

From Elizabeth

Tēnā koutou and greetings



August is Family History Month; a favourite at the Museum. You'll discover lots of resources in our archive to help you search for your family history and whakapapa - artefacts, taonga, documents, photographs and ephemera too. Take for example Jan Kilham. Inspired by a recent article in this newsletter, she shares a wonderful story from her own family in this issue.

Whether you are just starting to research your family history or an expert genealogist, remember to check out our **Guide to Family History Resources** – available at the Museum and online. It is full of handy hints that will help your search for families in this area. Our archive is open Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm. Please ring in advance to let us know you are coming so we can prepare the resources for you.

Looking to encourage younger members of your family? Why not bring them along to *The Museum of Me* at the Cambridge Library on 6 and 13 August. Designed for children between five and eleven years of age, it is an hour(ish) challenge to create a display that celebrates everyone's unique story. More details later in this newsletter.

On display - Cambridge Connections with the Commonwealth Games

Fresh from celebrating local squash champion Joelle King's appearance as flag bearer at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, we've delved into our Collection and found two jackets donated by John Hammonds. John was a timekeeper at the 1974 Christchurch and 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games. As you watch our team succeed in the UK, spare a thought for the timekeepers, like John, who record these victories. His jackets will be on display at the Museum during August.

Putting names to faces

Following on from the success of recent photo working bees, our digitising programme is in full swing. But we've hit a challenge. Sometimes the names of the people in the photographs have been lost. So, how do we find out who they are? Karen and I, alongside volunteers Sue, Bronwen and Kirsty, are exploring ways to share these photographs with our community. Would you be interested in looking at these photos online? Or would you prefer an exhibition at the Museum or somewhere else in town? Please let us know by phone or email.

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Tēnā koe from the President



Reconnecting with members is a major focus for the Historical Society this year. At every event held so far, whether it be the Ross Bros visit, museum working bees or Winter series, I have had the pleasure of renewing friendships with many of you and sharing our passion for the histories in Cambridge.

As a Historical Society member, you are a Friend of the Museum

As a member you are supporting the Cambridge Museum as it strives to inspire wonder and curiosity about our past. As you are aware, reaching our goals requires a community of support and every contribution makes a difference.

With this in mind, and in line with many museums and historical societies nationwide, we are beginning to promote events and talks for society members under the umbrella "Friends of the Museum". As a Historical Society member, you are a Friend of the Museum.

Benefits of being a Friend

Every friendship has its rewards and this one is no different. The benefits of being a Friend include:

- Regular Cambridge Museum newsletters
- Advance exhibition information and previews
- Exclusive access to exhibition openings and after-hours events
- Attend special Friends' activities, visits and talks
- Complimentary membership to the Cambridge Historical Society
- Invitation to the annual Friends of Cambridge Museum dinner
- Discounts on Museum research projects
- Participate as a Museum volunteer and in collection care working bees

New Friends are always welcome. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please encourage them to visit the Museum and click on 'Join In' on our website.

Upcoming Events

We've a full calendar of events and talks ahead of us. Take a look at *Upcoming Events* later in this newsletter for details. This information is also in the Museum and at cambridgemuseum.org.nz.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members for 2022: Luke East, Sheryle Henderson, Bobbie Moughan, Hilary Nobes, Nicole Sage, Max Saunders, Judith and Mark Schwei, Jan Seabrook, Kenneth Stringer, Peter Wilkinson, Kirsty Wyndham.



Upcoming Events

AUGUST



The Museum of Me, Cambridge Library, 6 and 13 August, 10-11 am

Join us at *The Museum of Me* and make an exhibition of yourself. Bring along something that is important to you. It could be a Lego model you have built ... or books you have enjoyed ... or an art gallery of pictures you have drawn ... and find out how to make a museum exhibition that is all about you.

waipalibraries.org.nz/events/museum-of-me/218

Free

Photograph Working Bee at the Museum, Monday 15 August, 7-9pm

Help preserve a unique collection of photographic negatives of Cambridge taken between 1960-90. Gloves, cuppa and cake provided.

Winter Series: Talks with local art collectors – FULLY BOOKED

SEPTEMBER

Talk: *The Suffrage Petition in the Waikato* by Andrea Oosterwijk – details to follow.

NOVEMBER

Historical Society AGM – 17 November



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers play an important role at Cambridge Museum by helping us maintain our collection and enhance the visitor experience. We provide a friendly and sociable environment and work hard to ensure you find enjoyment and satisfaction from being a part of our team.

Current opportunities include:

- Hosting
- Collection Support
- Digitising our photo collections – confidence with computers needed

If you would like to learn more, please get in touch.

