



**BURIAL LIST UPDATED IN MAY  
- SEE THE WEBSITE !!**

## FRIENDS OF MOUNT STREET CEMETERY- ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

[www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz](http://www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz)

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June 2013

Issue 10

# Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

## Interpretive panel unveiled marking Cemetery's maritime links Generously funded by the Apostleship of the Sea NZ



^ Sophie Power placed flowers  
at the foot of the panel.

Friends' President >  
Karen Adair addresses the  
gathering.

Maritime historian & Friends'  
Committee member Ken Scadden  
with Wendy Adlam at the  
Conference dinner. V



On 25 May, during their Annual Conference, the Apostleship of the Sea New Zealand convened a ceremony at which an interpretive panel they had generously funded - which marks the Cemetery's maritime connections - was unveiled.

Several Friends' Committee members attended, including Ken Scadden, a maritime historian, who was the guest speaker at the Conference dinner later that evening. The Apostleship of the Sea is an international Catholic ministry to seafarers.



^ Father Jeff Drane SM blesses  
the panel.

## Heritage rose funding obtained

We're very pleased to advise that Heritage Roses NZ Inc. have granted the Friends of Mount Street \$375 funding for heritage roses to be planted at the Cemetery.

A selection of suitable roses has been made with advice from members of Heritage Roses NZ Inc.

Fran Rawling, President of Heritage Roses NZ Inc., wrote:

*"This project ticks all the right boxes, and we are delighted to support the work that you are doing."*



## August Sievers and Charlotte née Walker

By Nicola Young, descendant

**M**y great-great-grandparents – Augustus and Charlotte Sievers – are buried at Mount Street Cemetery.

The marble memorial cross on August and Charlotte Sievers' grave is currently under repair. The inscription is as follows:

IN  
LOVING MEMORY OF  
AUGUST SIEVERS,  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
JULY 28 1892, AGED 75.  
YES, HEAVEN  
IS THE PRIZE.  
CHARLOTTE  
HIS WIFE  
DIED 16 MAY  
1908,  
AGED 83  
R.I.P.



Last resting place of William Louis and Ellen Sievers and their son Alfred (aged 17)



**August Sievers**

**A**ugustus was born in Eissen, Prussia in 1815; although Jewish, the Sievers had converted to Catholicism centuries earlier. His father owned a flourmill but died young; when his mother remarried, Augustus and his brother Wilhelm set off to England where they worked in a sugar refinery.

Augustus married Charlotte Walker in London, January 1849; she was considered a beauty, some compensation for her humble origins as her father, William, was a milkman.



**Charlotte Sievers  
née Walker**

A few days later, August (note the simpler name), Charlotte, Wilhelm and his bride, Clara, emigrated to New Zealand on the *SS Mariner*, paying for their own tickets as the New Zealand Company had exhausted its allocation of assisted passages.

Their journey took six months (the captain kept a cow on board, to supply fresh milk); en route, a pirate ship was spotted (women and children were ordered below), but the *Mariner*

arrived safely at Pipitea in July 1849. Charlotte was nursing her first child, William Louis, when she experienced her first earthquake (an aftershock of the 1848 Marlborough quake); when the chimney of their simple clay house collapsed, she fled to a nearby haystack.

August joined Central Otago's Bendigo gold rush in the 1860s, leaving Charlotte and William with their parish priest, Father O'Reilly at St Mary of the Angels (O'Reilly Avenue, next to the church, is named after him).





Sievers house,  
136 The Terrace

He bought a small farm in Wadestown, then some blocks of land on The Terrace (Sieverston Terrace, ironically demolished during the construction of Wellington's urban motorway when their great grandson Bill Young – my father – was Minister of Works and Chairman of the National Roads Board).

August later built houses in Sieverston Terrace for all his children from the proceeds of his gold digging success.

The Kumutoto stream ran through the Sieverston Terrace properties, with several reservoirs and a tunnel that supplied fresh water to ships moored in the harbour. August thought the rent paid by the council pitiful, so blocked the tunnel, drained the reservoirs and planted an orchard and vegetable garden. The council offered him £50 for 10 feet of the tunnel; August claimed £300; finally £100 was agreed, and the council built a new culvert.

August was a wealthy man when he died in Wellington in 1892. His will, lodged at then Supreme Court, bequeathed properties along The Terrace to his children, with explicit instructions the inheritances to his daughters were for their benefit – not

their husbands! Charlotte died in 1908 aged 82.

In 1849, Charlotte's father (William Walker) had also emigrated to New Zealand with his second wife and their young family; in his later years, William worked as a gardener at Nairn Street Cottage. He died aged 82 in 1875.

August and Charlotte had six children who survived childhood. My great-grandmother, Mary Anne, was their second daughter; she married George Lambert from London.

August and Charlotte's son William and his wife Ellen are also buried at Mount Street, along with their youngest son Alfred.

Sievers infants recorded as being at Mount Street are William Thomas (9 weeks, d. 1867); Richard (1 day, 1875); Charlotte Alice (17 months, 1878); and Ethel Agnes (1 year, 1887).



I inherited acorn earrings, believed commissioned by August, that marry his European background (oak leaves made from some of the gold he discovered) to his adopted home (greenstone acorns).



Charlotte with her five daughters (from left:) Mary Anne Lambert, Emily Sarah Hopkins, Elizabeth Helena Shields, Charlotte Clara Aherne, Anetta Raymond.

## 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](mailto: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:

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

***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.***