



# MT VICTORIA

---

## Historical Society News

For more information contact:

Joanna Newman on 385 2254 (hm)

Alan Olliver on 385 1022 (hm)

No. 49, May 2009



Wellington Savage Club Ladies Night, Alexander Turnbull Library 85-027-7

The Manchester Unity Oddfellows Building, now known as BATS Theatre, has been the home of Friendly Societies and theatre groups for over 80 years.

MVHS will present an afternoon of stories and performance about the organisations and people that make up the rich history of the building, delivered in the place that continues to sustain this theatrical heritage.

RSVP by June 21. The event is free but has been advertised to the public and numbers will be limited so be in early to book! Contact Natasha Naus at [Natasha.naus@paradise.net.nz](mailto:Natasha.naus@paradise.net.nz) or Phone: 021 039 7042

### News

In the last few months, the MVHS Committee has made submissions on proposed District Plan changes and their impact on Mt Victoria's heritage, and on the Wellington Region Land Transport Strategy. In the latter, our concern is particularly for the heritage of the Basin Reserve area, with talk of a concrete, multi-lane traffic flyover. Earlier in the year we made a submission to the Maori Affairs Select Committee, too, about Town Belt land behind Wellington College which is part of the Tenth's Trust Port Nicholson claim.

Some time ago, Bill Southworth rescued the great sausage machine from Farley's the Butchers in Majoribanks Street. Now, the only remaining relic of the shop which stood there for so many years, even through occupations by various cafes, is proudly displayed in the New Crossways just across the road in Roxburgh Street. The story of Farley's, which we produced in the newsletter a few years ago, is mounted alongside.

### Website

Our website has recently been redesigned, with new software, so check out the new look at [www.mvhs.wellington.net.nz](http://www.mvhs.wellington.net.nz)

### Heritage Month

June is usually heritage month in Wellington, organised by the Wellington Heritage Promotion Council. This year it is spread over two months, June and July, and our June meeting is especially organised to celebrate one of the theatrical institutions of our neighbourhood and the historic building which houses it. We are also distributing copies of the Heritage Month events brochure with this newsletter, so you can what else is on in the region.

## HISTORICAL NOTE

# Off Brougham

Down a long drive off Brougham Street is a small enclave of houses which give the air of belonging to a different time. Although two have had the usual unsightly additions acquired by rental properties, there is a charm about these houses which comes from their seclusion and sharing of the unfenced back section.

There's No. 11, an elegant two-storeyed Victorian house designed by George Schwartz and built in 1900. Schwartz was an important architect, who designed many houses in Mt Victoria and some notable buildings in Wellington. These included the Oriental Hotel (later known as the Palace and then the Carlton) and the Empire Hotel on Victoria Street. The Empire was a luxury hotel built in 1897 and its owner paid for Schwartz to make a study tour of Australia to gather the latest ideas in luxury appointments.

No. 11 was built for the Reverend FT Sherriff. Francis Sherriff was ordained an Anglican deacon in 1876 and came to Wellington from Wanganui in May that year to take up a position as temporary clergyman at the newly consecrated St Marks in Sussex Square. The report of the first AGM of the parishioners in 1876 noted that:

*"The new district was greatly indebted to the Rev. F Sherriff, who had taken temporary charge, for the judgment and energy with which he had worked, especially for his remarkably successful establishment of a Sunday school, which already had seventy or eighty scholars on its books."*

Sherriff then seems to have been a member of, and Chaplain to, the volunteer Wellington Naval Artillery for a number of years.

He was also an ardent supporter of the struggle for the eight-hour working day. When he could not be present at a rally in the Basin Reserve in support of the Engineers strike in London in 1897, he sent a letter of apology to be read out declaring himself "as a sympathiser with those who are endeavouring at such great cost to themselves to effect a reasonable limit to the hours of labour". It was received with applause by the gathering.

*Rev Sherriff between 1874 and 1879  
Alexander Turnbull Library PA2-1776*



Beside Sherriff's house, and constructed just the year before in 1899, is the home built for William Redstone. Redstone came to New Zealand in 1879 on the "Orari," landing in Lyttleton. It's not clear when he came to Wellington but in the early 1900's he was Managing Clerk for a firm of sharebrokers. He was clearly a respected businessman and investor, as The Cyclopedia of New Zealand wrote of him that "since his arrival in the Colony, Mr. Redstone has made good use of his time, and his investments in various city and suburban properties have been more than ordinarily successful." From about 1896 he was Managing Clerk at the firm of AJ McTavish and Co, accountants, land, estate and financial agents, valuers and arbitrators, and quickly became a partner in the business. William and his family were good Methodists. William often served on committees and councils for the Church and, in 1911, along with another prominent Methodist, he hosted a banquet for 50-60 young Methodist men at Godber's rooms to encourage them to be active in church affairs. He was also civic-minded and, in 1906, at a meeting organised at the Chamber of Commerce, he joined a number of other businessmen in a Citizen's Committee to build a YMCA in the city.

Somehow, he does not give the impression of being a dour Methodist, however. He was clearly a good singer. At the annual social of the Wellington Builders' and Contractors' Association in 1901 he sang, and the social was reckoned one of the best of the season. He was also a member of the Victoria Bowling Club in Claremont Grove, just behind his house, and sang there at at least one smoke concert.



MR. W. E. REDSTONE.

This house off Brougham Street was no doubt the scene of many an important social occasion. In September 1909, Mrs Redstone held a house bazaar to raise funds to assist in the maintenance of the deaconesses of the Methodist Maori Mission. The fete, organised by members of the Wellington Methodist Young Women's Bible Class Union, lasted through the afternoon and evening and the house was decorated with clematis, spring flowers and festoons of lycopodium intertwined with the union's colours, blue, white and gold. The rooms were filled and the stalls did good business, raising £40 - much more than expected. Afternoon tea and supper were served and recitations, songs and duets were offered as entertainment, including a duet by Mr Redstone and a Mr Phipps.

When their eldest daughter, Clara, married Charles Hales in December 1906 the guests were entertained at their residence after the ceremony.

William's love of music was clearly shared by all three daughters, who sang in numerous choirs and at many 'musical entertainments' in Wellington.

The third house is No. 15 and it, too, was built by Redstone. It was constructed in 1906, the year of his daughter's marriage.