

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

Well! Here we are trying to get back on deck. We hope that all our members and supporters have managed to survive since March reasonably well. The world's health problems have hurt many people very badly and certainly came at a bad time for us and many like organisations, as the resulting lock-downs covered many end of financial years and the normal period for holding AGMs.

Need to Rebuild our Society

As will be explained in the Annual Reports to be presented at our AGM, our Treasurer (Patricia Hayman) has had to resign her position due to circumstances beyond her control, and, after 8 years, Rod Smith is not offering himself for election as President this year. In addition, several of our long-time valued Researchers have indicated that they may not be able to carry on much longer.

As well as losing several general members during the year, we lost another very valuable committee member (Peter Saywell); so our ranks of governing officers and committee members desperately need enhancing.

So if you, or anyone you know, can offer to help in these capacities or with doing research work or handling opening requests or helping with open days or general maintenance, then our society would like to hear from you. We encourage anyone interested to come along to our AGM to find out more and/or to join our Society.

The AGM will be held at the Marton Library in High Street at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 21st July (note this is a change of time from previous years).

A nomination form is available for committee positions, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a committee of six. For a form or more information please

CALENDAR OF 2020



Society AGM

Our next meeting will be our Yearly AGM. It will be held in the Marton Public Library on Tuesday 21st July at 6:00 pm.

All members and the **General Public are invited**, although only Members will be eligible to stand for office, or vote.



To see old newsletters visit our website at:

tinyurl.com/martonhist

Our E-mail:

martonhist@gmail.com

QR CODE FOR WEBSITE



phone 06 327 6689 and leave your full contact details, or phone Maureen on 06 327 6104 or Rod on 06 327 6099.

Of course, to be valid, nominees will need to be existing members, or join up at the meeting. We would like nomination forms to be posted to **PO Box 117 Marton**, or emailed to **martonhist@gmail.com**, or hand-delivered to **6 Beckett Place, Marton** by **Friday 17th July**. Further nominations will still be accepted from members at the meeting.

Annual Subscriptions now due

Just a reminder that membership subscriptions for the 2020-21 year are now due. For existing or potential members a subscription notice is included with this newsletter.

Subs are \$20 for individuals and \$30 for couples, and should preferably be paid by on-line or phone banking to bank account: **03 0683 0143296 00**.

Please be sure to include your name or membership number with your payment.

Marton Historical Society Sign

We now have a new sign installed at the front of the village. A big thank you to Christian Welfare for donating the full cost of buying and installing this new sign. We are very grateful as the old one was in bad condition.

Jeannette Galpin

Jeannette Galpin, a long-time member of our Society, sadly passed away in April. Her life was Rangitikei, which inspired her to write many books about the community and people she lived amongst. The collection of books she has left are all at the Marton Archives.

These include:

“Tutaenui” – Garden of the Rangitikei. The farming histories and photographs she researched from the generations of early settlers and families.

“Bessie” – the story of Bessie Fullerton-Smith. Horsewoman, Master of Rangitikei Hunt, Pony Club instructor, NZ Women’s golf Champion and member of Golden Oldies Marching team. Bessie passed away aged 101 years.

“Never to Forget” – The stories of our local Dutch People’s experiences in the Netherlands during WWII. All the families in the book chose to settle in Marton.

“The Rangitikei Colonial Cookbook” – illustrated by Bruce Rennie.

“Aroha and the River” – short stories.

“A Horse of Your Own” – a history of Rangitikei Hunt Club

The Historical Society acknowledges the contribution Jeanette has made to the community by publishing this collection of books.

Interesting Research Project

A recent research project has been completed. It began with an interest in the five Talke brothers — A., H., J., L., (M.M., D.C.M.), and R., whose names are on the Marton Primary School WW1 Roll of Honour. A surprising result of this research was that Joseph was a military defaulter and never served in WW1 at all.

The project consisted of gathering information from a wide variety of resources and consolidating this into three folders.

Part 1 includes the passenger list of the ship “*Fritz Reuter*” which arrived in Wellington in August 1876 carrying emigrants from Germany; also various newspaper items about the ship.

Part 2 is about Rudolph & Emely Talke and their three children, Margaret, Emma & Ernest, who were among the families from the “*Fritz Reuter*” that were selected to settle in Halcombe. Emma died soon after their arrival there.

Part 3 concerns the eldest daughter, Margaret, and her family of one daughter & six sons. One of her sons, Harry, was adopted by Donald & Mary Robertson when he was aged 14 years 9 months. This did not end well, Three of the brothers, Louis Leslie, Ralph and Stanley changed their surnames to Robertson and Joseph occasionally used the surname Robertson as an alias.

The complete collection of information can be viewed at The Marton & District Historical Society’s premises.

The new sign and those who helped install and photograph it.



ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Magic

My Grandfather, Arthur Parkinson, was an amateur magician. As well as a fake “wand” and some fine silk handkerchiefs, he had a couple of sets of trick playing cards that I inherited after he died. In one set, all the cards were the same – 9 of Hearts – except for one card kept on the bottom of the deck where an audience might see it, which helped to reinforce the natural assumption that they were all different.

Two more cards in his kit had fake markings such that, when fanned together, they looked like four cards and – furthermore – when they were turned over, they were, in reality, two entirely different cards; so what looked like four cards could go into a hat and two entirely different ones taken out — leaving NOTHING.

He used his skills at misdirection (a standard technique in magic work) to ensure that curious children like me never figured out how to do certain things. He had a sovereign case on a chain – with a real sovereign in it – apparently part of the normal adornments of a gentleman in those days. Naturally I wanted to know how to open it. To supposedly demonstrate how, he always went into an elaborate ritual of holding the case in one hand and rubbing the back of that hand with the other. After a suitable interval the sovereign case would miraculously open. Presumably he had secretly pressed the open button sometime during his little act.

Needless to say, it would never open for me, and I didn't find out until years later how to really open that sovereign case.

Another one was how to do something with his car, a model A Ford. I don't remember exactly what, but maybe it was to turn on the windscreen wipers, or something like that. Anyway, his demonstrated instructions were to wind the driver's side window all the way down, then try to turn the winder a little bit more. At that point the required action would miraculously happen.

Again, not surprisingly, and as a 4 year old, I never managed to duplicate the effect.

One day later on, my Uncle Francis, presumably trying to imitate his old Dad, was showing me how he could supposedly push a piece of toothpick into one ear and then, with much drama, push it through to the other ear from whence it could be extracted. A problem eventually occurred though, in that the object became stuck in the second ear and some tweezers had to be fetched to extract it.

That's all folks. —The committee