frances Catherine Udy** was born in St Coloumb on 18 February 1847, married Thomas Seccombe (1846–1933) in 1879 and died in Whakatane on 16 July 1923.

Thomas had been born at Maitland NSW in 1846 and went to England aged 15 to enter the Saltash Naval College and sailed on HMS *Black Prince*, one of Britain's first ironclads. He returned to Australia but did not like farming there with the climatic extremes so he came to New Zealand aged 22. After an unsuccessful attempt gold mining at Thames, he bought 700 acres at Matamata which he put in grass and supplied butter to Cambridge. After three years he drove his stock to Matata in the Bay of Plenty and later held the lease of Orete Point from 1878–99. It was so remote, all travel was by water and his wife was the only white woman within 20 miles.

He was involved in many projects including searching for opals at Tairua (too poor quality to be profitable), ten years 1900–1910 draining



Thomas Seccombe

Source: *NZ Herald* 7 Nov 1933

1600 acres of the Rangitaiki Plains and later farming the reclaimed area. He retired to Auckland at the age of 80 and died on 4 November 1933 at his home in Papatoetoe aged 87.

Their daughter Lottie Kate Seccombe (1883–1960) married Fred Arthur Wharfe (1873–1961) in 1915. Their son Thomas Thorne Seccombe (1888–1978) married Polly McKenzie Miller (1890–1977) in 1915. Both Kate and Thomas were first-day pupils at the Opouriao South School, Bay of Plenty, when it opened on 10 May 1897.

5) **Ann Maria Udy**, the youngest Udy daughter was born in St Coloumb in 1849 and married Thomas Strutt Glenny (1846–1938) on 18 August 1879 at St Andrews Church, Epsom and went to live in Hawkes Bay. They had four sons and one daughter between 1880 and 1893. In 1880 he advertised 700 acres at £3 an acre for sale at Ruataniwha in the *Hawkes Bay Herald* and in 1888 he was advertising 640 acres at Onga Onga for sale at £3 an acre. He had cattle for sale in Waipawa in 1896. On 11 December 1899 the *Hawkes Bay Herald* reported that he had bought 174 acres from the Fairfield Estate. Ann Maria died at Napier on 1 October 1910 and Thomas died on 8 November 1938 aged 92 years. They are both buried in the Old Napier Hill Cemetery.

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Memories of growing up in Epsom and Newmarket

Geoff Fischer

My parents started their married life in a bach which my father had pre-fabricated where he lived in Wellington. It was then shipped by New Zealand Railways to a quarter-acre section of land at Mairangi Bay. This was 1947, years before the Auckland Harbour Bridge was built, and a time when Mairangi Bay was a remote rural backwater without water reticulation, sewerage, or sealed roads. My father, who possessed a range of technical skills (photographer, radio serviceman, mechanic, carpenter, plumber and electrician), had it in mind that Auckland was the place to be. The family settled in Mairangi Bay because that was where they could afford to buy a section, and Dad began work as an X-ray serviceman with Phillips Electrical Industries in the city, which entailed a long daily commute including a ferry trip from Devonport to the city.

His ambition was to move the family to Auckland city, in particular the Epsom area, and sometime about 1955 he entered an ex-servicemen's ballot for the right to buy one fifth of an acre of land in Gillies Avenue

which was one of the last remnants of the original Noakes' farm running between Gillies Avenue and Manukau Road, close to the site of the Epsom Girls' Grammar School. He was successful in the ballot, and my parents proceeded to clear the land of its rough vegetation, and to build a house. The section was initially littered with rocks and stones, some on the surface and some just below. We boys had to gather up the rocks which we used to construct a long mound of rocks that we christened 'the great wall of China'. Later on we dug a large soak hole which we called the 'black hole of Calcutta', and in due course the 'great wall of China' was used to fill in 'the black hole of Calcutta'. In those days we uncovered many native skinks, which were plentiful despite the presence of rats and cats, and took some as temporary pets. It is many years since I can remember seeing one on the property, and I am at a loss to explain their disappearance, although rats and cats (and small boys?) would be the usual explanation.

