

NEWSLETTER JULY 2014

NEWS AND VIEWS

Visits

The Recent groups we have had visit the village are the Alzheimer's Group, James Cook School and the Palmerston North Probus Club.

Research

Descendants of William John Gray, researching his property at Tutaenui known as Greystoke.

Ministry of Culture & Heritage seeking information on Beatrice Eleanor Maunder the daughter of George Maunder who resided at Warleigh, Tutaenui. Beatrice was the director- general of Belgium Military hospitals during WW1 and was awarded the Cross of the Order Leopold for her dedication of war work she carried out for refugees and her hospital work in Belgium.

Early Marton Resident

George Cummins had a business as Coachbuilders, Wheelwright and Blacksmith, from 1899 to 1911.

George Cummins had a business in Broadway Marton. He was a respected businessman whom Marton was really proud of.

In 1906 he built and marketed the Sandow Wool press The Sandow Press was used in all large shearing sheds throughout NZ. George & Lydia Cummins lived in Pukepapa Rd with a family of 10 children. We have received the autobiography of Myra Cummins the youngest child who passed away in Levin recently aged 90 years. Her 28 page story of growing up in Marton after WW1 and through the depression years gives a real description of life in Marton. When she was seventeen she worked at a draper's shop and later acquired a driver's license at a cost of 5 shillings, and then worked as a companion help for well to do ladies driving them to afternoon teas, church and entertainment. She drove a Morris Cowley and Morris Oxford cars.

CALENDAR OF 2014



Bi-Monthly Gathering

Tuesday 12 August

Where: MHS Archives Room,
Wellington Rd, Marton

When 2pm

Speaker: Rod Smith to talk
about his and Pat's recent visit
to Whitby & Marton, England.

If anyone needs transport
please phone either Maureen
3276104, Rod 3276099 or Pat
3276063.

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\$20 per issue.**

In 1927 she married Ron Bridge and her interesting memories refer to many familiar Marton names. We have a Sadow wool press on display in our workshop.

Marton Golf Club

Marton golf club will be celebrating 100 years of golf on Labour weekend. Any persons with memorabilia please contact Chris Ellery Ph 06 3278293.

SOCIETY UPDATES

Thanks to our volunteers

A big thanks to all involved in helping with research, village visits and with keeping the village tidy. Thanks to:

Maureen, Pat, Franklin, Peter and Elaine, Kylie, Lynne and Brian, Kathryn and of course Rod.

Collection management

We are still on the lookout for more furniture for the Cottage.

As always, if you know of anyone who is **downsizing, moving house, or having a clear out** please ask them to keep the Historic Society in mind. We can arrange to collect items if necessary.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Society membership

We would love to get some new members on board – so please mention Marton Historical Society to your friends and family. If they are interested, we can provide them with an information pack. If you have any ideas about recruiting new members, please let us know.

HELP WANTED

Do you have any of the following items that you could donate to the Society?

- ⇒ Matching bedside tables
- ⇒ Lowboy chest of drawers for adults bedroom
- ⇒ Kitchen shelves
- ⇒ What-not display rack
- ⇒ Display rack (suitable for holding pamphlets)
- ⇒ Plates, Bowls, Cups and cutlery

STORAGE

Do you know of some free, secure space (e.g. garage, spare room, office, shed)?

We need to store some of our collections off-site. Please ask around your friends, family and contacts, and let us know!

ROD'S REFLECTIONS

The Flour Mill

As there was no school bus service at the gate of my parents' farm, I spent a lot of my early Primary School days living at my Grandmother's house just south of the Arahina driveway. A few hundred yards down the road was Henderson Bros Flour Mill.

Sometimes, Grandmother would send me down there with an empty sack to buy some wheat to feed her chooks. One time I took the wrong sack. It had no bottom. This embarrassing fact came to light only after a load of wheat had been carefully weighed into it and the sack lifted off the scales. Wheat went everywhere. Mr Henderson was not amused.

I had a friend who apparently had an after-school job in the mill. He introduced me to the idea of running all over the place to see how it all worked. Modern Health & Safety gurus would do more than turn in their graves if they could have seen us.

There was the huge electric motor that drove most of the machinery via a big flat belt. This drove a shaft with lots more belts that went up through the ceiling or down through the floor to drive all the bits and pieces that made up the process of turning wheat into flour, bran and pollard.

We would run up and down all the levels of the mill. On the upper floor there was a large "shaker box". This had a handrail around it and if one hung on to this rail with arms held rigid, it didn't half give one a good teeth-rattling shake.

The old second basement level was full of abandoned machinery and dark cobwebs. Peter Jackson could have made a superb horror film down there. All that was probably left over from the days when the mill was powered by water-wheel and (later) by steam-engine.

Storage space for wheat waiting to be processed was obviously at a premium at certain times of the year. Bags of wheat would be stacked up one side of each step of all the stairways in the building, leaving only just enough room for one person to go up or down.

Only once did one of the Hendersons suggest we didn't play with a particular thing – he said it was a cyanide poisoning machine – presumably targeted at rats and mice.

As most of us know, the place closed down just 8 months or so short of its 100th anniversary. Quite a loss to historically oriented people.

For an extra snapshot of information about Marton as it was in 1966, go to <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/1966/marton>



Church of Saint Cuthbert
at Marton in Cleveland
with the figure of James Cook depicted in the window

Yes - Rod & Pat made it to there recently.

Come and hear more at our meeting on 12th August.