First chemist in the Wairarapa

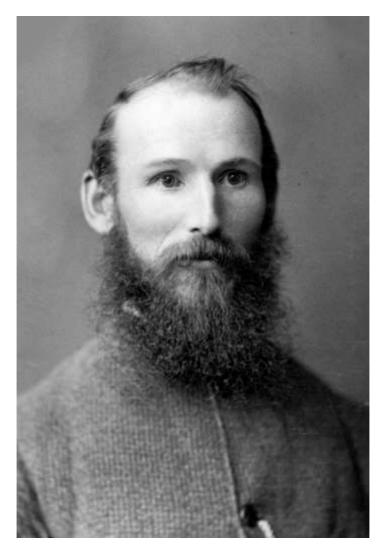


Ian St George

First chemist in the Wairarapa

Leonard Shaw St George

by Ian St George

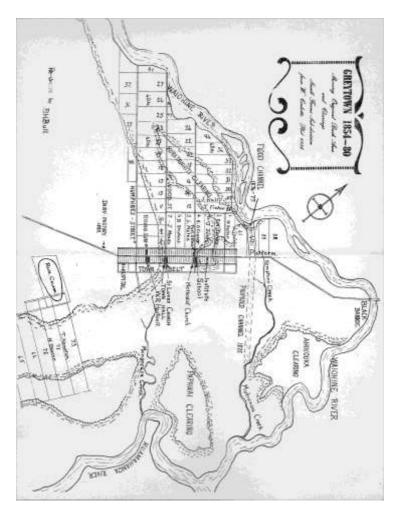


Leonard Shaw St George. Wrigglesworth & Binns, Photographers, Wellington. Wairarapa Archive Ref. No. 16-70/31.

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Early Greytown. Leonard St George's chemist shop and home were between St Luke's church and the school, on the site now occupied by the White Swan hotel. (Bagnall AG 1953. *Old Greytown 1854–1954*. Greytown Centennial Book Committee).

CHAPTER 1: NEW PLYMOUTH

Leonard Shaw St George was the second son of George Hanbury Farrady St George and Matilda Ann Shaw. Both had sailed for New Plymouth on the *Amelia Thompson* in 1841.

George St George was one of many illegitimate children of George Durant of Tong Castle in Shropshire. His English male whakapapa has been traced back to Henry Durrande of Blockley who died in 1584. George had an orthodox medical education but was jailed for assault and did not receive his diplomas. Nonetheless he was a successful and much respected New Plymouth doctor, practising there from 1841 till 1893, by far the longest serving of the first Taranaki medical men.

Matilda Ann Shaw had come to New Plymouth with her father and his second wife (her mother's sister) and their children.

George and Matilda were married on 8 August 1842 and she would bear nine children,

George Durant Fitzclarence 1843 Emma Lamour 1845 Leonard Shaw 1848 Louis Edwin 1850 Douglas 1852 Celeste Belle 1855 St George Lydia 1857 St Mary 1860 George Celestine 1863

Emma Lamour died in infancy in 1847.

Leonard was known as Leo, born 22 March 1848 and baptised at St Mary's, New Plymouth, on 12 April 1848. When he was nine his older brother George was drowned, leaving him the eldest of four (his mother was pregnant with Lydia).

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¹ St George IM 2017. Fifty years a Taranaki doctor.

Master George St. George was drowned on Monday last whilst bathing in the sea. This sad misfortune has greatly affected his father and mother. The funeral will take place tomorrow.²

DIED. On the 9th inst., from drowning, GEORGE DURANT FITZCLARENCE, eldest son of GEORGE ST. GEORGE, Surgeon, of this place, aged 13 years 6 months.³

CORONER'S INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Tuesday, the 10th instant, by Peter Wilson, Esq. Coroner, on the body of George, the eldest son of George St. George, Esq. Surgeon, whose death occurred from drowning on the previous afternoon, The deceased, who was in his 14th, year, was bathing in the sea with some schoolfellows younger than himself, and was drawn beyond his depth by the under current. One of the little fellows (Master Redhead) gallantly attempted to rescue him, but finding he could not do so, let go his hand, when the deceased sank. The melancholy accident was witnessed from the beach, yet notwithstanding every effort was made, the body was not recovered for upwards of half an hour. Surgical aid was at hand, but of no avail. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally Drowned"."

MR. and MRS. ST. GEORGE take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging, most gratefully, the great aid rendered by their friends on the occasion of the drowning of their poor boy on Monday, and especially to those who recovered his body from a watery grave. They return, at the same time, their sincere thanks for the inquiries and condolence of their friends generally.⁵

"This sad misfortune" must also have greatly affected Leo but of course there is no record of a nine year old boy's feelings.

The family lived at "Hygeia Lodge" in central New Plymouth and Leo attended Paetawa House school run by Charles Beardsworth a short walk away in Vivian St.

² Letter from Henry Halse to Donald McLean, 12 February 1857. Alexander Turnbull Library, object #1022798 from MS-Papers-0032-0315.

³ Taranaki Herald 14 February 1857.

⁴ ibid.

⁵ ibid.

PAETAWA HOUSE SCHOOL, VIVIAN STREET.

R. BEARDSWORTH begs to inform the Parents of his Pupils that, in accordance with the reiterated advice of his friends and the pressing example of the whole trading community, he now deems it imperatively necessary to raise his terms, which will, for the future, be

Per Quarter £1 5 0

The Mid-Winter vacation will terminate on Monday the 10th instant, when punctuality to the day on the part of the Pupils will be very desirable in order that vacancies (if any) may be filled, the number of Pupils being strictly limited.

Charles Alfred Copland Beardsworth had written a textbook in 1856, but in 1863 he got drunk (or took some other mind altering substance) and shot himself. The *Herald* was unchacteristically coy,

A very painful occurrence took place here early yesterday morning when Mr. C. A. C. Beardsworth, master of the High School, shot himself dead. The verdict of the Coroner's Jury tells all of the sad story that need be made public:— "That the deceased committed suicide during a temporary fit of insanity caused by intemperance."

Two years later the Taranaki Provincial Council agreed to buy Beardsworth's school building, one councillor remarking on "the great want of education existing in our midst. In his neighbourhood there were many children running about almost like little savages".

Leo's father had also purchased a fifty acre block at Waitara but it was land disputed by Te Atiawa, a dispute that started the New Zealand Wars.

⁶ Beardsworth CAC 1856. An epitome of the geography (physical, political, historical, and descriptive) of New Zealand. New Plymouth, Taranaki News. 18p. (Bagnall

⁷ Taranaki Herald 3 January, 1863.

⁸ Taranaki Herald 6 May 1865.

Leo was twelve years old when war broke out in Taranaki in 1860 and the rural settlers crowded into the entrenched town. He was attending the school at the same time as Robert Clinton Hughes. At twelve and thirteen years of age Hughes recorded the events of the war in a diary from 20 February 1860 to 30 June 1862. It is a vivid contemporary account of the horrible events as perceived by a very articulate young man, pushed to a maturity beyond his years.

There is no mention of Hughes's schoolfellows, but,

February 28, 1860. To-day the Militia were called out. There was no school to-day in consequence. Mr Beardsworth (schoolmaster) had to appear and was sworn in.

March 26, 1860. To-day when I came from school, I heard that Mr Ford, Shaw and Passmore had been murdered by Taranaki Maoris.....

August 8, 1860. All families have been ordered to leave New Plymouth at once. The schools are being poorly attended on account of the disturbed state of the place....