The house was framed in rimu from the Manukau Timber Company sawmill located just a few hundred metres away, and clad in Californian



98 Gillies Avenue about 1960, with Gillies Avenue still boasting verges and street trees

Photo: Geoff Fischer

redwood. My father did much of the work himself, working through weekends and summer evenings, and the family moved into the house before it was lined or furnished. We led a very basic life. In the early days, most of what we had was made at home. Mum sewed our clothes, did the baking and preserved produce, Dad built the furniture for the house, and we all worked on the garden.

Our house at 98 Gillies Avenue and the Thornes' next door at 100 were built about the same time, the Thornes' being one of the first 'Lockwood' homes to be constructed in New Zealand. The Thornes were a musical family, who for some years also operated in their basement a business manufacturing plastic beach balls, raincoats, wallets and suchlike. Lloyd was bandmaster of the Waitemata Silver Band, and his daughter Edwina went on to become a professional jazz musician, and our block's main claim to enduring fame. The section next door at 94 Gillies Avenue which remained vacant for a few years was overgrown with wattles and made an excellent place for us boys to play and build huts, despite the presence of old building materials which gave rise to many injuries, as we always went barefooted at home. We did not welcome the arrival of the present block of three 'sausage' flats on our private playground.

The sections at 100, 98 and 94 Gillies Avenue were each one fifth of an acre or 800 square metres in area. While smaller than the traditional 'quarter acre' section they were large enough for the three bedroom house, garage, workshop, front lawn and back garden which provided for the typical New Zealand lifestyle. Mr Noakes and his daughter Nancy remained in residence in the old farm homestead on a half-acre which bounded the rear of the three new sections and fronted on to Silver Road.

Mr Noakes was in his nineties, and suffering from dementia. He would ask whether we had seen his long-departed horses, and sometimes wandered up the road in search of them, before being ushered home by kindly neighbours. His daughter, Nancy, a learned and kindly soul who took a motherly interest in the young families establishing themselves on her family land, generously gave our family many lovely old books some of which are still with us.

Across the other side of Gillies Avenue, where the Badminton Hall now sits, was an old quarry which was used by Ray Vincent to store war surplus vehicles. We would get a thrill out of climbing up to the top of the quarry wall, and looking down on Ray Vincent's amazing collection of vehicles. Every so often Ray would set fire to stacks of old tyres, sending a great



Family and friends at home about 1964.

Standing at back is Frank Ryan, later mayor of Mount Roskill and father of Lucy Lawless. Joan Fischer is seated second from right, Julie Ryan second from left.

The table, and the radio sitting on the table to support the birthday cake, were both made by Harry Fischer (the photographer, not shown) as was the house itself and many of the chattels. The two oldest Ryan boys at front, Fischer boys at back.

Photo: Geoff Fischer

plume of black smoke skyward. He wouldn't get away with it today but people were more relaxed about such things in those days, even if not totally comfortable with it. After all, only twelve years had passed since World War II when the whole of Europe and half of Asia had gone up in a plume of black smoke, so Ray's contribution was not viewed that seriously.

On the corner of Great South Road and Manukau Road, where the National Bank now stands, was an old brick building which housed the 'Frisco' burger bar, one of the first hamburger bars in Auckland, and probably in New Zealand. However at the time our only regular takeaway foods were pies (a tenpenny pie capped off the Saturday morning rugby game) and fish and chips, which were a fairly regular takeaway dinner treat. Hamburgers were regarded as suspiciously American, and Mum and Dad were both culturally anti-American and pro-British—Mum more so than

Dad, because Dad had a respect for American engineering, and a liking for American comedy, particularly Charlie Chaplin. It may have been for the same reason that we generally did not patronise the 'New American' ice cream shop in Newmarket.

In contrast to today, Newmarket was an industrial area with two timber mills (Manukau Timber Company and Frankhams), the Dominion Lead Mills, Dominion Motors (car assembly, now the Farmers store), a shoe factory in Nugent Street, Hayes Metals off Broadway, a milk treatment and bottling station on the corner of Owens and Manukau roads, and the Finlays bakery opposite (now Te Unga Waka marae).

