

www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz

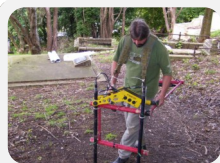
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△ Prints of the Friends' logo, painted by Sir Michael Fowler, are available for purchase.

Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

New pathway — historic entrance reinstated



Two views from Waiteata Road of the new main pathway and steps. The work was funded and completed by Wellington City Council, as the north-south pathway through Mount Street Cemetery is part of Wellington's City to Sea Walkway.

It was the culmination of the archaeological work commissioned by the Friends, to ensure that no graves were traversed by the Walkway—firstly the gradiometer survey by Dr Hans-Dieter Bader, and then the archaeological trenches dug by Mary O'Keeffe. Completion of the main path means that the Friends can now carry out our plans for fencing and new signage.

Spring Flowers

Daffodils, fundraised for and planted by Emma Power, aged 10, bloom on the grave of James Swan.



St Patrick's Church, Makara, a Category II historic place

We're pleased to report that the historic St Patrick's Church in Makara is now listed as a Category II historic place. St Patrick's was the first Catholic church built in Makara or Karori.

Mount Street support

The Friends made a submission to the Historic Places Trust in support of St Patrick's application, noting that Catholics from Makara were buried at Mount Street from the time of its consecration in 1841 at least up until 1891 when it closed, and to 1954 in family plots.

Some are now commemorated in the stained glass windows installed at St Patrick's - for example, the McMenamen family, and John Sweeney Prendeville, a teacher at the local Makara school. Others who rest at Mount Street are members of the Monaghan and Sievers families... And Joseph Brennan Ligouri McDonald, who was on his way to serve as an altar boy at Mass at St Patrick's in 1889, when he was killed in an accident when his carriage left the road.

Our submission recorded our appreciation of the work done in conserving this wooden structure, and noted that it is a beautiful contemplative place, and an amenity for the whole community.



Mary Ann Stackpoole nee McNulty

... by descendant Vaughan Stagpoole



**ANCESTOR
PROFILE:**
an
occasional
series

Mary Ann McNulty [also McNulty; Mackanalty] was a woman from a poor Irish family who suffered great hardships but, at times, a rewarding and fulfilling life. The few facts we know about her are largely related to her husband Bartholomew Stagpoole's life and career as a soldier in the British Army. However, it is her monument that survives at Mount Street Cemetery, and this is her story.

"Many young men from poor Irish families joined the army."

Mary Ann was born about 1830 in Ireland. It is unlikely that she could read or write. At the age of 20 she married Bartholomew Stagpoole, the eldest of three sons whose father was at various times a labourer, a farmer, and a tailor in western Ireland.

British army

In the 1850s, Bartholomew and his brothers joined the British army. At this time many young men from poor Irish families joined the army because it was one of their few employment options. The name "Stagpoole" presumably came about through an error in recording the name "Stacpoole" at enlistment. On Mary Ann's headstone it appears as "Stackpoole".

Crimean War

Soon afterwards, he was sent to the Crimea as a private in the 57th Foot Regiment. Of the 50,000 to 60,000 British soldiers who served in the Crimean campaign, 2,752 were killed in action, 2,017 died of wounds and 16,547 died of disease and cold.



Life was also harsh for the wives of soldiers. Each regiment had a quota of married men, the wives of whom were said to be "on the strength", and officially recognised.

They were able to do paid work for the regiment like washing, cleaning and sewing - essential since a soldier's pay was not enough to keep a family. They sometimes had accommodation in army barracks, access to the regimental doctor, and their children were educated to some degree.

^ Mary Ann and Bartholomew Stagpoole in New Plymouth c1867

All "off the strength" wives were officially ignored, and had to fend for themselves and their families. Only 4% of the "on the strength" wives were allowed to accompany their husbands to the Crimea. All other "on the strength" wives had their travel expenses "home" paid for by the regiment, and were then left to look after themselves and their family as best they could.



Mary Ann's headstone is one of those currently in need of repair.



**ANCESTOR
PROFILE:**
**Mary Ann nee
McEnulty &
Bartholomew
Stagpoole**

Bartholomew's medals >

as worn in the photo on page 2:

Upper: Crimea Medal, with clasps for three of the four major battles of the Crimean War of 1854-56:

Balaklava (25 Oct 1854),
Inkermann (5 Nov 1854), and the
Siege of Sebastapol (Sep 1854 to
Sep 1855).

Right: Good Conduct Medal.

Far right: The New Zealand Medal.
This British Medal was instituted in
1869, and awarded for service in
the New Zealand Wars of
1845-47 and 1860-66.

Lower: Turkish Crimea Medal
(Turkish: *Kırım Harbi Madalyası*),
a campaign medal issued by Sultan
Abdülmejid I of the Ottoman
Empire to allied military personnel
involved in the Crimean War.



While Bartholomew was
away in the Crimea, Mary
Ann and her two children
Jack and Martin lived in
County Clare.

When he returned in 1856,
life improved for the family
for a while before the
regiment travelled to India
in 1860.

"On the strength"

Mary Ann, who was now
"on the strength", and her
(now four) children travelled
with Bartholomew's regi-
ment. Fewer than 50 wives
travelled with the regiment
of over 800 men at this time.

To New Zealand

In 1861 the regiment was
transferred to New Zealand
arriving on *HMS Prince
Arthur* in New Plymouth on
3 June 1861.

Bartholomew and his
brothers Martin and Dudley,
who were also foot soldiers
in the 57th Regiment, saw
most action in the Taranaki
district - Dudley becoming
one of the few soldiers ever
awarded both the
Distinguished Conduct
Medal and the Victoria
Cross, for separate acts of
bravery performed in the
space of a week. In both
cases he rescued injured sol-
diers while under enemy fire.

57th Regiment departs

By 1866 many regiments
began to leave New Zealand.
The 57th left in 1867; both
Bartholomew and his brother
Martin took discharges in
New Zealand, while Dudley
returned to England with the
regiment. Martin married
and left New Zealand soon
after. They were never to see

each other again.

Life improves

Over the next ten years
Mary's life improved.
Bartholomew received a
small parcel of scrub land
near Inglewood from the
government, which they
sold. They then settled in
New Plymouth, had reason-
able financial security and a
settled family life.

Humane Society medal

Son Martin joined the local
militia, transferred to the
armed constabulary, and then
became a policeman. Fluent
in Māori, he spent a lot of
time in rural areas, and won
a Royal Humane Society
medal for rescuing people
from an overturned boat at
Tolaga Bay. Bartholomew
and Mary Ann had three
daughters. Bridget was born

in Ireland in 1859 but died
soon after. Mary Ann, born
in India, married a New
Plymouth publican, and then
became a publican herself
after moving to Australia.
Hannah, the first child born
in New Zealand, married a
local man, but died at the age
of 21. Two more sons were
born in New Plymouth.

Full circle

In the late 1870s, times
became harder. Mary and
Bartholomew and their two
sons moved to Wellington,
where Bartholomew found
work in the permanent artil-
lery at Government House.
They lived in Haining Street,
at the time notorious for
being "one of the worst
slums in the colony", and
here, on 12 December 1883,
Mary died of tuberculosis,
aged 54. She was buried at
Mount Street Cemetery on
16 December 1883.
Bartholomew died of cholera
on 1 February 1890 and is
thought to have been buried
beside her, although no
monument survives.

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 and tangata whenua.

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/renew my subscription to the *Friends of Mount Street Cemetery*.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Please indicate the type of membership for the year 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013:

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
03 1359 0335290-00 [Westpac]

(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.

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