

## Wesleyan Methodist Church 1885 Whitemans Valley

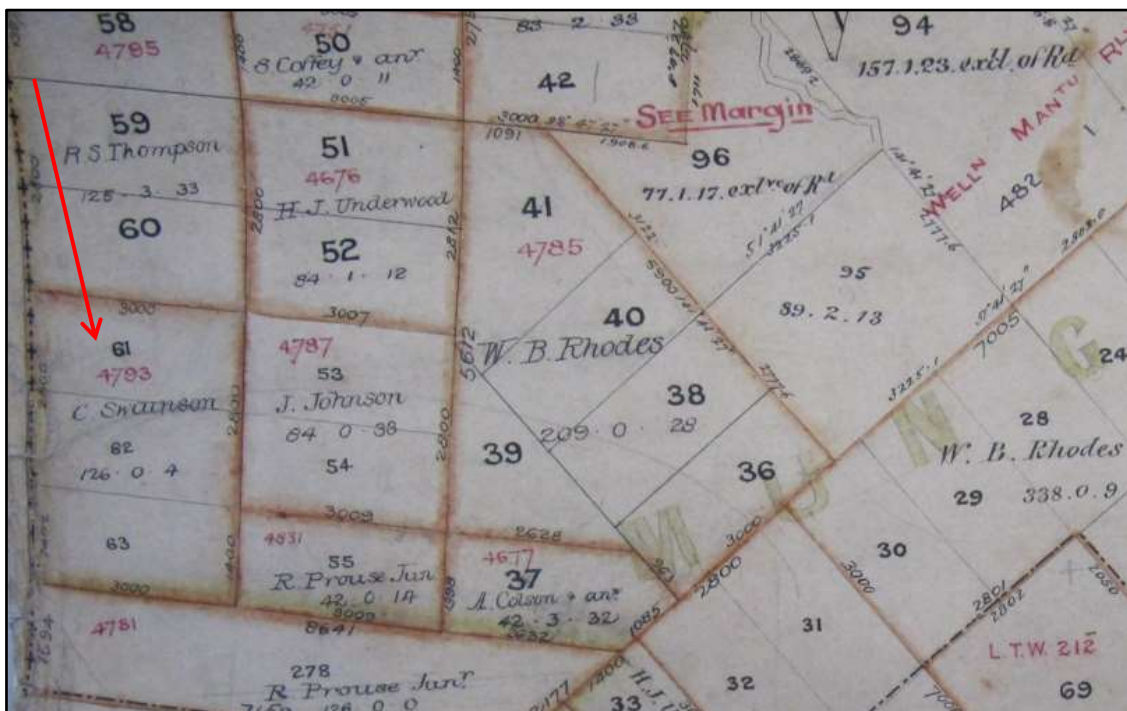
The Wesleyan Methodist church was built in 1885 and was once situated on Johnson Road in Whitemans Valley.

*“The History of the Methodist Church in Upper Hutt began in the early 1880s in Whitemans Valley. There were several Methodist families among the farmers and saw-millers who came to work and settle in the valley. The enthusiasm of lay people in the Methodist Church has always been important and it was two lay people, Richard and James Prouse, who offered their home for the first services held in Whitemans Valley. In March 1883 Whitemans Valley was placed on the Hutt preaching plan and Richard Prouse elected society steward”.*

*(Reference From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

The Methodist church was built on part Section No 61. Some publication state that Charles Swanson donated the land for the church while others state it was his son James Gorrie Swanson. Charles Swanson received the Crown Grant for Section No 61 and is recorded on the survey map below. Charles was also recorded on various Electoral Rolls as freehold Section No 61, 62 & 63.

### Charles SWANSON Crown Grant 61 Rimutaka Land District



(Reference Archives NZ Wellington AFIH W5692 22381 Box 19 RP133 Crown Grant Survey Office Plan SO 10255 IMG\_3328)

The survey map above records; Charles Swanson Section No 61, 62, 63 - James Johnson Section No 53, 54 – Richard Prouse junior Section No 55, 278 - R S Thompson absentee owner Section No 59, 60 - Henry James Underwood Section No 51, 52 – William Barnard Rhodes Section No 28, 29, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 - Alfred Colson & others Section No 37 – Timothy Coffey & others. Section No 50.

### Section No 61 Upper Mungaroa Block

Deeds Index Volume 42 page 61

- ❖ 26514 - 04 Jan 1877 - Crown Grant to Charles Swanson - 10G/340
- ❖ 49931 - 27 Aug 1885 - Conveyance upon trust – Swanson to Prouse and others - 85D/432 - 34/633
- ❖ 76448 – 06 Apr 1899 – Conveyance Swanson to Hutt County – 124D/710 – 24/76
- ❖ 76449 – 06 Apr 1899 – Conveyance Swanson to E & C Russell – 124D/711 – 24/77
- ❖ 122327 – 15 Feb 1919 – Conveyance S Scott to C E Swanson and another – 201D/382
- ❖ 130650 – 24 Mar 1921 – Conveyance J W Swanson to C E Swanson – 238D/645
- ❖ Certificate Title CT 352/130 – C6463

(Reference Archives NZ Wellington Deeds Index Volume 42 page 61)

The index details above confirm that Charles SWANSON donated the land for the Methodist church in the Whitemans Valley.

*“It was during the ministry of the Reverence W Cannell it was decided that Whitemans Valley replaced Upper Hutt on the circuit plan, and that Mr Richard Prouse be society steward. Mrs Olive Browne of Kaitoke, a Swanson, recalled in 1950 that a little band of Wesleyan churchmen, mostly saw-millers, with their wives came up from Wainuiomata in 1866, over mill tram-tracks at the end of what became Pinehaven, into Whitemans Valley, where they settled”.*

(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)

### **Constructing mill tram-track Alan Swanson Farm**



(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Kay Ruscoe collection Alan Swanson's Farm)

The Prouse brothers originally came from Wainuiomata. If we begin researching in 1866 listing the saw-miller families of Wainuiomata to see if any of them settled in Whitemans Valley.

New Zealand Mail newspaper 04 April 1874

The settlers of Whitemans Valley in particular are irritated by the neglect which their interests have been met with. There are some twenty or thirty of them and they state that some eight years ago they were induced to purchase land at 20s per acre and settle in Whitemans Valley the understanding being that a road would speedily be constructed to give them access to their land. [1874 less 8 years equals 1866]

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Mail newspaper 04 April 1874 page 16)

The 1874 newspaper article states that the Whiteman Valley settlers purchased land some eight years earlier. This means that they purchased the land around 1866.