Cast Glass by Di Tocker

On Friday 17 June, the Historical Society organised a keen group of glass enthusiasts to visit the workshop of artist Di Tocker.

Her work is stunning, and we all came away with a better understanding of the toil that goes into creating each piece.

To see more of Di Tocker’s work, visit ditocker.nz

Image source: michaeljeans.com



Celebrating our Sister Cities

Throughout July, the Museum was honoured to have an original brick from the fortifications of Le Quesnoy (*ler-ke-nwah*) on display. Loaned to us from Waipā District Council, it brought our visitors closer (well, as close as can be without international travel) to the walls scaled by kiwi soldiers when liberating Le Quesnoy in November 1918. This military success is celebrated in a stained-glass window in St Andrew’s Church. Well worth a visit.

On July 14, Bastille Day, shop windows on Victoria Street were filled with French-themed displays and the Cambridge-Le Quesnoy Friendship Association had a stall outside BNZ running a fashion show and family games. The Museum ran a scavenger hunt featuring the Le Quesnoy brick. Everyone who took part was amazed that it dated back to 1536.



Bihoro in Japan is another Cambridge sister city. A great place to learn about this growing relationship is a Facebook page curated by Community Board member, Alana Mackay. You can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Bihoro-Sister-Cities>.

Image source: *National Archives*



Dr Walter Stapley and Charlie Smale

Jan Kilham, a member of the Cambridge Historical Society, was inspired to share this touching story after reading about Dr Stapley in our March 2022 issue.

I found the stories of the first cars in Cambridge to be very interesting. I was especially interested in the story about Dr Walter Stapley and his Model T Ford car, because he drove out to help my great-uncle after he had a terrible accident at the new hydro-electric power station at Horahora on 10 October 1913. By looking at the photo of Dr Stapley, I feel that no one could have taken better care of my great-uncle than the much-loved doctor.

My great-uncle was **Francis Charles Chase Smale**, known as Charlie, born in 1889 and raised in the rural area of Whataitutu, located north of Gisborne. He qualified as an electrical engineer and was working at the Horahora power station when the unfortunate event happened. Charlie crossed a live wire while carrying a drill and some part of the drill must have come in contact with the live wire. He



Dr Stapley

received a shock of 5000 watts of electricity. His most serious injury was a hole in the back of his thigh, while he was also badly burned across his forehead and his hands, and a kneecap was burnt too. Dr Stapley drove Charlie to Victoria House – a small hospital on the Cambridge-Hamilton road where Charlie was described as being in a critical condition.

It is probably that Charlie hadn't known that the electricity was switched on at the time of the accident; the power supply had been interfering with local telephones and while engineers worked on solving the problem, the power had to be switched off. Obviously, it was a communication breakdown.

Charlie made good progress at Victoria House but at some time he was moved to Waikato Hospital. Presumably, he went there by ambulance because Waikato Hospital had one by then. The doctors eventually realised that they could do no more for Charlie, and discharge plans were made for him.

The plans involved my great-aunt, **Florence Mary Wright**, who was born near Temuka in 1886. Her parents had moved to the Waikato with their family in 1908 to take part in the expansion of dairy farming. They first farmed at "Paeroa" which was part of the old Paeroa-Cranston Estate; then sold, then bought a better farm – where The Red Barn restaurant is now in the Hinuera Valley.

Florrie was a talented artist and poet, played the piano and organ, she matriculated in 1903, studied at Deaconess College in Dunedin, began the first school in Piarere, and was a social worker for the Cambridge Presbyterian Church at the Horahora Village.



After their wedding in the Waikato, Florrie and Charlie evidently managed to get to Canterbury because this photo was stamped with the name of a studio in Christchurch. Florrie is holding a different bridal bouquet too.

Charlie and Florrie were married on 9 August 1916 at the home of her parents. Charlie was brought out from Waikato Hospital by some of Florrie's family for the wedding and later, the groom's family took him back to hospital for a bit longer.

Florrie rented a house in Turret Road, Tauranga, where she would nurse her husband. The two of them would spend a lot of their time down by the beach where Charlie could enjoy the seaside and Florrie would paint the scenery or put out a net to catch fish.

The NZ Gazette of 3 September 1917 posted lists of men called up to serve with the Defence Forces in WWI. Charlie was in the lists, his service number being 56020. Sadly, he had passed away less than a fortnight earlier – on 29 August 1917. He was buried in the Old Anglican Cemetery in Tauranga.

Jan Kilham



This group photo was taken at the Wright family home which overlooked the countryside for miles around from above the Hinuera Valley. The Red Barn restaurant is sited near to the house site.

Back row: Arthur Wright and Ethel Wright (brother and sister).

