

Marton & District Historical Society

'Preserving and Sharing Marton History'

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWS AND VIEW

Craft Alive Weekend

On the weekend of 23rd and 24th September Craft Alive will be held in the Memorial Hall, so we will be opening the Historic Village as well, from 10am to 3 pm on the Saturday and Sunday. We will have a display of antique clothes, accessories and needle crafts.

Entrance by gold coin donation.

Museum Opening

We are now opening the museum on a Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 3 pm. We have had a few visitors, mainly people interested in doing research.

Members Meeting

The next meeting is on Tuesday 19th September at 2pm. The speaker will be Jeanette Galpin, who has published several books on local history. The meeting will be followed by afternoon tea.

Visitors to Museum

We welcomed visitors to the Village on Monday, and had a very enjoyable time reminiscing with them about Marton in days gone by. Here are photos of two of our long term residents. Mrs. Muriel Oldfield and Mrs. Nancy Stokes.



CALENDAR OF 2017



NEXT MEMBERS MEETING

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The meeting will be followed by afternoon tea.



To see old newsletters visit
our website at:
New website at
"tinyurl.com/martonghist"

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BOER WAR MEMORIAL – MARTON PARK

The Marton RSA wish to restore the memorial which was dedicated to Trooper George Hyde No 734, NZ Mounted Rifles, Rough Riders, killed in action 29th November 1900, at Rhenoster Kop, Transvaal.

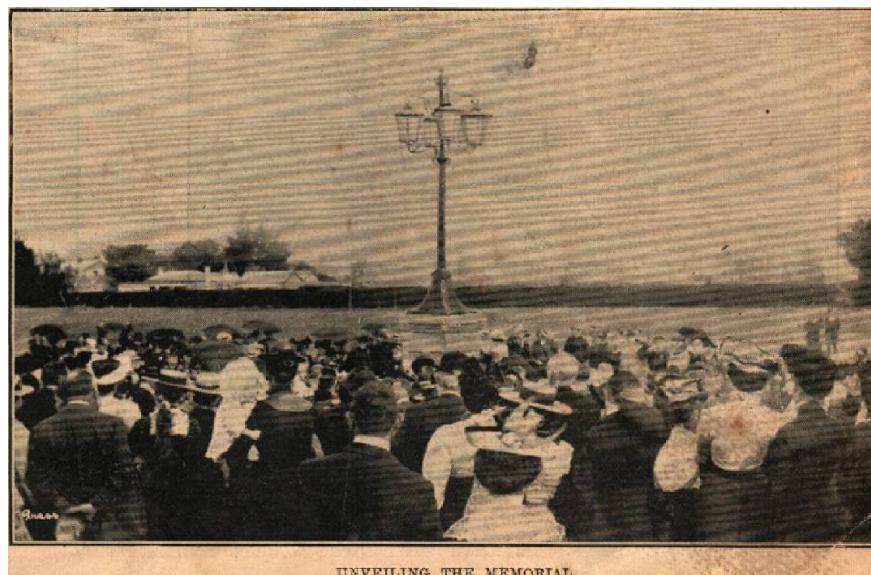
George was a son of Mr James Hyde, a farm worker for Messrs Still Bros, a well known early settler at Upper Tutaenui.

George, a small sturdy person, and having his own horse made him very acceptable for service. He departed NZ in February 1900 aboard the Knight Templar.

On 29th November 1900, Trooper George Hyde in the advance guard of Colonel's Cradock's Brigade, who were sent out while Boer shells landed among the NZ'rs. The troops dismounted their horses, then crawling on hands and knees towards the skyline, where George Hyde was shot.

From the 29 men who served from Marton, George Hyde was the only casualty. This memorial was organised by the family in recognition of their son in 1908 and erected in Marton Park.

We would be pleased to see the community support the Marton RSA in this worthwhile restoration as it is part of Marton's early history.



The unveiling in 1908

Recent Research

The family of Mr R T C Scott who was a nurseryman. He ran his business in Tutaenui Road to Calico line corner and for many years had a florist shop in Broadway.

The family of Mr George Maunder who resided at "Warleigh" at Tutaenui. In later years he retired to Marton hence the name of Maunder Street where he built his home.

He was the father of Beatrice Dormer Maunder who was a nurse in Belgium during World War 1.

ROD'S REMINISCENCES

Blowing Stuff Up (continued) – Fire-crackers

Who doesn't remember the sky-rockets, the double-happies, the tom-thumbs and jumping-jacks that anyone could buy for several weeks before 5th November? I guess that was before the passing away of a beloved old friend, **Common Sense**. His death sure opened the way in many areas for invasion by a new species – **Bureaucratic Red Tape**.

My Mother was always talking about "throw-downs". These were apparently quite common in the 1920s. The term "throw-down" was a mystery to me for quite a while until I came across some in a Chinese shop. Then I realised that the "throw-down" bit was an essential component of their operation. They consisted of a small sealed soft paper container, about the size of a large peppermint, filled with small, hard, rough pebbles, mixed, presumably, with some highly volatile explosive like mercury fulminate.

If one of these was thrown down hard onto a hard surface like concrete, a satisfyingly loud bang would usually result. Until then I had naturally assumed that all fireworks had to ignited with a match or similar – but not these.

Sky rockets came in different sizes. Some were just a solid rocket motor on a stick with no payload of any kind, but some had a separate payload bit on top that contained a small star-burst bomb.

I made a couple of multistage rockets by mounting the biggest single rocket I could find onto the stick of a starburst type. The mount was arranged so that the first stage would ignite the second stage at the end of its burn and then fall off when it ran out of fuel.

Guidance was a bit of a problem though. The rather top-heavy contraption had a distinct reluctance to stay pointing upwards, although I occasionally managed to achieve a decent height for the star-burst. Looking from almost directly under the launch point though, it is difficult to appreciate how high something like that has gone; so it was all somehow not really worth the effort.

Double-happies were strings of small bangers strung together, 10 or 12 at a time. These are favourites in places like Hong Kong, in that they produce a string of bangs like a machine gun. Tom-Thumbs were even smaller bangers strung together 40 at a time. A trick with both of these types was to unpick them from the string and use them as single bangers. This made the price per bang very economical. Furthermore, the Tom-Thumbs were so small that they could be held by their tip while they exploded with very little danger of damage to the fingers. Braver souls could do the same with individual double-happies, but the result was often a few stinging fingers. One of our young farm workers, who was perhaps a bit short up top, even tried holding one in his teeth, but I think he decided not to try that again.

Jumping Jacks were quite fun and reasonably cheap, but, I must admit, if they were meant to be unpredictable in where they went, then they certainly achieved their aim a lot of the time. I remember one that seemed to have a diabolical intelligence and chased me all around the yard.

Next time — Chemicals