

www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz

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REMEMBER THIS
FASCINATING
FUNDRAISER?

MARITIME MEMORIES
OF MOUNT STREET...



A Presentation by
Ken Scadden
Maritime Historian

Thursday 27 September, 7pm

Connolly Hall, Thorndon
[see map on back]

\$10 includes supper
ALL WELCOME!

COMING SOON!!!
A book based on this
enthraling talk—and
more!

The Friends of Mount
Street Cemetery will
shortly publish a
collection of Mount
Street's maritime stories
by historian and archivist
Ken Scadden



... Adventure — and
poignant misadventure
— on the high seas and
the harbour....

DON'T MISS THE
LAUNCH!!!

Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

AGM: President's Report Much progress made in first 3 years

At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Friends of Mount Street Cemetery, held in Wellington on 17 July, Karen Adair, re-elected as President for 2013-14, reflected on the achievements of the past year, and the generosity of the Friends' supporters.

Marist memorials

The Marist community has provided funding for a memorial and interpretive panel relating to early French missionaries Father Borjon SM and Brother Déodat FMS, as well as headstone repairs to the graves of Father Petitjean SM and Father Sauzeau SM.

Path realignment

Wellington City Council has completed a major realignment of the main path, and has also supported the Friends' work by funding repairs to wooden railings around the McLaughlin grave using 19th century carpentry techniques.

In May, the Apostleship of the Sea NZ (NZ branch of the international Catholic ministry to seafarers) installed in the Cemetery an interpretive panel commemorating the many maritime links amongst individuals interred at Mount Street.



Professional support

In her Report, the President especially thanked archaeologist Mary O'Keeffe, who continues to give generously of her time.

Officers and Committee

Vaughan Stagpoole was elected Vice-President, and Ken Scadden, Michael Desmond, and Priscilla Williams were elected to the Committee. Kevin Brown (Archdiocese) and Andrew Wilks (Victoria University) will continue as *ex officio* Committee members.

Perimeter fence

Since the AGM was held, a perimeter fence in the style of the original has been constructed around the

Cemetery, with a gate at the top entrance close to the priests' grave (see above and page 3).

Signs at 3 entrances

This was enabled by a very generous grant from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board, which also allowed the Friends to commission signage at the three entrance points to the Cemetery. The signs are to be installed imminently.

This work ticks off major items of work recommended in the Conservation Plan, written by Ian Bowman. It further adds to the significant progress that has been made in the Cemetery in the three years since this Friends' group was formed.



Mary and Edward Cahill and four of their children are interred at Mount Street Cemetery, as well as their grandson Charles Frederick Barrington, the son of their daughter Bedelia (Bridget) Ellard Barrington (1860-1945), later Mrs Heber Brown [below]. The memorial was last seen intact in the 1940s.



DEATH

CAHILL.—At the residence of his daughter Mrs. Heber Brown, No. 181, Willis-street Edward Cahill, late of H.M. 65th Regiment (Royal Bengal Tigers), in his 84th year Private interment at 9.30, Wednesday morning.

^ Evening Post, 10 July 1906



Mary née Shiel and Edward Cahill

... By Hilda McDonnell

Edward Cahill, the son of John and Margaret née Ellard, was born in 1823 at Richardstown in the parish of Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, Ireland, and was baptized Roman Catholic on 7 September. At 15, he married 17-year-old Mary Teresa Shiel/Sheil. He enlisted in the 65th Regiment (Royal Bengal Tigers) at Mullingar, Co. Westmeath on 18 January 1842—and sailed with his regiment (along with Mary) in the *John Calvin* to Norfolk Island with a cargo of convicts in 1846, then to Auckland via Sydney in the troop ship *Java*. The 65th was ordered to Wellington in 1848, and sailed in the *Thomas Lowry*. Edward took his discharge from the 65th in 1850.

New Zealand Medal

He also served in the 3rd Waikato Regiment, receiving the New Zealand Medal in 1873. This British Medal [shown at right] was awarded for service in the New Zealand Wars of 1845-47 and 1860-66. Edward later found labouring work in Wellington. In 1852 the Cahills built a cottage on the Town Belt; at that time people were allowed to live there for a peppercorn rental. Most of their ten children's baptisms are recorded in the registers of the Chapel of the Nativity in Boulcott Street (the present site of St Mary of the Angels), starting with Edward Leo Peter in July 1850.