The Newmarket shops were a Friday evening destination for the family, with all purchases (such as clothing, footwear, or hardware) required to be completed by closing time of 9pm. McKenzies filled the niche now filled by the '\$2 shops', where we bought little trinkets and knick-knacks for presents. Many of them were 'made in Japan' which at the time was the equivalent of modern day China as the source of cheap items such as toys, torches, metal cigarette boxes and such like which were places to keep treasures, and considered treasures in themselves.

Among the other Newmarket merchants of consuming interest to the young boys of the district (and their fathers) were the Philpotts, who ran a traditional hardware shop, Fisher and Blundells where you could buy more advanced engineering equipment and supplies, a bicycle retailer, and the Mecca of them all, the Modelair shop.

There was a settlement of railway houses in the vicinity of Railway Terrace, until they were sold off with New Zealand Rail. The Newmarket pubs were working men's establishments, Newmarket School was a working class school and there was a Working Men's Club a few metres down the road which, perhaps surprisingly, still continues to function in its original premises.

The main shopping area was in Newmarket, but for ordinary household supplies we patronised the local shops on Manukau Road between Owens Road and Kipling Avenue, where there was a dairy, a grocer, butcher, shoemaker and stationery shop.

Pax Smith's Dairy was on the corner of Manukau Road and Owens Road. As a regular Saturday evening treat, Dad would go down there and buy a box of licorice allsorts or, occasionally, barley sugars, for the family. Our staple fare on weekdays was Connon's bread bought for sevenpence a loaf or fourpence a half loaf, unsliced and unwrapped, as all bread was

in those days, and milk for fourpence a pint. 'Sante' chocolate bars, only purchased when we were flush with money, were threepence each.

Opposite the dairy was Mrs Cerdan's stationery shop, where we bought most of our household stationery, and which is now a Chinese takeaway bar. Mrs Cerdan's daughter, Angela, later became Angela D'Audney, one of the first television presenters. Her life story is told in the book *Angela—a wonderful life*.

Mr Leach, the IGA grocer, was next door to Pax Smith. We often did the grocery shopping for Mum, taking down her list for Mr Leach to fill. The goods all went on tick, and Mum paid a monthly bill. Dad scanned the bill carefully in an effort to detect overcharging. Most goods came in bulk, and were bagged to order by the grocer. That included factory made biscuits, which were a rare treat, though we more often were allowed to buy the broken biscuits at a discounted price. After Mr Leach's IGA store closed down, we bought groceries from the Self Help store which was located on the eastern side of Broadway, south of the Remuera Road junction. As the name suggests, shoppers selected their own goods and took them to the counter for purchase (the term 'check-out' was not yet in common usage).

In hindsight the Self Help was a half-way house to the supermarket. It was not much larger than a conventional grocery store, and had no parking for patrons' cars, but the pricing was competitive, shoppers selected their own goods off the shelves, and the counter was manned by young women who had not been apprenticed as grocers, received a modest wage and were relatively anonymous. The key characteristics of the supermarket were already in place, and the days were numbered for the male grocer who was apprenticed to the trade, shared the work of the shop with his wife and a grocer boy, was well known in the community and was a person of some substance.

A couple of doors further along was the shoemaker, or 'cobbler', whose wife filled the front yard with dahlias which she sold by the bunch, and the petrol station, famous for the hot petrol incident, which people feared might portend an eruption of Mount Eden, but which was actually the result of hot water being discharged into the ground by a commercial laundry and drycleaner close by the petrol station. I avidly collected 45rpm records printed on cardboard, which were given out free by the Mobil petrol station as part of the Mobil Song Quest promotion, and which featured the winning songs from the competition.

After we had been in Gillies Avenue a couple of years Dad set up his own

business, working on the application of X-ray technology to detect flaws in metallic and other materials, which is now a branch of what is called non-destructive testing. For the next thirty years the NDT business was run from a laboratory and office which my father built alongside the house.

The arrival of the southern motorway in 1967, with its Gillies Avenue entrances and exits, coupled with the increase in the population and use of motor-vehicles, changed Gillies Avenue from a quiet tree lined street into a busy thoroughfare. The Epsom Girls' Grammar School has also steadily expanded over the years, absorbing the last remnant of the Noakes' property, the private residences lining Silver Road, including Otto Fischer's and Lloyd and Doreen Thorne's, and the residences on the eastern side of Gillies Avenue running from the corner of Silver Road halfway up to Owens Road. Silver Road, previously a through road between Gillies Avenue and Manukau Road, is now part of the school property.

