

Methodist Cemeteries Research Project  
Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives

# Raithby Methodist Cemetery, Canterbury, New Zealand

A name index of burials

1873-1988

Researched and written by the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives  
2011

# Raithby Methodist Cemetery, Canterbury, New Zealand

## 136 Chapel Road, Loburn

### Introduction

The key original source for this booklet is the *Plan of Raithby Wesleyan Cemetery, scale 10 feet – 1 inch*, which has had annotations made at various dates. This is part of the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives, Parish Archives Collection. (8197 Raithby Church records). This is the only surviving contemporary original document relating to burials in the Raithby Cemetery.

Pencilled beside the title on the plan in an unknown hand, is the statement: “Laid out 1880 after church was built 1870 ground given by Mr W. Free.” This statement is erroneous. The cemetery site is part of the land area on which the Raithby Church was built.

The Methodist Archives team of volunteers visited Raithby Cemetery in March 2010 to transcribe and photograph surviving headstones, and match them to the original plot plan held in the Archives.

### Brief history

Raithby Methodist Church, near Loburn, was built in December 1866 on land given by Joseph Patrick for this purpose. Settlers who gave their time to its construction included the Free, Howard<sup>1</sup>, Philpott and Hodgson families. It was named after Raithby Hall, Lincolnshire, England, the home county of the Patrick and Loughton families.

The memorial stone for the church was laid by Rev G S Harper on 12 December 1866, and on 30 December he preached the dedicatory sermon. Records dated December 1871 (8197 Raithby Church Sunday School minute book) show Sunday School teachers to have included Messrs Hodgson, Patrick, and Philpott, and other families' names in the roll book included Yaxley, Free, Duncan, Fawcett, Barker and Bennett. Services were mainly led by laymen from Rangiora.

The church was noted for its extreme simplicity: a plain weatherboard building with a small entrance porch; an iron roof later concealed the original shingles. The interior had sturdy crossed roof trusses with a match-lined stained ceiling and light walls above the dado. The church was closed after a final service on 8 October 1967, and in 1978 moved to the Methodist Church's camp at Journey's End. The removal cost of \$200 was met by the Redcliffs Methodist Church Bible Class. It was moved, within the camp, to a new position in 1982, and has since been stripped of its interior timbers and sheathed in roofing iron.

J E Horrell's *Ashley plan F2A* shows RS 8076 (pt), ref 41/D/486, dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1870, including the cemetery site, with the chapel indicated in the south-eastern corner of the section, immediately adjacent to the Chapel Road boundary and to RS 7917. In 1878 a village to be named Raithby was surveyed near the church and subdivided into residential sections, but the project was dropped. Raithby village, approximately 500m east of the cemetery and fronting White Rock Road, was to have been laid out on RS 9977 and RS 32858.

The cemetery plan allows for 86 plots, but fewer than 20 appear to have been used. It is not clear whether burials took place, before the cemetery was laid out in a regular pattern. The standard size of the plots is 10ft x 16ft, with the exceptions of plot A, 15 and 86 which differ in size.

There was a 7ft border encircling the cemetery and three paths, with the one in the centre of the cemetery 8ft wide. Observing the remaining trees and stumps, it seems likely there was a hedge encircling the cemetery and there may have been a gate and fence dividing the cemetery from the chapel.

The burial register has not survived. The earliest known burial, on the evidence of headstones, was in 1873, but there may have been earlier, unmarked graves. The latest marker is dated 1988.

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<sup>1</sup> Hodgson, CWD. *Tales of a town clerk* 1972, p70. Sir Howard Kippenberger's mother was a Howard

Plots 38-41, all Philpott family, are enclosed within a single low wall, divided between graves. Their headstones are central within the long walls. Possibly the rear wall overlaps empty plots 25-27 behind the headstones, as other graves' headstones abut their respective walls where they still exist. The Philpott graves' wall is marked as constructed by Henry Silvester, a stonemason who died in 1938, and it is thought that the five graves were enclosed within their separate wall after the burial of Percy Philpott in 1934.