We now know that in 1874 there were some twenty or thirty settled in Whitemans Valley but who were they?

Evening Post newspaper 24 May 1880

Fatal Accident at Silverstream – Man Killed on Railway – A shocking Accident occurred on Saturday night at the Silverstream station of the wellington railway by which a man named William Kemp was killed instantaneously. [full details not transcribed] On arrival of the train at Upper Hutt the deplorable mishap was duly reported to the police who ascertained that the unfortunate man was a carpenter employed at Mr Prouse's sawmills, Whiteman's Valley. He was a widower and leaves two orphans [age 12 & 7] to mourn their dreadful bereavement.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 24 May 1880 page 2)

The 1880 newspaper article above is the first confirmation that the Prouse saw-mill existed in Whitemans Valley.

1882-1883 Hutt Electoral Roll (freehold land owners)

- Charles SWANSON freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Sections 61, 62, 63, Whitemans Valley
- James JOHNSON freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Section 54 Whitemans Valley
- Andrew GORRIE freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Section 55 Whitemans Valley
- John DEVINE freehold Lower Hutt labourer Sections 43 and 44 Whitemans Valley
- John WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part Section 40, 83, Whitemans Valley
- Edward ALEXANDER freehold Whitemans Valley farmer sections 2 and 3 Whitemans Valley
- William WHITEMAN senior freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Part Section 4, 5, 6 &c., Whitemans Valley
- Thomas GORRIE freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Sections 21 and 18 Whitemans Valley
- William WHITEMAN junior freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part Section 145, 146 Whitemans Valley
- George WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Part section 79 & 80 Whitemans Valley
- Robert WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part Section 83, 85 Whitemans Valley
- Francis WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part Section 83 & 89 Whitemans Valley
- William THOMPSON freehold Whitemans Valley farmer House and land Whitemans Valley

#### 1882-1883 Hutt Electoral Roll (residents only)

- Joseph BAKER residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Andrew BROWN junior residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Thomas FREETHEY residential Whitemans Valley carpenter
- Thomas GORRIE junior residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- George PARTRIDGE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Richard PROUSE junior residential Whitemans Valley timber-merchant
- James PROUSE residential Whitemans Valley timber-merchant
- Charles PROUSE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Joseph SAUL residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- James TANNAHILL residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Thomas WALKER residential Whitemans Valley sawyer

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

*“The Quarterly Meeting in March 1885 sanctioned the building of a church”.*

(From *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946)

New Zealand Times newspaper 20 & 27 November & 04 December 1885

Wesleyan District Meeting – The following new erections and additions to church properties were reported - Hutt – Section at Whitemans Valley, given by Mr Swanson; church erected at value of £180; no debt

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 20 November & 04 December 1885 page 2 & New Zealand Mail newspaper 27 November 1885 page 14)

*“The land for the church was given by another dedicated layman, James Swanson, a farmer”.*

(From *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946)

In 1885 James Swanson was about 23 years old. James first appeared in the 1890 Hutt Electoral roll qualification residential Whitemans Valley while his father Charles is recorded as qualification freehold Whitemans Valley Sections 61, 62, 63.

Remember the church was built on part Section No 61. Further research on Section No 61 Rimutaka District will hold the answer to who donated the land.

*“The church, to seat one hundred people, was designed by the Rev Samuel Garlick, of Lower Hutt, who was also a builder and he helped by local settlers with the timber being donated by the Prouse brothers from their mill. When the church opened in 1885 it was debt free”.*

(From *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946)

According to the 1882-1883 Hutt Electoral Roll Richard Prouse and his two brothers James and Charles were settled in the valley. Their qualification was residential not freehold. On the survey map Richard Prouse name was recorded against Section No 55 and 278 in Whitemans Valley.

Research on Sections 55 and 278 will perhaps show when Richard Prouse arrived in Whitemans Valley and began saw-milling section 55 and 278.

New Zealand Times newspaper 15 November 1886

The Wesleyan Home Mission services were held at Whitemans Valley during last week when the collect and donations for the Hutt District realised the very creditable amount of £25 10s instead of the previous estimate of £21 10s.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 15 November 1886 page2)

*“The Prouse brother operated a mill over the saddle of the hill, and the Prouse home for many years was the centre of worship. Mrs Browne’s grandfather James Swanson gave land for the first church, and the settlers attended to its construction, supervised by a minister who had been a builder – Rev Samuel J Garlick. Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Simpson, James John Devine, James Knight and Charles Holland”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)*

*“The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, James and Joshua Knight and Charles Holland”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

The information above records the names of the trustees as James, Richard & Charles Prouse, Walter Simpson, James John Devine, James & Joshua Knight and Charles Holland.

It would be most helpful to be able to research the Methodist Minutes Book and or the Minute Book of Quarterly Meetings but where are they held?

I have created some draft family histories on some of the people associated with the church and the Whitemans Valley district and placed the details at the end of this document in alphabetical order. By researching the people and their connections with each other, this will hopefully assist in locating additional information about the church.

*“Mrs Browne’s parents were the first couple married in the church; the last wedding was her own”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)*

James Gorrie SWANSON and Edith RUSSELL married 24 April 1888 and their daughter Olive Myrtle SWANSON married Oscar Alexander Borthwick BROWNE in 29 December 1915.

*(Reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1888 folio website 1888/1245 & 1915 folio website 1915/5144)*

*“Service were held regularly on Sunday afternoons and Old Mr Clements from Stokes Valley, one of the best preachers in the district, used to walk from Stokes Valley to preach”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

*“A Mr Clements was said to have walked from Stokes Valley to Whitemans Valley to conduct services”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)*

*“Richard Prouse was society steward till the end of 1891”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)*

#### 1890 Hutt Electoral Roll

- James SWANSON residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- Charles SWANSON freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Sections 61, 62 63, Whitemans Valley
- James PROUSE residential Whitemans Valley timber merchant
- Richard PROUSE junior freehold Whitemans Valley timber merchant Part section 3 Wainuiomata
- James JOHNSON freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Section 54 Whitemans Valley
- James JOHNSON junior residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Edward ALEXANDER freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Sections 2 and 3 Whitemans Valley
- Robert AUGUST residential Whitemans Valley farmer

