

Friends of
Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

Newsletter No.5 April 1979

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 10 April at 8 pm in the Founders Society rooms, Wakefield House, The Terrace.

All members are cordially invited to attend.

Registered at POHQ Wellington as a magazine

Alan Fleming

It is with much regret that we record the recent death of Alan Fleming, Deputy Chairman of the Friends.

Alan's main interests were walking, gardening and the historic places of New Zealand so he was naturally most interested in Bolton Street Cemetery, particularly as he lived in Wesley Road in his younger days and knew the cemetery as it was then. At a meeting of the Karori Historical Society he heard a talk by Mrs Alington, during which she invited anyone interested in the preservation of the cemetery to join a working bee on the following Saturday. The day was too wet to work so those who had turned up held a meeting instead and agreed to form a society. Alan was a member of the steering committee and was elected as Deputy Chairman when the present society was formed in March 1977.

Alan was a particularly enthusiastic and hard working member of the committee and seldom missed a work day in the cemetery. His contribution to the society will be greatly missed and we take this opportunity of extending our deepest sympathy to Mrs Fleming and her family.

Volunteers for the committee

If anyone is interested in serving on the committee for the coming year, please don't hesitate to offer your services. If you would like to know more about what is involved ring the Chairman, Helmut Einhorn, 768 509.

Special work day

By the time you receive this newsletter the reinstatement of headstones will be virtually complete. Under Mrs Alington's direction we are going to check the original transcripts, made under rather difficult conditions in the storage area at Karori, against the stones as they are now. This work is to be done on Saturday 5 May or if wet the following Saturday. If you are available for any part of the day from 9.30 on and would like to help then please ring Mrs Alington, 768 495.

Unquiet Earth a history of Bolton Street cemetery by Margaret Alington

For those of you who have not yet obtained a copy of this excellent book, the Ministry of Works still have some available. Send \$9.75 to:

Chief Accountant
Ministry of Works & Development
P.O. Box 12-041
WELLINGTON

The price includes postage. Don't forget to include your name and address.

On a grave (plot number 4302) in the western remnant of the cemetery, are three stones commemorating two Davis brothers and the wife of a third brother. They were sons of James Davis of Tytrup Hall, Ulverston, Lancs, and the obituary notice of Edward Heydalbach Davis, the 4th and youngest son, is of particular interest. While assistant geologist to the Geological Survey of New Zealand, he was drowned in Ten Mile Creek, Nelson, on 9 February 1871, aged 25. His funeral left from his home in Adelaide Road, Wellington. The Evening Post of 14 February 1871 describes his life as follows:

THE LATE MR E.H. DAVIS

The following is a brief obituary notice of the late Mr E.H. Davis, whose death by drowning, whilst in the performance of his public duties, we lately mentioned:-

It is at all times sad to record the deaths of those who pass away in the flower of their age, but it is especially so in the case of one whose career afforded so rich a promise of usefulness in the future. Mr Davis, born in June, 1845, was the youngest son of J. Davis Esq., of Tytrup Hall, near Ulverston, in North Lancashire, and was consequently in his 26th year at the date of his death. He received his earlier instruction first at a private school, and afterwards at the Lancashire Grammar School, which he left in 1861. He then went to Cumberland - in which country his father held extensive mines - in the working of which he was engaged for a short time. His inclinations leading him to the study of mineralogy, he was entered at the school of mines in Jermynstreet, where his assiduous application and quiet manners made him a favourite pupil of Professor Hoffman, under whose able instruction he rapidly advanced in chemistry and mineralogy, ultimately passing, with great credit, a most severe examination. During this period, he also studied geology, and in consequence of his attainments in these sciences, was elected a Fellow of the Chemical and Geological Societies. Shortly after the close of his studies he was appointed analytical chemist to the Portugal Iron and Steel Company, and proceeded, in that capacity, to the principal works of the company in Portugal, where he remained for nearly two years. In consequence of the failure of this company he returned to England, where he added materially to his reputation as a chemist and mineralogist, by the publication of a series of important papers in the Mining Journal on the

mineral wealth of Portugal. These papers which exhibited not only an intimate acquaintance with the scientific department of the subject, but also a large knowledge of the political bearing of the questions involved, excited much attention on the part of scientific men and capitalists. Mr Davis' position soon obtained for him the appointment of chemist to the Malquita Gold Mining Company of New Granada. Previous to leaving England to undertake the duties of this office, he married Lucy Charlotte, only daughter of the late Mr James Wright of Manchester, who accompanied him. In consequence of the unhealthy character of the climate, the arduous nature of the duties he was engaged in, and the hardships he endured, his health declined and he was obliged to return to England. His father, with whom he resided after his return from Central America, being desirous of entering into arrangements for working the Taranaki iron sand, sent him out to New Zealand with the necessary authorities to do so, having been advised moreover, that his son would derive much benefit from the climate. We understand that shortly after his arrival he entered into negotiations with the Provincial authorities of Taranaki, and the persons claiming interest in the mines in question, but, although it has been rumoured that the negotiations were not successful, we are not sufficiently aware of the circumstances to justify us in stating anything positive in regard to them. During a visit to Auckland he met Dr Hector (to whom he had been casually introduced in Wellington) who at once saw the advantage of securing his services in connection with the Geological Survey, and who, accordingly, having ascertained his willingness to accept the employment, appointed him as Assistant Geologist, an office which he held until his death. In the course of his employment he lately visited the gold and other mines in Massacre Bay, and the Wangapeka Districts of the Province of Nelson, and carefully investigated the Dun Mountain District, which is found to present many remarkable points of analogy with the celebrated Gympie Creek country of Queensland. At the time of his death he was engaged in examining some recently-discovered coal mines in the Kanieri District, his report upon which was looked forward to with great interest. The results of his previous labours are embodied in a number of valuable reports, which will appear in the proceedings of the Geological Survey. Indefatigable in his efforts to acquire complete knowledge of the subjects referred to him, he brought to bear upon them a most careful and patient habit of observation, and a minute attention to details which gave to his work that accuracy in description, which is so valuable both for scientific and practical purposes.