September 6, 1860. The Wonga Wonga and Airedale arrived to-day, the former from Wellington, the latter from Nelson. More women and children were going away today, but several of them decided on stopping with their husbands. An eye witness states that it was a heart rendering scene to see mothers clasping their husbands not knowing whether they would see each other again.

September 7, 1860.... The Airedale was to have started for Nelson today but owing to the women disobeying orders for them to be on board before noon. Some of them hid themselves, taking with them their husbands rifles in some deserted houses outside the town so that when the Airdale departed for Nelson instead of taking 200 persons, she had only about 50.

1 May 1861. There is a great deal of sickness around town at present. The prevalent disease is Diphtheria of which two to four die every week.

May 30, 1861. Sickness still hangs heavily over the town.

⁹ Hughes diary. Puke Ariki Accession No ARC2001-140.

September 10, 1861. Diphtheria is not as prevalent as usual in the town. It has continued in the Province for twelve months during which time its fatal effects have been severely felt. Whole families have been ravished by it. Another disease is very common here called Mumps.

In October 1861 Leo's seven year old sister Celeste died at age six, of diphtheria. It was epidemic in the town in 1861-2, along with enteric fever, as a result of the crowding, with inadequate sanitary infrastructure.

We regret to say that sickness, which is the inevitable attendant on war, has again broken out amongst the white population in this town. Three cases of decided typhus fever are reported, and we are informed that Dr. Mouat, Principal Medical Officer in the Colony, has corresponded with the Superintendent on the subject and recommended immediate remedial measures. Beardsworth's schoolroom is to be used as a hospital, pending the erection of a building for the purpose on the Native Reserve near the Town Pound, a plan for which has been submitted by Dr. Mouat, and his Honor has taken it with him to Auckland (in the Airedale, which left at 4 p.m.,) where arrangements will be made for procuring the materials and for putting it up as speedily as possible. Dr. Mackinnon, 57th Regt., has been appointed by Dr. Mouat Sanitary officer, and the cleanliness of the town and the condition of its inhabitants will be subjects for immediate inquiry. The absence of disease amongst the troops during the last war and up to the present time—while deaths among the settlers was of frequent occurrence—is attributable to the sanitary arrangements adopted by the military medical gentlemen, the observance of which Dr. Mouat has strongly urged upon the Superintendent, to preserve the health of the inhabitants in their present crowded state.¹⁰

Leo served in the military forces—and he too would not receive the land he thought he was entitled to. Men who had served were allotted land in recognition and in 1890 Leo made an application under "The

¹⁰ Taranaki Herald 20 June 1863.

Naval and Military Settlers' and Volunteers' Land Act, 1889. His sworn statement describes his service,

I became a volunteer in 1863 at the age of 16 in New Plymouth during the time of the hostilities. I attached myself to No 1 Company under Capt Good. I served there till my business engagements necessitated my going to Wellington. That was in 1867. I think, I took the earliest opportunity of joining the volunteers there under Capt Mc Barnett- the No 1 City Rifles. Subsequently I was removed to the Hutt, but not knowing whether I was going to permanently remain at the Hutt, I sent word to Wellington to keep my name on the rolls. Then I was removed to the Wairarapa, and I got my discharge. I joined in Taranaki in 1863, and I left there in 1867. I was in Wellington City Rifles from 1867 to 1869, and when I came to the Wairarapa in 1869 I got my discharge. I may state that during my service in New Plymouth there were 200 men required to form a military settlement at Patea. I was one of those who applied, but naturally they chose men of good physique, and those who had had previous experience in a farming capacity. I was rejected because at that time I was just able to carry a rifle, being very young at the time. As a matter of fact, my father got my name on the rolls before I was qualified to serve, not being 16 years old at the time. Then there was another detachment required for Tikorangi. I did not apply, I suppose because of being disappointed in regard to the previous settlement. At the enquiry by Mr Marchant I apprehend my claim would have been recognised only there was a breach in my service at New Plymouth which I could not then explain. I made all kinds of enquiries, and at last Capt Cameron communicated with Col Stamp at New Plymouth, and the result was I got information which I sent down to Wellington explaining how the breach came in. Owing to there not being a sufficient number of volunteers for the Tikorangi settlement the corps was disbanded and we were forcibly thrown out of the volunteers. I think I connected myself with the militia during that period. Then another company was formed in New Plymouth under Capt Rowen, which was called the Taranaki Light Infantry, I immediately joined that, and was Lance Corporal at the time I left Taranaki, with the promise that I should be promoted from time to time. I had six months' active service for the Provincial Government. for which I was granted £5, but that was subsequently repudiated, and eventually I got £2 10s in cash. I was never in an encounter with the

Natives. I did patrol and redoubt duty. I joined No 1 Coy in 1863, and served till 1865, and then immediately Capt Rowen formed the Light Infantry I joined them. I could not do any more. I was forced to attach myself to the militia owing to No 1 Coy disbanding. I sent my certificates of efficiency to Col Haultain's commission, and I have not seen them since."

The Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps was formed in September 1859, Leo's uncle Edwin St George joining as a founder private. There is a *carte de visite* at Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, showing Leo and George St George in uniform, dated 1868.



¹¹ NZ National Archives C455 588 Ref No LS69 31.



A correspondent ("Fifty-One") to the *Taranaki Herald* in 1918 remembered,

All the early settlers, irrespective of age or profession, carried arms and did duty during the strenuous times of the sixties. Even doctors were not exempt. Punch, edited by Henry Rawson, and printed at the Taranaki Herald Office, in one of its issues gave a typical description of Dr. St. George's warlike appearance. He was represented as going to his farm, situated near the High School, armed cap-a-pie, his oldest son following with the milking pail. There are many—young in the sixties—but grey-headed now—who will recall the doctor turning up at the old Masonic corner to answer his name for

¹² Head to foot.

sentrygo. His appearance was comical in the extreme, and Punch took him off to a nicety.... But looks did not matter in those days; the men counted, and they were the best the Old Country produced.¹³

If anyone possesses a copy of Taranaki Punch, published during the Maori war, they will see a cartoon of Leonard and his father proceeding to their farm near the racecourse, armed to the teeth. It was a capital cartoon, and was as much enjoyed by the principal actors as by the general public."

By age 18 and 19 Leo was scoring well in rifle shooting as a member of the Taranaki Light Infantry Volunteers¹⁵ (itself disbanded in 1869);¹⁶ he was a founder of the Taranaki Rifle Association,¹⁷ founder member of the Taranaki Volunteer and Militia band (he played the cornet) and of the Wellington Rifles and much later, in Greytown, was an active leader in the rifle club.

New Plymouth had become accustomed to military brass bands during the war so in 1867,

VOLUNTEER AND MILITIA BAND.... A sufficient number having assembled, Capt. Rowan was voted to the chair. It was then proposed by Mr. J. Carrick, and seconded by Captain Wilson, "that it is advisable to form a band in New Plymouth; the band to be styled the "Taranaki Volunteer and Militia Band" instead of simply the "Volunteer Band." The following members then gave in their names, either personally or by proxy, as willing to form themselves into a band:—Messrs. J McCornish, C. Rawson, Rhodes, J. Carrick, J. Duncan, J. Newland, T. Hammerton, W. Douglas, W. Davies, A. Black, Lewis St. George, ¹⁸ Leo. St. George, R. Collins, H. Howell, W. Lawrence, E. Hoskin, W. Shaw, F. Broadmore, H. Moverly, J. Cunningham, J. Gyde. A list of the instruments at present available was then read over by the Chairman, and it was found that several new instruments are needed to form a

¹³ Taranaki Herald 1 April 1918.