By the end of the 1960s, we older boys were leaving home, and a decade later my father sold his business, using the proceeds to build an ocean-going yacht, and also to buy one of the three sausage flats next door. Dad died in 1999, and my mother remained in the family home, in the company of various children and grandchildren, until her death in September 2012. At the close of 2014 the house was sold to an uncertain fate.

The world we inhabited as children, represented in the local industries, shops, post offices and local 'identities' has gone forever. A protracted series of local body amalgamations, ostensibly directed towards more efficient government, have really been the general recognition that the worlds of our childhood, constituted first in boroughs and then in cities, have long ceased to exist. They have been invaded and razed by what we knew as 'the outside world' or 'the wider world', just as our world had been built over the world of an earlier generation. Some of us collaborated in the invasion of the new, some have been left bereft and bewildered, and some have found out other, more familiar worlds, not too unlike those of our childhood, in rural and provincial New Zealand.

The changing face of St Andrew's Road: Where have all the old houses gone?

Cynthia Landels



A view of St Andrews Road, about 1924 with St Leonards Road in the foreground. The church is at 100. The houses at 104 (which has been altered), 106, 110 (see later in this article) and 112, on the corner of Onslow Avenue, can be seen with 122 (which has been removed) on the extreme right.

On the other side of the road, the large house at 103 is still there. Over the years it has been both a hospital and a boarding house. The track which became Watling Street can just be seen on the north side of it, looking towards Rangitoto.



106



103



112

As land has become more valuable in Auckland, the housing stock has been re-arranged, for the want of a better word, to fit more houses on to the same area of land. The changes in the last 25 years in St Andrews Road reflect this change of land use from gardening to infill housing. Unfortunately some heritage houses have disappeared as a result. (This is an incomplete record, as some houses literally disappear almost overnight.)

There is a problem in knowing where the actual boundaries of Epsom are. Matters are further confused as Epsom's old houses can now be found anywhere from Kaukapakapa to Kumeu to Whitford and anywhere in between. In 1992, this was the fate of the house at 122. It was cut in half and removed from the section. However they were careful to leave the large magnolia tree which is still there.



It was replaced with two townhouses, the first shown here (right, centre image) nearing completion in July 1992, and below it the finished pair.



The next to go to some other place was the house at 136, which was possibly the original farmhouse. This was in 1994. Where it is now?



Below is the house which replaced it, with another house built in behind. Not much room for gardening here!



Over the years many of the other original houses have gone, either demolished or removed, and been replaced with flats in a variety of styles.



From left, brick flats at 166, the front unit of three at 144, and a block of four at 115. The only way to get the double bed into the upstairs bedroom at 115 was through the window!

Tired of growing vegies or playing back yard cricket! Move the house to the

back of the section and then there is room for another house in the front. In 1990, the house at 105 was jacked up, turned round and moved to the back of the section and replaced with the one on the right.



The other frequently used option is just to infill, building a new house in the back garden.

Then there's the front lawn! What a waste of time and space, not to mention all the mowing, weekend after weekend. So what can be done with a front lawn?



This new house at 174 must surely win the competition for the largest house on a front lawn.

120 managed to tuck itself in under the rimu tree and behind a conifer.



But 118a demonstrates the ultimate in front lawn use . . . this house, on the front lawn of 118b, was obviously a leaky one as the new owners completely gutted it, inside and out, before recladding it and replacing the interior gibraltar board. Then the front lawn of the house on the front lawn was built on, a garage with a room above. The end result is, of course, no front lawn at all!



But some of the old houses have survived, although often altered. The bungalow at 99 (see below) has recently had a storey added.



The house at 110 currently resembles a disaster zone, as work to put in a basement was started without resource consent. Months later, after a court case, is work finally beginning on its restoration?



However, some of Epsom's grand old houses still grace the road, complete with gardens and lovingly maintained.



And some things never change? St Andrew's Church has not been altered since 1926.



