



ONslow HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Established 1968

Newsletter

August 2021

Hello OHS Members!

Trust you are all keeping warm.

We were lucky to wave away serious new infection during June's Covid Level 2 scare. It meant that we could hold our Silent Movie afternoon as planned. It was a fabulous event. The ever so popular Phantom of the Opera, in its 1927 silent presentation, and the two trailer films were great entertainment. It was also an eye opener to NZ's involvement in film production at that time. For us the awe and appreciation of David Beattie's skills knows no bounds! He chose the works, choreographed and presented piano accompaniment to perfection. Thank you David.

And we had a delicious afternoon tea – thank you Helen and Heather.

We can now look forward to our next event:
An Evening with Elizabeth Kay – the invitation is on page 3.

WCC's Spatial Plan and the future for heritage protection

The outcome of WCC's final debate cast an ominous and chilling wind. Despite the huge response from the public for appropriate heritage considerations these did not eventuate. Now we will have to raise issues around the new District Plan rules. The only bright light is the hope that future elected Councillors will represent us and achieve a better and fairer compromise. We will have to vote carefully at the next elections. We **can** have increased housing and we **can** proudly continue to embrace heritage and maintain our character city – it just takes intelligent planning!

There's a great proverb that comes to mind: *"Wise men don't cut the branch they sit on."*

Wise men and women of WCC, employed and elected, where are you?

Judy Siers
President

OHS Events: August – December 2021 – February 2022

Wednesday 11 August 2021

An Evening with Elizabeth Kay – historian and author of the book *Eddie Norman and 25 Battalion*. Eddie Norman was Elizabeth's father. After the war he became the Anglican Bishop of Wellington. Many will remember Elizabeth and her long service as President of the Friends of Te Papa.

K.A.T.E. ■ 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Sunday 19 September 2021

Following the successful **afternoon** event held last month, and members' requests that we do this again here is:

An afternoon with Wellington authors and historians Julia Millen and Anne Manchester.

K.A.T.E. ■ 2.30pm–4.30pm

Wednesday 27 October 2021

Launching *The Onslow Historian 2021* – Khandallah Park Stories. A Wellington Heritage Week event.

K.A.T.E. ■ 7.30pm for 7.45pm

Christmas Party 2021

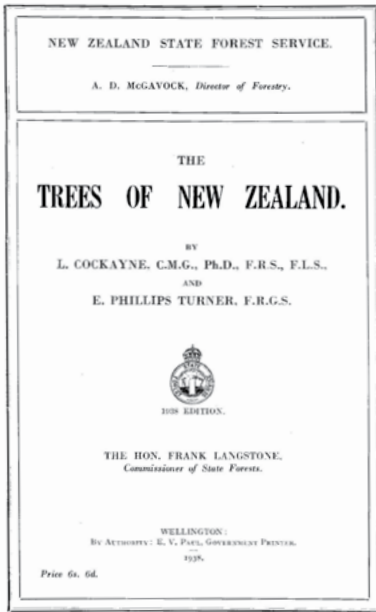
Friday 3 December at K.A.T.E. ■ 6pm–8pm

Waitangi Day February 2022

Following requests, after the 2021 event, for a repeat of a local walk with Chris Horne, it is with great pleasure that I can announce we have arranged for that to happen. Chris is working on a plan for something similar next year.

■ Details will be announced later.

New donations to OHS



OHS member, **Hugh Bibby**, has donated a rare book for our library: *The Trees of New Zealand* by Leonard Cockayne, published in 1928.

This volume is the second edition of the 1932 Handbook that was published from a MS prepared for delegates attending the 1928 Empire Forestry Conference in Wellington.

The new publication, in case bound book format was intended to serve the purpose of a general reference book for all New Zealanders.

It is a scholarly work of 176 pages with full listing and descriptions of all known indigenous trees and accompanying photographic illustrations.

Two of our suburbs have been named after local trees – Ngaio and Tawa.