¹⁴ Taranaki Herald 15 May 1920.

¹⁵ Taranaki Herald 9 February 1867,

¹⁶ NZ National Archives C 315 477 Ref. No. 1869/10.

¹⁷ Taranaki Herald 13 April & 25 May 1867.

¹⁸ Leo's brother Louis aged 17.

band. It was then proposed by Captain Wilson, and seconded by H. Howell, "that a public subscription be opened, for the purpose of raising funds for the instruments required, and for remunerating the band master." Carried unanimously. Proposed by J. Carrick, and seconded by Leo. St. George, "that a committee of five be appointed to receive subscriptions." Carried unanimously. The following were then duly proposed and elected to act as members of the above named committee:-Messrs. McCornish, Collins, Leo. St. George, Carrick, Rowan. Mr. Smith then informed the meeting that, to forward the interests of a band, and to give it all the help in his power, he intended giving a new Deane and Adam's revolver, case and all complete, to be fired for by tickets of say 5s.; the proceeds to be given to the band fund. He also stated that he expected some instruments shortly, and should any of them prove such as are required by the band, he would be happy to let the band have them at cost price. Also that he would repair and keep in repair for one year gratis, the instruments requiring it, belonging to the band. The thanks of the meeting were then voted to Mr. Smith, for the generosity of his offers. The thanks of the meeting were voted to the Chairman, and the meeting was adjourned until the evening of 23rd proximo, the members willing to form a band having been requested to call a meeting among themselves in the meantime.19

His father was getting nowhere with his claims to possession of the Waitara land and times were difficult during the war. George St George was declared bankrupt in 1867, but not before transferring some of his assets to 18 year old Leo in 1866,

NOTICE.

THIS is to certify that I, GEORGE ST. GEORGE, did finally agree and assign on or about the 2nd day of July, 1866, to hand over all my right, title, business and interest in every respect whatsoever, including stock, fixtures, books, drugs, glass, mortars, pill machines, slabs, filters, scales, baths, &c, &c.; in fact everything

¹⁹ Taranaki Herald 27 July 1867.

belonging and used in the Huatoki Bridge Dispensary, to my son Leo. S. ST. GEORGE, his executors, administrators, and assigns, as per agreement.²⁰

Leo had left school at the end of 1865 and was apprenticed at the Huatoki Bridge Dispensary, which his father had established in 1841.

On 3 September 1866 an inquest was held into the death of one George Goodburn who had been found dead in a water-closet at Mr. Erskine's boarding house two days earlier. Leonard St George had dispensed the poison. He gave evidence,

I am an assistant in my father's dispensary in Brougham-street. On Saturday morning last, at about a quarter or half-past 11, deceased came to the dispensary for a shilling's worth of essential oil of almonds. I asked him what he wanted it for? and he said his wife wanted it to flavour puddings. I went to the show case and took out a small bottle of essence of almonds, such as is sent out from England on purpose for such uses. At the same time I took down the shop-bottle containing oil of almonds. He would not have the small bottle, saying the other was what his wife wanted. I then asked if he had a bottle to put it in? He replied, No; and I then took a bottle which had contained lavender, and gave him from three drachms to half an ounce, as near as I could guess, of essential oil of almonds. I wrote on a label "Essential Oil of Almonds," and "Poison," and gummed it over the label which was previously on the bottle. I told him to keep the bottle out of the way of the children. Mr. Grylls was in the shop at the time.... Deceased seemed quite rational at the time. I told him if he used the oil for flavouring puddings, he must not use more than two drops, at the most.... The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of *felo de se*.²¹

Leo shot 5th best in the Taranaki Light Infantry Volunteers shoot in February 1867²² and 7th in March;²³ in April he was appointed to a

²⁰ Taranaki Herald 19 January 1867.

²¹ Taranaki Herald 8 September 1866.

²² Taranaki Herald 9 February 1867.

²³ Taranaki Herald 9 March 1867.

committee to set up rules for a new Rifle Association.²⁴ He shot 10th in April²⁵ and was appointed to a committee to receive subscriptions to raise money for band instruments.²⁶ He shot best in his class in August²⁷ and 3rd best in September.²⁸

Years later his old Major, RJ Collins, would remember,

... I remember Mr St George was one of the members who joined the company on its formation in December 1866, and he served in the corps up to the time of his leaving the district in 1867. He was at the time of his discharge an efficient volunteer.

As Sergeant major of the district I had every opportunity of knowing the volunteers and was well acquainted with Mr St George who was a great enthusiast in volunteer matters, and took a large amount of interest in shooting being an excellent marksman himself.²⁹

By December 1867 he had left for Wellington, so his father advertised their New Plymouth pharmacy business for lease,

TO MEDICAL MEN, DRUGGISTS, OR OTHERS.

TO BE LET for a term or otherwise, a business in New Plymouth, established since 1841, as a Druggist's Shop and Medical Practitioner's Dispensary, occupying the best position in Taranaki, and well known as the Hutoki Bridge Dispensary; together with fixture glass, in fact everything used or connected with the dispensing of drugs. The small stock of drugs to be taken at a valuation and retaken at the end of the term. This is the only shop in Taranaki for the sale of drugs alone. The shop is 27 feet by 18 feet; back room 18 feet by 12 feet; a stable and back yard. Terms, about £40 per annum. Apply to Leo. St. George, at Barraud's, druggist, Wellington; or to the owner.

GEORGE ST. GEORGE.

Taranaki.30

²⁴ Taranaki Herald 13 April 1867.

²⁵ Taranaki Herald 27 April 1867.

²⁶ Taranaki Herald 27 July 1867.

²⁷ Taranaki Herald 3 August 1867.

²⁸ Taranaki Herald 28 September 1867.

²⁹ NZ National Archives C 455 588 Ref No LS69 31.

³⁰ Wellington Independent 28 December 1867.

CHAPTER 2: WELLINGTON AND GREYTOWN

Charles Decimus Barraud was a very successful chemist with pharmacies in Lambton Quay, then later on the Manners and Herbert St corner (Barraud & Owen), Molesworth and Hill St corner, Palmerston North (Barraud & Abraham), Napier (Barraud & Bridge) and Wanganui. He would form the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand and would become President of the Pharmacy Board. He was also a very accomplished and successful painter who, after 1887, travelled widely painting New Zealand scenes. He was founder of the Fine Arts Association which would become the NZ Academy of Fine Arts; he was its president until he died. He was a devoted Anglican who was intimately involved with the building of Old St Paul's.³¹

Leo initially worked in one of Barraud's Wellington shops and during that time joined the volunteers under Captain McBarnett²²—the No 1 City Rifles. Subsequently, he wrote, he "was removed to the Hutt.... Then I was removed to the Wairarapa.... in 1869".

His brother Louis accepted a position in the Treasury in Wellington in 1868 and when the No 1 Company of the Wellington Rifle Volunteers completed its annual course of class-firing in March of 1869 both received their badges. Leo scored well again in April, and later was shooting with Louis and Frank Barraud, his employer's son, also a chemist. They shot at the old rifle butts, now Adelaide road.

In July he was in the Wellington team that won against teams from Carterton and Featherston; Wairarapa won the return match later in the month. The season started again in the spring, the first major

³¹ Robin Kay 1990. Barraud, Charles Decimus. *Te Ara—the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1b8/barraud-charles-decimus (accessed 26 September 2017).