Scarlet fever in 1865

In 1865, three Cahill children died of scarlet fever: Alfred James, 6½; Thomas, aged 2½; and Ellen, 5 months old.

Tragedy struck again on 2 September 1871 when their son John Joseph Francis (aged 15) died after a foundry accident. All four children were interred at Mount Street Cemetery.

Sons Edward Leo Peter and Maurice were both jockeys on the West Coast; Maurice died young of a racing injury. Edward, also a horse trainer, died aged 34.

Lease of four acres

Cahill's Town Belt lease was about four acres, adjoining a path along the upper side of the Mount Street cemetery. The Cahill cottage was in a sunny, but hilly, spot [see map on opposite page]. A fire near the cemetery "*threatened the house of a Mr Edward Cahill*" [Evening Post, 14 February 1883].

Flower garden

According to descendants, the Cahill cottage was "*near to Father O'Reilly* [see photo of presbytery on opposite page]; *Edward cared for the cemetery and had a very large flower garden*".

Notice to Quit

In December 1884 Edward signed an agreement with Wellington Council stipulating that he could be asked to leave at any time. Nearly six years later, in February 1890, he appealed a 'Notice to Quit'.

In April 1902, the Cahills were given a month's notice to quit. Edward made one last, futile appeal against eviction, declaring he had made his "*little home with its plantation a credit to the Town*".

Mary Teresa

Mary Cahill died on 23 June 1902, aged 72, having lived in New Zealand for 56 years. By September 1902 the land had been acquired by Victoria College [later Victoria University] to build the Hunter Building. Edward Cahill accepted £30 from the City Council, and the cottage was removed. He died on 9 July 1906 at the home of his daughter Bedelia Heber Brown. At this time, only one son ("*Mr WB Cahill, Colonial Secretary's Department*") and three daughters (Bedelia, Ada and one other) were still alive.

Descendants believe his plants were given to the City Council and "*became part of the first Botanical Gardens on the hillside*".



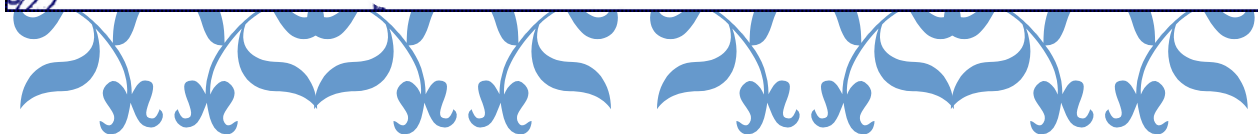
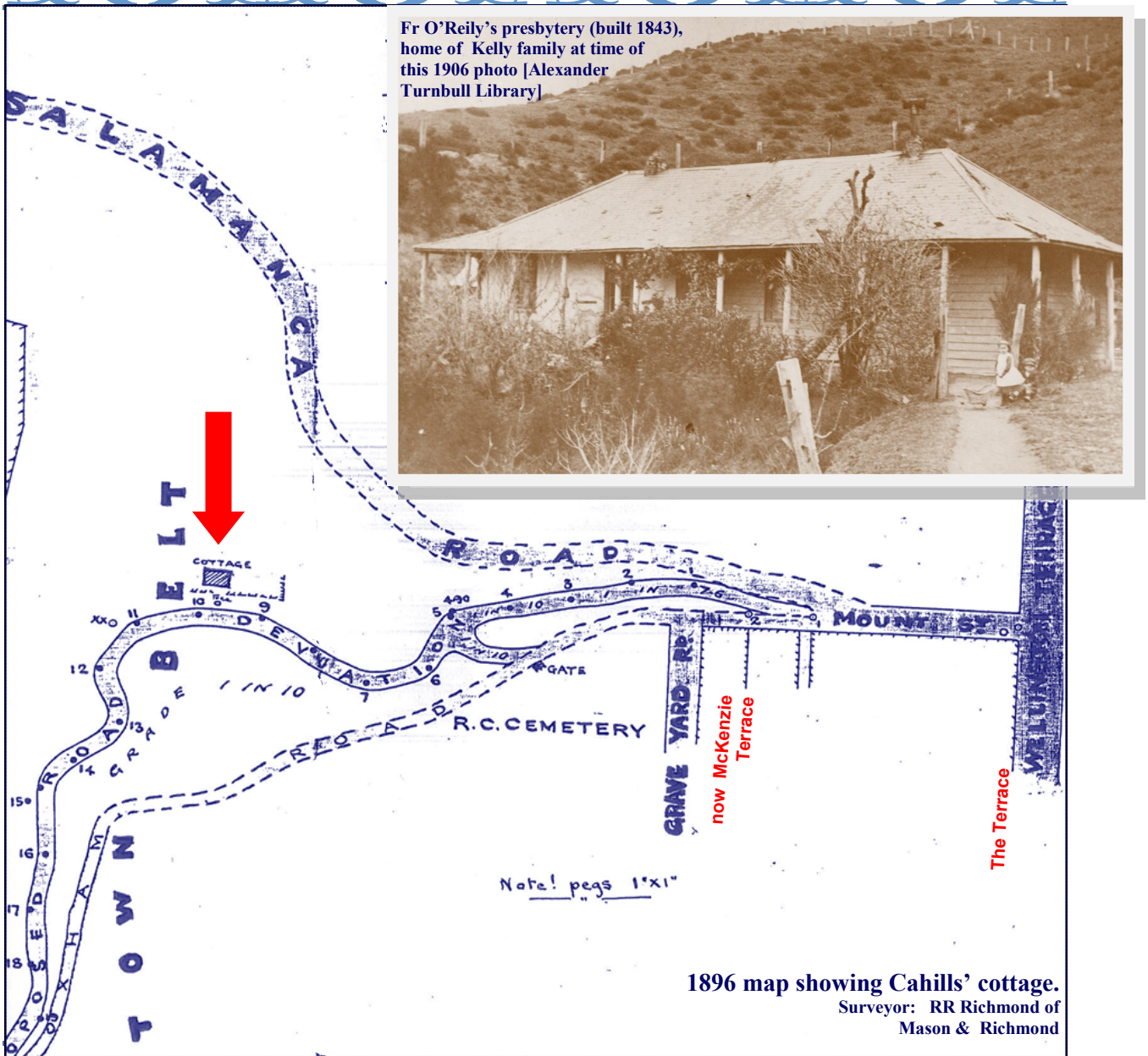
Sources: Cahill descendants Gordon Millar & Julie Kerse; Wellington City Archives; Victoria University of Wellington Archives; Marlborough Express, 12 July 1906





