

Stonestead Homestead

Te Marua district - Section No 111

“Stonestead has remained longest as a relic of old Te Marua. David Benge built it about 1860. Benge invested in Collins Creek saw-mill, with his sons six of them by now how took it over. Three years later he built a two stored, double-pitched colonial cottage which he called Stonestead, about 100 yards from the mill, alongside what is now the Main Road through Te Marua. He cleared the surrounding bush for a farm”.

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 164)

How do we locate the true story about the Stonestead homestead situated in Te Marua and when it was built? We begin with the folk lore stories then by researching primary source documentation the true story reveals itself.

It is important to begin the research in chronological order beginning with the history of the land in which the homestead is situated.

The land was part of Section No 111 originally recorded as the Hutt district on early survey maps. It was also records as being situated in the district of Mungarooa [sic].

As you locate the owners and occupiers of the land you follow this up with researching their family history and genealogy. Photographs are also valuable source.

Stonestead circa 1875



(Reference [James] Bragge's Wellington and the Wairarapa by William Main 1974 & Digital NZ Between Upper Hutt and Maoribank taken by James Bragge c1875 Te Papa image Collection Registration No D 000026 from glass plate)

1840-1850

The agent Henry St Hill selected Section No 111 for George Samuel EVANS who was the original owner of New Zealand Company Preliminary Land Order No 684.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

Section No 111 Deeds Register

11E. <u>MAP C. HUTT DISTRICT No. 111.</u>							
No.	Receipt of Instrument.	Nature of Instrument.	Parties.	Date of Instrument.	Where recorded.	Reference.	Signature.
	1 pm. 20. Mch. 1847.	Mortgage.	G. S. Evans to Jas Sea	26. Oct. 1844.	1D 95.		
3840.	1/4 tollam. 9. Nov. 1848.	Conveyance.	E. S. Steel, G. S. Evans & N. Z. Coy	6. Aug. 1847.	1D356.		
26509.	1 pm. 12 pm. 7. Aug. 1863. 10 am. 8. Mch 1877.	Conveyance. Crown Grant.	Saunders & Hogg to Mabey. Henry Wm. Petre.	12. Aug. 1859. 4. Jan. 1877.	7D474. 10Q335.	6 Vol. Map C. Fo. 267. 13 Vol. Map C. Fo. 637.	Expt. 1848 Aug
<i>Closed. C6219</i>							

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R20163321 AFIH 22394 W5691/43 Deeds Index Map C Hutt District No 111 Vol 3 pg 118)

26 October 1844 - Section No 111

The Mortgage between George Samuel EVANS and James SEA was signed on 20 March 1847 at 1 pm. No (blank) – Receipt of Instrument 1 pm 20 March 1847 – Nature of instrument Mortgage – parties G S Evans to Jas Sea – Date of Instrument 26 October 1844 – Where recorded Deed volume 1 folio 95

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington website Deeds Index Map C Hutt District No 111 page 118 AFH series 22394 W569 1/43 volume 3 folio 1 page 118 scanned image 61)

SEARCH AND TRANSCRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Deed Register Room - Deed register Volume 1 folio 95 (1844-1847)

The original owner of Section No 111 Dr George Samuel EVANS conveyed the section to the New Zealand Company on 06 August 1847 with no compensation.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

06 August 1847 – Section No 111

The Conveyance between E S STEEL, George Samuel EVANS & others to the New Zealand Company was signed ¼ to 11 am on 09 November 1848

No (blank) – Receipt of Instrument ¼ to 11 am 09 November 1848 – Nature of Instrument Conveyance – Parties E S Steel, G S Evans & others to New Zealand Company – date of Instrument 06 August 1847 – Where recorded Deed volume 1 folio 356

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington website = Deeds Index [Map C Hutt District No 111 page 118] AFH series 22394 W569 1/43 volume 3 folio 1 page 118 scanned image 61)

TRANSCRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Deed Land Information New Zealand Volume 1 folio 356 [saved images as UH section 111 IMG_2977.JPG]

The agent Robert Hart selected 75 acres of part Section No 111 for John SAUNDERS and William HOGG under the Regulations No of Registry 6.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

Part Section No 111 land Grant number 4593 consisted of 82 acres 2 rood 6 perches was granted to John SAUNDERS and William HOGG.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

Hon St U Petrie selected the remaining 25 acres under the Regulations No of Registry 87.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

Part Section No 111 land Grant number 4775 consisted of 27 acres 0 rood 0 perches was granted to H Wm PETRIE.

(Source Archives New Zealand Wellington reference ADXS 19555 LS-W65 3 43 register of Hutt Valley selections and also outwards letters October 1848 to November 1850)

1850 - 1860

David and Philadelphia BENGE daughter Anne was born 07 November 1852 in New Zealand.

(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1859 folio website 1859/5916 parents Philadelphia and David Benge)

Later records record that David's daughter Anne was born in the Mungaroa district and another daughter Philadelphia BENGE was born 20 March 1859 in Mungaroa. To confirm the place of birth for the two daughters we would have to purchase (at a cost) copies of their birth registrations and also hope that they recorded the birth place and did not generalize and write Upper Hutt or Hutt Valley.

Wellington Independent newspaper 12 August 1857

Schedule of Compensation awarded by the Commissioners appointed under the Compensation Act of the Provincial Council of Wellington Sess. II No 12

River Hutt - David BENGE – 150 acres

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 12 August 1857 page 6)

David may have leased the 75 acres on part section No 111 from Charles MABEY

David may have leased the 25 acres on part Section No 111 from Henry William PETRIE

In 1857 David BENGE was awarded by the Commissioners Compensation of 150 acres in the Hutt Valley. Perhaps David may have taken up land in Mungaroa district

We know that David eventually became the owner of Section No 111 but exactly when?

Which part of Section No 111 did David and his family settle on?

Which part of Section 111 was Stonestead built on?

The Blockhouse was completed by December 1860

The Golders cottage was built in 1876

The Stonestead homestead was built by David Benge and we can confirm that David and his family were resident in the Mungaroa [sic] district (Te Marua district) by 1859 and defiantly by 1864.

Perhaps we can now say that Stonestead was built in the early 1860s. What do you think?

12 August 1859 – Section No 111

The Conveyance between Saunders & Hogg to MABEY was signed 15 minutes passed 12 pm on 07 August 1863

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington website = Deeds Index [Map C Hutt District No 111 page 118] AFH series 22394 W569 1/43 volume 3 folio 1 page 118 [3840] scanned image 61)

No 3840 – Receipt of Instrument (15 m.p 12pm) 12.15pm 07 August 1863 – Nature of Instrument Conveyance – Parties Saunders & Hogg to Mabey – date of Instrument 12 August 1859 – where recorded Deed Volume 7 folio 474 – reference Volume 6 Map C folio 267

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R20163321 AFIH 22394 W5691/43 Deeds Index Map C Hutt District No 111 Vol 3 pg 118)

TRANSCRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Deed Land Information New Zealand Volume 6 Map C folio 267 - [Image saved as UH Section 111 IMG_2977.JPG]

TRANSCRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Deeds Land Information New Zealand Volume 7 folio 474 to 476 [Images saved as UH Section III IMG_2978.JPG]

David and Philadelphia BENGÉ daughter Philadelphia was born 20 March 1859 in New Zealand.
(Reference RGO NZ birth registration 1859 folio website 1859/5916 parents Philadelphia and David Benge)

Later records record that David's daughter Philadelphia BENGÉ was born in Mungaroa and another daughter Anne BENGÉ was also born in Mungaroa on 07 November 1852. To confirm the place of birth for the two daughters we would have to purchase (at a cost) copies of their birth registrations and also hope that they recorded the birth place and did not generalize and write down Upper Hutt or Hutt Valley.

Wellington Independent newspaper 22 November 1861

Extensive Sale of Valuable Freehold Property and Stock in the Upper Hutt 23 December 1861

Mr J H Wallace Is instructed by Mr Charles MABEY to sell by Public Auction on Monday 23 December 1861 at Mr McHardies "Highland Home" Upper Hutt at One o'clock pm the following valuable Property viz: - Freehold property Mungaroa Saw Mills in full work and 75 acres of Freehold Land now under lease. 400 Acres well-timbered Freehold Land in conjunction with the Saw Mills. - About 500 Acres Freehold Land in the Upper Hutt in the most fertile and valuable part of the Valley and will be sold I lots particulars of which will be announced. - Also Leasehold Property consisting of about 3 Acres of Land a Butcher's Grocers and Drapers Shop with Slaughter House Outhouses, Stables &c complete. - About 200 Acres of Valuable Property Leasehold and partly leased in the Upper Hutt Also A Valuable and useful stick of Draught and Saddle Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats, Poultry, Carts, Harness &c. – Terms Liberal – Further particulars will be published and can be obtained at Mr McHardie's and Mr Mabey's Upper Hutt and at the office of the Auctioneer's Lambton Quay Wellington 21 November 1861.

(Reference Paper past website Wellington Independent newspaper 22 November 1861)

By 1864 David BENGÉ was settled in the Upper Hutt district.

New Zealand Spectator and Cooks Strait Guardian newspaper 13 February 1864

Upper Hutt – Before C D R Ward Esq R M Wednesday February 10

D LYSTER v D BENGÉ – Breach of Impounding Act adjourned to the 24th inst.