³² Captain McBarnett, No.1 Company, Wellington Rifle Volunteers. On his voyage back to NZ from England in the *Euterpe* in 1876 "a first-class passenger, Captain McBarnett, who belonged to the army, committed suicide after the ship sailed by wounding himself in the throat" (*West Coast Times* 1 March 1876).

³³ Wellington Independent 30 March 1869.

³⁴ Evening Post 24 April 1869.

³⁵ Wellington Independent 27 April 1869.

³⁶ Wairarapa Mercury 1 July 1869.

³⁷ Wairarapa Mercury 22 July 1869.

shoots at the Adelaide Butts taking place in November. He was still shooting there in February 1870, visiting from Greytown.

He noted (in a letter to JC McKerrow, the Commissioner appointed in pursuance of Section 3 of the Naval and Military Claims Settlement and Extinguishment Act, 1896), "... what I <u>mainly</u> take credit for is in inducing others to become members of the Co. & also to take an interest in shooting".

His marksman colleagues included his brother Louis St George; John Henry Halse whose father Henry had come to New Plymouth with George St George on the *Amelia Thompson* and who would marry May (his future wife)'s youngest sister Maude Letitia Varnham; his employer's son Frank Barraud and May's brother Milton Rhodes Varnham—were these the young men he "induced" into an interest in shooting? and was shooting also a good way to meet girls?

On 16 April 1869 Greytown's Wairarapa Mercury had announced,

GREYTOWN DISPENSARY. —In another column our readers will notice that Mr. Barraud of Wellington, intends establishing a branch business in Greytown. We understand he has made arrangements with Mr. Jupp, who has for some time acted as his Agent in Greytown for the sale of his medicines, and we feel certain that his name alone will ensure him the support of the inhabitants. We notice that Mr. Barraud does not intend to confine his business to drugs alone, and we hope that he will reserve a corner for exhibiting some of the sketches that he has lately taken of some of the picturesque spots in the Wairarapa."

Indeed, in the "other column" was this,

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

C. D. BARRAUD begs to inform the inhabitants of Greytown, and the settlers generally in the Wairarapa, that he

³⁸ Evening Post 15 November 1869.

³⁹ Wellington Independent 22 February 1870.

⁴⁰ Leonard St George to JC McKerrow 30 June 1897. NZ National Archives C 455 588 Recod No. 1873.

⁴¹ Wairarapa Mercury April 1869. In 1864 Edmund Jupp occupied the schoolhouse on Greytown town acre No. 31. He was headmaster at Porirua in 1878.

has arranged to open a Branch Business in Greytown, and is now preparing a suitable stock of Medicines and fittings for commencing in a thoroughly efficient manner, so soon as the premises are ready,

It will be conducted by a former assistant in whom he has confidence, and he trusts that the way in which his business in Wellington has been managed for the last 20 years, will be a sufficient guarantee to all his friends in the Wairarapa who have so long dealt with him, not only that his medicines be genuine, but that their wants will be thoroughly attended to.

As he will charge town prices as far as possible, and have a good stock always on hand, he is confident it will be found to their advantage to give him that support, without which he cannot hope to succeed.

The Stock will comprise besides, a complete supply of Drugs and Medicines, Perfumery, Stationery, and Fancy Articles.

Wellington, April 9, 1869.

And again on 7 May 1869,

MR. BARRAUD'S DISPENSARY.—We are glad to observe from an advertisement in another column, that Mr. Barraud's dispensary will be opened shortly in a building adjoining Mr. Hirschberg's store, ¹² as a temporary measure. The stock with which Mr. Barraud has supplied Mr. Jupp, will be taken over by the former on opening his new establishment. ¹³

C. D. BARRAUD begs to give notice that his Branch Establishment in Greytown will be opened in a few days in a building adjoining Mr. Hirschberg's store, until the premises now building are completed.

MR. L. ST. GEORGE takes charge of the business, and will give every attention to any orders he may receive.

Wellington, May 6, 1969.

⁴² Moritz Hirschberg, merchant: his store was on Main St, between Kuratawhiti and North Sts, opposite the Greytown Hotel.

⁴³ Wairarapa Mercury 7 May 1869.

The Wellington Independent's "Own Correspondent" wrote from Greytown,

A handsome shop is now being erected at Grey town for Mr Barraud's branch dispensary for the sum of £26, which would not have been built a short time ago for double the money."

It opened in July,

MR. BARRAUD'S DISPENSARY.—We observe that Mr. Barraud has removed into his new premises, in Greytown, and they are very handsomely fitted up. A good assortment of novels has been a great want in Greytown, and we are glad to see Mr. Barraud has a large stock of them. ¹⁵

CD Barraud never moved to Greytown, but in August he was elected as a Lay member to represent the Wairarapa at the Anglican Synod. 46

The Wairarapa Mercury of 2 March 1870 advertised tickets to two "Amateur Concerts... the proceeds will be devoted to Religious Purposes"; they could be obtained from Mr Arnott at the Mercury office, Mr JEI Boys, Rev A Knell or from "Mr St. George (Barraud's)". Leo was the "former assistant in whom he has confidence" for CD Barraud in Greytown, but must have been unsure if he was staying in the Wairarapa, for he wrote later,

... it is quite within my recollection asking to have a name retained upon the roll of No. 1 Co. (until February 1870) until it became certain that I was not returning to Wellington to reside. $^{\sigma}$

Barraud advertised every month in the Wairarapa Standard,

C. D. BARRAUD

CHEMIST % DRUGGIST WELLINGTON AND GREYTOWN

Continues to supply at

His Greytown Branch

⁴⁴ Wellington Independent 22 June 1869.

⁴⁵ Wairarapa Mercury 22 July 1869.

⁴⁶ Wairarapa Mercury 1 September 1869.

⁴⁷ NZ National Archives C 455 588 Ref No LS69 31.

The Purest Drugs and Chemicals Patent Medicines Horse and Cattle do Perfumery, and other Toilet requisites

Stationery, Drawing Materials
Bibles, Church Services and Hymnals

CHOICE ASSORTMENT OF POPULAR NOVELS

N.B. Town prices charged to Cash Purchasers. Prescriptions carefully prepared.
Greytown, August 9, 1870.

THE LATEST NOVELS

SCHOOL BOOKS CHILDRENS BOOKS REWARD CARDS

On sale at

BARRAUD. Greytown

June 25, 1870

In February 1871 Leo married Mary Emily Varnham, known as May. She was the eldest daughter of the widow Varnham, living on a rural property at Papawai and the wedding was celebrated in the newly opened St Luke's church.

ST. GEORGE—VARNHAM.—On the 21st inst., at St. Luke's Church, Greytown, by the Rev. A. Knell, Leonard, second son of George H. F. St. George, Esq., Surgeon of New Plymouth, to Mary Emily, eldest daughter of the late John Varnham, Esq., of Papawai, Greytown. 48

Initials and first names were not usually recorded in the results of rifle shooting but a St George (either Leo or Louis) scored fifth on 20

⁴⁸ Wairarapa Mercury 25 February 1871.

