

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS & UNDERTAKERS Upper Hutt District

### *Time Line Funeral Directors & Undertakers*

1882	Charles CUDBY 1882-1910
1910	John Thomas BERGE 1910 - 1911
1911	Peter ROBERTSON 1911-1939
1944	John Edward SPRINGGAY 1944-1963
1963	Beatrice SPRINGGAY (widow) 1963-1987
1946	Gee & Hickton Funeral Directors (still operating)
1937	J R Croft / Croft Funeral Home Lower Hutt office only (still operating)
2020c	Harbour City Funeral Homes Ltd (still operating)

In the early years of settlement men who were carpenters often became undertakers. To date the earliest recorded undertaker in the Upper Hutt district was Charles Cudby in 1882.

## A – Z FUNERAL DIRECTORS & UNDERTAKERS

### **John Thomas BERGE - undertaker 1910 - 1911**

- 0- John Thomas BERGE** born 09 May 1870 Upper Hutt New Zealand died 06 June 1947 Palmerston North New Zealand married 09 July 1890 New Zealand **Emily Alice COLLETT** born 21 December 1871 Upper Hutt New Zealand died 15 March 1966 Palmerston North New Zealand (5 issue)
- #John Thomas BERGE born 1870 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1870 folio website 1870/20294 parents Rose and John Benge
- #Emily Alice COLLETT born 1872 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1872 folio website 1872/20360 parents Mary Ann & Thomas George Collett
- #John Thomas BERGE married 1890 New Zealand Emily Alice COLLETT reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1890 folio website 1890/2362
- #Funeral Notice (full details not transcribed only end details) J T Benge Undertaker Upper Hutt reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 03 November 1910 page 6 Volume 4 Issue 964
- #J T BERGE Undertaker and Funeral Furnisher Upper Hutt reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 19 May 1911 page 1
- #A Pioneer Passes – (obituary of John Thomas Benge full details not transcribed) He next venture was that of 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 reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Upper Hutt Leader 12 June 1947 Volume IX Number 22
- #John Thomas BERGE died 1947 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1947 folio website 1947/21597 age 76 born about 1871
- #Emily Alice BERGE died 1966 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1966 folio website 1966/27922 age 95 born about 1871

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### **Croft Funeral Home - James Richard CROFT undertaker**

Petone South Street established 1910 & Lower Hutt 2 Osborne Place relocated 1937  
Still operating in Lower Hutt but provide a service to Upper Hutt district

- 0- James Richard CROFT** born 05 April 1886 Petone New Zealand died 13 January 1958 Raumati Beach New Zealand 1<sup>st</sup> married 1909 Lower Hutt New Zealand **Ethel May NORTHOVER** born 14 February 1887 Wellington New Zealand died 09 October 1944 Wellington New Zealand (3 Issue) 2<sup>nd</sup> married 1946 Petone New Zealand **Margaret LONGHURST** born 25 October 1894 Wellington New Zealand died 02 June 1976 Auckland New Zealand 3<sup>rd</sup> married 1957 South Island New Zealand **Edith Ennis May Barrington AGNEW** born 13 May 1891 Catlins New Zealand died 23 August 1985 South Island New Zealand
- #Funeral Notice (full details not transcribed on end) J R CROFT Undertaker 131 Jackson Street Petone reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 15 November 1912 page 8 Volume LXXXIV Issue 119
- #Funeral Notice (full details not transcribed on end) J R CROFT Undertaker Cuba Street Hutt and 131 Jackson Street Petone Phone 57 Hutt Exchange reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 29 August 1914 page 2 Volume LXXXVII Issue 52

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### Charles CUDBY undertaker 1882-1910

- 0- Charles CUDBY** born 1835 Essex England died 21 April 1914 Petone New Zealand married 1857 New Zealand **Elizabeth PAYNE** born 1835 England died 1885 Upper Hutt New Zealand (15 issue)
- #Charles CUDBY married 22 July 1857 New Zealand Elizabeth PAYNE reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1857 folio 0261 website 1857/1721
- #Charles CUDBY became an Undertaker and his name began to appear at the bottom of the funeral notices in various Wellington newspapers. The first notice appeared in the Evening Post newspaper 02 October 1882 reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 October 1882 page 3
- #Funeral Notice (full detail snot transcribed only last part) CHARLES CUDBY Undertaker reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 02 October 1882 page 3 Volume XXIV Issue 62
- #Funeral Notice (full detail snot transcribed only last part) C CUDBY Undertaker reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 29 August 1910 page 8 Volume LXXX Issue 51
- #Elizabeth CUDBY died 20 September 1885 Upper Hutt New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1885 folio website 1885/3592 age 48 born about 1835
- #Charles CUDBY died 21 April 1914 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1914 folio website 1914/3188 age 77 born about 1837
- #Charles and Elizabeth CUDBY were both buried at St Joseph's Church cemetery. The headstones were removed when a new church was built