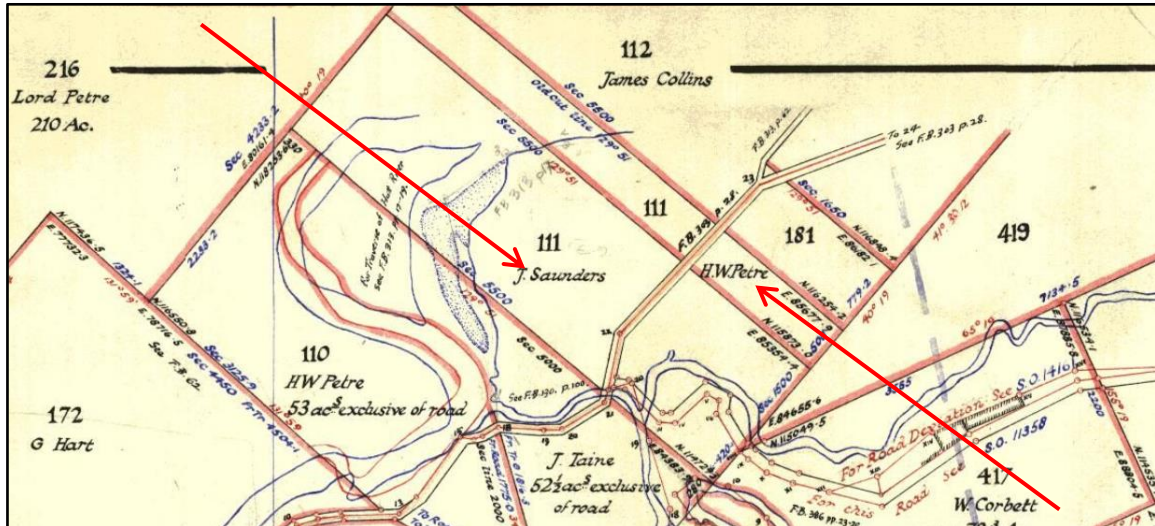
(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website New Zealand Spectator and Cooks Strait Guardian newspaper 13 February 1864 page 3)

David LYSTER was the Constable for the Upper Hutt district. The Police station and David's residences was in the Blockhouse building at the end of Fortune Lane. Access to the Blockhouse is now from Blockhouse lane.

Wellington Independent newspaper 14 June 1864

David Bengé deposed I am a farmer living at Mungaroa. I recollect Hooper coming up to Collins about a beast. (David gave evidence in a court case the full details have not been transcribed) (Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 14 June 1864 page 3)

1864 - Section No 111



(Reference saved as Image 1864MapUHAKaTeMaJGillardWNC_SO_10985_1_5.jpg)

Evening Post newspaper 05 September 1865

David Bengé examined I am a farmer residing at the Upper Hutt; I know the prisoners; saw them on the 19th April 1864 at the Mungaroa Valley; they were putting beef in baskets and lacing them up; I did not see the carcass; there were a head and hide close by; could identify them as belonging to Mr Hooper's bullock; they seemed to have been just taken from the animal; there was a small piece cut away from the hide where I knew the brand to have been; my two sons and a native came up; on being questioned by one of my sons, Mangamangu held up a knife and said, This is the knife that cut the piece out of the hide; I did not tell them I knew who owned the bullock. (David gave evidence in a court case)

(Reference National Library of NZ Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 05 September 1865 page 2)

TUESDAY, 7th NOVEMBER, 1865.

EXTENSIVE LAND SALE.

MR. J. H. WALLACE is instructed by the executors of the late **Cl. Mabey**, to sell by public auction, at his Land Mart, Lambton-quay, on Tuesday November 7, 1865, at 2 o'clock p.m.,

The following valuable FREEHOLDS, viz. :—

- 75 ACRES, Upper Hutt, with saw-mill and other appurtenances, being part of Section No. 111
- 121 ACRES, Upper Hutt, with dwelling-house, and every convenience for a family homestead, being Sec. No. 189
- 400 ACRES, Mungaroa; valuable Sections in that rapidly improving agricultural district.

For further particulars, apply to the office of the Auctioneer, where plans may be seen.

N.B.—Parties desirous of disposing of town or country properties at this sale will oblige by furnishing written instructions as early as possible.
Wellington, October 16, 1865.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 19 October 1865 page 4)

Wellington Independent newspaper 04 November 1865

Mr J H Wallace is instructed by the executors of the late C Mabey to sell by public auction at his Land Mart, Lambton Quay on Tuesday 07 November 1865 at 2 o'clock pm. The following valuable Freeholds. 75 Acres Upper Hutt with saw-mill and other appurtenances being part of Section No 111

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 04 November 1865)

To the Crown Land Commissioner Province of Wellington (75 acres)

Please to deliver to Mr Edward Stafford of Wellington Clerk the Crown Grant when issued today that piece of Land containing 75 acres or thereabouts. Being part of Section No 111 on the plan of the Upper Hutt District

Dated ~~22 November~~ December 1868 – David his X mark BENGÉ

Witness to mark of David Bengé the same having being previously read over to him and explained – Robert Hart JP Justice of Peace for the Colony of New Zealand

[Written in red 69/112 David Bengé Authority for Edward Stafford Land Grant for Section No 111 Upper Hutt date 29 April 1869 Trs. Rg. 2 719]

(Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington R24438114 ADXS 19480 LS-W2 19/ 1869/112 from David [Benzo?] (BENGÉ) date 22 December 1868 subject Authority for Edward Stafford to received grant for section No 111 Upper Hutt year 1868-1869)

By 1868 David BENGÉ had purchased 75 acres of land situated on part Section No 111 in Mungaroa [sic] district now known as Te Marua district.

0- Charles MABEY born 1800 England died 15 June 18864 Upper Hutt New Zealand married 1837 Honiton Devon England **Harriet CROOM** born 1807 England died 1895 Upper Hutt New Zealand (7 issue)

#Extensive Sale of Valuable Freehold Property and Stock in the Upper Hutt – 23 December 1861 – Mr J H Wallace Is instructed by Mr Charles MABEY to sell by Public Auction on Monday 23 December 1861 at Mr McHardies “Highland Home” Upper Hutt at One o'clock pm The following valuable Property viz: - Freehold property Mungaroa Saw Mills in full work and 75 acres of Freehold Land now under lease. - 400 Acres well-timbered Freehold Land in conjunction with the Saw Mills. - About 500 Acres Freehold Land in the Upper Hutt in the most fertile and valuable part of the Valley and will be sold I lots particulars of which will be announced. - Also Leasehold Property consisting of about 3 Acres of Land a Butcher's Grocers and Drapers Shop with Slaughter House Outhouses, Stables &c complete. - About 200 Acres of Valuable Property Leasehold and partly leased in the Upper Hutt Also A Valuable and useful stick of Draught and Saddle Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Goats, Poultry, Carts, Harness &c. – Terms Liberal – Further particulars will be published and can be obtained at Mr McHardie's and Mr Mabey's Upper Hutt and at the office of the Auctioneer's Lambton Quay Wellington 21 November 1861 reference Paper past website wellington Independent newspaper 22 November 1861

#Charles MABEY died 1864 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1864 folio website 1864/6367 age 64 born about 1800

#Notice – The Friends of the late Mr Charles Mabey are respectfully invited to attend his funeral on Monday next 20th June at one o'clock reference papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 18 June 1864

#Land Sale - Tuesday, 29th May 1866 - Without Reserve - Mr J H Wallace is instructed by the Executors of the late Charles Mabey, to sell by public auction, at his Land Mart, Reclaimed Land, Lambton Quay, on Tuesday 29th May 1866, at two o'clock pm. - 250 Acres in the Mungaroa, adjoining Mr Joseph Martin's property on the north, Mr H Rawson's selection on

the west, and un-surveyed land east and south. 100 Acres Upper Hutt, at the back of 189, the section upon which the late Charles Mabey resided, and adjoining section 150. 50 Acres section 207 Upper Hutt, between No 2 and No 3 line, abutting on sections 234, 102, 103, and 107. - After which, will be sold - 266 Acres, Rangitikei. - 100 Acres section 34 Makara. - Building Allotments in Wellington in Buckle Street, Webb Street, Hanson Street, Abel Smith Street, Martin Street, Taranaki Street. Town Acres 822, 326, 397, 401. - Terms at Sale - Land and Estate Agency Office, Reclaimed Land, Lambton Quay, 16th May reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 17 May 1866