In 2002 the Rangiora Methodist Parish sold the grounds to a company called Trees Love People Ltd, which hoped to operate it as a private cemetery, but as that is not permitted within New Zealand's legislation, it is unknown if any burials took place. This company has been struck off the New Zealand Companies' Register.

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## People mentioned in J E Horrell's *Family information index* associated with the cemetery

Those buried there are in bold type.

Barker, Joseph, husband of Ann Dixon (nee Davison); family Amy Blanche, Edmund Alfred, Annie Elsie, Ida Amelia, **Walter Dixon, Henry Broom** (who married, 1: **Isabella Robertson Duncan**; 2: **Ada Maria Philpott**, George Wilfred, **Emily**, Frances Maud, Albert Stanley.

**Hodgson, Twentyman**. Son of Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Halliday). Husband of Sarah Ann Judson Banks; family Elizabeth, Thirza, Catherine, Archie, Rose, Barbara, Twentyman Holliday, Sarah Ann.

**Reynolds, Edwin George**, son of John and Jane Lucy (nee Eldridge), husband of **Mary Grace** (nee Turner) [headstone reads Maria], family Reynolds Joseph, Harry George, Gertrude Emily, Ada Maria, Augustus Leonard, **Sydney Herbert, Gilbert Edwin**.

**Reynolds, Augustus Leonard**, son of Edwin George Reynolds, husband of **Ann** (nee Dutton). No family.

**Todd, George**, husband of **Agnes** (nee Gardner), family **Alexander**, William James, David, Charles, Frederick, Emma, Ethel.

Turner, John Frost, husband of Ann (nee King); family named in Will are Harry, Sarah Ann, and "other children" [unnamed]. Their young daughters **Mary, Elizabeth**, and **Jane** are buried in one plot.

Twentyman Hodgson is described<sup>2</sup> as "a good Methodist [who] didn't smoke, drink, gamble or use bad language" but who "when selling horses [would] provide a good pedigree when the poor horse had none." He was associated, with Robert Cresswell, in exporting the first shipment of draught horses from New Zealand to Sydney. He married a daughter of Joseph and Alice Patrick.

## Sources

*8007 Journey's End*. Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives. Places information file  
8197 Raithby Church records. *Plot plan of Raithby Church Cemetery*. Raithby Sunday School minute book.  
Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives. Parish Archives Collection  
Christchurch City Council. *Barbadoes Street Cemetery Conservation Plan*. Draft, p79. Silvester, Henry. 1876?-1938  
Cooper, L. *Canterbury Pilgrims...Descendants of Joseph and Alice Patrick...* 1950  
Hodgson, C W D. *Tales of a town clerk*, 1972  
Horrell, J E. *Master index; Family information index; Ashley* [Canterbury Museum]  
*North Canterbury News*, 3 October 1967, p5  
Photographs of headstones taken 9 March 2010 by Jo Smith, Methodist Church Archivist

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<sup>2</sup> Hodgson, C W D *Tales of a town clerk* 1972, p13

## **Acknowledgements and thanks**

Written, researched and transcribed by Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives' volunteers, Marlene Borgfeldt, Joyce Challies, Enid Ellis, Frank Paine, and Jo Smith, Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives' Archivist, March 2010-August 2011.

Thanks to Rev Brian Turner of the Rangiora Methodist Parish, for opening the Rangiora Methodist Church to show us the Raithby Room which is named thus to commemorate the Raithby Methodist Church.

Thank you also to the Waimakariri Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists for giving us a cd of their research *Waimakariri District North Canterbury New Zealand Burial Records* when we could not access the Methodist Archives collection after the Christchurch earthquakes.

Last, but not least, thank you to the Rangiora Museum, in particular Pam Mackintosh, as they had fortunately preserved a copy of the Raithby information held in our Places file, which was essential to us finishing this while we could not use our own archives.

## **Contact**

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We would appreciate details of any corrections, errors or omissions.

Updates are posted on the on Methodist Church website [www.methodist.org.nz](http://www.methodist.org.nz) under the Archives section of the site.

Copies of photographs made in 2010 of headstones, can be purchased from the Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives.