March: "The weather was fine but the shooting was bad". "He fired again for the Wellington Province against Otago in April, "and was tenth among 44 competitors at the Adelaide Butts the following week in

... the best rifle match, in every sense of the term, we have ever had in Wellington.... The day was one of Wellington's very best-bright, exhilirating, and without the slightest degree of uncomfortable feeling from a very bright sun; while the light air from the north added just enough of pleasant breeziness without incommoding the marksmen. A better day could not be selected, so that no excuse was left for bad scoring. Many spectators were present when position was taken for the 200 vards range, and by the time the squads were ready for the 400 vards the ground began to look quite animated. By two o'clock between 200 and 300 persons were scattered about, among whom were many bevies of ladies. From that time forth a constant stream was coming and going-cabs, 'busses, and saddle horses being in considerable request.... The pleasing strains of the Artillery Band added much to the pleasure of the many visitors (especially the ladies) who attended.⁵¹

It was a good way to meet girls.

CD Barraud and son Frank were expanding their businesses, opening a pharmacy in Wanganui in 1871. In December 1872 their advertisement (in the renamed *Wairarapa Standard*) started, "C.D. BARRAUD, Chemist & Druggist, Wellington, Wanganui and Greytown" and continued every few weeks until late 1876. In July Leo decided to branch out on his own account,

ADVANCE FEATHERSTON. LEONARD S. ST. GEORGE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

(7 years with Barraud & Son, Greytown)

⁴⁹ Wellington Independent 21 March 1871.

⁵⁰ Evening Post 3 April 1871

⁵¹ Wellington Independent 11 April 1871.

⁵² Wanganui Herald 26 October 1871.

⁵³ Wairarapa Standard 21 December 1872.

BEGS to intimate to the settlers of Featherston, Tauherenikau, Kaiwaiwai and the Lower Valley generally, that he has made arrangements to open an Establishment at Featherston, shortly.⁵⁴

Apparently neither Leo nor Featherston did advance in that way, for in November 1876 a new notice appeared,

NOTICE

MR St. GEORGE having purchased Messrs Barraud & Son's business in Greytown, begs to notify to the settlers of the Wairarapa that he has removed to the more central premises lately occupied by Mr B. J. Thompson, where he hopes to receive a continuance of the patronage hitherto accorded to his predecessor.⁵⁵

Leo's dispensary was a substantial building with rooms at the back and an upper floor, where they probably lived. It was on Main St, where the White Swan Hotel is now.



The Greytown dispensary

⁵⁴ Wairarapa Standard 15 July 1876.

⁵⁵ Wairarapa Standard 25 November 1876.

He began frequent marketing on his own account,

L. ST. GEORGE, CHEMIST & DRUGGIST GREYTOWN

Has on hand in addition to his usual stock of

DRUGS, CHEMICALS, AND PATENT MEDICINES.

VASES, purses, card-cases, pocket-books, nail, hair, and tooth brushes, Turkey and bath sponges, washing gloves, Pear's, Rieger's, Rimmel's, and Carbolic Soaps, Piesse and Lubin's Perfumes.

TOILET VINEGAR, AND FARINA'S EAU DE COLOGNE,

Kalydor, Pearl Cream for the complexion Lime Juice and Glycerine, Trichopherous Restorative, and Macassar Oil, Floriline, Sozodont, and Cherry Tooth Paste, &c., &c. JUST RECEIVED.—An assortment of Stationery.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, BOOKS, AND FANCY GOODS.

Wanted—Subscribers (in advance) for Periodicals.⁵⁶

He was member of a church group that elected RJ Barton to represent the district on the Anglican Synod in 1876, and was on the St Luke's Vestry. He attended lively meetings questioning the government's intention to run the Wellington Masterton railway to the west, rather than up the centre of the valley (a line under the hill would simply open up the hills, from which they obtained nothing but water [a laugh] whereas a central line would open up the country one attender expostulated). Leo subscribed 15s to the Railway Route

⁵⁶ Wairarapa Standard 2 December 1876.

⁵⁷ Wairarapa Standard 5 December 1876.

⁵⁸ Wairarapa Standard 22 February 1877.

⁵⁹ Wairarapa Standard 22 March 1877.

Fund, ⁶⁰ a guinea to the Wairarapa Hospital ⁶¹ and £1.10s toward prizes at Greytown School ⁶² (the headmaster, Mr T Wakelin, thanked him publicly at the annual prizegiving for donating "three handsome volumes, as prizes"). ⁶³ He advertised cheap editions of *Hymns ancient and modern* ⁶⁴ and continued his shop advertisement every week. At the annual meeting of members of St Luke's, "Mr St. George, Churchwarden, moved the adoption" of a long and positive report. ⁶⁵

In August 1877 he began a monthly half column advertisement in the *Standard*; it shows nicely what a country chemist storekeeper sold,

L. ST. GEORGE,

Dispensing and Family Chemist and Druggist Stationer, &c. MAIN-ST., GREYTOWN.

HAS on hand, in addition to his usual stock of Drugs, Chemicals, and Patent Medicines:

Piesse & Lubin's perfumes Rimmel's, Rogers and Pear's soaps Turkey and bath sponges Hair, tooth, flesh, and nail brushes Washing gloves Elastic knee caps, stockings, &c., Toilet vinegar, Eau de Cologne Pearl cream, Florida water Lime juice and glycerine Tricopherous restorative Mexican and Rossiter's hair washes Sozodont, Floriline, cherry paste

Pottle's celebrated Highland Oils Cooper's Sheep Dipping Compound

⁶⁰ Wairarapa Standard 8 May 1877.

⁶¹ Wairarapa Standard 14 June 1877.

⁶² Wairarapa Standard 26 June 1877.

⁶³ Wairarapa Standard 19 July 1877.

⁶⁴ Wairarapa Standard 17 July 1877.

⁶⁵ Wairarapa Standard 6 September 1877.

FANCY GOODS.

Smelling bottles, plain and fancy
Silver thimbles, nail and embroidery scissors
Hand mirrors
Razors and penknives, best quality
Vases, Purses, Card Cases
Fans, photo frames
Albums—photo, scrap, and fern
Bezique boxes, draft and cribbage boards
Drafts, dominoes, dice
Fancy match boxes, cigars
G.B.D. pipes, ferrules, mouthpieces
Combs—pocket, rack, and poll, &c.

STATIONERY.

Paper-plain, ruled, foreign, letter, foolscap mourning, blotting, letter, bill, and tissue Envelopes—plain, official, and tinted Writing cases Copy Books, School slates and pencils, Ledgers—Cash, minute, day, and memo. books. Pocket and small account books. Lead pencils, assorted. Drawing materials. Clips, files, rulers. Cards, playing and visiting. Inkstands, clump, excise, and magic. Pens. Gillott's, Mitchell's, and others, Penholders, pencil cases, paperknives. Bookracks, and bookmarks. Perforated and other cardboard. Inks, all kinds.

BOOKS.

Bibles, Church Services, Common prayer.
Hymns Ancient and Modern
Gift Books: the poets
History and Politics, by R. Wakelin
Dictionaries, large and pocket
Dictionary of daily wants
Dictionary of medical and surgical knowledge
Graham's Domestic Medicine
Bull's Management of Children
Bull's Hints to Mothers

Beeton's Household Management
Beeton's All About Cookery
Warne's Cookery
Enquire Within
Ready reckoners, Letter writers
Reciters, and song books
Youatt on the Horse
Spooner on the Sheep
Clater's Every Man his own Cattle Doctor
Spon's Workshop Receipts
Novels by popular authors.