War memorials in the Epsom & Eden areas

By Jeanette Grant

2015 is the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing so it seems an appropriate time to see what references to war survive in our area today.

According to WIKIPEDIA

There are three war memorials in the Mount Eden area:

The War Memorial Gates at the Mount Eden Normal Primary School in Valley Road (opposite the former Mount Eden Borough Council Chambers).

The War Memorial Gates at the entrance to the former College of Education/Teachers' College (end of Poronui street, designed in 1932 by the Auckland Education Board architect Alan Miller, built of Portland stone left over from building the Auckland War Memorial Museum).

The 1958 Mount Eden War Memorial Hall located near the intersection of Dominion and Balmoral Roads.

In 1914–18 one in ten of the adult male population, or 100,000 New Zealanders, were shipped overseas to World War I. Sixty per cent of these became casualties and 18% did not return. In other terms, one in every four New Zealand men aged between twenty and forty-five had been either killed or wounded. World War II was no less traumatic with almost every New Zealand family, community, workplace, church, school or club directly and profoundly affected.

The annual commemorative services on Anzac Day and the number of memorials in the local community are a permanent reminder of this. Apart from the comprehensive lists and displays at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, there are many smaller but no less poignant memorials in the Epsom and Eden areas.

The official and largest memorial is the Mount Eden War Memorial Hall in Dominion Road which was built by Fletcher Construction Ltd in 1957 at a cost of £72,000, almost half of which was raised by the Eden–Roskill

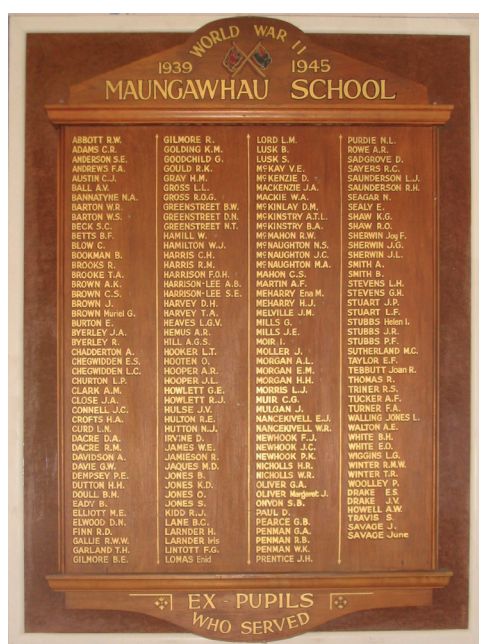
Returned Services Association. As well as serving as a community hall, it currently houses the direction table, which used to be on top of Mount Eden/Maungawhau. This was made by Royal Doulton and donated by former Auckland mayor Sir Ernest Davis in 1927, but in November 1983 it was vandalised and smashed.

Mount Eden Borough Council acted quickly, bringing in a professional ceramic conservator, Ms Sabine Weik, to put it back together again, but they didn't risk it being up there any longer, on the mountain that had been its home for 56 years. Now, it is housed in the foyer of the Mount Eden War Memorial Hall.

The two war memorials now located in the Music Auditorium of the Epsom Campus of the University of Auckland commemorate the deaths of over one hundred former students, staff and alumni, in World Wars I and II. A total of four staff and all but three of the 22 male students in the 1916 intake enlisted for service. Foundation Principal Herbert (Bert) A. E. Milnes (1874–1917) had founded the 'Old A's'—a network of alumni modelled on

the 'Old B's' of Borough Road College—and this network became so close-knit that a group of 24 past students held a reunion in France in 1918, just six miles behind the front line. Milnes had been killed at Passchendale the previous year, and a brass tablet in his memory was unveiled in the college hall on 25 September 1918, while a memorial service for all the dead was held every year on the anniversary of his death during the term of the subsequent principal.

