



# FRIENDS of BOLTON STREET MEMORIAL PARK Incorporated

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NEWSLETTER NO. 51

May 2001

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## Table of Contents

Notice of Annual General Meeting .....	2
Arrangements for Meeting .....	2
Agenda for the 2001 Annual General Meeting .....	3
Wording of the Commemorative Plaque .....	3
Baron Charles von Alzdorf .....	5
Peter Michael Anderson/Peter Mieart Andersen .....	8
Notice of Motion .....	9



## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

To be held at 6.30 pm, Monday, 25 June 2001 at the Cricket Pavilion  
Anderson Park (adjacent to the Lady Norwood Rose Garden).

### **Arrangements for Meeting**

At 5.30 pm, PRECEDING THE AGM, will be a brief commemoration and plaque unveiling) to 53 persons who died between 1890 and 1891 and were re-interred within the brick-bordered area adjacent to the Pavilion (to be held in the Pavilion if bad weather).

Immediately following the AGM there will be an address by Nick Perrin and Rachel Brown on their research for the preparation of the newly unveiled plaque, plus intriguing insights into their findings.

Refreshments will be served in the Pavilion immediately following the unveiling.

(Access from Bolton Street via Kinross Street with parking beside the Seddon Memorial.)

Please contact one of the following for enquiries or apologies:

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## **Agenda for the 2001 Annual General Meeting**

- 1 Apologies
  - 2 Minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting (as published in newsletter 50)
  - 3 Matters arising from the minutes
  - 4 Chairperson's report
  - 5 Treasurer's report and financial statement
  - 6 Report by Wellington City Council
  - 7 Election of committee
  - 8 Appointment of Auditor
  - 9 Changes to the Society's rules (refer elsewhere to Notice of Motion)
  - 10 General business
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## **Wording of the Commemorative Plaque**

IN MEMORY OF these fifty-six persons who died between October 1890 and September 1891, were originally buried in Reserve V of the Public Cemetery (towards Tinakori Road) and re-interred on this site in 1906 to make way for the formation of Anderson Park.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Date of Death</i>
BEAUMONT, Walter Leonard	8 m	15/01/1891
BIDMEAD, Garfield	11 m	16/09/1891
BOURNE, Louisa	40	13/02/1891
BRADLEY, Alfred George	1 w	9/04/1891
BRAID, Lucy Mary	7	28/05/1891
BRONSTAADT, Niels Holston	70	18/08/1891
BROWN, William Thomas	2 m	1/01/1891
BUCHANAN, Lilian Gertrude	2 m	5/12/1890
CALLAM, William Richard	37	24/05/1891
COLTMAN, Louise Marion	5 m	9/09/1891
CROXFORD, Christina	54	14/07/1891
DALTON, Janet Betsy	6 w	18/08/1891
FOOTE, Earnest Barton	1y 8m	4/09/1891
FORSYTH, James Montague	37	4/05/1891
FOSTER, Emma	44	14/12/1890



FOSTER, Hannah	80	16/10/1890
GIFFIN, Duncan	62	17/03/1891
GOODLET, John	30	14/06/1891
GRANT, Alexander	adult	12/07/1891
HAGGETT, Lancelot William Everard	5 m	17/08/1891
HONOUR, Arthur Edwin	3y 9m	8/07/1891
INGPEN, Marguerite	8 m	27/10/1890
JAMES, Maggie	21	7/03/1891
KINGSBEER, Winifred Alma	1y 6m	11/07/1891
LITTLE, Mary Ann	62	1/01/1891
LOMAS, William Hartland	3 m	20/08/1891
MACANDREW, William	72	31/05/1891
McCROIRIE, Catherine	96	10/07/1891
MACDONALD, William	3 m	4/12/1890
McLACHLAN, Andrew	17	5/11/1890
MARTER, Queenie Victoria	2	17/08/1891
MATHESON, Robert	55	26/08/1891
MEYERS, Susan	72	5/02/1891
MILLER, Jane	35	17/07/1891
MILLER, John	37	7/10/1890
MILNE, Helen	34	15/05/1891
NEILSON, Charles	48	15/10/1890
NELSON, Alfred William	14 m	8/12/1890
NIKORA	41	14/07/1891
PATCHING, Peter Henry	36	8/07/1891
PETFORD, William	85	22/06/1891
PIERSON, August	22	5/07/1891
RICKARD, Celina Emma	28	5/06/1891
SPEARMAN, Olive Annie	3y 8m	16/08/1891
TAHURAITI	42	4/07/1891
TAYLOR, William Alexander Maitland	5 m	23/06/1891
THOMASEN, Peter	56	29/12/1890
THORNTON, Anna	47	22/01/1891
TIMMINGS, Georgina Allen	1y 1m	28/01/1891
TOLLEY, Silvia	6	15/08/1891
TUCKER, Thomas	37	2/12/1890
WALL, Hannah	66	9/05/1891
WILLIAMS, R.E. (alias James DEVLIN)	32	15/03/1891
WILSON, Joseph	78	20/12/1890