Subscribers wanted for any of the periodicals Subscriptions to be paid in advance

He was elected a member of the Greytown Club, "was among those who organised an Indian Famine Relief Committee" and gave a guinea, sold tickets to a soiree in the Town Hall ("Net Proceeds in Liquidation of Church Debt") and to the opening of the Carterton-Taratahi Public Hall ("Dancing to commence at 9 o'clock sharp").

Leo and his brother in law Warner Varnham organised gift auctions on Easter Monday⁷¹ and Whit Monday⁷² for the purpose of reducing the church debt. One way or another his name was in the columns of every issue of the *Standard* at this time.

On 22 March 1878 Leo's brother Louis married Emily Davis Varnham, May's younger sister, at St Luke's.⁷³

In August he was one of a group that petitioned the Chairman of the Greytown Local Board "to consider whether it is desirable to at once form a Company to connect Greytown and Woodside by a TRAM or RAILWAY." The Wellington Masterton line had been sited to the

⁶⁶ Wairarapa Standard 23 October 1877.

⁶⁷ Wairarapa Standard 27 October 1877.

⁶⁸ Wairarapa Standard 6 November 1877.

⁶⁹ Wairarapa Standard 3 November 1877.

⁷⁰ Wairarapa Standard 19 January 1878.

⁷¹ Wairarapa Standard 21 February 1878

⁷² Wairarapa Standard 1 June 1878.

⁷³ Wairarapa Standard 23 March 1878. 74 Wairarapa Standard 24 August 1878.

west near the Tararua and had bypassed Greytown, whose station is at Woodside, some distance from the town. Leo was elected to the committee which sent a deputation, chaired by Richard Wakelin, editor of the *Standard*, to the Minister for Public Works. The outcome seemed to be success, for

"It was then resolved on the motion of Mr St George—seconded by Mr Fabian,

"That this meeting, formed of settlers and residents in and about Greytown, beholds with the utmost satisfaction the success achieved by the late deputation who waited on the Minister for Public Works to urge upon him the immediate construction of a branch line from Greytown to Woodside, and unanimously desires to tender to each of those gentlemen their grateful thanks for the able manner in which the claims and interests of this township were advocated by them. That a copy of the above be forwarded to each member of the deputation." Mr Hornblow moved—

"That this meeting, formed of settlers and residents of Greytown and its vicinity, unanimously resolves to express the indebtedness of this township to their fellow-settler, Richard Wakelin, Esq., Secretary to the Branch Railway Committee, and Editor of the Wairarapa Standard, for the zeal and ability displayed by him in upholding the claims of Greytown to be connected with the main line of railway at Woodside, and that to his untiring efforts is mainly due the successful issue of the late deputation, to the Minister of Public Works on that subject." The speaker said that Mr Richard Wakelin's services on the Committee were pre-eminent. Mr Wakelin was one of the pioneers of Greytown and had always done his best to advance its interests."

In December 1878 Leo was local broker for the Kempthorne Prosser NZ Drug Company's share float⁷⁶ and nominated FH Wood for the Greytown Mayoralty.⁷⁷ The *Standard* ran a campaign in favour of the other candidate, Mr Kempton who was duly elected.

⁷⁵ Wairarapa Standard 26 September 1878. The branch railway between Woodside and Greytown operated until 1917.

⁷⁶ Wairarapa Standard 7 December 1878.

⁷⁷ Wairarapa Standard 31 December 1878.

Leo, who had sold the almond oil used in a successful suicide in New Plymouth in 1867, made the same mistake in 1879,

We learn from the Chronicle, a determined attempt at suicide was made at Featherston on Thursday evening. An old man named John Honey entered the Club Hotel at Featherston on the day named, and called for a pint of beer. This he took into a side room, remarking at the same time that "his troubles would soon be over." This excited the suspicion of the barman, who followed Honey into the room, and on finding a peculiar smell in the room, he took the pint pot from the man before he had time to finish its contents. He immediately fell down in apparent great agony, and his life was with great difficulty sustained. A small bottle labelled, "Almond flavouring" (poison) was found empty in the room. This it appears was purchased from Mr St. George, a chemist in Greytown, from which town Honey arrived the same day. The man is now in custody."

In November, at a concert in aid of the Cricket Club, the Greytown Private Brass Band played for the first time,

One of the best and most successful concerts that have been held in the Wairarapa was held in the Town Hall, Greytown, on Friday last, in aid of the Cricket Club. The arrangements were perfect in every way, for which great credit is due to Mr W. J. Salmon, in whose hands the management was placed, The Greytown Private Brass Band very kindly attended, and played some very excellent music during the evening. It was their first appearance in public, and we can only say that they arc a credit to the Valley. We take this opportunity of complimenting them on their great proficiency. The concert commenced by the Band playing an overture, after which the opening chorus, "Away, Away," was given with good effect; Mr Wickerson then sang with power and feeling, "The Little Church round the Corner;" Mr Ronaldson then sang "Silver Moonlight;" and Mr Mills received an encore in the "Kingdom Coming;" Mr St. George sang with great taste, "Gently Breathe," which was loudly applauded;

⁷⁸ Wairarapa Daily 26 February 1879.

Williamson gave satisfaction in "The Moon behind the Hill;" and Mr Bell, in "I have Listened for her Footsteps," gave general satisfaction, as did Mr Gregg's song, "Roses Underneath the Snow;" Mr Palmer (sang) "The Angels' Whisper;" Mr Mills gave "The Hen Convention Show" in his usual happy style; the first part concluded with a very good song by Mr Salmon, "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming." After the Band had again played an overture, the curtain went up for the second part, which consisted of several songs and duets by the ladies who kindly assisted. The first was a song by Mrs Cuff, "The Blind Girl to the Harp," which received repeated applause. The next was a duet by Mesdames Cuff and Beard, called "The Wind and the Harp," which was loudly applauded; Mrs Pharazyn received an encore in "Dermot Asthore," and responded with "Kathleen Aroon;" Mrs Beard sang "Alice Where Art Thou", very sweetly; and the duet which followed was undoubtedly the piece of the evening, by Mrs Cuff and Miss Wardell, "I've Wandered in Dreams." It was encored, and the last verse was given again. Miss Wardell was also encored in "Happy be Thy Dreams," and responded with "Why do Summer Roses Fade," which concluded the second part. After an overture by the band, the curtain rose for "Maritana" (done brown), by the members of the Nigger Opera Company, and without doubt it was the best thing of the sort that has ever been offered to the public of Wairarapa, Mr Wickerson as Maritana was perfection, as also was Mr Salmon as Don Cæsar de Besan; Mr Ronaldson gave general satisfaction as Don Jose, and Mr Williamson as King of Spain; Mr Mills appeared to good advantage as Lazerello: the parts were well filled by Mr Bell as Marquis, Mr Palmer as Marchioness, and Mr Webster as Captain of the Guard. The dresses and acting were made to appear as absurd as possible, but the singing was really first class. The acting of Mr Salmon deserves special mention, he keeping the house alive from start to finish. Altogether it was a splendid entertainment and every one was satisfied.⁷⁹

79 Wairarapa Daily 3 November 1879—and see Appendix A.

1880s

Leo acted as treasurer for the Wakelin Testimonial Fund, in favour of the popular headmaster of Greytown School.⁸⁰ May managed the shop when he was ill...