At the end of the war the surviving 'Old A's' took up the responsibility of arranging a suitable memorial for their 31 fallen colleagues and it was unveiled in the Library at



Maungawhau School roll of honour

Photo: Jeanette Grant

the college's new Epsom campus on 1 September 1926. The larger World War I Memorial was also unveiled by George Fowlds in 1926. Until the mid-1970s these former Teachers College war memorials were found in the library of the Epsom Campus's old brick building, directly above the main entrance overlooking the Memorial Drive. However this 1925 building was demolished in early 1976 after being deemed an earthquake risk and the college's pair of war memorials were lucky to survive more than a decade in storage following its demolition. In the late 1980s Peter Smith and others were instrumental in rescuing the badly damaged memorials from storage, and having them restored and finally installed in the college's new music auditorium. The World War I memorial's side-cabinets, flagstaffs, decorative urns and about 300mm of its height were casualties of its time in exile.

The stone memorial gates at the inner end of Poronui Street were officially opened on 16 November 1932 in honour of all the district's teachers who died in World War I. The 1932 issue of the college magazine *Manuka* said:

The gates were 'erected by their fellow teachers in honoured memory of those who fell in the Great War.' Guarding the main entrance to College these magnificent gates will point the way to duty and to sacrifice. All sections of the community co-operated on the 16th to do honour to those who gave their all in the hour of our need. The Guard of Honour was drawn from the College Volunteer Company. The Band of the Auckland Grammar School was on duty as the official band to the Guard of Honour. The Rev A.W. Averill, M.A., D.D., Archbishop of New Zealand, consecrated the Gates, and the ceremony of opening the Gates was performed by Major-General W.J. Sinclair-Burgess,



Stone memorial gates, Poronui Street
Photo: Jeanette Grant

C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., N.Z.,S.C.,G.O.C. New Zealand Forces. The Gates were planned and built under the direction of Mr A.B. Miller, Architect to the Auckland Education Board. We wish to congratulate Mr Miller upon the quiet dignity of the monument he has created.

The adjacent totara groves were planted as part of the official opening ceremony that was marked by a huge gathering and half-day holiday. For many years following, Anzac Day was marked by an annual commemorative procession of staff and students along the avenue to the memorial gates followed by morning tea in the staffroom. An avenue of commemorative pohutukawa trees was planted along each side of the main driveway to the main building on Arbour Day 1935. There was originally one tree for every dead soldier, but some pohutukawa were lost from the avenue when D Block was constructed over part of the driveway in the early 1980s, while in Poronui Street, some central sections of the gate have been removed to widen the vehicle access way.

In 1939, with the outbreak of World War II, male students were mobilised for basic army training and by 1942 all male students, except seven medically unfit second years and those first years under 18, had departed for military training or service. The remaining students fund-raised, provided labour in market gardens, and produced clothing for the war effort. In 1941, an outbreak of influenza among men in camp led to the campus being handed over temporarily to the Auckland Hospital Board as an auxiliary hospital. Then in 1942 it was taken over as the Combined Operations Centre for the defence of the northern half of the North Island and construction of 'The Bunker' began, built against one wall of 'The Pit'. (See *Prospect 2*, 2003, p.23.)

Tripling the 'Great War' casualty count, the names of the 90 former staff and students killed appeared on the World War II memorial unveiled in 1956 by Principal Duncan Rae during the college's 50th Jubilee celebrations.

A single poignant example illustrates the intergenerational nature of this impact. Recent Epsom Campus student and Faculty of Education graduate Matthew Gross completed his Bachelor of Education (Teaching) in 2010. Matthew's forebear, renowned sculptor Richard Gross, had designed the campus's World War I Memorial Honours Board, unveiled in 1926. Thirty years later he also designed the World War II Memorial. Sadly, on the latter, he had to include the name of his own son Richard O. G. Gross who had been a student of the college in 1935–36.

The Mount Eden Normal Primary School in Valley Road also has impressive war memorial gates. There has been a school on this site since 1882 and these war memorial gates were unveiled by the Governor-General, Viscount Lord Jellicoe, on 16 February 1925. They were built by public subscription and a donation from the Mount Eden Borough Council of £200. The tablet contains the names of 32 old boys who served in the Great War. They were remodelled in 1965 when the original heavy iron gates were replaced with lighter ones.