- Joseph BAKER residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Andrew BROWN junior residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- James CHETHAM residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- Andrew GORRIE freehold Whitemans Valley farmer
- Thomas GORRIE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Peter HANSON residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Edward KILMINSTER residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Hugh MINCHIN residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- James Parsons residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Albert James PARTRIDGE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Daniel PARTRIDGE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- George PARTIDGE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- Edward RUSSELL junior residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- Joseph SAUL residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- W W SMITHSON residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- James TANNAHILL residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- William THOMAS freehold Whitemans Valley farmer house and land Whitemans Valley
- Robert WALKER residential Whitemans Valley sawyer
- Albert WHITE residential Whitemans Valley farmer
- Henry WHITE residential Whitemans Valley labourer
- George WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Part sections 79 & 80 Whitemans Valley
- Francis WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part sections 83 & 89 Whitemans Valley
- John WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part sections 83 & 40 Whitemans Valley
- Robert WHITEMAN freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Part sections 83 & 85 Whitemans Valley
- William WHITEMAN senior freehold Whitemans Valley farmer Part sections 4, 5, 6, &c., Whitemans Valley
- William WHITEMAN junior freehold Whitemans Valley sawyer Parts sections 145, 146 Whitemans Valley
- Charles Henry Lewis PALMER residential Whitemans Valley mill hand (supplementary roll)

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

*“Within a decade changes were taking place in Whitemans Valley. The timber having been worked out, the Prouse brothers sawmill closed in 1891 and the Prouse families moved to Levin. By 1900 there were only six members of the church left in Whitemans Valley and that number had dwindled to two by 1905. The population had moved over the hill to Upper Hutt”.*

(From *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41)

*“When the mill worked out, church membership declined. In 1907 services were begun in Upper Hutt”.*

(Reference *Upper Hutt – the History* by J A Kelleher *The Churches* page 281)

*“An attempt was made in 1909 to start fortnightly services at Upper Hutt and it was hoped that a section could be found. However response to the services was disappointing and nothing was done. Fortnightly services were continued in Whitemans Valley until 1913, when they were reduced to a monthly bases and in 1917, the church was leased to the Anglicans”.*

(From *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41-42)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 12 January 1911

Directory – Church Services Etc. - Anglican - Services Directory - Whitemans Valley – School room Sunday 29 January 7 pm.

(Reference Paper past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 12 January 1911 page 1)

In 1911 Anglican Services continued to be held in the Whitemans Valley School room on Sundays and Tuesdays. In 1911 St Hilda's Anglican Church was built in central Upper Hutt.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 09 February 1911 plus other issues)

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 March 1913

Who's Boss – A stormy scene too place the close of tour school committee meeting on 12 February, in consequence of a difference of opinion with the teacher as to the right of the Anglican minister to hold services in the school room during the holidays with the consent of the committee. As a matter of fact, these services have been held regularly by the Upper Hutt clergymen for fifteen years past.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 01 March 1913 page 4)

In the 1913 & 1914 & 1915 & 1916 & 1917 newspaper articles it records details of Anglican Services at Whitemans Valley but there is no mention of the Whitemans Valley School room.

(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 23 August 1913 page 3 plus other issues)

### 1915 Map of Manoeuvre Area Neighbourhood of Trentham Camp



(Reference 1915 Map of Manoeuvre Area Neighbourhood of Trentham Camp IMG\_4593.JPG)

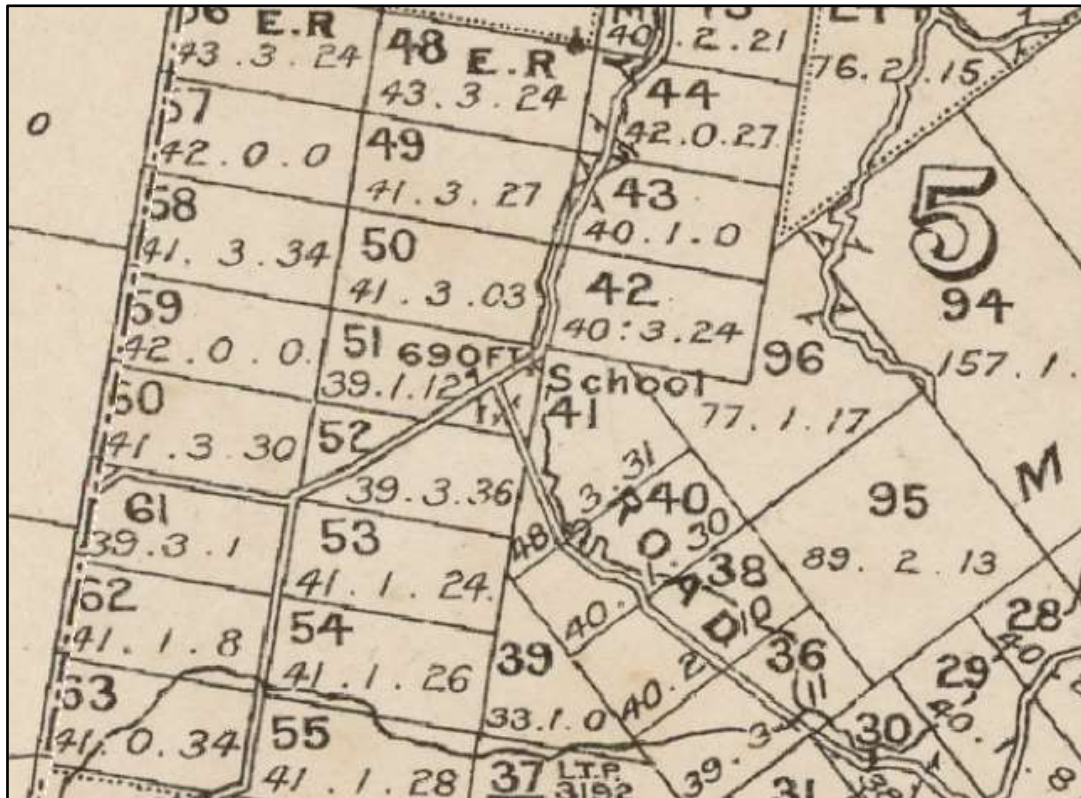
On the map above the Church is marked with a cross and the school is situated on the corner of Johns Road and Whitemans Valley Road.

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 29 December 1917

Anglican Services Directory – Services at Whitemans Valley 7.30 pm Tuesday week.

(Reference Paper past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 29 December 1917 page 3)

### 1919 Map - Whitemans Valley School corner Johnson & Whitemans Valley Road



(Reference Google Maps Past website 1919 map Whitemans Valley)

*“The building in Johnson’s Road, Whitemans Valley, was leased to the Church of England in 1917, and removed to Upper Hutt in 1927”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281 & From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42)*

In the following 1917 & 1918 & 1919 newspaper articles it records details of Anglican Services at Whitemans Valley but there is no mention of where. The last newspaper was in December 1919.