Mr L. St. George, chemist of Greytown, has been for the past few days suffering most acutely from Neuralgia in the body, which has compelled him to keep his bed; but we are happy to learn that he is now in a fair way of recovery, and that he will soon be able to again attend to his business which during his confinement has been most efficiently attended to by Mrs St. George.⁸¹

... and advertised for help at home,

WANTED.—A good, strong, general servant. Apply to Mrs St. George. 82

Leo was elected to the Greytown School Committee, ⁸³ won prizes for his amaryllis and grapes at the Greytown Horticultural and Industrial Autumn Show, ⁸⁴ supplied the drugs for the Wairarapa Hospital, ⁸⁵ stood down as Churchwarden at St Luke's, ⁸⁶ sang "Still I love thee" at a series of "entertainments in connection with the Greytown Cricket Club", ⁸⁷ was elected a member of the Greytown Horticultural Society committee⁸⁸ and gave a valuable book as prize in a ploughing match. ⁸⁹

In October 1881,

FIRE AT GREYTOWN.

At about 1 o'clock yesterday morning Lieutenant Cameron, of the Grey town Volunteers, who was riding home after an official visit to Carterton, observed, when proceeding along Main-street, Greytown, flames issuing from the windows of the

⁸⁰ Wairarapa Standard 5 February 1880.

⁸¹ Wairarapa Standard 14 February 1880.

⁸² Wairarapa Standard 19 February 1880.

⁸³ Wairarapa Standard 25 January 1881.

⁸⁴ Wairarapa Standard 10 March 1881.

⁸⁵ Wairarapa Standard 9 April 1881.

⁸⁶ Wairarapa Daily 13 July 1881.

⁸⁷ Wairarapa Daily 21 September 1881.

⁸⁸ Wairarapa Daily 1 October 1881.

⁸⁹ Wairarapa Standard 27 October 1881.

Greytown Club, and saw that they had a good hold on the building. He immediately gave the alarm to the custodian of the Working Men's Club (Mr H. S. Wickerson), which was not many feet distant and the next building, and then proceeded to the firebell to arouse the town. The bell, however, which has been a great deal played with lately, was out of order, and gave forth but an uncertain sound, which was not very effective. Most people along the street were soon at the scene of the conflagration, and, no one being on the Greytown Club premises, the doors were broken in, so that property might be saved. The building was full of smoke and flame, however, and this object was frustrated. There is no fire brigade in Greytown, so no engine was available for saving the premises of the Working Men's Club adjoining, to which the flames quickly spread, and the Greytown Club was left to its fate and a systematic effort made to save the contents of the other building. Mr Wickerson's household had not all retired when the alarm was given, as his youngest child—who, we regret to hear, is not expected to live—had an attack of croup, and was being watched and nursed at the time the fire occurred, Mrs Wickerson being also far from well, Mrs Baillie kindly took care of the two invalids, and Mrs St. George of the rest of Mr Wickerson's family. The inmates being placed in safety, everything moveable was quickly handed out from the lower rooms. The Masonic Lodge room up stairs was unlocked, and all the property of the Greytown Lodge placed in safe care, and everything taken out of the front rooms. The back rooms containing the custodian's property, had to be left to their fate, and the contents were destroyed.

The flames by this time had a firm hold of both buildings, and blazed furiously, the reflection being seen from beyond Masterton. The heat was intense, and an immense body of sparks was carried by a slight breeze which sprang up, directly upon Mr St George's Chemist shop, and Mr J. Baillie's residence and stable on the opposite side of the road.

The roof of Mr St George's premises became ignited and burst into flames, but all hands left the Club buildings to their fate, (having saved all they could), and plucky volunteers clambered upon the roof of the threatened building, and by means of wet blankets and buckets of water, succeeded in extinguishing the flames, and preventing them again breaking out. In the meantime Mr St George's stock had been taken out of the shop and placed on the road, and anyone can imagine what a state it was in when inspected by its unfortunate owner after the excitement was over. Bottles broken, boxes upset, pills everywhere, and stationery taking to itself wings and flying all over the street....

THE AFTERPIECE.

When all danger was over the members of the Working Men's Club and those who had assisted in saving property and extinguishing the flames assembled at a shed in the rear of the smoking ruins, and the Committee served out much needed refreshment, thanking all who had helped in rescuing their property. Advantage was taken of the occasion to drink the health of the Volunteers (a large number of whom were present), who would be leaving for the front the following morning. After some kindly words of praise of Lieut. Cameron and his little band had been spoken, the citizens wended their way homewards to seek repose after their exertions.

FIRE BRIGADE WANTED.

The two now destroyed make eleven buildings which have succumbed to the fiery element within the past two or three years on the same side of the street, viz., Fabian Bros'. store, Mr Witton's blacksmith's shop, Rising Sun Hotel, W. Thompson's dwelling, Greytown Club, Working Men's Club, Beetham and Gawith's offices, Moles' bakery, Caselberg's stores, Courthouse, and Police Station. Several of these were destroyed from the effect of a fire in one of them, at one time, and the question naturally suggests itself could not some of them have been saved if an organised Fire Brigade, with a good engine, were in existence? We feel certain they could, and hope this last lesson will not be in vain.

The Standard reported the threat to St George's shop in more detail,

⁹⁰ Wairarapa Daily 31 October 1881.

... serious thoughts were entertained that the shop of Mr St. George opposite must likewise go, both from the heat and the quantity of sparks which were falling upon it.... A man named John Ryan with great pluck, succeeded in reaching the ridge of Mr St. George's shop, and in spite of the almost unbearable heat, stuck to his post to the admiration of the spectators for a very considerable time, but the water supply which reached him was very limited, and on several occasions he had to beat out the fire with his hat where the shingles had caught, but at last the heat became too much for him as he became faint and had to descend. All hope was then given up that the building would be saved, and all hands were engaged in removing the very destructable stock. In the meantime others thought that the building might still be saved, and Mr Wickerson, Mr Maguire, and others went on the roof and succeeded in putting out the fire where the roof had caught. A regular supply of water was by this time kept on, and by stern application the roof was kept wet, and after a fearful struggle the building was saved, and the credit of it being so must undoubtedly be given to Messrs Rvan and Wickerson.... Those on the roof of Mr St. George's shop were subjected to a fearful rain of fire which fell about them in immense showers, burning their clothes and flesh in some instances. Mr St. George will be a heavy loser in any case, as his stock is a most perishable one, but we believe he had an insurance policy on the stock.91

Mr St George has succeeded in getting that portion of his stock which remained uninjured by its removal on the occasion of the fire into something like order again. The quantity of stuff which has been damaged is something increditable.⁹²

In October 1882 the *Daily* reported Leo had bought from local Maori, 400 acres in the Papawai Block, ⁵⁰ part of which he intended cutting up into 20 and 80 acre allotments and offering the same for sale. The *Times* had "no doubt whatever, that all such allotments will

⁹¹ Wairarapa Standard 1 November 1881.

⁹² Wairarapa Standard 3 November 1881.

⁹³ Wairarapa Daily 31 October 1882.

readily find purchasers, as the land itself is good, and being so close to the township of Greytown offers especial inducements to buyers". The exact acreage purchased is now uncertain as transaction details were not always available even to Waitaki Tribunal researchers. He kept two blocks, 80 ("Purakau") and 20 acres (leased to Tully brothers).