But these three memorials, listed in Wikipedia, are just the tip of the iceberg:

Probably the most extensive memorial after the War Memorial Hall itself, is the Marivare Reserve on the corner of Manukau and Ranfurly roads, Epsom, Auckland. Part of the reserve was donated by Ada Margaret Nolan Carr in 1919 to Auckland City Council specifically for the memorial. She placed conditions that the oaks were not to be damaged and no buildings were to be erected on the land. The council purchased three adjoining allotments, bringing the area up to one acre, and the reserve was named after a house in which Ada lived, 'Marivare'.

Seven magnificent mature oak trees line the street boundaries of the reserve, and a memorial stone archway erected at the entrance to the reserve bears memorial plaques to the 28 soldiers from the district who gave their lives in the Great War 1914–18.

'Their Name Liveth For Evermore 1914–1918' appears at the top of the plaques bearing the soldiers' names. The plaque in the centre of the arch bears the following inscription:

This reserve was dedicated forever to the Citizens of Auckland in
honoured grateful memory of the soldiers from the district who gave
their lives in the Great War 1914–1918.

Large Auckland Grammar School lost many ex-pupils in both wars. In 1919 it was suggested that a war memorial be erected at the school to commemorate the 268 Auckland Grammar School Old Boys who lost their lives in World War I, and in 1921 a competition was held for its design. Of the 25 entries received, Prouse & Gummer won the commission and construction began a year later. The memorial was unveiled on 19 December 1922 by the Governor General, Lord Jellicoe. It consists of an octagonal base and 15m high octagonal obelisk surmounted with a bronze figure of a youth with one arm outstretched skyward symbolizing the soul of Man striving

upwards. Attached to each face of the octagonal base is a cast bronze tablet with an inscription of names of Old Boys who fell in World War I.

On Anzac Day 1953, the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie, unveiled the addition of the court and flanking walls with inscribed bronze plates which were erected to commemorate the 342 Old Boys who fell in World War II.

Most schools, however, were content with a more modest memorial tablet. Maungawhau School's used to hang beside the headmaster's office in what was then known as the Standards Building but after its demolition in 1972, was moved to the hall.

Epsom Normal Primary School has a memorial tablet in the school grounds. It reads:

'In memory of the Pupils of Epsom School who fought in the Great War, that right and justice might prevail and our heritage of freedom be secured to us. May their example be an inspiration to all succeeding pupils so that their sacrifice be not in vain. This tablet takes the place of the original roll of honour destroyed by fire.'

(The main Epsom School building was burned out in December 1923.)

There are many memorials in churches in the Epsom and Eden areas. For instance, the Greyfriars Memorial Hall located in Windmill Road at the rear of the Greyfriars Church, 544 Mount Eden Road, Auckland, was opened on 21 May 1952 as a war memorial to those members of the congregation who made the supreme sacrifice during the two World Wars and to acknowledge those many young men who were called up for service.



Greyfriars Memorial Hall

Photo: Jeanette Grant

This hall was one of only a few church halls in New Zealand built and dedicated as a war memorial.

In the memorial chapel of St Andrews Church, Epsom, with its beautiful stained glass window, is a 1921 plaque saying:

To the Glory of God and in honour of those who fought and those who fighting fell.

What more do you need to say?

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Postscript to 'Two Mt Eden Reserves' in the 2014 issue of *Prospect*

Jeanette Grant ended the section of her article dealing with Charles Bagley Reserve (page 36) with the sentence: 'However, I have not yet found exactly how the 1933 Grafton Road legacy became the Eden Road Bagley Reserve.'

Further research has revealed that in the *Central Leader* of 24 March 1987 under the heading 'Central Auckland man's dream finally realised 54 years after his death' is this item . . .

In his will, Auckland businessman Charles Bagley (died in 1933) provided for 'almshouses' for the elderly. But increasing costs and the unsuitability of Grafton land set aside for the pensioner housing delayed the project for half a century. In 1984 the Public Trust Office which administers the will bought a block of land in Mt Eden Road where Mr Bagley's dream has been brought to fruition. Charles Bagley Court comprising 10 single and a double flat was finished late last year and officially opened by Eden MP Richard Northey earlier this month.

The land was bought from the Mt Eden Borough Council and two 'Roadside Green' areas of 239 sq metres each were gazetted as reserves for recreational purposes in the NZ Gazette, 11 August 1988. *Helen Laurenson*

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