#Mills v. Buck and Others - Mr Hart appeared for Mr E W Mills the plaintiff in the action, Mr Brandon for Messrs George Buck and James D Cruickshank, executors of the late Charles Mabey, of the Upper Hutt, farmer, Mr Borlase for the children of the testator and Mr Izard for Messrs Cleland judgment creditors. The facts of the case were these - Charles Mabey died in June 1864, being possessed of real and personal property, and having made a will, dated 2nd August 1838, which was proved by the executors, bequeathing to his four sons, and daughter his houses and live and dead stock in equal shares, no landed property or stock to be disposed of without consent of executors until the eldest son should be of age. The debts as proved amounted to £1,356 12s 2d, while the personal estate realized and realizable only amounted to £700. In May 1865, Messrs Cleland commenced an action against the executors for £771, and on the 18th August 1865, Edward W Mills, on behalf of himself and other creditors of the deceased who should come in and contribute rateably towards the expenses of the suit, commenced an action against the executors for the sum of £21 19s 8d, in default claiming to have the personal estate administered in the Court. The executors pleaded among other pleas in effect that they had no knowledge of the amount being due, that another action was pending, that the personal estate was insufficient to cover the debts, and that the testator had real estate, but that they were advised that they could not safely execute the trusts without direction of the Court. On the 7th October 1865 the defendants were ordered to sell the real and personal estate before the 06th of December of the same year, Messrs Cleland having obtained a verdict on the 08th September previous. On the 08th January 1866, it was ordered that the executors should pay into Court all sums in their hands belonging to the estate less legal and other expenses certified by the Registrar, and that the Registrar should report to the Court the amount of debts and the legal priorities affecting them, after which it appeared that the proceeds of real estate paid into Court altogether amounted to £694 6s 6d; that the executors had in hand £100 from the personality, and that Messrs Cleland were entitled to priority. Subsequently, however it was ordered among other things, that they should be paid out of the funds rateably with the other creditors. The questions for the Court were - Whether the Messrs Cleland were entitled to any priority over the other creditors, whether the Messrs Cleland have a priority which entitles them to exhaust the realty, if so, whether they are entitled as to, the residue of their debt to any payment in priority to other creditors out of the personality, or whether they are entitled only as to the residue of their debt to take payment thereof with the other creditors out of the personality, whether they are bound to take payment out of the mixed fund *pari passu* generally with the other creditors, whether having been paid a portion of their debt out of the proceeds of the realty, they are entitled to any further payment till the other creditors have been paid out of the personality. Mr Hart was addressing the Court, when the Judges expressed their opinion that it was not shown on the case that there was a deficiency of assets, and that, therefore, the question of priority fell to the ground. The question of costs was deferred, as it was said that by saddling the children with the costs the assets might be made deficient. The Court then adjourned till the 30th, a.at 11 o'clock reference Papers past website Daily Southern Cross newspaper 09 November 1866 reference Papers past website Daily southern Cross newspaper 09 November 1866 page 6

1870-1880

04 January 1877 – Section No 111

The Crown Grant for Section No 111 to Henry William PETRIE was signed at 10 am on 08 March 1877

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington website = Deeds Index [Map C Hutt District No 111 page 118] AFH series 22394 W569 1/43 volume 3 folio 1 page 118 [26509 closed C6219] scanned image 61)

No 26509 – Receipt of Instrument 10 am 08 March 1877 – Nature of Instrument Crown Grant – Parties Henry Wm Petre – Date of Instrument 04 January 1877 – where recorded Crown Grant Volume 10 folio 335 – reference deed volume 13 Map C folio 637

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R20163321 AFIH 22394 W5691/43 Deeds Index Map C Hutt District No 111 Vol 3 pg 118)

SEARCH and TRANSRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Crown Grant volume 10 folio 335

SEARCH and TRANSRIBE – Reference Archives New Zealand Wellington Deed Land Information New Zealand Volume 13 Map C folio 637

“That story went back to David Benge’s son John, born at Petone, who married Rose Annie Wilkins. The oldest of his six sons, John Thomas (JT), later to establish an Upper Hutt store that would become the basis of Hazelwood’s was born in 1870 – in the paddocks of Stonestead, according to folklore”.

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 164)

In later years date unknown brothers John Thomas BENGE and George Isaac BENGE jointly owned Section No 111.

[1870] Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 12 June 1947

A Pioneer Passes - Seventy-seven years ago at Te Marua, at the old home known as "Stonestead" the "house with its quaint .steep two gabled roof, which is still standing, there was born John Thomas Benge. His father, John Benge, together with his three brothers Sam, Ned and Dave, ran a saw-mill and, when the bush was cleared, engaged in farming. Upper Hutt and its surroundings was dense forest when this band of stalwarts from Devonshire England, carved out their primitive dwellings. John Thomas, or as he became generally known, J T, was the first pupil to enrol at the Te Marua School, but being eager to go to work he left school when he had passed Standard 4. At the early age of 14 years he got a job bush felling at Ashhurst. On returning home he joined his father and uncles in the sawmilling business. At the age of 20 he married Miss Emily Collett of Mangaroa. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. His activities were next expended in running a milk round at Petone. Following this he took up farming on his own account at Mangaroa. Here he had the misfortune to have his home burnt, the old-fashioned wood-shingle roof being ignited by a spark from a railway engine. A new dwelling was built, which was family home until 1907 when the farm was disposed of and Upper Hutt became the headquarters. At this time the late Mr Frank man was engaged in sawmilling at Akatarawa and again Mr Benge rallied to a call for help in handling & tough bush proposition. His next venture was that of blacksmith coachbuilder and undertaker, the shop being located where Gibb's Chemist Shop now stands, but transferred later across the street to the premises so long occupied by the late Mr P Robertson. In 1911 Mr Benge entered the business partnership with Mr J A Hazelwood, in which he continued until the business changed ownership in 1944. In 1921 he took a business trip to U.S.A. which proved of success in obtaining of agencies which later on resulted in his making trips time after time to all principal towns of New

Zealand. Such was his remarkable strength and energy that since his retirement from business three years ago he chose to take on the breaking up and .draining of the swampland at Wallaceville Valley (an area of 782 acres), and was actively engaged in this work until two weeks before his death on Friday last. He was a man of genial and loveable disposition and a great lover of little children, never missing an opportunity to greet them with his bright smile and appropriate words. First and foremost of all his varied interests and activities were his long years of devoted service in the cause of the Church at the Gospel Hall. Here as an elder and member for close on half a century he was "a man greatly beloved." His funeral service was one of the most largely attended that our district has ever known. The service at the Gospel Hall was conducted by Mr J A. Hazelwood and Mr A E Salisbury and at the Akatarawa Cemetery by Mr. W N Pepperell and Mr S A Edwards. The deceased leaves a widow, two daughters, one son, thirteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Among those present at the funeral were Mr J Maher MP, and Mrs Maher, Mr J Blewman Mayor of Upper Hutt, Councillors K S and J Purvis, Mr K of J A numerous members of the farming community, including the President of the local Federated Farmers, Mr Les Andrews, Kenneth Douglass, Mr B M Wilmshurst, town Clerk; also a large number of the business community.

The Passing of Mr J T Benge - When Mr. Benge was laid to rest last Sunday about 80 cars followed the cortege. After a busy life of 78 years he has laid aside his trials and is in peace at picturesque Akatarawa, where the magic brush of Mother Nature has painted a picture truly beautiful to behold, the river sings a merry song ever hurrying to the sea and the night owl calls to his mate as the darkness comes over the earth. He was affectionately known by the people was a lover of little children. How often have we seen him bending down to shake the hand of some tiny tot or say a cheery word peeping into the pram to greet a little new strange? We shall miss the happy smile and nod of Mr J T Benge. -Ruakawa

(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 12 June 1947 volume IX number 22)

1880-1890

Thomas (Tom) was born on 10 February 1884 at Bloomfield House in Te Marua to parents Annie (nee Mabey 1849-1918) and Edward (Ned) BENGGE (1847-1912). Bloomfield House was opposite Stonestead. Stonestead was occupied by his uncle John BENGGE (1841-1906). Edward and John were the sons of Philadelphia (nee Roberts 1816-1879) and David (1813-1833) BENGGE the pioneer settlers of Mungaroa.

(Reference various records including Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 page 200)

Ghost of Stonestead

"The youngest of the John Benge - Annie Wilkins family was a daughter Edith Rose who died when she was about 12 months after an accident with scalding milk. Her father is said to have been so heart-broken that his spirit became a Stonestead ghost, lamenting the loss of his baby daughter. John Benge died suddenly of apoplexy on 16th August 1906 aged 64 years".

(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J a Kelleher page 164)

"Mrs Leonie Bold, living in the house in 1990, told the writer the family understood the baby girl was buried in the orchard, out from the front door. Three enormous old pear trees still produced prolifically. The Bolds could only say that if a ghost was responsible for some of the things that had gone bump in the night since they moved in, it must be a friendly ghost. Leonie said "It's such a warm friendly house. I could never be frightened in it". It was possible to construct a logical explanation or the thing that had caused them to wonder. Sounds between the walls

could be linked to opossums that had got in. A boy pushed down some stairs could have been helped on his way by a brother. At first they thought the ghost didn't like some of the changes they were making, then they realised the ghost had got to know them, and approved their use of the house. He was, after all this time, a relaxed, happy ghost".

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 165)

Question was the children and/or children buried on the Stonestead property?

John BERGE born 18 October 1841 Lower Hutt New Zealand died 16 August 1906 New Zealand married 1867 New Zealand Rose Anne (Annie) WILKINS born 1851 place unknown died 1933 New Zealand. They had 10 children but sadly lost two young children. Their son Leonard Bertram age 11 months accidentally died of burns from a kettle of boiling water on 02 April 1881. Their daughter Edith Rose age 19 months died after an accident with scalding milk in 1886.

Edith Rose BERGE born 04 November 1884 Mungaroa New Zealand died 05 July 1886 Mungaroa New Zealand

#Edith Rose BERGE born 04 November 1884 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/6846 parents Rose Annie and John Benge

#Edith Rose BERGE died 05 July 1886 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1886 folio website 1886/3865 age 19 months born about 1884

#The Friends of John and Annie BERGE of Mungaroa are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their infant daughter Alice [sic] which will leave her father's residence on Thursday Next at 2 pm reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 06 July 1886 page 3

#St John's burial register spreadsheet created by John Harrison records - Edith Rose BERGE plot number unknown died 07 July 1886 age 1 year 10 months.