*(Reference Papers past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 1917 and 1918 plus other issues)*

Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 03 May 1919

Anglican Services Directory – Services at Whitemans Valley Tuesday May 24.

*(Reference Paper past website Hutt Valley Independent newspaper 03 May 1919 page 3)*

*“James SWANSON, 19 when he helped build it, was 60 when he returned to find it gone. “He followed the wheel marks, and at Upper Hutt helped re-erect it”.*

*(Reference Upper Hutt – the History by J A Kelleher The Churches page 281)*

James Gorrie SWANSON was born 1862 and would have been age 19 in 1881. The church was built in 1885 so James’s would have been 23 years old. James was 60 years old in 1922. The Church building was removed in 1927 so James would have been age 65 years old when he helped to re-erect the building.

*“From the early years of the century until 1927 Methodist in Upper Hutt worshiped with Presbyterians and Baptists at St David’s. Some of the best known Methodist families in Upper Hutt like the Pursers were active in the St David’s Bible Class”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42)*



*“In 1927 the Methodist Conference decided that a Home Missionary be established at Upper Hutt for the purpose of working Upper Hutt, Trentham, Haywards, Silverstream, Wallaceville and Stokes Valley”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42 & Upper Hutt Quarterly Minute Book)*

### **Peoples Picture House later known as Mayfair Theatre**



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Peoples Picture c1912 Bengé collection)*

*“The mission was to be under the supervision of the Hutt Circuit. As no church was available services were held in ‘the old picture house and drill hall”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42 & Flickers The Flame by Williams Greenwood 1946)*

*“After three months a decision was taken to move the Whitemans Valley church over the hill to a section purchased for £125 in Benzie Avenue. It was shifted in the pouring rain by Messrs Hall Brothers of Lower Hutt. Voluntary labour was used to remove the building and it was ready for the first service on 01 July 1927”.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42)*

In 1927 the former Whitemans Valley Wesleyan church was re-located and occupied the land in Benzie Avenue. The church was opened on 01 July 1927.

*“The opening of the church was conducted by the Rev Charles Olds who introduced the home missionary, Erick Alexander to the congregation. Mr James Swanson who had given the section in Whitemans Valley for the church addressed the congregation on “the history of the old building”. The “old building” still stands on its site in Benzie Avenue and is used for church purposes.*

*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 42 & Upper Hutt Quarterly Minute Book)*

### Methodist Church Benzie Avenue - former Whitemans Valley Church



*(From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans)*

Hutt News newspaper 28 June 1928

On the Tuesday evening despite the bitter cold a fair number of members attended the congregational social in Wesley Hall. The annual report presented by the Trust secretary Mr W Walton referring to the year's developments mentioned the purchase of a site at Upper Hutt and the erection on it of a Church removed from Whiteman's Valley, the purchase of a site and the erection of a church at Waiwhetu and the enlargement and renovation of the Taita Church. The Trust treasurer Mr C E Crawford presented a statement with regard to the financial position of Waiwhetu. Over £300 has been raised towards the cost of the site and building, and schemes are in hand for liquidating the greater portion of the remaining debt on the building during the next twelve months.

*(Reference Papers past website Hutt News newspaper 28 June 1928 page 6)*

### Methodists Church Benzie Avenue Upper Hutt 1971



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection P1-6732-9122)*

Evening Post newspaper 23 October 1945

Diamond Jubilee Upper Hutt Church - In 1885 a small Methodist church in Whiteman's Valley was opened for religious services. The diamond jubilee of the church will be commemorated at a special service to be held in the Upper Hutt Methodist Church on Sunday evening. The minister of the Hutt Church the Rev. J L Mitchell will hold the service and will be assisted by the Rev. R Purcell Keall. Mr W Greenwood will present early records he has compiled. The establishment of Whiteman's Valley Church concerns some of the earliest Methodist ministers in New Zealand. Though the earliest history of Methodism in the district has not been preserved the Revs. James Watkins and Samuel Ironside had preaching places in the early forties of last century throughout the Hutt Valley and as far out as Paremata. Mr Ironside visited Maoris as far north as the Wairarapa and up the West Coast to the Wangaehu district so that Upper Hutt must have been included in his itinerary. The first resident Wesleyan minister for a European circuit in New Zealand was the Rev., John Aldred who was appointed to the Wellington circuit on 23 December 1840. In 1845 however it was decided to form a separate society at the Hutt and Mr Aldred was stationed there five years later. Extracts from the journal of the Rev. Robert Ward are revealing. On 25 January 1868 he writes that he found the deeds of the Stokes Valley property the rent of which was one shilling a year. The bad condition of the roads received special mention probably because the minister rode most of the day preaching at Stokes Valley and Silverstream. One evening he preached to a cottage full of people at Mr Judd's home. Coaches and traps conveyed those who attended a tea meeting at Stokes Valley and 200 visitors from Tawa Flat,

Wellington, Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt attended. At that period Mr Ward was minister at Sydney Street Church, Wellington. Early Services - Whiteman's Valley Church was named after the Whiteman family who were early pioneers of the district. George Whiteman was a sheep farmer born in Sussex in 1828 and he accompanied his father and brother in the Gertrude which arrived in Port Nicholson in 1841. He settled in Whiteman's Valley in the early seventies. Some of the first services in Whiteman's Valley were held in the early eighties in the home of the Prouse brothers who had settled there from Wainui-o-mata and in March 1883 Whiteman's Valley was definitely placed on the preaching map. The building of the church was sanctioned two years later. A condition however was that the church must be erected free of debt. The Rev. S J Garlick was architect and Messrs Swanson, Gorrie, Devine, and Johnson and the minister regularly spent several days a week upon its construction. The section was donated by Mr Swanson, the timber by the Prouse brothers and all the labour required was supplied voluntarily. When completed the building was valued at £180. The original trustees included names well known in the valley. Among them were James Knight, James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, Joshua Knight and Charles Hollard. The Prouse brothers were among the first settlers at Wainui-o-mata. Before the church was completed religious services in Whiteman's Valley were held in a cottage owned by the brothers. In 1927 with the drift of population to Upper Hutt, the Whiteman's Valley church building was moved there and the building is still used for worship.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 23 October 1945 page 9)*

#### **Wesleyan Centre former Methodist Church circa 1997**



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Recollect website Kay Ruscoe collection)*