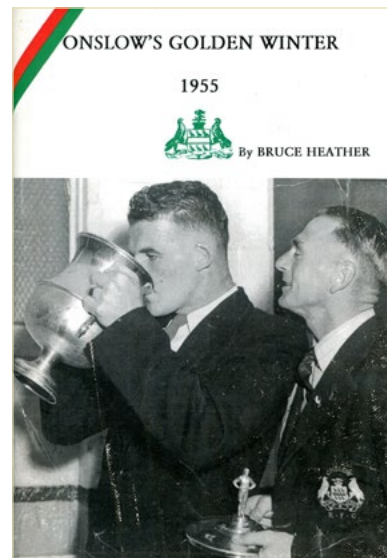


Fig. 63. *Myoporum laetum* (Myoporaceae).
NGAIO



Fig. 13. *Beilschmiedia tawa* (Lauraceae).
TAWA

Bruce Heather, a member of OHS and author and contributor to our *Onslow Historian* journals on sporting issues, has donated a rare booklet to our collection.



Onslow's Golden Winter 1955 was written and published by Bruce in 2011, 55 years after the Golden Winter; he notes how fresh the memories were and

the pleasure he had in recording them. This 60 page publication covers the background, the season and the day in 1955 when the senior players proved themselves the worthy winners of the Jubilee Cup. The story is Onslow Rugby Football Club history, written in a cheerful, easy style and the pages are full of illustrations – cartoons and photographs and newspaper extracts. It's about people, players and performance of our most famous sport.

Jubilation! Neville Lodge lived in Ngaio and was a great supporter of the Club. His cartoons appeared frequently in the local press and he built a loyal Onslow following.

IT TOOK 30 YEARS, BUT WE FINALLY DID IT





ONSLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.
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Invitation

You are invited to join us for

An Evening with Elizabeth Kay

At KATE 7.30. for a 7.45 start
Wednesday 11th August 2021

Elizabeth is a compelling speaker and this event promises to be a highlight in OHS's calendar.



Elizabeth Kay may be best known to you through her role as President of the Friends of Te Papa. As well she is a researcher, historian and writer; her most recent book is *Eddie Norman and 25 Battalion* published in 2019. Elizabeth is one of the few women writing military histories in this country.

The book is about her father, the commander of the 25 Battalion that spear-headed New Zealand's military assault on Italy during WWII, including at the Battle of Cassino. He was awarded the Military Cross, Distinguished Service

Order and American Legion of Merit, and returned home to eventually become Anglican Bishop of Wellington.

Eddie's regular letters to his wife, Margaret, described army life fighting in the heat of the desert and the wet winter campaign in Italy. Elizabeth has used these as a basis for her highly readable and meticulously researched biography of a man and the battalion he commanded.

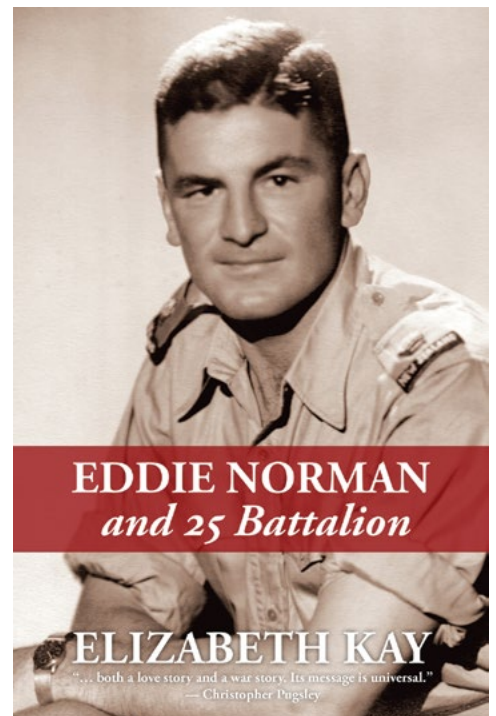
The publication is packed with specially drawn maps and photographs taken at the time.

Historian Colin James says,

'One of the most interesting war books I have read, deeply personal and at the same time set in the strategic dimension of the conflict.'

Books will be available for browse and/or sale, bring cash or make credit arrangements through internet banking with Elizabeth, \$40.

Supper will be served.



Published by Cuba Press, Wellington



THE CUBA
P R E S S

86 Khandallah Road, Wellington

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~ Chorus is the Society's major sponsor ~

The Aplin Family

I am so immensely grateful to the Onslow Historical Society. No one in our family knew of our genealogy, and thanks to your archives, so incredibly well organised and cared for, we have been able to trace our story.