COMMENT

The newspaper article regarding the funeral of Edith Rose BERGE records that the funeral service will depart her father's residence so her body would not have been buried on the Stonestead property.

Leonard Bertram BERGE born 16 April 1880 Mungaroa New Zealand died 02 April 1881 Mungaroa New Zealand

#Leonard Bertram BERGE born 16 April 1880 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1880 folio website 1880/5144 parents Rose Annie and John Benge

#Leonard Bertram BERGE died 02 April 1881 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1881 folio website 1881/2399 age 11 months born about 1880

#Dr G F Wilford held an inquest at Mungaroa Valley on the 2nd instant on the body of an infant named Edward Bertram Benge aged 11 months. It appears that about 7 pm on the previous day Mrs Benge was in the act of undressing the child in front of the fire when it sprang out in her arms and while falling caught hold of the kettle of boiling water that was standing on the hob. The kettle and its contents fell over the child who died at 6 am on the 2nd instant from the effects of scalding. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 06 April 1881 page 3

#A child named Edward Bertram Benge aged eleven months was scalded to death at Mungaroa Valley yesterday. The mother was undressing the child before the fire when he suddenly sprang out of her arms and in falling caught the kettle which capsized throwing scalding water all over the body of the child. The little sufferer only lived 12 hours reference Papers past website Wanganui Herald newspaper 06 April 1881 page 2

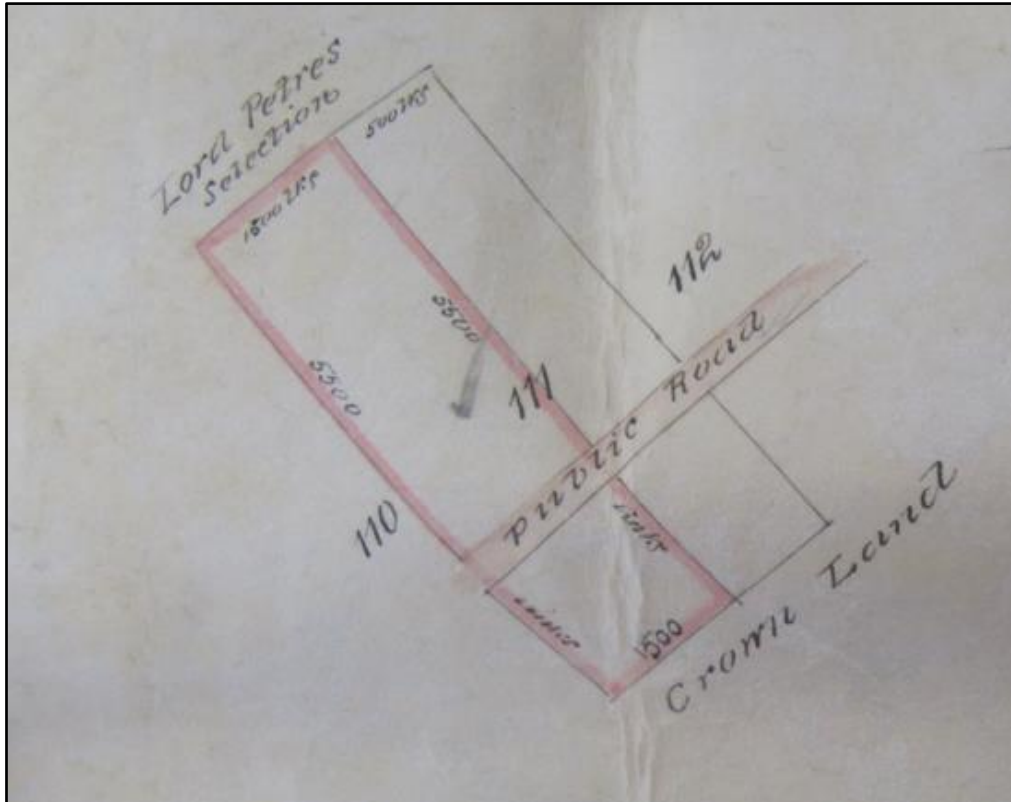
#Deaths – BERGE On the 03rd April at his father's residence Mungaroa Leonard Bertram the beloved son of John and Annie aged 1 year reference Evening Post newspaper 09 April 1881 page 2

#The St John's burial register spreadsheet created by John Harrison records – Leonard Bartram [sic] BERGE details From old book suspect D (died), R (row) 47, P (plot) 659 & 660, B (buried) 04-04-1881 (04 April 1881) aged 11 months original plot G107

COMMENT

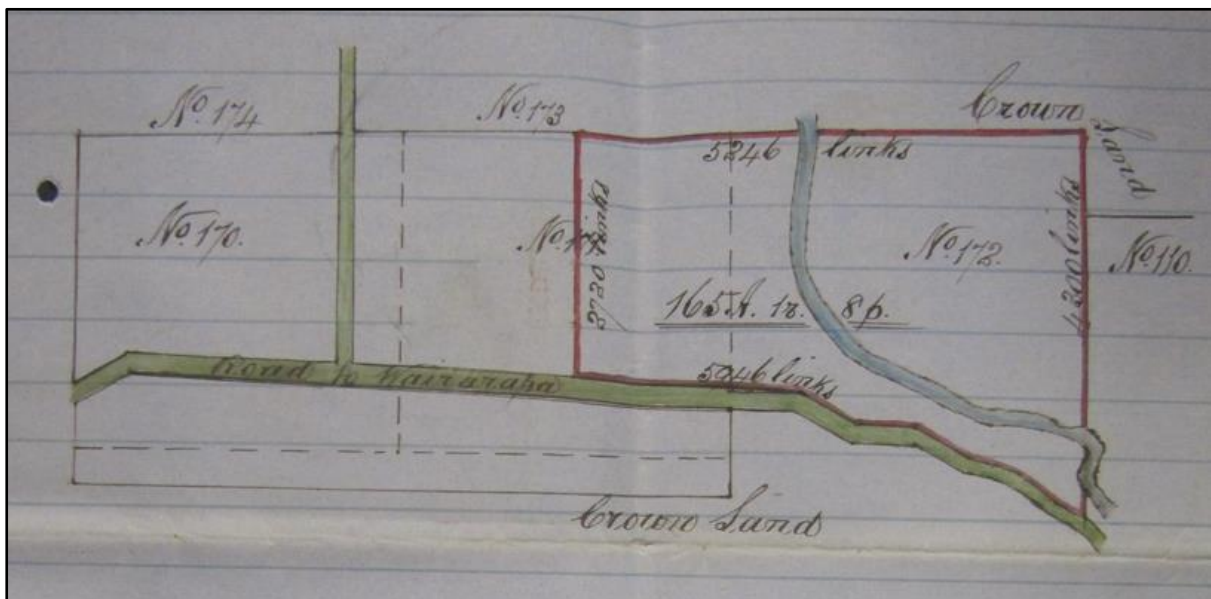
Edward Bertram BENGÉ was buried at St Johns churchyard so he was not buried on the Stonestead property.

1888 Section No 111



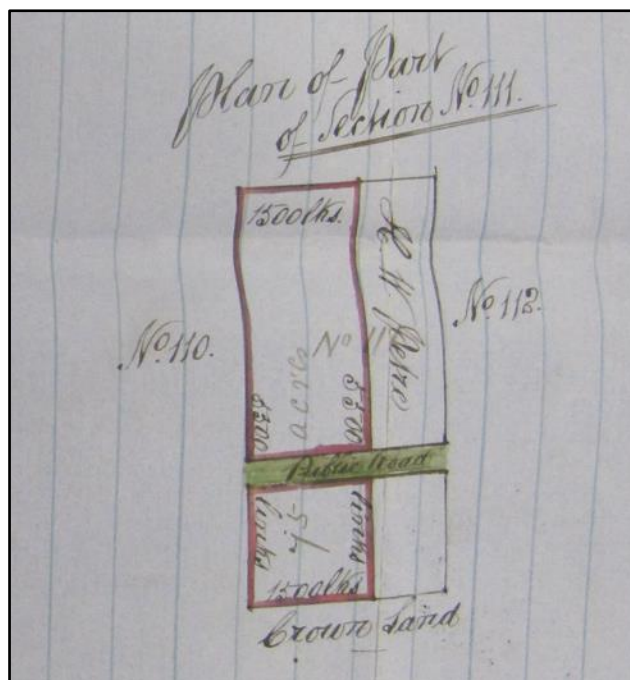
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAAR W3558 24723 Box 231 2165 Conveyance & Assignment Robert Hooper to John Bengé, David, Edward & Samuel Bengé date 1888 saved as IMG_2937.jpg)

1888 Section No 111



(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAAR W3558 24723 Box 231 2162 Mortgage David Bengé to Edward Stafford 1888 saved as IMG_2956.jpg)

1888 Section No 111



(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AAAR W3558 24723 Box 231 2162 Mortgage David Bengé to Edward Stafford 1888 saved as IMG_2956.jpg)

1890 – 1900

1900-1910 Stonestead Te Marua 1900s



(Reference Stonestead homestead Te Marua photo on wall in Stonestead Tea Rooms)

The second daughter of John and Annie Benge, Charlotte, married Frederick Thomas Heard at Stonestead in October 1902. Their wedding group provided one of the most valuable historic pictures.