The upright and diagonal posts in the photos at left were replicated based on the original fence at the Cemetery. Historic photos assisted in replicating the original design.

Photos: Karen Adair



FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY

The *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery* was established in 2010 to preserve, protect and enhance the heritage of the Mount Street Cemetery for the benefit of all. Consecrated by Bishop Pompallier in 1841, the Mount Street Cemetery was the first Cemetery in Wellington for Catholic burials, and contains the graves of about 1100 Wellington pioneers.

You can become a member of the *Friends* now by payment of an annual subscription. Any additional donations are very welcome. As we are a registered charity, all donations of \$5 and over are tax-deductible. All funds received will be put towards the on-going work of protecting, conserving and maintaining the Cemetery for the benefit of all.

By becoming a member:

- Your subscription/donation will help to preserve this important part of Wellington's heritage.
- You will be informed of the on-going work through the *Friends'* newsletters.
- You can assist in the voluntary work, including research and working bees.
- You will learn more about this unique and precious area in the heart of Wellington.

Your financial support would be greatly appreciated for this important heritage project. Please direct any enquiries you may have to: Karen Adair, President, Friends of Mount Street Cemetery, Email: mountstreetcemetery@wn.catholic.org.nz

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I would like to become a member of the *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery*.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please indicate the type of membership for the year 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$20
Religious Order	\$40
Corporate	\$100
Donation	\$ _____ (Donations of \$5 and over are tax deductible)
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

Payment Options (Note: all payments will be receipted)

You may send a cheque made out to Friends of Mount Street Cemetery to:

Friends of Mount Street Cemetery
Archdiocese of Wellington
PO Box 1937
WELLINGTON 6140

You may pay directly to our bank account:

Friends of Mount Street Cemetery
02-0536-0003285-015 [BNZ] **Please note this is a new account from 1 April.**

(If you choose this option please indicate your name in the reference field and don't forget to email us with your address details so we can send you a receipt and keep you informed of progress with the project.)

If you have ancestors buried in the Cemetery please provide details if you have not already sent these to us.