

www.mountstreetcemetery.org.nz

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Mount Street Cemetery Newsletter

Memorial unveiled for Fr Michel Borjon and Br Déodat Villemagne, lost at sea in 1842 Intended founders of Catholic Church in Wellington



In Memoriam
Fr Michel François Xavier Borjon SM, M.A.
1811-1842
et
Br Déodat Villemagne FMS, M.A.
1816 - 1842
Requiescant in Pace

On Sunday 17 February, the Marist community, along with Archbishop John Dew, Archdiocesan representatives, and Friends' Committee members, unveiled a new

memorial commemorating French missionaries Michel Borjon, a Marist priest, and Jean Villemagne (Brother Déodat). These two young men were sent from Auckland in 1842 to establish the Church in Wellington, Michel as its first resident priest. However, their ship was lost at sea and they were presumed drowned. The Friends and the Marist community agreed that Mount Street was a very appropriate place for a memorial to Fr Borjon and Br Déodat, alongside some of their missionary confreres, and Wellington's first parish priest, Father Jeremiah O'Reilly.



Korowai covering memorial.

Society of Mary archivist & Friends' Committee member Ken Scadden unveiled the memorial; representatives of the Society of Mary, the Marist Brothers, and the French Embassy unveiled an interpretive panel above.



Heritage timber fence surround restored

Right: The restored fence around the McLaughlin grave, work funded by a grant from Wellington City Council.

The focus of the Friends' work this year will be replacing the boundary fence and new entrance signs, using generous grant funding from the Lotteries Commission.

Photos this page:

Marist Archives, Karen Adair, GH Hallam.



A FRIEND-LY
REMINDER ...
Next year's
subscription is
due from 1 April

Edward and Mary Ann Prince

By Suzanne Sutton-Cummings, with Rona Walker (descendants)

PRINCE OF WREXHAM, PRINCE OF WELLINGTON



**ANCESTOR
PROFILE:
an occasional
series**

On 9 July 2007, I got up very early, and hailed a London cab to Euston railway station. Three trains and another taxi later, I arrived at the Erddig estate on the outskirts of Wrexham, Wales.

Erddig estate belonged to the Yorke family until the last surviving Yorke handed the estate over to the British National Trust in the 1970s. The Yorkes were unique in that they took an interest in their long-term faithful staff.

They commissioned paintings and later photos and composed doggerel (bad poetry) about them. The pictures show them holding the tools of their trade.

I wanted to see the painting of my ancestor, Edward Prince, in the Servants' Hall. The painting is of him standing there bearing the tools of a carpenter including a lethal looking axe. He lived to the ripe old age of 80. The Princes worked on the estate for generations as carpenters.

Written on the painting, shown above, is the following doggerel:

*"ONE LABOUR MORE THOU
MUSE OF MIRTH;
THAT BROUGHTEST
DOGG'RELL INTO BIRTH;
AND BEFORE YOU LEAVE US,
ENTER
TO RECORD OUR OLD
CARPENTER:
'TIS THREESCORE YEARS,
THEN YOUNG IN GRAMMAR,*



Painting of Edward Prince at the Erddig estate, Wrexham

*WHEN HERE AT FIRST, HE
HELD AN HAMMER*

*UNDER HIS FATHER, DEAD
LONG SINCE,*

*WHO WAS ENTITLED — THE
BLACK PRINCE.*

*A RAISER THIS INDEED OF
HOUSES*

*THAT HAS ALREADY HAD
FOUR SPOUSES*

*IF THE PRESENT DON'T
SURVIVE*

*HOPES TO BUILD THEM UP TO
FIVE:*

*FROM THESE BOLD STROKES,
ARISE A RACE*

*OF PRINCES TO ADORN THE
PLACE;*

*WHO THRIVE BENEATH THEIR
PARENT STOCK,*

*AND MAKE GOOD CHIPS
FROM THAT OLD BLOCK."*

An explanation follows:

*"HIS FATHER, CHARLES
PRINCE, WAS CALLED THE
BLACK PRINCE BECAUSE HE
WAS SO DARK. EDWARD
PRINCE WAS 73 WHEN IN
1792 THE PICTURE WAS
PAINTED."*



**ANCESTOR
PROFILE:
an occasional
series**

Edward's grandson, also a carpenter, and also called Edward Prince, migrated to New Zealand in 1840 on the *Lady Nugent*. He is descended from the youngest son of the fourth (and last) wife, Elizabeth Wiles. He came with his wife, Mary Ann and five of their children. One son, John, died en route to NZ. Also on board was Mary Ann's brother, Thomas Bevan, and his family.

Government work

Upon arriving in Wellington Edward Prince was given work by the NZ Government making dressed timber for window sashes, door frames and skirting boards, at one shilling per lineal foot.

Home next to church

He built their home at 44 Hill Street on the corner of Guildford Terrace. This was next to St Mary's (later destroyed by fire) which was on the site of the present day Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The house was eventually sold to the Church, and demolished after WWI along with two adjoining houses to make way for St Francis Hall (which was popular for Saturday night dances).

In the late 1980s St Francis Hall was demolished and is now the site of the British High Commission.

It appears the family became Catholic because they lived next to a Catholic church. Mary Ann and her two NZ-born daughters were baptised at St Mary's.

Edward died at the age of 59 of epilepsy on 31 March 1862, and is buried in Mount Street Cemetery. Mary Ann died at the age of 67 on 11 October 1875, and is buried with her husband.

Next Edward, carpenter

One of their sons, also called Edward and also a carpenter, bought a town acre in Mount Victoria – Brandon Street renamed Prince Street. He built all the houses in the street. However, one side of the street was demolished when a hotel was built below on Oriental Parade.



Edward Prince d. 1862

Old Government Buildings

This Edward Prince at the age of 19 went to Otaki to assist in the building of Rangiatea Church. He was responsible, along with his father, for the interior finish of the original church on the site of St Mary of the Angels (the Chapel of the

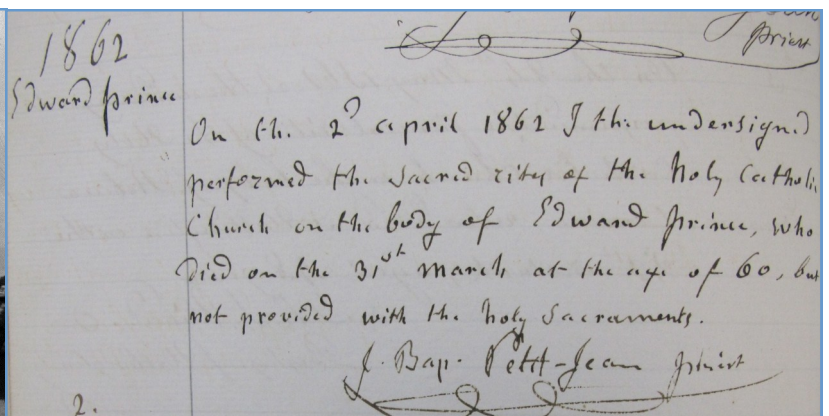
Nativity of Our Lord). Edward Prince junior also had the job of the interior finishing of the wooden Old Government Buildings (a Category I Historic Place), including the magnificent hanging staircase (shown at left).

**Below: Staircase at Old Government Buildings.
Photo by kind permission of
The Wellingtonian**



Below: The fire that destroyed St Mary's Church in Nov 1898. The former Prince home at 44 Hill Street (with an extension) is shown to the left.

Photo: Archdiocesan Archives



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/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 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.

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