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 165)

John BERGE born 18 October 1841 Lower Hutt New Zealand died 1906 New Zealand married 1867 New Zealand Rose Annie (Annie) WILKINS born 1851 died 1933 New Zealand. Their daughter Charlotte Blanche BERGE was born 1876 New Zealand died 1953 New Zealand married 1902 New Zealand Frederick Thomas HEARD born 1878 died 1965 New Zealand.

Woodville Examiner 05 November 1902

Wedding Bells – Heard – Benge

A very pleasing ceremony was performed on Wednesday 22nd ult., when Frederick Thomas only son of the late Mr Thomas Heard of Balance was united in the bonds of matrimony to Charles Blanche (Lottie) of Laurel Villa Upper Hutt. The wedding took place at "Stonestead" the country residence of the bride's parents. The Rev George Bond of Newtown, an old and valued friend of the bridegroom's family preformed the ceremony in a Marquee erected in front of the house for this purpose. It was beautifully decorated with flowers and lycopodium. The bride was given away by her father Mr J Benge. Mr W Woodley acted as best man and Mr B Benge as groomsman.

The bride looked very handsome in a dress of blue and fawn shot voile velvet, Paris lace, and orange blossoms, a lovely embroidered veil and wreath of orange-blossoms. She carried a handsome shower bouquet of white Azaleas and clematis. There were six bridesmaids, Miss E Benge sister of the bride and Miss N Heard sister of the bridegroom both looked charming in cream lustre dresses trimmed with broche satin ribbons and lace. They also wore wreaths and veils and carried lovely shower bouquets of azaleas and snowdrops.

Miss Rachel Mabey niece of the bride and Miss G Jackson niece of the bridegroom look very pretty in pink spotted muslins trimmed with lace and ribbons. They also wore wreaths and veils and carried shower-bouquets of pale pink azaleas and clematis. Then came two sweet little tots with golden curls, Blanche Mabey and Wilma Benge nieces of the bride, in dainty white frocks and wearing wreaths and veils and carrying crooks entwined with daises and ribbons. A prettier bridal is very rarely seen. The bride wore a gold brooch set with pearls and rubies the gift of the bridegroom. The bride's gift to the groom was a pair of handsome gold sleeve links. Each of the bridesmaids wore a very pretty gold brooch the gift of the bridegroom. The weather was perfect and the scene was a gay and festive one. Cake and wine were partaken of in the marquee, when the usual toasts were given and responded to, the Rev G Bond giving good and kindly advice to the young folks in a very happy speech.

After the toasts and congratulations were over all adjourned to the large dairy which had been transformed into fairy-land with ferns, flowers and abundance of lycopodium.

The table and other decorations were most artistic and were under the supervision of Mrs J C Mabey and Miss Ross of Taita. Over 50 guests sat down to a most sumptuous breakfast and after a most enjoyable time the happy couple left amidst showers of rice and flowers, to take train to Wellington where the honeymoon is to be spent. The bride's travelling dress was a handsome fawn cravenette [sic] cloth strapped with silk to match, tucked white figured silk vest picture hat of burnt straw with cream roses, lace and silk. The presents were too numerous to mention and many of them were very costly.

Mr and Mrs F Heard intend residing in Balance in which place Mr Heard may be called a pioneer, his family being the first to reside in that township. We wish Mr and Mrs Heard every good wish, health, prosperity and happiness.

(Reference Papers past website Woodville Examiner 05 November 1902 page 2)

SEARCH Land Transfer volume 34 folio 286

John Strachan PEARSON Stone Stead Farm Upper Hutt farmer was recorded on the 1908 Hutt Electoral Supplementary Roll.

Evening Post newspaper 10 May 1909

NOTICE is hereby given that the several parcels of land hereinafter described will be brought under the provisions of "The Land Transfer Act, 1908," unless caveat be lodged forbidding the same on or before the 7th day of June, 1909.

4164. THOMAS CAMPBELL.—56 acres 2 roods 19 perches, Lots XIII. and XVII. of Section 36, Karori District, and part Section 2, Upper Kaiwarra District. Occupied by applicant.

4296. JOHN THOMAS BERGE and GEORGE ISAAC BERGE.—149 acres 3 roods 3 perches, Section 297, and parts Sections 110 and 111, Hutt District. Occupied by John Pearson.

Diagrams may be inspected at this office.

Dated this 5th day of May, 1909, at the Lands Registry Office, Wellington.

E. BAMFORD,
Deputy District Land Registrar.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 10 May 1909 page 1)

Evening Post newspaper 02 August 1909

Wanted – Tenders to Erect 40 chain (more or less) Post and Wire Fencing, to find everything. Apply Pearson Stonestead Farm Upper Hutt.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 August 1909)

1910-1920

Evening Post & Dominion 26-31 October 1910

UNRESERVED CLEARING SALE OF STOCK, ETC.,

To be held
ON TUESDAY, the 1st NOVEMBER,
At 1 p.m.

MESSRS. DALGETY AND CO., LTD., having received instructions from J. S. Pearson, Esq., will sell **AT HIS FARM, "STONESTEAD," FIVE MILES FROM UPPER HUTT,** on the Mungaroa-road, the following stock, etc. :—

- 100 ewes
- 11 cows, in milk
- 1 springing cow
- 1 springing heifer
- 1 purebred Jersey bull
- 7 yearling heifers
- 1 block dray
- 1 hay rake
- 1 Massey-Harris mower
- 1 set Tyne harrows
- 1 separator, in good order
- 1 boar
- 2 brood sows
- 11 slips
- 12 milk cans
- Also sundries

(Reference Papers past website Dominion 28, 29, 31 October & Evening Post newspaper 26, 28, 31 October 1910)

New Zealand Times newspaper 03 November 1910

Clearing Sale - Messrs Dalgety and Co Ltd report having held a very successful clearing sale on account of Mr J S Pearson at his homestead Upper Hutt on Monday. There was a good attendance of buyers and a total clearance was made at satisfactory prices. They quote:- Aged ewes with few lands 10s, cows in milk £4 10s to £6 15s, cow I milk (better sorts) £7 5s, £7 10s, £8 7s 6d, £9 15s, springing cows £4, store cows with calves £6 2s 6d, yearling heifers £3 6s to £3 7s 6d, weaners £2 15s, purebred Jersey bull £10 10s, brood sows 27s 6d, slips 3s to 9s, boar 10s. There was a god demand for all farm implements, dairy utensils and sundries, for most of which high prices were obtained.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 03 November 1910)

0- **John Strachan PEARSON** born 30 June 1882 Beeston Nottinghamshire London England died 04 November 1918 WW1 Alexandria Egypt (never married)

Dominion newspaper 05 & 12 December 1911

Notice – We the undersigned intend to and will at the next meeting of the Hutt County Council apply for permission to erect a gate on Collin’s Road, running through property leased by us and known as Stonestead Farm (Signed)

Lindsay, Bradbury Upper Hutt 30th November 1911

(Reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 05 December 1911)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 13 January 1912

Messrs Lindsay & Bradbury having supplied copies of the advertisement required by the Public Works Act permission to erect swing-gates on Collins road was given, subject to usual conditions.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 13 January 1912)

1916 - Thomas George Bengé of Hawera farmer, to John Bradbury of Mungaroa, farmer

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Volume 219 folio 106 Conveyance 21 Nov 1916 No.118202)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 17 February 1917

TRESPASS NOTICE.

TO BLACKBERRY-PICKERS AND
PICNICERS

PERSONS Trespassing upon the land
of MayMorn Estates or the adjoining
land of Bradbury and Bengé—a few
miles above Upper Hutt—will be prose-
cuted.

MAYMORN ESTATES, Ld.
Arthur Seed, Manager
J. BRADBURY,
J. BENGÉ.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 17 February 1917)

1918 - John Bradbury of Mungaroa, farmer to Job Mabey Bengel of Upper Hutt, farmer
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Volume 223 folio 342 Conveyance 28 May 1918 No.120860)

SEARCH and TRANSCRIBE - Archives NZ Wellington LINZ room Deed volume 223 folio 342

Alexander LINDSAY and John BRADBURY leased part of Section No 111 around 1911

0- **Alexander LINDSAY** married 1892 New Zealand **Amelia WINTER** born 1860 died 26 December 1939 New Zealand

0- **John BRADBURY** born 1867 New Zealand died 11 May 1925 Otaki New Zealand married 1906 New Zealand **Evelyn Amelia CAVEY** born 1888 died 15 June 1932 Otaki New Zealand

1920-1930

Charles B MOLLOY was the owner of part section 111 lot 5 CT 609/291 (1925-1927) & CT 738/53 (1950-1958).

Molloys Road in Te Marua was named after Charles Boyd Molloy. Charles (1916-2003) a company manager and wife Jeanne Olwyn (1922-2007) resided in Chatsworth Road. The 24 April 1958 Upper Hutt Leader reads "A Te Marua landowner has been prevented from cutting up a block of land (etc.) - the subdivision was proposed by Mr C B Molloy". Around 1963 the sections were advertised for sale. Eric (Baldy) Alexander was the Contractor for the Molloys Road development.

0- Charles Boyd MOLLOY born 1916 New Zealand died 2003 New Zealand married Jeanne Olwyn born 1922 died 2007 New Zealand

The owners of Section 111 were the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited. The registered and operates as a Company from 1921 to 1955 although many of the shareholders purchased land before this date.

Bloomfield Farm Company Limited

Address = Mungaroa (registered office 153-155 Featherston Street Wellington)

Certificate of Incorporation = 08 March 1921

Solicitor = Melville John Crombie

Directors = William Ernest Albert GILL, Michael Francis BOURKE, William Archibald FULLER

Operated from = 08 March 1921

Closed = 1955

To the {Michael Francis Bourke} Bourke youngsters, Stonestead was Gunter's. Their father later built a place where the Mangaroa and Hutt rivers meet.