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### Gee & Hickton Funeral Directors

Lower Hutt established 1946  
Upper Hutt opened home at 785 Fergusson Drive  
Upper Hutt relocated corner King Street & Cairo Street

In 1852 Joseph Hall established a funeral service in the Hutt Valley. The firm known as W Hall Ltd continued in the Hall family ownership for 94 years. When grandson Bill Hall retired in 1946 the business was sold to Ted Gee and Robert Hickton and became known as Gee & Hickton Funeral Directors.

Hutt News newspaper 03 July 1946

High Street Expansion - A recent further indication of progress in Lower Hutt's commercial life is to be seen in the modern and well-designed premises erected for W Hall Ltd. This old established firm of funeral directors has now come under the management of Mr T W Gee of Hamilton, who brings with a lifetime of experience in funeral direction a practical knowledge of the science of embalming and treatment sometimes so necessary in the practice of his profession. With Mr Gee as assistant manager will be Mr Hickton and in future the firm will be known as Gee & Hickton Ltd., Hutt Valley Funeral Directors. With complete new equipment

including modern vehicles this new firm is in a position to render up-to-date amenities. Their aim will be to combine efficiency with dignity and courtesy. P.B.A

(Reference Papers past website Hutt News newspaper 03 July 1946 page 9 Volume 20 Issue 5)

**0- Terence William GEE** born 21 August 1896 Linwood Christchurch died 24 November 1960 Lower Hutt New Zealand married 12 September 1921 Christchurch New Zealand **Eileen Dorothy NEWMAN** born 30 August 1899 Dunedin New Zealand died 07 June 1969 Hamilton New Zealand

#Eileen Dorothy NEWMAN born 1899 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1899 folio website 1899/11458 parents Margaret and James Newman

#Terence William GEE married 1921 New Zealand Eileen Dorothy NEWMAN reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1921 folio website 1921/7865

#Terence William GEE funeral director & Eileen Dorothy GEE married 133 Woburn Road 1946 & 1949 & 1954 & 1957 Hutt Electoral Roll

#Terence William GEE died 1960 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1960 folio website 1960/37808 age 64 born about 1896

#Eileen Dorothy GEE died 1969 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1969 folio website 1969/45866 age 69 born about 1900

#Terence Wm (Ted) GEE husband of Eileen died 24 November 1960 age 64 years – Eileen Dorothy GEE wife of Terence Wm died 07 June 1969 age 69 years RIP buried Taita cemetery Lower Hutt New Zealand

0-1- Patricia Joan GEE born 27 December 1922 Christchurch New Zealand died 2001 New Zealand married Mr HALL

0-2- Beryl Vera GEE born 17 August 1924 Auckland New Zealand died 10 September 2001 Waikanae New Zealand married 16 February 1946 Hamilton New Zealand Robert George HICKTON born 09 January 1916 Sydney New South Wales Australia died 21 August 1994 Auckland New Zealand (3 Issue)

0-3- Basil James GEE born 06 November 1929 Te Awamutu New Zealand died 2003 New Zealand married Shirley Dawn Surname unknown born 30 July 1931 died 2005 New Zealand

**0- Robert George HICKTON** born 09 January 1916 Sydney New South Wales Australia died 21 August 1994 Auckland New Zealand married 16 February 1946 Hamilton New Zealand **Beryl Vera GEE** born 17 August 1924 Auckland New Zealand died 10 September 2001 Waikanae New Zealand (3 Issue)

#Robert George HICKTON undertaker & Beryl Vera HICKTON married 133 Woburn Road 1946 & 1949 Hutt Electoral Roll

#Robert George HICKTON undertaker & Beryl Vera HICKTON married 285 Jackson Street Petone 1949 Petone Electoral Roll