Middle row, L-R: Cecil Wright, the Rev. John McInnes, Ivy Smale, Frederick Smale, John/Jack Wright, William Wright jnr.

Front row, L-R: Irene Wright perched on the arm of the chair on which her mother Mary Ann Wright sits, Charlie Smale with Florrie standing next to him, William Wright snr.

If you have a Cambridge story you would like to share with us, please contact Editor Karen Payne, details below.



Te Ihingarangi

Part 11 of a history of the Karapiro-Maungatautari area by Te Kaapo Clark and Lyn Tairi. This chapter continues with the Native Land Court in Cambridge and land claims.

1800 KO NGĀTI RAUKAWA, NGĀTI KOROKI, NGĀTI WAIRERE, NGĀTI HAUA

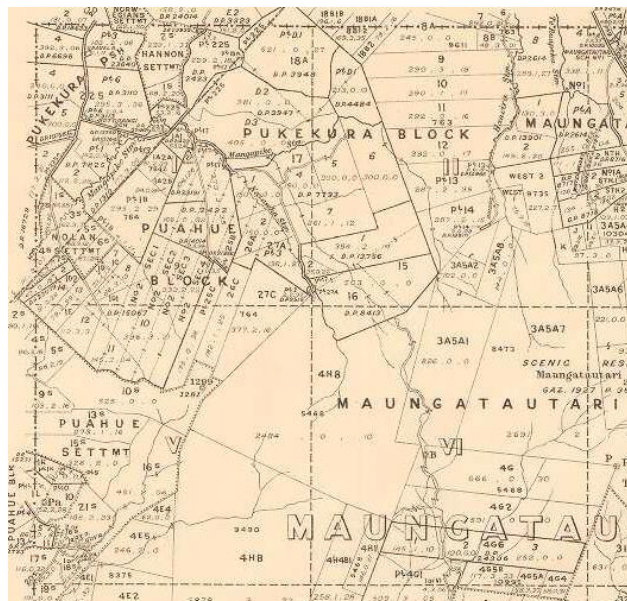
The Pukekura Block was then leased in July 1870 to Thomas Douglas who, in turn, brought Edwin Walker and John Grice in on the deal. They already owned large tracts of land on the Roto-o-rangi side of the Aukati Line. However, a dispute over payment for the lease arose. Ani Waata, successor to Te Watu Tahi, a grantee, said: "I received rent from Pukekura — £5 10s in 1875. I have received nothing since. I have asked for it from Walker. He said, 'sell the land'. I did not agree. He did not give me the rent. I returned to the land because they would not pay me the rent."

Other Maori owners also took up residence on the land, which led to the leasers destroying the owners' homes and cultivations. The Land Court investigated the dispute in April 1881, and, as was so often the case, the Court found in favour of the leasers.

Ani Waata, Hori Puao, Tapu Te Whata and Tamehana, all legal owners, then took the dispute to the Court of Appeal in November 1883. Walker maintained that he paid the rent. "I sometimes paid half-yearly. I sometimes let a year or two run, and then they got that and a year or two in advance". This dubious business practice, coupled with the maze of native land legislation, and the fact that these Acts were not translated into Māori, meant there was little wonder that confusion arose. There were no fewer than 25 Acts or Amendments relating to Māori land by 1883. The Native Land Court and its actions are still being unravelled today.

On 5 December 1883 Judge J. Richmond dismissed the appeal and charged "cost on the highest scale". Walker forcibly evicted Ani Waata and the others on 17 February 1884. He arrived at 8 a.m. with his men and "accompanied by Major Green, Sheriff of the Supreme Court, the bailiff, Mr T. Howard, and further fortified by two mounted members of the Armed Constabulary" to take possession. A Supreme Court writ authorised Green to seize "all real or personal property" to pay the damages assessed by a tribunal at £800. Eighty-four horses, saddles, bridle, harnesses, buggies, plough and harrows were seized and auctioned in Cambridge. The legal wrangle dragged on for another two years.

How and when the land was eventually sold is unclear, but it was probably sold to Walker, to defray the costs of litigation. The Māori owners moved up the valley to settle at Kairangi, but over the years they drifted away and by 1896 Kairangi was deserted. Some would have moved to Maungatautari to live with their Ngāti Koroki whanau.



Extract from Maungatautari Survey District Map, T P Mahony 1933

A Day in the Life at the Museum

As a visitor was leaving the museum, he met another man of a similar age entering with a family research query. The first man said that you had to get past retirement age to have time to attend to such matters, and, although the two of them had never met, they started quoting lines from this poem, which they had learnt at school. Does anyone else remember it?

Leisure by W. H. DAVIES

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