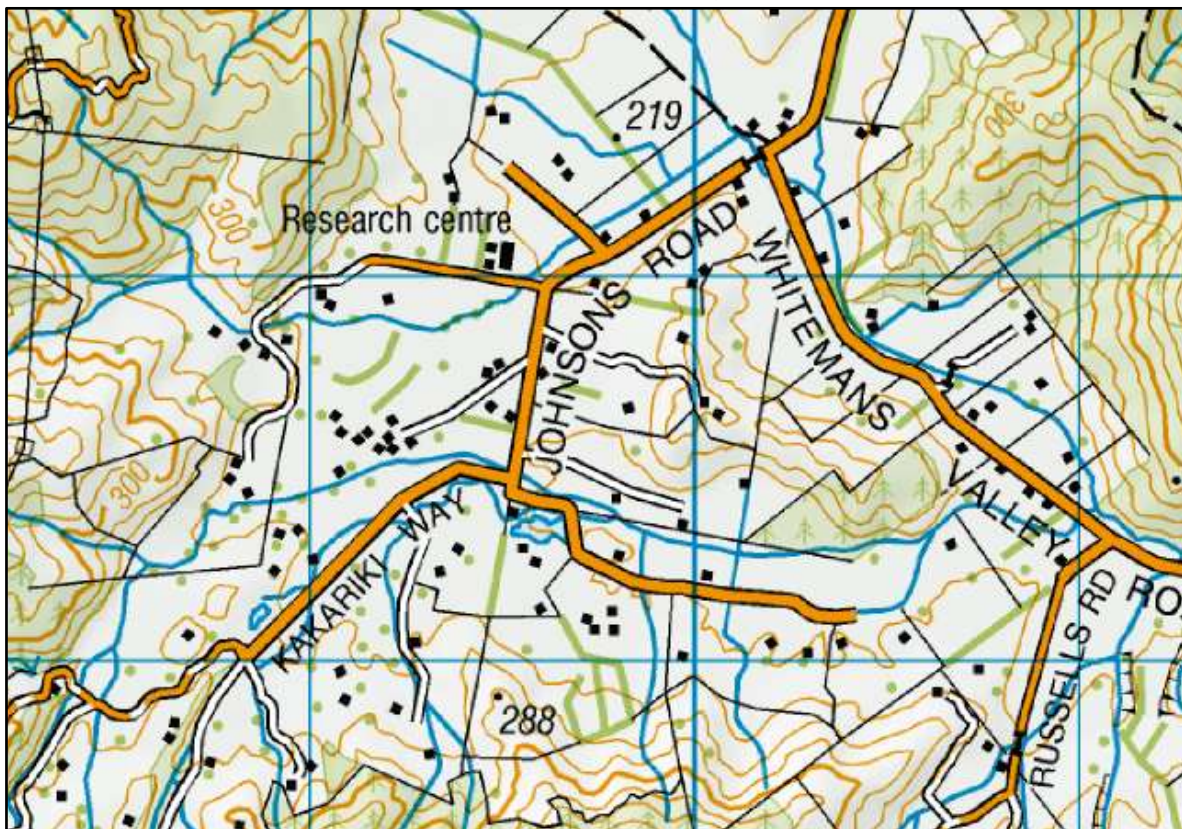
### Former site of the Wesleyan Church in Whitemans Valley



*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage Collection Kay Ruscoe Collection)*

UHCC Recollect website; "Site of Whitemans Valley Church to the left of Alan Swanson drive 1885. Nearby was site of the Prouse Mill 1867. The trees were removed in 2005".

### Map of Whitemans Valley 2009



*(Reference Goggle Maps Past website 2009 map Whitemans Valley)*

## A – Z People associated with Whitemans Valley Church

**0- John CLEMENT** born 04 September 1824 Hungerford Berkshire England died 30 October 1914 Taita Lower Hutt New Zealand 1<sup>st</sup> married 1843 Hungerford Wiltshire England Elizabeth SILVEY born 1819 England died 1849 Hungerford Berkshire England 2<sup>nd</sup> married 21 July 1852 Taita Lower Hutt New Zealand **Sarah Augusta HOPTON** born 02 October 1835 Cheltenham Gloucestershire England died 13 March 1877 Taita Lower Hutt New Zealand  
#“Service were held regularly on Sunday afternoons and Old **Mr Clements** from Stokes Valley, one of the best preachers in the district, used to walk from Stokes Valley to preach” reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946)  
#“A **Mr Clements** was said to have walked from Stokes Valley to Whitemans Valley to conduct services” reference *Upper Hutt – the History* by J A Kelleher *The Churches* page 281  
#John CLEMENT married 1852 New Zealand Sarah Augusta HOPTON reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1852 folio website 1852/294  
#1853-1864 Hutt Electoral Roll John CLEMENT Hutt Labourer household Hutt  
#1875-1876 & 1876-1877 Hutt Electoral John CLEMENT Hutt Household House section 32  
#Sarah Augusta CLEMENT died 1877 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1877 folio website 1877/438 age 41 born about 1836  
#1878-1879 Hutt Electoral Roll John CLEMENT Taita Leasehold Part of No 49 Hutt  
#1880-1881 & 1882-1884 & 1887 & 1908 & 1911 & 1914 Hutt Electoral Roll John CLEMENT residential Taita settler  
#The Primitive Methodist Conference has opened. The Rev Mr Lyon was elected President and Mr John Clement the oldest lay-preacher in the Colony vice-President reference *Wairarapa Daily Times* newspaper 06 January 1897 page 3  
#John CLEMENT died 1914 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1914 folio website 1914/7698 age 90 born about 1824  
#Sarah Augusta wife of John CLEMENT died 13 March 1877 age 41 years also Lucy infant daughter of the above died 26 February 1874 also John CLEMENT died 30 October 1914 age 90 years all buried Christ Church churchyard Taita New Zealand  
#An Early Pioneer Funeral of Mr John Clement - Old identities assembled in large numbers at Taita Lower Hutt on Sunday to pay their last respects to the memory of the late Mr John Clement one of Wellington's earliest pioneers. The late Mr Clement was an ardent worker in the cause of Methodism and among those present at yesterday's funeral were the Rev. J Dawson and Mr C M Luke who had been acquainted with deceased and his work for many years past. Prior to the funeral Mr Luke delivered an appropriate address at the home laying stress on deceased's long and faithful services to the church. Mr Dawson led in prayer while hymns suitable to the occasion were sung. The service at the Taita cemetery was conducted by the Rev W Beckett assisted by the Rev. J J Lewis of Petone. The late Mr Clement arrived in Wellington as far back as 1849 and although he made his home in the Hutt Valley he was well known by early Wellingtonians, mainly by reason of his association with the Methodist Church. He saw Wellington grow from a mere village to its present proportions and remembered when there was no Lambton-quay worthy of the name. When visited by a Post reporter some months ago Mr Clement related many of his early experiences and was particularly proud of the fact that at one time he walked regularly every Sunday from Taita to Wellington where he conducted church services returning to his home by foot the same day.