#Robert George HICKTON undertaker / funeral director & Beryl Vera HICKTON married 744 High Street 1954 & 1957 & 1963 Hutt Electoral Roll

#Robert George HICKTON died 1994 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1994 folio website 1994/44903 born 09 January 1916

#Beryl Vera HICKTON died 2001 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2001 folio website 2001/20147 born 17 August 1924

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### **Peter ROBERTSON – Undertaker 1911-1939**

**0- Peter ROBERTSON** born 14 May 1880 Bendigo Victoria Australia died 14 May 1939 Upper Hutt New Zealand 1<sup>st</sup> married 1906 Lower Hutt New Zealand **Hilda Beatrice Maude ENGLAND** born 04 August 1882 Lower Hutt New Zealand died 09 October 1930 Wellington New Zealand (5 issue) 2<sup>nd</sup> married 1932 New Zealand **Muriel FINLAY** born 07 January 1899 New Zealand died 30 May 1975 Upper Hutt New Zealand (2 Issue)

#Mr P Robertson who has been associated with G McIlvride at Lower Hutt has taken over the Dominion Coach Factory and veterinary forge from Mr J T Bengel. He also will carry on the

business of undertaker reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 10 June 1911 page 2

#P ROBERTSON Undertaker and Funeral Furnisher Upper Hutt reference Papers Past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 12 June 1911 page 1

#P ROBERTSON Undertaker and Carrier Main Road Upper Hutt Phone 20 reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Upper Hutt Leader 11 May 1939 Volume 1 Number 19

#The news of the death of Mr Peter Robertson Mayor of Upper Hutt on Sunday last cast a gloom over the while of the borough. (did not transcribe full article). In 1911 he commences business at Upper Hutt as a coach-builder and undertaker and later in conjunction with the late Mr Dick operated a carrying business between Upper Hutt and Wellington reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Upper Hutt Leader 18 May 1939 Volume 1 Number 20

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### **John Edward SPRINGGAY undertaker 1944-1963** **Beatrice SPRINGGAY (widow) 1963-1987**

**0- John Edward SPRINGGAY** born 1908 New Zealand died 30 March 1963 New Zealand married 1938 New Zealand **Beatrice POULSON** born 24 January 1910 New Zealand died 2000 New Zealand

#John Edward SPRINGGAY born 1908 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1908 folio 3228 website 1908/15700 parents Emily Mary and John Joseph Springgay

#John's siblings were Ruby Doreen born 1906 & Emily Lorna born 1910 & Mary Letitia born 1912 & Joseph William born 1915 & Eva born 1919 all born in New Zealand

#John Edward SPRINGGAY apprentice carpenter Hexton 1935 & 1938 Bay of Plenty Electoral Roll

#Beatrice POULSON born 1910 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1910 folio website 1910/645 parents Sarah and Carl Poulson

#John Edward SPRINGGAY married 1938 New Zealand Beatrice POULSON reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1938 folio website 1938/1239

#John Edward SPRINGGAY 334 Palmerston Road carpenter & Beatrice SPRINGGAY 334 Palmerston Road married 1938 Gisborne Electoral Roll

#Mr J E Springgay wishes to announce that he has commenced business in the Upper Hutt as a Funeral Director – Business address Main Road[Main Street] Upper Hutt (late Mudgway's Bakeries) – Private Address Cnr Alexander and Royal Streets Upper Hutt Leader 14 September 1944 Volume VI Number 22 Plus various other years

#John Edward SPRINGGAY Royal Street Upper Hutt funeral director & Beatrice SPRINGGAY Royal Street Upper Hutt married 1946 & 1949 Otaki Electoral Roll

#between 1949 and 1950 the Funeral business of J E Springgay moved further south to 194 Main Road Upper Hutt

#Joiner for small workshop – Apply J E Springgay 194 Main Road Upper Hutt Phone 212R reference Upper Hutt Leader 02 November 1950 Volume XII Number 44

#The Springgay Funeral residence was built around 1950 at 194 Main Road and the Chapel was built the following year in 1951 reference propertyvaluenz website (later renumbered and renamed to 785 Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt)

#J E Springgay Funeral Director Cnr Royal & Alexander Streets Phone 212R Upper Hutt reference Upper Hutt Leader 21 June 1951 Volume XIII Number 25