DYLAN APLIN 2021

Recently Dylan Aplin, a descendant of early settlers, Christopher and Ellen Aplin, joined OHS. Dylan was keen to know what the Society could tell him about his family. He spotted the portrait of Christopher Aplin on the wall in our reception. It was agreed that Dylan could take this on loan and copy it for his personal records. We meet

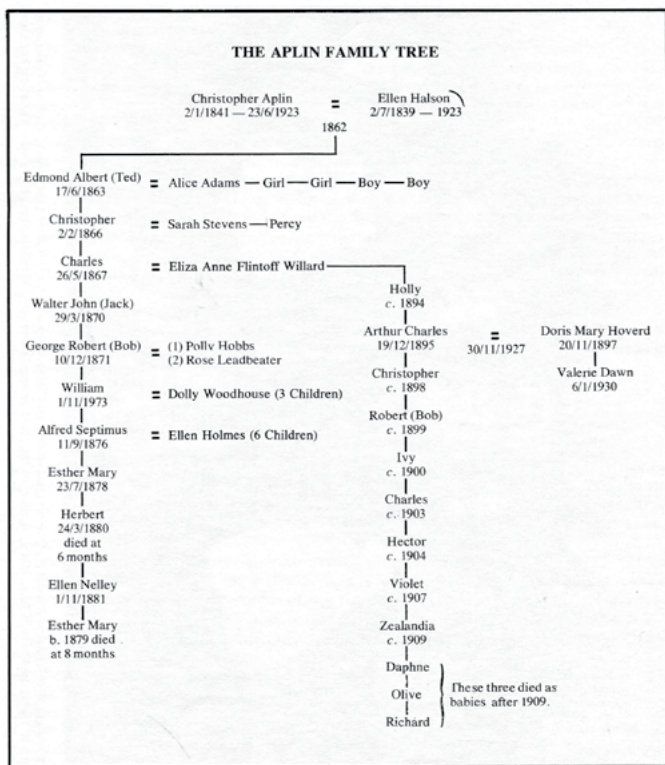


Dylan Aplin holds the portrait of his great, great, great grandfather, Christopher Aplin, at KATE 2020. The tinted photograph of Christopher Aplin was donated to the Society c.1995, by descendant, the late Dawn Aplin. It had been hanging on the wall in their family home in Colway Street, Ngaio, all her life. Thanks to Dylan it has been cleaned, and the framing structure restored.

several times again, and provided information that had been published in our *Onslow Historian* journals and unpacked the large Aplin Family box in our Archive.

Christopher and Ellen Aplin (nee Halson) left Dorset, England, and sailed on the *ss Asterope* berthing in Wellington in 1863. Their first address was Tinakori Road and a few years later, after they negotiated the purchase of land in today's Ngaio, they moved and began a new life as proud landowners and dairy farmers. They named the property *Colway*, after their home in Dorset. In June 1863 they began a family, Ellen giving birth to their first child, Edmond Albert, the first of 11; their last child, Esther Mary was born in 1879.

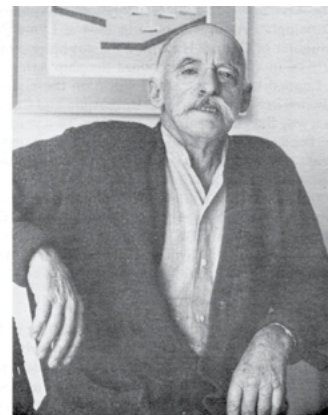
The Aplins were one of a later wave of early Wellington settlers many of whom would become the backbone of the new colony – those who made the decision to immigrate, to leave their place of birth, where in many cases they had been residents for centuries, and firmly commit to a new life. There would be no return. This was unlike many earlier land owners who invested financially but without any intention of living permanently in New Zealand. Indeed, some did not even travel here and conducted their business from their homeland. Their intention was to be part of land development for new habitation and to resell on what they hoped would be a buoyant colonial market.



This tree has been compiled from details (for the first generation) contained in a family bible, held by Aunt Holly's son, Ernie, who lives in Levin, and information from the A. C. Aplin family.

The Aplin Family Tree compiled by OHS for publication in 1978. From *The Onslow Historian* Volume 8 No 3 1978.