## **General information on researching cemeteries and burials**

A good guide on how to go about this has been created by the Christchurch City Library  
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/FamilyHistory/DeathBurial/>

Name of person buried	First name or initial	Title	Date of burial	Name of purchaser	Plot number	Size of plot	Date of purchase	Monumental inscription	Notes
					6	10 feet x 16 feet			<p>[Strange? Word unclear] woman [‘s added later, then an erased word: possibly child?].</p> <p>Research leads us to believe this could have read ‘Strange woman’s child’.</p> <p>The Registrar-General’s Death register 1871/489 reads: 4<sup>th</sup> Sep 1871 North Kowai/ Infant/Female/12 hours/ Infant of labourer/ premature birth/ Matthew Morris Coroner Leithfield/15<sup>th</sup> Sep 1871/[Registrar] W A Benn.</p> <p>Dr Matthew Morris’ diary [Canterbury Museum ARC 1988-90] confirms that a child was born and died within 12 hours “at Grey’s”. Neither parent’s name is given in the diary.</p>
				BENNETT	10	10 feet x 16 feet			“Bennet” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				CRESSWELL	2	10 feet x 16 feet			“Cresswell” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				FARRILY	7	10 feet x 16 feet			“Farrily” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				FREE	3	10 feet x 16 feet			“Free” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				JUDSON	5	10 feet x 16 feet			“Judson” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				MOORHOUSE	9	10 feet x 16 feet			“Moorhouse” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				PATRICK	1	10 feet x 16 feet			“Patrick” written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave

Name of person buried	First name or initial	Title	Date of burial	Name of purchaser	Plot number	Size of plot	Date of purchase	Monumental inscription	Notes
				PHILPOT, A	15	7 feet x 16 feet			"A Philpot" written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
				WHITE	72	10 feet x 10 feet			"White" written on plot plan, unknown if any burials in this grave
BARKER	Ada Maria				42	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Isabella Robertson Barker died 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1922 aged 51 years. Ada Maria Barker died 18 <sup>th</sup> April 1934 aged 52 years. Gone to be with Jesus. Also Henry Broom Barker died 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1963 – aged 90 years	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
BARKER	Emily			BARKER	4	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Walter Dixon born 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 1871. Passed away 28 <sup>th</sup> June 1873. Also of Emily. Born 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1877. Passed away 13 <sup>th</sup> March 1877. Beloved children of Joseph & Ann Barker. Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.	Plot plan annotated "Walter Dixon and Emily children of J and A Barker"
BARKER	Henry Broom				42	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Isabella Robertson Barker died 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1922 aged 51 years. Ada Maria Barker died 18 <sup>th</sup> April 1934 aged 52 years. Gone to be with Jesus. Also Henry Broom Barker died 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1963 – aged 90 years	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
BARKER	Isabella Robertson				42	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Isabella Robertson Barker died 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1922 aged 51 years. Ada Maria Barker died 18 <sup>th</sup> April 1934 aged 52 years. Gone to be with Jesus. Also Henry Broom Barker died 4 <sup>th</sup> June 1963 – aged 90 years	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown

Name of person buried	First name or initial	Title	Date of burial	Name of purchaser	Plot number	Size of plot	Date of purchase	Monumental inscription	Notes
BARKER	Walter Dixon			BARKER	4	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Walter Dixon born 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct. 1871. Passed away 28 <sup>th</sup> June 1873. Also of Emily. Born 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1877. Passed away 13 <sup>th</sup> March 1877. Beloved children of Joseph & Ann Barker. Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.	Plot plan annotated "Walter Dixon and Emily children of J and A Barker"
HODGSON	Twentyman			HODGSON, T	20	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of of[sic] Twentyman Hodgson died 9 <sup>th</sup> April 1924 aged 70 years	
PHILPOTT	Annie A				39	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of /Augustus L. Philpott. Died 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 1928 aged 49 years. Also Annie A. wife of above died 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1913 – aged 26 years. Thy will be done	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
PHILPOTT	Augustus L				39	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of /Augustus L. Philpott. Died 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 1928 aged 49 years. Also Annie A. wife of above died 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 1913 – aged 26 years. Thy will be done	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
PHILPOTT	Edwin G				41	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Edwin G. Philpott died 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. 1922 – aged 78 years. Also/Maria wife of above died 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 1923 – aged 77 years. Thy will be done. Silvester & Co. [mason]	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
PHILPOTT	Gilbert Edwin				40	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Gilbert Edwin beloved son of E.G. & M. Philpott who fell asleep November 18 <sup>th</sup> 1908 aged 22 years. He that believeth on me hath life everlasting	[this MI on right side of double plot]