*The following were moved to Karori Cemetery:*

BOWEN, John Edward	30	19/03/1891
GAUDIN, George William	50	15/06/1891

### **Baron Charles von Alzdorf**

born about 1815 or 1816, died 23 January 1855

by Nick Perrin

One of Wellington's most colourful pioneers, the Baron arrived on the "Adelaide" in 1840. He was described as a prosperous businessman, influential settler, noted sportsman and champion gardener. He was also a good friend of William Wakefield, was an innkeeper, and was the only settler to die in the great 1855 earthquake. His friend, William Wakefield had died in 1848 in Alzdorf's first hotel, shortly before the 1848 earthquake.

He was short and dumpy (his girth was described as "simply amazing"), and had a strong German accent. His given names were probably Karl Ernst, but Anglicisation seems to have been common. He was the father of a boy (Walter Harry Alzdorf) who, it is claimed, was the first European born in Port Nicholson.

Despite his hotel being destroyed in the 1848 earthquake, he rebuilt in brick while everyone else rebuilt in wood. He is quoted as saying "Look at my house. Dat is de way to build against de earthquakes. No shock will destroy dat." But it was the cause of his death. In the 1855 earthquake, while he was recuperating from a stroke, he was killed by being buried by a collapsing chimney in his hotel.

Although he was a Roman Catholic, I believe he was buried in Block A of the Public Cemetery ("Sydney Street"), from the evidence of his will. This will, dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 1854, clearly expressed his desire to be buried in a plot near his friend, William Wakefield. At the time he was probably affected by a stroke, and seemed aware that his death might be imminent, so he seems to have selected a plot. Since he was Catholic, he would not have been allowed to be buried in Church of England consecrated ground, but the boundary of the Public Cemetery is only a few metres to the north of the Wakefield grave. The fact that he does not appear in any cemetery records does not prove he was not buried there, as there are many omissions in the records.



Further evidence of his burial here lies in the credentials of the executors of his will, who would have surely seen that his last wishes were carried out, namely - Isaac Earl Featherston, Doctor of medicine and Superintendent of the Province; John Dorset, Surgeon; John Johnston, merchant; George Hunter, merchant (son of George Hunter, first mayor, and himself later Mayor). His witnesses were Daniel Wakefield, Barrister at law, and J.G. Engst, Settler, of the Chatham Islands (and no doubt a compatriot).

There is still much to be told of this fascinating character, and many questions. Why would a prosperous German nobleman (if that is what he was) throw in his lot with the Wakefields and settle in Wellington? What were the circumstances of his leaving Germany? Why did he forbid all religious rites at his funeral? Why did he make equal donations to the Church of England the Catholic Church?

The only reason I can see for his being overlooked in the "Dictionary of New Zealand Biography" is that very little else is known about him and his origins. He deserves to be better known than he is - he was very intelligent, gregarious, and popular with settlers and Maori alike.