Mr Clement is survived by a large number of descendants reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 03 November 1914 page 4

#John and Elizabeth child John Clement born 1844 died 1844 in England

#John and Sarah children Henry Samuel (1854-1888), Robert Hopton (1855-1930), Martha (1857-), Alfred Green (1857-1890), Mary Emma (1858-1933), Charlotte Hannah (1860-1932), William John (1862-1955), Walter Charles Waters (1864-1944), Arthur Ernest (1866-1928), Augusta Lavinia (1867-1930), Benjamin Frederick (1869-1896), Ruth Waters (1871-1959), Lucy (1873-1874), Frank Ward (1875-1955) Clement all born in New Zealand

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**0- James DEVINE** born 1832 St Sepulchre London England died 1905 Lower Hutt New Zealand married 16 July 1851 Holborn London England Elizabeth Jane PRATT born 1832 St Andrew London England died 1914 Lower Hutt New Zealand

0-1- Thomas John DEVINE born 15 October 1851 London England

#*"The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, **James Devine**, James and Joshua Knight and Charles Holland"* reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946)

#1882-1884 Hutt Electoral Roll James DEVINE residential Kaiwarra labourer & John DEVINE freehold Lower Hutt labourer Sections 43 and 44 Whitemans Valley & Thomas John DEVIN freehold Mungaroa farmer Section 35 Upper Mungaroa

#1887 Wellington East Electoral Roll James DEVINE residential Cambridge Road No 17 pensioner

#1890 & 1893 & 1894 & 1896 Wellington Electoral Roll James DEVINE Arthur Street pensioner residential

#1900 Otaki Electoral Roll James DEVINE Otaki storekeeper residential

Please note for additional information refer to the website - section "Upper Hutt Settlers and Citizens" and click on the UHFDevinePratt.pdf document.

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**0- Rev Samuel Joseph GARLICK** born 29 March 1848 Wanganui New Zealand died 27 August 1917 Wellington New Zealand married 31 March 1880 Wellington New Zealand **Jane KIRK** born 1850 Wanganui New Zealand died 09 September 1941 Wellington New Zealand

#*"The church, to seat one hundred people, was designed by the **Rev Samuel Garlick**, of Lower Hutt, who was also a builder and he helped by local settlers with the timber being donated by the Prouse brothers from their mill. When the church opened in 1885 it was debt free"* reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans page 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946

#*"The Prouse brother operated a mill over the saddle of the hill, and the Prouse home for many years was the centre of worship. Mrs Browne's grandfather James Swanson gave land for the first church, and the settlers attended to its construction, supervised by a minister who had been a builder – **Rev Samuel J Garlick**. Trustees were James Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Simpson, James John Devine, James Knight and Charles Holland"* reference *Upper Hutt – the History* by J A Kelleher *The Churches* page 281

#Samuel Joseph GARLICK married 1880 New Zealand Jane KIRK reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1880 folio website 1880/3204

#Samuel Joseph GARLICK died 1917 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1917 folio website 1917/5639 age 69 born about 1848

#Jane GARLICK died 1941 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1941 folio website 1941/23467 age 91 born about 1850

#Samuel and Jane children Ira Margareta (1881-1953), Thomas Wilfred Fletcher (1884-1972), Jane Joyce (1890-1954) GARLICK all born in New Zealand

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Charles HOLLAND was actually Charles HOLLARD

**0- Charles HOLLARD** born 04 February 1849 Wellington New Zealand died 15 April 1917 Taita Hutt Valley New Zealand married 21 January 1872 Lower Hutt New Zealand **Harriett PILCHER** born 04 November 1853 Wellington New Zealand died 21 August 1943 Taita Hutt Valley New Zealand

#*"The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, James and Joshua Knight and **Charles Holland**" reference Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946*

#Charles HOLLARD born 1849 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1849 folio website 1849/1144 parents Ann Hillborn (1811 ENG-1896 NZ) and Charles Holland (1812 ENG-1884 NZ)

#Charles HOLLARD married 1872 New Zealand Harriett PILCHER reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1872 folio website 1872/4857

#1875-1876 Hutt Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD Lower Hutt Leasehold Lower Hutt

#1878-1879 Hutt Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD junior Lower Hutt Leasehold Lower Hutt part of Section 30

#1882-1884 Hutt Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD freehold Waiwetu farmer Part Section 30 Hutt District

#1885 Wairarapa South Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD junior residential Greytown settler

#1894 Wellington Suburbs Electoral Roll & 1903 Hutt Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD Waiwetu farmer freehold part Section 30 Hutt District

#1896 Otaki Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD Waiwhetu farmer Freehold part of section 30 Hutt district & Harriett HOLLARD Waiwetu Hutt married women residential & Eli HOLLARD Lower Hutt farmer residential & Sarah Habgood HOLLARD Lower Hutt married women residential

#1914 Hutt Electoral Roll Charles HOLLARD Bellevue Street Hutt farmer freehold part Section 30 Hutt District & Harriett HOLLARD Bellevue Street Hutt married

#Charles HOLLARD died 1917 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1917 folio website 1917/3610 age 68 born about 1849

#The death of Mr Charles Holland which took place at his residence, Woburn road Lower Hutt it 5.45 o'clock yesterday morning removes from the district one of its most highly respected residents. Mr Holland who was sixty years of age lived at Lower Hutt practically the whole of his life. His parents who were natives of Taunton Somersetshire came to New Zealand in the very early days of settlement and soon after their arrival selected Hutt as their future home. Later when the Waiwetu was still clothed in dense bush Mr C Holland's father purchased an area of land there from the late Mr Tollemarsh. Mr Charles Holland for some time followed the pursuits of a farmer at Greytown and on the death of his father returned to Waiwetu over 40 years ago and resided there until his death. He was a justice of the Peace, an ex-councillor, and a member of "Nat" Valentine's band, the first band formed in the district. He was for over 14 year's conductor of the Wesley Church choir. The late Mr Holland was a renowned rifle shot was a cricketer of note in the district in his younger days and his prowess at throwing the hammer and crowbar at athletic gatherings are well-known to athletes of a generation ago. The late Mr Holland leaves a widow, a son and two married daughters. The son is Mr E Holland merchant Hawera, one daughter is the wife of Mr E Johnston Lower Hutt, and the other of Mr H F Ayson Judge of the Native Court in the Islands reference Papers past website Wairarapa Daily Times newspaper 16 April 1917 page 5