Name of person buried	First name or initial	Title	Date of burial	Name of purchaser	Plot number	Size of plot	Date of purchase	Monumental inscription	Notes
PHILPOTT	Maria				41	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Edwin G. Philpott died 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. 1922 – aged 78 years. Also/Maria wife of above died 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 1923 – aged 77 years. Thy will be done. Silvester & Co. [mason]	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
PHILPOTT	Percy Reynolds				38	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Percy Reynolds Philpot. Died 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb. 193. Aged 20 years	Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
PHILPOTT	Sidney Herbert				40	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of Sidney Herbert Philpott beloved son of E.G. & M. Philpott who died February 15 <sup>th</sup> 1896 aged 19 year. He is not dead but sleepeth	[this MI on left side of double plot]. Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown
TODD	Agnes			TODD	43	9 feet x 16 feet		Farewell. Thy will be done. In loving memory of George Todd, who died January 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1896 aged 70 years. Also Agnes Todd beloved wife of the above who died May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1922,aged 86 years. Also Alexander Todd died June 25 <sup>th</sup> 1936, aged 78 years	“Ethel Todd” written on plot plan – unclear if this is name of person buried in the plot, or name of purchaser. Handwriting later than name of purchaser “Todd” annotated on plan
TODD	Alexander			TODD	43	9 feet x 16 feet		Farewell. Thy will be done. In loving memory of George Todd, who died January 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1896 aged 70 years. Also Agnes Todd beloved wife of the above who died May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1922, aged 86 years. Also Alexander Todd died June 25 <sup>th</sup> 1936,aged 78 years	“Ethel Todd” written on plot plan – unclear if this is name of person buried in the plot, or name of purchaser. Handwriting later than name of purchaser “Todd” annotated on plan
TODD	George			TODD	43	9 feet x 16 feet		Farewell. Thy will be done. In loving memory of George Todd, who died January 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1896 aged 70 years. Also Agnes Todd beloved wife of the above who died May 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1922,aged 86 years. Also Alexander Todd died June 25 <sup>th</sup> 1936, aged 78 years	“Ethel Todd” written on plot plan – unclear if this is name of person buried in the plot, or name of purchaser. Handwriting later than name of purchaser “Todd” annotated on plan



Name of person buried	First name or initial	Title	Date of burial	Name of purchaser	Plot number	Size of plot	Date of purchase	Monumental inscription	Notes
TURNER	Elizabeth			TURNER	8	10 feet x 16 feet		Turner. Mary aged 7 years. Elizabeth aged 9 years. Jane aged 11 years. Loved daughters of John and Ann. Died November 1878	[This on 20thC brass? plaque attached to small concrete slab. On river stone above the concrete is a small bronze? plaque]. Daughter of John & Ann Turner
TURNER	Jane			TURNER	8	10 feet x 16 feet		Turner. Mary aged 7 years. Elizabeth aged 9 years. Jane aged 11 years. Loved daughters of John and Ann. Died November 1878	[This on 20thC brass? plaque attached to small concrete slab. On river stone above the concrete is a small bronze? plaque]. Daughter of John & Ann Turner
TURNER	Mary			TURNER	8	10 feet x 16 feet		Turner. Mary aged 7 years. Elizabeth aged 9 years. Jane aged 11 years. Loved daughters of John and Ann. Died November 1878	[This on 20thC brass? plaque attached to small concrete slab. On river stone above the concrete is a small bronze? plaque]. Daughter of John & Ann Turner
WARD	Megan Ann				37	10 feet x 16 feet		In loving memory of our beloved daughter & sister Megan Ann Ward 24 March 1988 – 2 July 1988. Always in our hearts	[Bronze plaque on concrete block]. Writing on plan is the name of person buried in that grave, name of purchaser unknown