#J E Springgay Funeral Director 194 Main Road Upper Hutt reference Upper Hutt Leader 28 June 1951 Volume XIII Number 26

#John Edward SPRINGGAY 194 Main Road Upper Hutt funeral director & Beatrice SPRINGGAY 194 Main Road Upper Hutt married 1954 & 1957 & 1960 Heretaunga Elect Roll

#John Edward SPRINGGAY age 54 died 30 March 1963 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1963 folio 22897 website 1963/4224 age 54 born 1909

#John Edward SPRINGGAY died 30 March 1963 age 54 years buried 01 April 1963 Akatarawa cemetery block 1 row 5 Upper Hutt

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY 194 Main Road Upper Hutt widow 1963 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Springgay's Funeral Services Funeral Directors 194 Main Road Upper Hutt Phones Day 3136 Evening 7161 reference Upper Hutt Leader 16 December 1964 Volume XXI Number 47 & 23 December 1964

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY 194 Main Road Upper Hutt widow 1966 & 1969 Heretaunga E Roll

#After 1969 and before 1972 the Springgay Funeral Home at 194 Main Road was renumbered and renamed to 785 Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY widow 785 Fergusson Drive 1972 & 1978 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Springgay Funeral Service Ltd Upper Hutt reference Press newspaper 02 July 1976 page 19

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY 785 Fergusson Drive Widow 1981 & 1987 Heretaunga Electoral Roll

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY 1/9 Hay Street Upper Hutt Widow 1995 & 1998 Rimutaka Elect Roll

#Beatrice SPRINGGAY age 90 died 08 June 2000 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2000 folio website 2000/11893 born 24 January 1910 (Akatarawa cemetery)

#children of John Edward & Beatrice Springgay [1] Evan Leslie (1939-2014) [2] Nancy Isabel [3] Doris Marjorie [4] Cecily Myra

**J. E. SPRINGGAY**

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**FUNERAL DIRECTOR**



Address—  
**Cnr. Royal & Alexander Streets**  
**Telephone 212R.**

*(Reference Upper Hutt Library Heritage collection UH Leader 31 January 1946 Volume VIII Number 4)*

Upper Hutt Leader 14 September 1944

Mr J E Springgay wishes to announce that he has commenced business in the Upper Hutt as a Funeral Director business address Main Road Upper Hutt (late Mudgway's Bakeries) Private address corner Alexander and Royal Streets. [Alexander was renamed McParland Street]

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection UH Leader 14 September 1944 Volume VI Number 22)*



The bakery store belonging to Edmund Mudgway (1873-1961) which was situated on Main Street near the Logan Street corner. In front of the store is a boy on horseback beside a boy with a horse and gig. Also depicted are two young children and a man in a long white apron (possibly Edmund Mudgway). The source of this c1916 image is the Alexander Turnbull Library Collection: catalogue no. 1/2-107615-F.

**0- Edmund William MUDGWAY** born 1873 Lower Hutt New Zealand died 1961 New Zealand married 20 December 1895 Lower Hutt New Zealand **Annie Elizabeth CLOUT** born 1876 Kent England died 1960 New Zealand  
#Mr Mudgway (E W) opened a bakery business in Upper Hutt in 1897 and was well known businessman in Upper Hutt until he retired in 1940 reference Upper Hutt Library Heritage collection UH Leader 19 January 1956 Volume XIII Number 1

#### **Property at 194 Main Road – renumbered and renamed 785 Fergusson Drive**

The house at 785 Fergusson Drive Upper Hutt was built 1950 and the Funeral Chapel was built in 1951. The property was sold 31 October 1994 and again in 28 August 1996, then 11 April 1997, and on 13 December 1999 it sold for \$116,000

*(Reference Property Value NZ website)*

The Springgay building at 785 Fergusson Drive was purchased by the “Kool Kidz”. This was a child care facility that closed in 2022.

The former Funeral chapel building at 785 Fergusson Drive was given an earthquake sticker in 2023.

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#### **Harbour City Funeral Homes Ltd**

674 Fergusson Drive corner Ward Street Upper Hutt

Simon Manning commenced business under Harbour City Funeral Home on 01 August 1989. It is not known exactly when the Funeral Chapel in Upper Hutt was opened (circa 2020s).

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