#Charles & Harriett children 4 not named born 1873, Charles Edgar born 1880, Myrtle Harriet born 1884, Ivy Ella born 1887 all born in New Zealand under Holland and Holland



#Harriet HOLLARD died 21 August 1943 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1943 folio website 1943/21698 age 89 born about 1854

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**0- William KEMP** born 1835 died 22 May 1880 Silverstream New Zealand married wife died before 1880

#William KEMP died 22 May 1880 Silverstream New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1880 folio website 1880/760 age 45 born about 1835

#William KEMP buried St Johns Anglican Church Trentham Upper Hutt

#William Kemp was a ship's carpenter and had been working at Prouse's sawmills

#Fatal Accident at Silverstream – Man Killed on Railway – A shocking Accident occurred on Saturday night at the Silverstream station of the wellington railway by which a man named William Kemp was killed instantaneously. [full details not transcribed] On arrival of the train at Upper Hutt the deplorable mishap was duly reported to the police who ascertained that the unfortunate man was a carpenter employed at Mr Prouse's sawmills, Whiteman's Valley. He was a widower and leaves two orphans [age 12 & 7] to morn their dreadful bereavement reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 24 May 1880 page 2

0-1- Male KEMP born 1868 (Mr William Prouse found employment for elder boy)

0-2- Male KEMP born 1873 (Mr William Gough guard of train fostered the younger son

Please note for additional information refer to the website - section "Upper Hutt Settlers and Citizens" and click on the UHFKempNowell.pdf document to the Kemp miscellaneous information.

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**0- James Penrose KNIGHT** born 03 January 1833 Cornwall England died 23 October 1904 Lower Hutt New Zealand married 1852 New Zealand **Mary Ann FAIRWEATHER** born 18 November 1834 Scotland died 30 November 1861 Lower Hutt New Zealand 2<sup>nd</sup> married 1862 New Zealand **Jane HEAYNS** born 16 November 1843 Cornwall England died 18 January 1930 Lower Hutt New Zealand

#*"The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, **James and Joshua Knight** and Charles Holland"* reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

#Ship Duke of Roxburgh departed Plymouth England 05 October 1839 arrived 08 February 1840 Port Nicholson Wellington New Zealand passengers William KNIGHT age 39 miner, Mary Ann KNIGHT age 36, Mary Anne KNIGHT age 12, **James KNIGHT age 8**, John KNIGHT age 6, Henry KNIGHT age 3, Samuel KNIGHT age 7 months

#James KNIGHT married 18 February 1852 Wesleyan Chapel Petone New Zealand Mary Ann FAIRWEATHER reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1852 folio website 1852/220

#1853-1864 Hutt Electoral Roll James KNIGHT Waiwetu Farmer Leasehold Hutt district

#Mary Anne KNIGHT died 03 November 1861 Lower Hutt New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1861 folio website 1861/3162 age 27 born about 1834

#Mary Ann KNIGHT born 1834 died 1861 wife of James buried Wesleyan cemetery Bridge Street Lower Hutt

#James and Mary Anne (5) children Mary Ann born 1852, Elizabeth born 1854, Eliza, Rebecca born 1856, Emily born 1858, William born 1859, all born in New Zealand

#James KNIGHT married 15 November 1862 Lower Hutt New Zealand Jane HEAYNS reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1862 folio website 1862/4448

#1875-1876 Hutt Electoral Roll James KNIGHT Waiwetu Leasehold Hutt District 20 acres on Section 26 & Thomas KNIGHT Waiwetu Freehold Mungaroa 75 adjacent to Mungaroa Bridge un-surveyed & Henry KNIGHT Waiwetu Leasehold Waiwetu house and land on section 27

#1879-1880 James KNIGHT Waiwetu Leasehold Hutt District 20 acres on section 26

#1880-1881 & 1882-1883 Hutt Electoral Roll James KNIGHT residential Waiwetu farmer  
#1905-1906 Hutt Electoral Roll James KNIGHT Waiwetu farmer  
#James and Jane 11 children Samuel born 1863, James born 1865, Philippa Jane born 1867, John Penrose born 1869, Wesley born 1871, Willoughby born 1873, Norman Halliday born 1874, Stannard Richardson born 1876, John James born 1879, Leila Ada born 1881, Harriet Martha Jane born 1882 all born in New Zealand  
#James KNIGHT died 23 October 1904 Lower Hutt reference RGO NZ death registration 1904 folio website 1904/6900 age 71 born about 1833  
#James KNIGHT was Wesleyan Cemetery Bridge Street Lower Hutt New Zealand  
#Jane KNIGHT died 18 January 1930 Lower Hutt New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1930 folio website 1930/1375 age 86 born about 1844  
#Jane KNIGHT was buried Old Taita Cemetery Hutt Valley New Zealand

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#### 0- Joshua KNIGHT

#NOTE There are no New Zealand records for a Joshua KNIGHT only an Ernest Joshua Knight who was born 1897 NZ married 1925 NZ died 1994 NZ too young to be trustee  
#*"The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, **James and Joshua Knight** and Charles Holland"* reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

No Trace for Joshua KNIGHT perhaps it was Joseph KNIGHT

**0- Joseph KNIGHT** born 1845 Cornwall England died 07 July 1906 Waiwetu Hutt Valley New Zealand married November 1868 Lower Hutt New Zealand Elizabeth HEAYNES born 04 October 1849 Cornwall England died 24 November 1926 Lower Hutt New Zealand  
#1887 Hut Electoral Roll Joseph KNIGHT freehold Waiwetu farmer Section 23 Hutt & James KNIGHT freehold Hutt farmer Section 26 Hutt & Henry KNIGHT residential Waiwetu farmer & William Henry KNIGHT residential Waiwetu farmer  
#Joseph KNIGHT died July 1906 Waiwetu New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1906 folio website 1906/4483 age 60 born about 1846

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**0- Richard PROUSE** born 04 October 1829 Devon England died 11 March 1894 Wellington New Zealand married 1852 Australia **Jane GORRIE** born 1831 Perth Scotland died 26 April 1899 Wainuiomata New Zealand

#*"The original Trustees were **James, Richard and Charles Prouse**, Walter Smithson, James Devine, James and Joshua Knight and Charles Holland"* reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans page 41 & Flickers The Flame by William Greenwood 1946)*

0-1- James PROUSE born 02 October 1853 Wainuiomata New Zealand

0-2- Richard Gorrie PROUSE born 03 February 1855 Wainuiomata New Zealand

0-3- Jane PROUSE born 1856 Wainuiomata New Zealand

0-4- John PROUSE born 16 October 1857 Wainuiomata New Zealand

0-5- Henry PROUSE born 30 October 1859 Wainuiomata New Zealand

0-6- Mary PROUSE born 01 October 1860 Wainuiomata New Zealand

Please note for additional information refer to the website - section "Upper Hutt Settlers and Citizens" and click on the UHF ProuseGorrie.pdf document.