The first part of his will, relevant to his wishes concerning his funeral, reads-

*"This the last Will and Testament of me Charles Ernest Von Alzdorf of Wellington in the Province of Wellington in the Islands of New Zealand Land Agent. I hereby revoke and annul all or any Wills or Will testaments or testaments as well as any Codicils or Codicil thereto heretofore made by me. I direct that all my past debts funeral and testamentary expenses shall in the first place be paid. I give and bequeath unto the Roman Catholic Bishop of Wellington for the time being the sum of ten guineas to be dispersed of as he may think fit. I also give and bequeath to the Head Minister of the Church of England in Wellington for the time being the sum of ten guineas to be disposed of as he may think fit. I also give and bequeath unto Margaret Gould my faithful and kind nurse the sum of one hundred guineas*

over and above all wages that may be due to her and I desire that these three legacies may be paid immediately. It is my anxious desire that my funeral may be conducted in the following manner, that is to say, that it proceed from the place from which it may start the nearest way and without entering any Church or Chapel to the Cemetery nearest to the Wellington Hotel without any religious ceremony whatever, that my friends and any others inclined to do honor to my memory should accompany the funeral but that no Clergyman or Priest as such that is to say for the purpose of performing any funeral service or religious rite of any kind should attend my remains. I direct that my body be deposited in that part of the before mentioned cemetery opposite the Church in the Government House demesne in which is a space a little northward of the grave of the founder of this Colony my late friend Colonel William Wakefield. I also direct that all arrangements respecting my funeral be as simple and modest as possible and the expense incurred be as little as decency will permit; any parade or costly attention in which matter being in my opinion unbecoming the memory of any private person of good sense and to be approved if only in the obsequies of men of great public merit when defrayed by the public. I appoint my friend Isaac Earl Featherston doctor of medicine and Superintendent of the Province, John Dorset Surgeon, John Johnston merchant and George Hunter all of Wellington aforesaid executors and trustees of this my will."

Of course, it is possible that his wishes were ignored (the will was not registered until 14<sup>th</sup> April 1856). If anyone knows of any evidence to either confirm or refute his presence in Bolton Street Memorial Park, I would be interested in seeing it.

**References:**

- Ward, Louis E., 1928: "Early Wellington", Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd.  
McNeish, James, 1957: "Tavern in the Town", A.H. & A.W. Reed.  
Chester, Pamela I., 1988: The History and Archaeology of Lambton Quay 76-84, Wellington. Site R27/157". (unpublished report, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Nov 1988)



**Peter Michael Anderson/Peter Mieart Andersen**

1829 - 1877

by Nick Perrin

In newsletter No. 50 I wrote about the wooden cross with an illegible inscription that was deciphered using forensic techniques, and found to be written in Danish. After translation and allowing for errors in deciphering, it recorded the grave of Peter Mieart Andersen, born Kerteminde, Denmark, on 28 September 1829, died Wellington 8<sup>th</sup> November 1877.

Mac McCormick has researched further, and turned up the following information:

**From the Register of persons naturalised in New Zealand before 1948:**

ANDERSON, Peter Michael, born 28/9/1829 Gvardeminde, Denmark. Nationality, Danish, Occupation, Miner. Naturalised Wellington 22/12/1875 No 1875/3564 VI

**The Evening Post, 8 November 1877:**

A man named Peter Michael Anderson was found dead in his bed this morning, at the residence of his brother-in-law Henry Jacobson of John Street. Dr Grace was immediately afterwards called in, but his services, of course, were of no avail. The deceased went to his bed at the usual hour last night shortly before 11 o'clock, and appeared in his usual health. He had been ailing, however, for some time past, and was in a weakly state of health. An inquest will be held on the body at the Metropolitan Hotel on Saturday.

**The Evening Post 12 November 1877:**

At the inquest on the body of Peter Michael Anderson, who was on Thursday morning found dead in his bed, a verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

**Death Record from Registrar General:**

No 362, Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1877, at John Street, Wellington. Anderson, Peter Michael, Miner. Male aged 49 years. Verdict of Jury-died of natural causes,



diseased heart. Father Niels Rask Anderson, fisherman. Born Denmark. 3 years in New Zealand. Widower. Surviving issue 1 male.