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 167)

1925-1928 Township of Te Marua

Archives NZ Wellington Item sheet saved as IMG_2232

- 09 October 1925 – Town of Te Marua from chief surveyor to Department Lands and Survey proposed re subdivision prepared by H P Hamify for owners Bloomfield Farm Company

- 02 September 1925 PLAN section 110 & 296 block XIV Akatarawa DP 7447 CT 218/95 = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2233
- 22 October 1925 Town of Te Marua Survey General Department of Lands and Survey – approved by minister
- 16 June 1928 proposed Town of Te Marua extension No 2 from Chief Surveyor to Secretary of Lands further subdivision of Te Marua prepared by H P Hanify on behalf of Bloomfield Farm Company – WEA Gill waited upon Mr Hammond in connection with subdivision of Te Marua extension No 1 – agreed road reserve between lots 42 and 43 and esplanade be set aside for public use
- 03 July 1928 proposed Town of Te Marua extension No 2 access to Maungaroa Stream through lots 34 and 30 and right of way through Lots 9, 8, 7, 6
- 11 July 1928 Te Marua extension No 2 right of way not practicable through Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9 stream only a trickle (plus duplicate)
- 06 August 1928 – Town of Te Maura 2 approved by Minister return plans
- 18 June 1928 PLAN section 110, 111 & 297 block XIV Akatarawa CT 218/95 = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2234
- 07 February 1928 Proposed Town of Te Marua Extension No 1 prepared by H P Hanify on behalf of Bloomfield Farm Company (plus duplicate)
- November 1927 PLAN Section 110 & 111 block XIV Akatarawa CT 218/95 & 241 D 517= image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2235
- 27 February 1928 Town of Te Marua return plans
(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGT 18190 LS1 1832 25/1014 Township Te Marua years no date)

Michael Francis BOURKE

William Ernest Albert Gill of Wellington, accountant and Michael Francis Bourke of Napier, wool-buyer to the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Volume 241 folio 517 Conveyance 13 Jun 1921 No.131592)

- 0- **Michael Francis BOURKE** born 1868 New Zealand died 1948 New Zealand married 1900 New Zealand Catherine Cecilia O'CONNOR
#Michael BOURKE born 1868 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1868 folio website 1868/22334 parents Jane and Michael Bourke
#Michael Francis BOUKE married 1900 New Zealand Catherine O'CONNOR reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1900 folio website 1900/1318
#Michael Francis BOURKE died 1948 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1948 folio website 1948/17677 age 80 born about 1868

William Ernest Albert GILL

Job Mabey Bengé of Upper Hutt, farmer to William Ernest Albert Gill of Wellington, accountant and Michael Francis Bourke of Napier, wool-buyer.

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Volume 222 folio 548 Conveyance 02 Aug 1918 No.121231)

William Ernest Albert Gill of Wellington, accountant and Michael Francis Bourke of Napier, wool-buyer to the Bloomfield Farm Company Limited

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Volume 241 folio 517 Conveyance 13 Jun 1921 No.131592)

William Ernest Albert GILL was managing director of the **Bloomfield Farm Company** in the Hutt Valley.

- 0- William Ernest Albert GILL born 1875 died 1945 New Zealand married 1906 New Zealand Winifred Elsie RICHARDSON born 1884 died 1943 New Zealand
#Winifred Elsie RICHARDSON born 1884 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/16917 parents Frances Anne and John Morie Richardson

#William Ernest Albert GILL married 1906 New Zealand Winifred Elsie RICHARDSON reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1906 folio website 1906/7421

#Winifred Elsie GILL died 1943 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1943 folio website 1943/21894 age 59 born about 1884

#William Ernest Albert GILL died 1945 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1945 folio website 1945/23337 age 70 born about 1875

#Obituary - Mr W E A Gill - One of Wellington's best-known businessmen, Mr William Ernest Albert Gill, died last night at the age of 70. He had been for many years a principal of the accounting firm of Rowley, Gill, Hobbs, and Glen. Mr Gill was born in Middlesboro, Yorkshire, and came to New Zealand in 1887. He joined the Union Fire and Marine Insurance Company in Auckland, and was subsequently on the staff of the Commercial Union, Standard, and Phoenix Insurance Companies. He joined the firm of Badham and Biss and managed the Northern Assurance and Canton Company under that firm for 10 years. He later joined the firm of J H G Rowley, who acted as attorneys for the Norwich Union office. In 1924 he became controlling officer for New Zealand of the Phoenix, Norwich, and Union Marine companies, being manager of the Norwich Union for many years. Mr Gill had many sporting and social interests. He was a life member of the Miramar Golf Club, the Star Boating Club, and the Wellesley Club. He served for many years on the New Zealand Golf Council, and was a member of the Wellington Racing Club. He had strong musical inclinations and was in earlier days an enthusiast of amateur theatricals. He was managing director of the **Bloomfield Farm Company** in the Hutt Valley, chairman of directors of the Scoullar Company, and a director of the Wellington Investment Company. Mrs Gill predeceased him two years ago, and he is survived by two daughters, Mrs J N S Wallens of Sydney, and Mrs T R Balharry of Wellington, and one son Mr J O Gill of Hawera reference Papers Past website Evening Post newspaper 11 July 1945 page 8

1930-1940

1940-1950

John Benge and his wife Elizabeth were resident in the two storey homestead named "*Stonestead*". John and Elizabeth's son John Thomas BERGE was born at Stonestead.

Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 12 June 1947

A Pioneer Passes - Seventy-seven years ago at Te Marua, at the old home known as "*Stonestead*" (the house with its quaint steep two gabled roof which is still standing), there was born John Thomas Benge. His father, John Benge, together with his three brothers Sam, Ned and Dave, ran a saw-mill and, when the bush was cleared, engaged in farming. Upper Hutt and its surroundings was dense forest when this band of stalwarts from Devonshire, England, carved out their primitive dwellings. John Thomas, or as he became generally known, "J.T.," was the first pupil to enrol at the Te Marua School, but being eager to go to work he left school when he had passed Standard 4. At the early age of 14 years he got a job bush felling at Ashhurst. On returning home he joined his father and uncles in the sawmilling business. At the age of 20 he married Miss Emily Collett, of Mangaroa. Two sons and two daughters were born to them. His activities were next expended in running a milk round at Petone. Following this he took up farming on his own account at Mangaroa. Here he had the misfortune to have his home burnt, the old-fashioned wood-shingle roof being ignited by a spark from a railway engine. A new dwelling was built, which was the family home until 1907 when the farm was disposed of and Upper Hutt became the headquarters. At this time the late Mr Frank Whiteman was engaged in sawmilling at Akatarawa and again Mr Benge rallied to a call for help in handling a tough bush

proposition. His next venture was that of blacksmith coachbuilder and undertaker, the first shop being located where Gibb's Chemist Shop now stands, but transferred later across the street to the premises so long occupied by the late Mr P Robertson. In 1911 Mr Benge, entered the business partnership with Mr J A Hazelwood, in which he continued until the-business changed ownership in 1944. In 1921 he took a business trip to U.S.A. which proved of success in obtaining of agencies which later on resulted in his making trips time after time to all principal towns of New Zealand. Such was his remarkable strength and energy that since his retirement from business three years ago he chose to take on the breaking up and .draining of the swampland at Wallaceville Valley (an area- of 782 acres), and was actively engaged or, this work until two weeks before his death on Friday last. He was a man of genial and loveable disposition and a great lover of little children, never missing an opportunity to greet them with his bright smile and appropriate words. First, and foremost of all his varied interests and activities, was his long years of devoted service in the cause of the Church at the Gospel Hall. Here as an elder and member for close on half a century he was a man greatly beloved. His funeral service was one of the most largely attended that our district has ever known. The service at the Gospel Hall was conducted by Mr J A Hazelwood and Mr A E Salisbury and at the Akatarawa Cemetery by Mr W N Pepperell and Mr S A Edwards. The deceased leaves a widow, two daughters, one son, thirteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Among those present at the funeral were Mr J Maher M.P. and Mrs Maher, Mr J Blewman Mayor of Upper Hutt, Councillors K S Geange and J Purvis, Mr K Arthur present manager of J A Hazelwood & Co, numerous members of the farming community, including the President, of the local Federated Farmers, Mr Les Andres, Sir Kenneth Douglass, Mr B M Wilmshurst Town Clerk; also a large number of the business community.