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**0- Walter William SMITHSON** born 1853 Kings Cross England died 09 November 1922 Levin New Zealand married 1917 New Zealand **Elizabeth Charlotte FRANCIS** born 08 February 1861 Bucks England died 14 April 1946 Levin New Zealand

#“The original Trustees were James, Richard and Charles Prouse, Walter Smithson, James Devine, James and Joshua Knight and Charles Holland” reference *Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979* by M E Evans pg 41 & *Flickers The Flame* by William Greenwood 1946  
#1894 Otaki Electoral Roll Walter William SMITHSON Levin labourer residential & Elizabeth Charlotte SMITHSON Levin Married Women residential  
#Walter William SMITHSON married 1917 New Zealand Elizabeth Charlotte FRANCIS reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1917 folio website 1917/1955  
#Walter William SMITHSON died 1922 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1922 folio website 1922/8929 age 69 born about 1853  
#Elizabeth Charlotte SMITHSON died 1946 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1946 folio website 1946/32283 age 85 born about 1861  
#Obituary Mr Walter William Smithson - Much regret will be felt at the death of Mr W W Smithson a well-known resident of Levin and one of its pioneer settlers. Mr Smithson had been seriously ill for some time and the sad event was not altogether unexpected. He was born at King's Cross England in 1853 and arrived in New Zealand with his uncle Mr Ransom of Lower Hutt, 55 years ago. He was first in the employ of Mr Prouse senior at Wainuiomata and left there to pilot the early settlers through to Sandon along the beach. Then he entered the service of Sir W Fox on his estate at Greatford and later took up contracting in Palmerston and Feilding. Subsequently Mr Smithson worked for Prouse Brothers at Whiteman's Valley and in 1887 he came to Levin entering Mr P Bartholomew's employ. At a later period he went into a grocery and bakery business in Levin. He was one of the earliest residents settling here when there were no roads but only bush tracks from the sawmills. The late Mr Smithson took a great interest in Friendly Society matters and was a Forester of many years standing. He was a charter member of the Levin Court which he helped to establish in 189, and became a P.C.R. and trustee holding the latter office till his death. He also helped to found a Court at Rangitawa on the Main Trunk line. He was generally respected in Levin as a conscientious and straightforward man who was always willing to do his share of work in various movements with which he was connected. His many friends will hear with regret of his death and will extend their sympathy to the widow and family who include Mrs A P Jones and Mrs K Burt of Levin, and Mr T Smithson of Wellington. The funeral takes place on Sunday in Levin reference Papers past website Horowhenua Chronicle newspaper 10 November 1922 page 3  
#Walter William & Elizabeth Charlotte SMITHSON children Emma Charlotte born 1878, Thomas Walter William born 1880, Rachel Mabel born 1883, Ruth Hannah June born 1887, Edwin Chamberlain born 1899 & Lavinia (registered 1922) all born in New Zealand

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**0- Charles SWANSON** born 04 February 1839 Sweden died 01 July 1917 Petone Hutt Valley New Zealand married 15 January 1864 New Zealand Ellen GORRIE born 1846 Perthshire Scotland died 11 January 1919 Upper Hutt New Zealand

**0-1- James Gorrie SWANSON** born 29 September 1862 Wainuiomata Hutt Valley New Zealand died 15 March 1932 Whitemans Valley Upper Hutt New Zealand married 24 April 1888 Whitemans Valley Upper Hutt New Zealand **Edith RUSSELL** born 12 August 1870 Upper Hutt New Zealand died 08 May 1939 Whitemans Valley Upper Hutt New Zealand

0-1-1- Florence Elma SWANSON born 1889 New Zealand died 1936 New Zealand married 1909 New Zealand Charles wellington O'BRIEN born 1880 place unknown died 1917 New Z

0-1-2- Edith Blanche SWANSON born 1890 New Zealand died 1971 New Zealand married 1910 New Zealand Sidney James SCOTT born 1885 place unknown died 1948 New Zealand

0-1-3- **Olive Myrtle SWANSON** born 1894 New Zealand died 1970 New Zealand married 1915 New Zealand **Oscar Alexander Borthwick BROWNE** born 1892 New Zealand died 1971 New Zealand

- 0-1-4- Ray Clive SWANSON born 1896 New Zealand died 1966 New Zealand married 1920 New Zealand Rose BOYLE born 1896 New Zealand died 1977 New Zealand
- 0-2- Mary SWANSON born 1864 New Zealand died 27 September 1943 Levin New Zealand married 19 July 1893 New Zealand James PARSONS born 1861 Essex England died 15 August 1942 Levin New Zealand
- 0-3- Ellen SWANSON born 1867 New Zealand died 30 November 1932 Upper Hutt New Zealand married 1892 New Zealand Thomas RUSSELL born 21 February 1872 Upper Hutt New Zealand died 05 October 1944 Upper Hutt New Zealand
- 0-4- Anna Sophia SWANSON born 1870 New Zealand died 1956 New Zealand married 1904 New Zealand John Arthur CHETHAM born 1873 place unknown died 1950 New Zealand
- 0-5- Emma SWANSON born 1873 New Zealand died 1928 New Zealand (never married)
- 0-6- Charles Edward SWANSON born 1876 Whitemans Valley New Zealand died 22 May 1957 Upper Hutt New Zealand married 1904 New Zealand Edith Constance Kaiapoi SCOTT born 1877 New Zealand died 03 July 1945 New Zealand
- 0-7- John Williams Edward SWANSON born 1881 Whitemans Valley New Zealand died 31 May 1957 Upper Hutt New Zealand (never married)

Please note for additional information refer to the website - section "Upper Hutt Settlers and Citizens" and click on the UHFSwanGorrie.pdf document.

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#### Publications

- ❖ Upper Hutt – The History by K A Kelleher
  - ❖ Flickers The Flame by Williams Greenwood 1946
  - ❖ From Quiet Homes and First Beginning 1879-1979 by M E Evans 1979  
*"A History of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Upper Hutt, who in 1976, joined together to form the Upper Hut C-operating Parish."*
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