These are undoubtedly one and the same person, despite minor discrepancies in dates and differences in spelling. All the official records have him as "Anderson", although the Danish "Andersen" is likely to be correct. His brother-in-law, "Henry Jacobson" was naturalised in 1875 as "Carl Heinrich Jacobson", although his name would probably have been "Jacobsen". Anglicisation of foreign names appears to have been very common, perhaps explaining the use of "Michael" instead of "Micart". I believe the forensic deciphering is not wrong here, and my Danish contact tells me "Micart" is not an unusual name in that part of the world. I cannot find "Gvardeminde" as a place name in Denmark. It is probably a transcription error for Kerteminde.

Incidentally, the differences in the dates of his death are a matter of opinion. He was found dead on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, but the doctor must have decided he died before midnight on 7<sup>th</sup>.

It is interesting that the inscription painted on his wooden cross was in Danish, and Danish spellings of his name were used rather than the "official" versions. Perhaps his surviving son, who was resident in Australia, was involved in having the memorial made.

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#### **Notice of Motion**

Note from the Chairman: The following motion relates to the tidying up of the Society's Rules to reflect its current situation and to dispense with motorway issues that are now well past and no longer relevant. The wording of the motion is intended to make each rule change largely self-explanatory. No substantive changes are proposed.

"That, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of the Society, changes be made to the Rules of the Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park Incorporated, as indicated below:

## 2. Aims and Objectives:

**Rule 2.i** be changed by the deletion of "Cemetery" and replacement by "Memorial Park".

**Rule 2.ii** be changed by the deletion of "Wellington City Corporation Parks and Reserves Department" and replacement by "Wellington City Council".

**Rule 2.ii** be changed by the insertion of "(a)" before "Repair"

**Rule 2.ii** be extended by the words "(b) Create and maintain the content of and access to, reliable burial records".

**New Rule 2.iii** be added (with appropriate renumbering of subsequent Rules) as follows:

"To conduct and co-ordinate accurate research of historical information in order to develop and evolve reliable burial records of all persons buried within the park and all persons referred to on graves and records associated with the three cemeteries encompassed by the park."

**Rule 2.iii** be changed by the deletion of "cemetery park" and replacement by "park".

**Rule 2.iv** be changed by the deletion of "civil servants" and replacement by "public servants".

**Rule 2.vii(a)** be changed by the deletion of "displaced by the motorway and at present stored in the Karori Cemetery." and replacement by "displaced by the motorway construction, land slippage, vandalism and other adverse events."

**Rule 2.vii(b)** be changed by the deletion of "cannot" and replacement by "cannot and should not".

**Rule 2.viii** be changed by deletion of "To encourage the Ministry of Works and Development, the National Roads Board and the Wellington City Council." and replacement by "To encourage the Wellington City Council ..."

**Rule 2.viii(a)** be deleted. [Note: This rule relates specifically to completing the now historical acquisition of land adjacent to Mowbray Street for incorporation into the park].



**Rule 2.viii(b)** be changed by the deletion of "To restore the Sexton's cottage and to rebuild the chapel" and replacement by "... to preserve and maintain both the Sexton's cottage, the replica chapel, and historic displays, artefacts and other public content therein."

### **3. Membership:**

**Rule 3.i** be changed by the deletion of "person" and replacement by "member".

**Rule 3.iv** be deleted and replaced by "The annual subscriptions payable by the classes of membership as detailed in clause 3.iii of the Rules may be fixed at any annual general meeting of the Society."

### **7. Mode of Voting:**

**Rule 7.** be changed by the deletion of "show of hands" and replacement by "show of hands at any General Meeting".

### **12. Finance:**

**Rule 12.ii** be changed by the deletion of "bank account" and replacement by "bank account or bank accounts".

**Rule 12.iii** be changed by the deletion of "paid into such bank" and replacement by "paid into such bank accounts".

**Rule 12.iii** be further changed by the deletion of "all accounts shall be passed for payment" and replacement by "all accounts shall be approved for payment".

**Rule 12.iv** be changed by the deletion of "All accounts shall be paid by cheque whenever possible." and replacement by "All payments shall be made by cheque whenever possible".