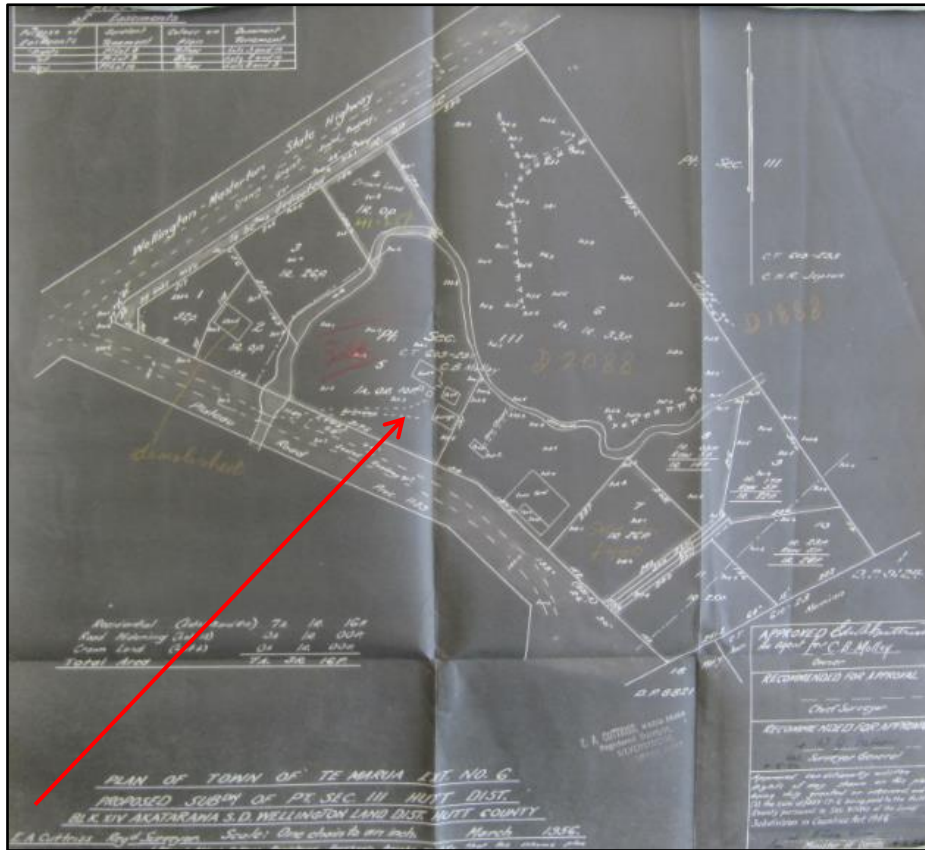
The Passing of Mr J T. Benge - When Mr. Benge was laid to rest last Sunday about 80 cars followed the cortege. After a busy life of 78 years he has laid aside his trials and is in peace at picturesque Akatarawa, where the magic brush of Mother Nature has painted a picture truly beautiful to behold. Nearby the river sings a merry song ever hurrying to the sea and the night owl calls to his mate as the darkness comes over the earth. "J.T." as he was affectionately known by the people, was a lover of little, children. How often have we seen him bending down to shake the hand of some tiny tot or say a cheery word peeping into the pram to greet a little new stranger? We shall miss the happy smile and nod of Mr J T Benge.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 12 June 1947 volume IX number 22)

1950-1960

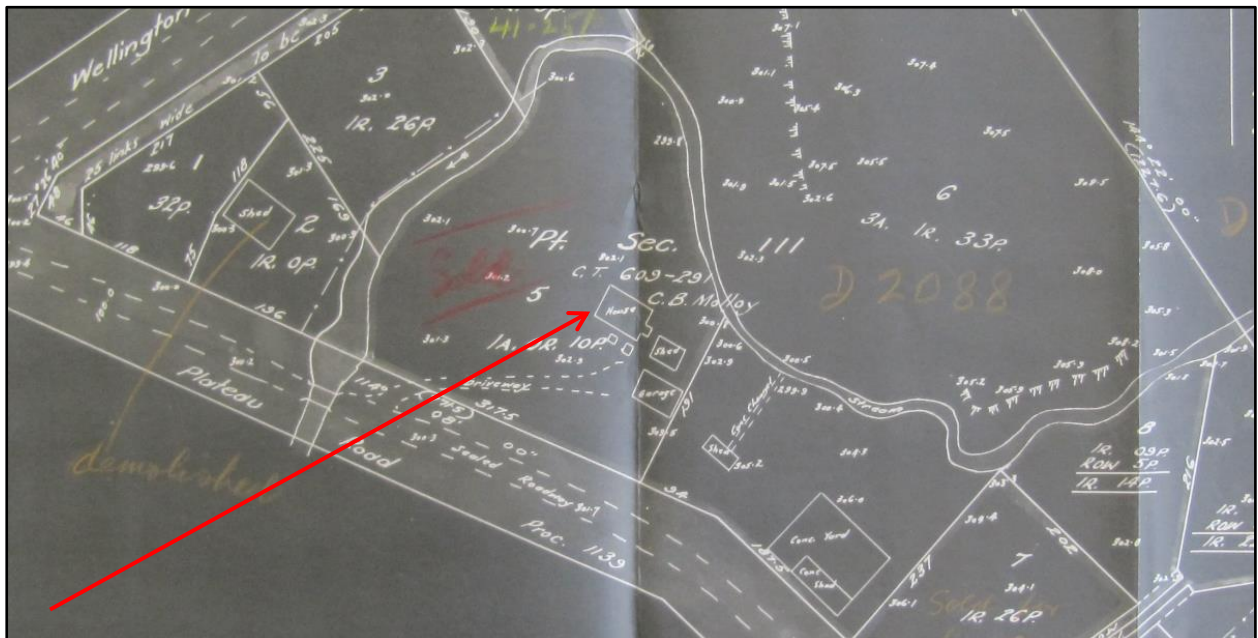
Stonestead situated on part Section No 111 was owned by Charles Boyd MOLLOY.

1956 Section No 111



(Reference Archives NZ Wellington LS1 1832 25/1014 Township of Te Marua images saved IMG_2238)

1956 Section No 111



(Reference Archives NZ Wellington LS1 1832 25/1014 Township of Te Marua images saved IMG_2238)

Molloys Road was named after Charles Boyd Molloy. Charles (1916-2003) a company manager and wife Jeanne Olwyn (1922-2007) resided in Chatsworth Road. The 24 April 1958 Upper Hutt Leader reads “A Te Marua landowner has been prevented from cutting up a block of land (etc.) - the subdivision was proposed by Mr C B Molloy”. Around 1963 the sections were advertised for sale. Eric (Baldy) Alexander was the Contractor for the Molloys Road development.

Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1958

Appeal against Rejection of Subdivision – An appeal against the rejection of his proposed subdivision of his land some four miles north of Upper Hutt was brought by Charles Boyd Molloy company director before the Town and Country Planning Appeal Board yesterday. Decision was reserved. The land is on the corner of the Wellington-Masterton state highway and Plateau Road. Mr J B O'Regan for the appellant said that on his property the owner had an old homestead of an unusual architectural style which he desired to preserve. He had planned to subdivide his property into large sections to attract better types of homes to the area. For the Minister of Lands Mr R Heenan said plans had been rejected because the subdivision did not conform with recognised principles of town planning. The objection was not to large sections which could be re-subdivided but to sections which in the main it would not be possible to subdivide. The Hutt County Council was represented by Mr JWP Watts

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGT 18190 LS1 1832 25/1014 Township Te Marua years no date Evening Post newspaper 12 March 1958)

1950-1959 Township of Te Marua

- April 1950 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 3 Bloomfield Farm Company section 181 block XV Akatarawa DP 10632 CT 348/187 = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2236
- 29 March 1950 Subdivision Te Marua F Bengé letter to Hutt County Council from T W James Wellington Regional Planning Council does not favour approval 6 reason given
- 16 June 1950 Town of Te Marua extension No 3 scheme plan No 1191 Francis Bengé from Department of Lands and Survey
- 27 June 1950 Town of Te Marua 3 plan no D1191 memo
- 28 September 1958 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 5 section 111 & 181 block XIV Akatarawa CT 609/293 = people mentioned on plan = C B Malloy & Mary Ann Morrison & G Presow & G C Phillips & B A Keall & N Green = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2237
- 18 May 1955 Town of Te Marua No 5 plan D 1888 Owner CHR Jepsen subdivision does not comply with urban planning scheme
- 04 May (March) 1956 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 6 section 111 block XIV Akatarawa DP 8821CT 609/293 = owner C B Malloy [**Stonehead**] = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2238
- 02 May 1956 Town Te Marua extension No 6 scheme plan D2006 owner C B Molloy recommend plan be approved
- 07 April 1956 Town of Te Marua extension No 6 plan no D2006 memo
- November 1956 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 9 lot 1 DP 9178 & lot 2 DP 10637 part section 110 & 111 block XIV Akatarawa DP 8821CT 609/293 = owner R Richardson = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2239
- 23 July 1957 Town of Te Marua extension No 9 scheme plan D 2109 R D Richardson
- PLAN Te Marua Extension No 8 C B Molloy 13 lots off Plateau Road = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2240
- August 1956 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 8 lot 6 DP 19064 Part section 111 block XIV Akatarawa off Plateau Road = image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2241
- 19 August 1957 Township of Te Marua extension No 8 scheme plan D 2088 C B Molloy proposed scheme full details listed
- 04 September 1957 request from Surveyor General for full details
- 06 September 1957 Township of Te Marua extension No 8 scheme plan D 2088 C B Molloy proposed scheme full details of costs
- 17 September 1957 scheme plan D2088 Town of Te Marua extension No 8 C B Molloy owner details of scheme
- 25 September 1957 memo subdivision refused
- 27 September 1957 legal appeal Charles Boyd Molloy to Minister of Lands full details
- 17 October 1957 memo C B Molloy v Minister of Lands
- 22 October 1957 O'Regan and Dumphy solicitors for C B Molloy letter (plus duplicate)
- 25 October 1957 memo C B Molloy v Minister of Lands
- 13 November 1957 appeal details from Town and County Planning Appeal Board to Minister of Lands

