

# Friends of Bolton Street Cemetery Inc.

P.O. Box 2336, Wellington

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 17.

**NOVEMBER 1984**

## S U B S C R I P T I O N S

ARE NOW DUE \* \* \* \* \*

If you have not already paid you will find a notice enclosed with this newsletter.

### MOWBRAY STREET LAND ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED

It is most disappointing to report that there has been little obvious progress on the long awaited addition of the land on the corner of Bolton and Mowbray Streets to the Bolton Street Memorial Park.

Members will recall our reporting on the current state of affairs in Newsletter No. 16. Since then, there has been indications that discussions are taking place between the Council and other interested parties to work out a scheme which would result in some development of the site, combined with the addition of the top surface of the site to the Cemetery Park area. No public announcements have been made, so that there is little opportunity for the public to judge whether or not substantial progress is being made, and whether the likely solution would be publically acceptable. Members of the Friends Committee are seeking further discussions with the Mayor and Council officers. They will be stating the Society's view that a public statement from the council is needed very soon on a matter of such public interest.

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RICHARD BARNES BARNES

by A.W. McCormick

Richard Barnes Barnes who is buried in the Bolton Street Memorial Park has the unusual distinction of having two headstones. The first which was probably erected by family connections in England has the following transcription:-

Here lies the remains of Richard Barnes Barnes 4th son of John Barnes Esq. and Janet his wife of East Finchley in the county of Middlesex. He died on 5th August 1845 aged 42 years.

The second headstone which was handed to the Sexton of Karori Cemetery in 1983 by an unknown person was probably erected by the Executor of his estate and has the following transcription:-

In memory of Richard Barnes Barnes Esq. late of Sutton Surrey and of the Stock Exchange London, who died on 5th August 1845 aged 42 years.

Richard Barnes Barnes was a cabin passenger on the "Martha Ridgway" (621 tons, Captain I.F. Bissett) which sailed from St. Kathrine Docks London on 8th July 1840, arrived Isle of Wight 11th July and at Port Nicholson on 20th November 1840. For his passage he paid L94.10.0d.

Barnes was a member of the London Stock Exchange from 1825 when his address was 19 Wimpole Street and his bankers were Smith Payne and Smith to 1839 when his address was Sutton Surrey and his bankers were Williams Deacon. It is not known what occupation, if any, Barnes followed in Wellington. His name appears on the Burgess Roll of the Borough of Wellington for 1842, His residence given as Lambton Quay, his occupation settler, but for the 1843 Burgess Roll his name does not appear. His name appears on the Jury List of 1844 with same residence and occupation, but for the 1845 Jury List his residence was shown as Willis Street with the same occupation. Neither is he on the list of inhabitants of Port Nicholson (NZC 131/11) for 1841 and 1843 showing residences and occupations which was probably compiled for military purposes.

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At the first Wellington Horticultural Exhibition at which 21 1/2 lb cabbages, 21" round turnips weighing 3 lbs, and potatoes grown from native seed were 9" long, the judges of the vegetable section were R.B. Barnes Esq., F. Johnson Esq, Mr. J. Jackson and Mr. Henry. It was claimed that vegetables "may be purchased in Wellington much cheaper and firmer than in London".

For the 1843 Anniversary Fete he was on the list as a paid up subscriber - he paid 10/-. For the 1844 Anniverasry he was on the General Committee and along with E.G. Wakefield and Mr. Jenkins was on the Committee for the Hurdle Race for Gentleman Riders.

Richard Barnes Barnes appears to have had a strong interest in the theatre. The Royal Victoria Theatre was situated at the back of Ship Inn, in Manners Street, which was built by the Proprietor Mr. Fuller, and opened on 2nd August 1843. On 21st October 1843, Barnes made an announcement in the theatre stating that he had been interested in acting since early childhood and that "after innumerable delays and difficulties at length overcome by intrepid perserverance and patience he presented himself at this little theatre in the feverent hope of doing some service yet in the cause of English drama". He went on to say that he was "taking the first steps on a path he trusted he would successfully tread and to which he had devoted his little fortune of his long and not unlaboured life in this venture to form a Dramatic School for good acting within the walls of the Royal Victoria Theatre". Newspapers made no reference to his School for Dramatic Art nor do any advertisements appear in the current newspapers.

On the 7th August, 1844 Barnes attended a dinner at Barretts Hotel given for Mr. Guyton who was leaving the colony for England.

Barnes was issued with New Zealand Company land orders nos 20 and 21, Second Series Special, and he selected Wanganui Town Sections Nos 125 and 126 and Rural Section no 79. He sold in 1841, Section 125 and 79 to George Kettlewell and Section 126 to Hon. H.W. Petre.

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The newspaper announcement of Barnes death was as follows:-

We regret to announce the death of one of our old settlers R.B. Barnes, Esq. (late of the Stock Exchange London) which took place at Barretts Hotel on 5th August 1845 after a lingering illness of several months. We understand the funeral will take place at one o'clock on Sunday (tomorrow).

Why did Barnes come to Wellington? He sold his Rural Section in Wanganui in 1841 so he did not contemplate being a farmer. As a member of the London Stock Exchange and therefore familiar with financial transactions he could have engaged in financial dealings or with financial institutions but no evidence that he did so can be traced. Nor do we know the success of his School of Dramatic Art. Perhaps when in his address to the Royal Victoria Theatre he referred to "his little fortune of his long and not unlaboured life" he understated it and he was able to live on his means. No information is available as to his will or as to the disposal of his estate.

#### REFERENCES

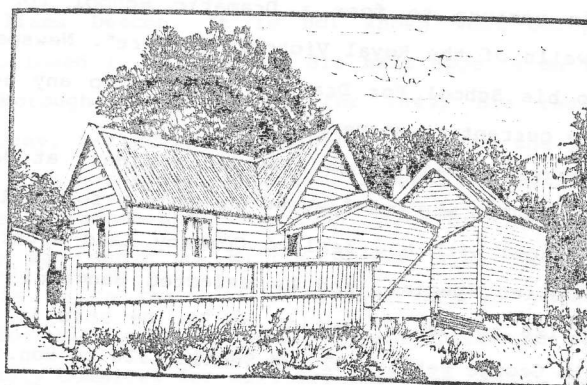
London Stock Exchange Archives

Guildhall Library London

National Archives LSW 68/11; 68/14; N.Z.C 131/11

N.Z. Spectator & Cooks Straits Guardian

Turnbull Library



Cottage, Bolton Street, built in 1857 for the sexton of the Church of England cemetery. The additions were made in 1885. Martin Hill.

Registered at Post Office H.Q. as a Magazine.