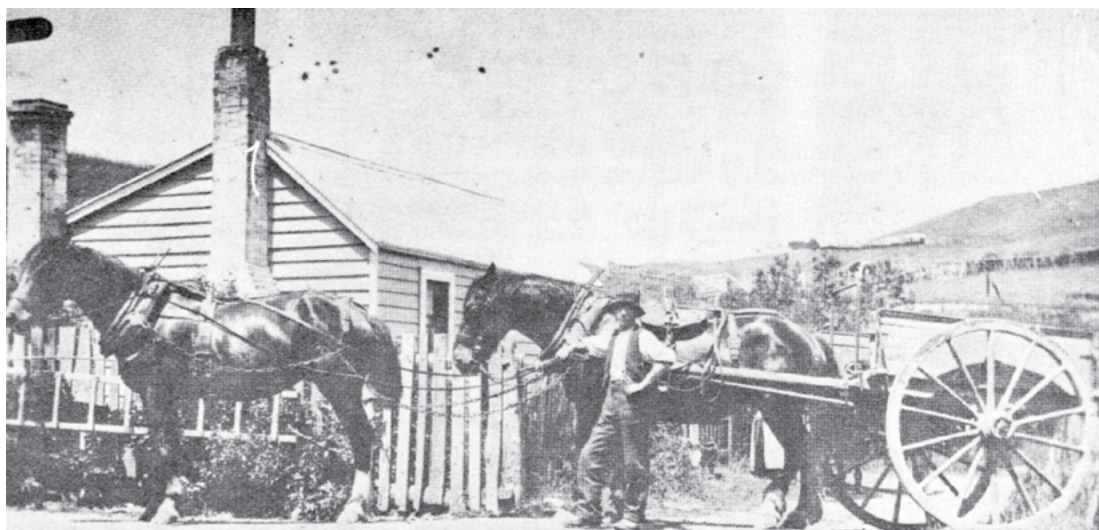
When my husband and I arrived in Ngaio in 1967 we settled into Chew Cottage, 19 Ottawa Road. John and Esther Chew had built their home in



Arthur Charles Aplin, grandson of Christopher Aplin, photographed in Ngaio, left: in 1899, and right: in 1975 at Chew Cottage.

1865, and they became neighbours of the Aplins. Ngaio's Ottawa Road of today pretty much marks the boundary between the two families, east and west. Early in 1968 we met then elderly Arthur Charles Aplin. He was a second generation Aplin, the son of the Charles Aplin and Eliza Willard (who produced 12 children), Arthur was their second child born in 1895.

He knocked on the door at Chew cottage and introduced himself, "I'm Arthur Aplin, but just call me Hap" he said. We did, and welcomed him and his pieces of paper, and photographs and



Arthur's father, Charles Aplin, outside the family home on the corner of Awarua Street and Ottawa Road, c.1900.

encouraged him to tell us intriguing stories. He had been a roadman and cartage contractor, following in his father's footsteps, and was employed by the WCC for 40 years. He knew the district "inside out".

Arthur knew his grandparents well and from the age of 6 years he was working on the farm. He helped deliver the daily milk; and with his grandfather, Christopher, worked on odd jobs on the farm, recalling the constant fencing requirements. They would chat and he learnt much about the history of the district.

The childhood days behind them the large family slowly reduced as children left *Colway* and became independent. Some continued to live close-by and added to Onslow's history. Ted Aplin ran the Tarikaka Street farm, (before he moved to Glenside to establish his own dairy farm), that was sold to NZ Railways to become the Tarikaka Street development. Robert purchased land west of Burma Road and established a dairy farm. He built a four bedroom cottage that is the home for Jill and William Main.

It exciting to think that a family history and heritage from 1863 is preserved and can provide a base for a younger generation to build on and to continue the story. It's a great feeling of belonging and there's pride in contributing to the evolution of place and respecting the past. Children at Ngaio Primary School are on land that was once primeval forest, cleared for timber that built the new city of Wellington, then it became the dairy farm, *Colway*, cows grazed, milking sheds were built and the family home was built on



Dylan Aplin at the Aplin grave in Karori Cemetery, Wellington, 2021. This was an exciting discovery after a long search of thousands of names and locations. Karori is the 2nd largest cemetery in New Zealand with around 83,000 burials recorded.

the very site that Ngaio primary school building would sit a century later. Roads adjoining the school were named Colway Street and Aplin Terrace.

Dylan Aplin now resides and works in Aplin country. He lives in Ngaio and teaches at Khandallah School on Clark Street. He would like to purchase a character home in the area, can we help him find something? Potential sellers reading this can contact him though OHS.