- 22 November 1927 memo same subject (plus duplicate copies) sent to Minister of works & District Commissioner of Works & Hutt County Council & Wellington Regional Planning Authority
- 22 November 1957 appeal C B Molloy v Minister of lands same subject and details
- 04 December 1957 acknowledge reply to letter
- 26 November 1957 acknowledge reply to letter set date for hearing
- 12 December 1957 letter respondents reply (Solicitors & Towns and Country Ministry of Works)
- 10 February 1958 letter respondents reply (Ministry of Works)
- 12 March 1958 Evening Post newspaper article – Appeal against Rejection of Subdivision – An appeal against the rejection of his proposed subdivision of his land some four miles north of Upper Hutt was brought by Charles Boyd Molloy company director before the Town and Country Planning Appeal Board yesterday. Decision was reserved. The land is on the corner of the Wellington-Masterton state highway and Plateau Road. Mr J B O'Regan for the appellant said that on his property the owner had an old homestead of an unusual architectural style which he desired to preserve. He had planned to subdivide his property into large sections to attract better types of homes to the area. For the Minister of Lands Mr R Heenan said plans had been rejected because the subdivision did not conform with recognised principles of town planning. The objection was not to large sections which could be re-subdivided but to sections which in the main it would not be possible to subdivide. The Hutt County Council was represented by Mr JWP Watts
- 17 April 1958 Evening Post newspaper Decision By Planning Authority – Big Rear Sections Not Desirable – article with fuller details than above
- 27 March 1958 letter report with full details on decision – recommendation reducing the number of sections (2 pages plus duplicate of both pages)
- 22 April 1958 memo re appeal
- 06 October 1958 Town of Te Marua extension No 5 C H Jepsen approved on 26/5/1955 approval lapsed on 28 /9/1858
- August 1958 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 13 lot 2 DP 18961 part section 111 block XIV Akatarawa owner Luey [sic] = others names F R Smith & H L Scott & C B Molloy & CHR Jepsen & S W Brooker & other DP 19064 & DP 18609 & DP 13376 image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2242
- August 1958 PLAN Te Marua Extension No 8 lot 6 DP 19064 part section 111 block XIV Akatarawa Owner C B Molloy image saved 01/08/2017 IMG_2243
- 09 July 1959 Town of Te Marua extension No 8 D2088 C B Molloy from Chief Surveyor to Surveyor General full details regarding application Nature of land, sanitation, water, reserves, road reserve, town and Country planning act & recommendation
- 22 July 1959 memo as above

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington ACGT 18190 LS1 1832 25/1014 Township Te Marua years no date)

1960-1970

1970-1980

1980 - 1990

“Some previous owner unfortunately, gave the room a false ceiling. Bread delivery contractor Kevin Bolt, born at Brown Owl on the Johnson farm, bought Stonestead from Brian A Kells without regard for historical significance, or for its legend of a ghost”

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 164)

0- Brian Ashley KELLS

#Brian Ashley KELLS Wallaceville Animal Research Centre Technician 1966 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian Ashley KELLS Trentham Immigration Hostel Technician 1969 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian Ashley KELLS "Stonestead" Plateau Road chemist 1972 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian Ashley KELLS Stonestead Plateau Road Technician 1978 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Brian Ashley KELLS 10 Milverton Avenue Student 1981 Palmerston North Electoral Roll

Stonestead



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website House Plateau Road Te Marau No 3 John Benge homestead P2-120-299)

Owner Kevin Bolt was about to sell the property. He had first bought it in 1981 and lived there until 1990 [sic 1996] with his wife and four children.

(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 22 March 2017 on UH City Library recollect website)

Stonestead



(Reference UH City Recollect website House Plateau Rd Te Marau John Benge homestead "Stonestead" P2-624-1531)

1990-2000

Still on an acre of land though surrounded by newer housing, Stonestead by 1990 was the only historical house still standing, thanks in recent times to preservation and refurnishing by owners

Kevin and Leonie Bold. One ground floor bedroom was just about in its original state, with layers of wallpaper peeling away, authentically, in a corner.

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 164)

Kevin BOLT and his wife sold Stonestead in 1996

2000-2010

Kevin BOLT Eight years later when it came on the market, he bought it again, and a year later, he and his partner Yvonne opened Stonestead Devonshire Teas in the former garage. A modern cottage houses another Bolt business "Sawmillers Quiltery" shop.

(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 22 March 2017 on UH City Library recollect website)

Stonestead was sold on the 16 December 2003 for \$442.00

2010-2020

By 2017 the homestead was running an annual mid-February quilt festival, a target was set (in 2017 a Cushion cove 40.5 cm square, with a 'summer dreams' theme) entries and other fabric works would be in show, for a gold coin donation towards Te Omanga Hospice, and there was a people's choice category.

(Reference Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 22 March 2017 on UH City Library recollect website)

Stonestead



(Reference UH City Library Recollect website House Plateau Road Te Marau No 3 John Bengé homestead P2-625-1532)

Stonestead, Te Marua. The original 1860s house is to the left and many years ago (probably 1930s) veranda posts were replaced by wrought iron pipe columns, a fashion at the time. Original owned by John Bengé.

Stonestead was sold on the 20 April 2018 for \$740,000

Ghost of Stonestead

*“The youngest of the John Benge - Annie Wilkins family was a daughter Edith Rose who died when she was about 12 months after an accident with scalding milk. Her father is said to have been so heart-broken that his spirit became a Stonestead ghost, lamenting the loss of his baby daughter. John Benge died suddenly of apoplexy on 16th August 1906 aged 64 years”.
(Reference Upper Hutt – The History by J a Kelleher page 164)*

*“Mrs Leonie Bold, living in the house in 1990, told the writer the family understood the baby girl was buried in the orchard, out from the front door. Three enormous old pear trees still produced prolifically. The Bolds could only say that if a ghost was responsible for some of the things that had gone bump in the night since they moved in, it must be a friendly ghost. Leonie said “It’s such a warm friendly house. I could never be frightened in it”. It was possible to construct a logical explanation or the thing that had caused them to wonder. Sounds between the walls could be linked to opossums that had got in. A boy pushed down some stairs could have been helped on his way by a brother. At first they thought the ghost didn’t like some of the changes they were making, then they realised the ghost had got to know them, and approved their use of the house. He was, after all this time, a relaxed, happy ghost”.
(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher published 1991 pages 165)*

Question was the children and/or children buried on the Stonestead property?

John BENGÉ born 18 October 1841 Lower Hutt New Zealand died 16 August 1906 New Zealand married 1867 New Zealand Rose Anne (Annie) WILKINS born 1851 place unknown died 1933 New Zealand. They had 10 children but sadly lost two young children. Their son Leonard Bertram age 11 months accidentally died of burns from a kettle of boiling water on 02 April 1881. Their daughter Edith Rose age 19 months died after an accident with scalding milk in 1886.

Edith Rose BENGÉ born 04 November 1884 Mungaroa New Zealand died 05 July 1886 Mungaroa New Zealand

#Edith Rose BENGÉ born 04 November 1884 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/6846 parents Rose Annie and John Benge

#Edith Rose BENGÉ died 05 July 1886 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1886 folio website 1886/3865 age 19 months born about 1884

#The Friends of John and Annie BENGÉ of Mungaroa are respectfully invited to attend the Funeral of their infant daughter Alice [sic] which will leave her father’s residence on Thursday Next at 2 pm reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 06 July 1886 page 3

#St John’s burial register spreadsheet created by John Harrison records - Edith Rose BENGÉ plot number unknown died 07 July 1886 age 1 year 10 months.

COMMENT

The newspaper article regarding the funeral of Edith Rose BENGÉ records that the funeral service will depart her father’s residence so her body would not have been buried on the Stonestead property.

Leonard Bertram BENGÉ born 16 April 1880 Mungaroa New Zealand died 02 April 1881 Mungaroa New Zealand

#Leonard Bertram BENGÉ born 16 April 1880 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1880 folio website 1880/5144 parents Rose Annie and John Benge

#Leonard Bertram BENGÉ died 02 April 1881 Mungaroa New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1881 folio website 1881/2399 age 11 months born about 1880

#Dr G F Wilford held an inquest at Mungaroa Valley on the 2nd instant on the body of an infant named Edward Bertram Benge aged 11 months. It appears that about 7 pm on the previous day Mrs Benge was in the act of undressing the child in front of the fire when it sprang out in her arms and while failing caught hold of the kettle of boiling water that was standing on the hob. The kettle and its contents fell over the child who died at 6 am on the 2nd instant from the effects

of scalding. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 06 April 1881 page 3

#A child named Edward Bertram Benge aged eleven months was scalded to death at Mungaroa Valley yesterday. The mother was undressing the child before the fire when he suddenly sprang out of her arms and in falling caught the kettle which capsized throwing scalding water all over the body of the child. The little sufferer only lived 12 hours reference Papers past website Wanganui Herald newspaper 06 April 1881 page 2

#Deaths – BENGÉ On the 03rd April at his father's residence Mungaroa Leonard Bertram the beloved son of John and Annie aged 1 year reference Evening Post newspaper 09 April 1881 page 2

#The St John's burial register spreadsheet created by John Harrison records – Leonard Bartram [sic] BENGÉ details From old book suspect D (died), R (row) 47, P (plot) 659 & 660, B (buried) 04-04-1881 (04 April 1881) aged 11 months original plot G107

COMMENT

Edward Bertram BENGÉ was buried at St Johns churchyard so he was not buried on the Stonestead property.