He produced some beautiful calligraphy for the Horticultural Show and Bible quotations, white on red, for the Easter decorations at St Luke's, ⁹⁶ remained active on the Vestry, the Horticultural Society, supported the school Cadets and in September Councillor St George was elected to the Greytown Borough Council. ⁹⁷

In April 1884 he invited tenders for "underscrubbing, felling and lopping about 20 acres of bush" and then,

A novelty was introduced into Greytown last night by Mr L. St. George, the chemist. This was nothing less than lighting up his shop by the electric light. Considerable interest was manifested in the experiment by many spectators, and Mr St. George deserves the credit of being the first person in the township who has used it for shop lighting purposes.⁵⁹

At a meeting of the Greytown Cheese Factory Leo remarked that he would rather see the company a cooperative one (ie, that it should be solely in the hands of the dairy farmers) and was taken to task by the *Standard*.

... we need hardly point out that Mr St. George, both as a landowner and a storekeeper, is directly benefited by the factory. The directors' report plainly enough points out that more cows must be put on in the immediate vicinity of the factory, and this means an increased price for his Papawai land; also, the prosperity or the dairy farmers implies the prosperity of the storekeepers.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ Wairarapa Daily 2 November 1882.

⁹⁵ Waitangi Tribunal 2003. Commissioned report: *Maori Land Blocks in the Wairarapa ki Tararua District Inquiry. Acreage and Alienation Data from 1865*. 96 *Wairarapa Standard* 26 March 1883.

⁹⁷ Wairarapa Standard 7 September 1883.

⁹⁸ Wairarapa Standard 23 April 1884.

⁹⁹ Wairarapa Standard 2 April 1884.

¹⁰⁰ Wairarapa Standard 11 June 1884.

In the winter of 1884,

Entertainment at Greytown.

It was a "recreation" night at the Town Hall on Monday, on the occasion of the entertainment given by several ladies and gentlemen to provide funds to improve the Greytown Recreation Reserve. The audience was large and the affair a financial success. The Greytown Private Band opened the exercises of the evening with an overture, which was followed by a solo and chorus sung by three brothers of the Udy family, and which was well received. We were glad to welcome Mrs Chisholm at our public entertainments. She made her first appearance before a Greytown audience that evening, and received an encore for her song. Mr Long gave a recitation entitled "The Frenchman and the Fleas," and being encored for it gave "The Kettle which Sings on the Hob." Miss E Wyett was well received for her song. Mr Clayson, a new face, gave a comic song, "The Disconsolate Lover" and woke up the audience. He received a warm encore. The cornet duet by Messrs Varnham¹⁰¹ and Udv went very well. Miss Jessie Cameron was very happy in her song "Who's that Tapping at the Garden Gate," and answered to a loud encore. Mr H. Udy sang "Our Jack's Come Home To-day." One of the best items of the evening was the violin duet, in which Mr Lundqvist and Mrs Knell took part. It was charmingly played and was much enjoyed. Mr Black in his song "The Village Blacksmith," was, as he always is, most successful. Though he has sung this song before, it is always acceptable, owing to his effective rendering of it. "We'd better Bide a Wee," was the title of Miss Nellie Cameron's song, which received an encore. Both Miss Nellie and Miss Jessie Cameron met with a flattering reception from the audience. Mr Clayson sang "She was such a Nice Young Girl," and being encored sang "Smiling Tom." We hope to hear Mr Clayson again soon. An overture from the band brought this part of the programme to a conclusion.

After an interval of ten minutes the curtain rose for the farce entitled "Spiritualism, or the World Unseen," written for

¹⁰¹ Milton Rhodes Varnham, architect and musician.

the occasion by Mr A. Long. A well executed scene, painted by Mr Chisholm, occupied the back ground, and some empty spirit bottles, a small table, and a couple of chairs were in readiness for the seance. Mr Chisholm, as Pompey, a colored servant, was very good, and when he came upon the stage and commenced dusting the chairs, there was a reflection from behind the scenes of what we suppose was intended to represent the fires of the infernal regions. It must have been a bad spirit who caused this, for clouds of smoke rolled upwards as from the bottomless pit, and became so thick that the audience could scarcely see those upon the stage; then as the clouds spread into the hall the audience began to feel queer in the throat; noses and mouths were buried in handkerchiefs, and not a few rushed out of the hall to save themselves from being choked. The doors were now thrown open and the windows lowered, and the hall presented a scene of coughing and uproarious laughter. In the gallery the perfumes acted like an emetic upon one or two. In the midst of the smoke and commotion Pompey appeared upon the stage, and in capital English said the chemist had given them the wrong chemicals. If Mr St. George was a Spiritualist we should have thought he was trying to burke the performance. He, however, mounted the stage after Pompey and explained that the fire should not have been used until the close of the farce. After a while the atmosphere was sufficiently clear for the audience to again be seated, and a fresh start was made. Mr A Long, as Mr Grumpton, is a Spiritualist, and the Rev. Mr Younghusband (Mr J. Barnard) visits Grumpton's house to investigate Spiritualism. Pompey gets under the table and raps out the replies, which, of course, are startling in their accuracy. Then Iack Sobersides comes upon the scene as "a material Spiritualist," in other words "tight," and is "run in" by a policeman. The characters were well sustained, Pompey and Mr Younghusband being much admired. Considering that the piece is a new one, and put before the public for the first time it went fairly well. A dance concluded the evening's enjoyment.102

¹⁰² Wairarapa Standard 30 July 1884.

Leo and brother-in-law MR Varnham represented the brass band in a cricket match against a Waihenga team ¹⁰⁰ and,

Mr M. Varnham, the conductor of the Greytown Band, is desirous of instructing some of the young lads in the town in the use of brass or reed instruments. Those anxious to learn will please leave their names with Mr St. George.¹⁰⁴

At the Borough Council meeting,

Cr Cotter called attention to a quantity of stones piled along the side of East Street near the Hospital. They were not only a nuisance to persons driving stock, but dangerous also and should be removed. The stones, he believed, had been put there by the owner of land close by. He moved that steps be taken to have the stone removed. Cr Cameron seconded the motion and said it would be as well to get the stones broken for use upon the roads. Cr St George suggested that the overseer might take them for filling up where necessary. They would do capitally for filling up the hollow on the Papawai road....¹⁰⁵

At a following meeting the Greytown street names were unimaginatively decided,

Cr Maxton proposed Grey street, after Sir George Grey. There was no seconder, so the original motion, "Main street," was carried. East street, West street, Wood street, Humphries street, Jackson's road (end of Humphries' line), Cotter street (Cotterville), Great Frederick street, Hirschberg street, Church street, College street (Papawai), Papawai road, were all retained as the fixed names. The name of the next street which was proposed by the sub committee as "Hospital Street," evoked much discussion.¹⁰⁶

Leo was elected secretary of a new Greytown Special Settlement Association in October 1886^{107} and at its meeting reported on 17

¹⁰³ Wairarapa Standard 24 February 1886.

¹⁰⁴ Wairarapa Standard 11 September 1885.

¹⁰⁵ Wairarapa Standard 9 December 1885.

¹⁰⁶ Wairarapa Standard 3 March 1886.

¹⁰⁷ Wairarapa Daily 10 March 1886.

March he seemed to remember his father's difficulties with settling his Waitara land,

Mr St George said land was getting scarcer and scarcer, and in a little while those requiring it would have to go back a long distance. He considered this was a golden opportunity for young men and he hoped they would give the subject mature consideration. There were not the hardships before them that were endured by the early settlers; there was no Maori trouble to contend with and altogether the young men of the present day had greater facilities for settling on the land than their fathers.¹⁰⁸

There are repeated hints in the reports of Greytown Borough Council meetings of differences of opinion between Cr Cotter and Cr St George and in April 1886 exchanges became heated,

The Works Committee also recommended the tender of S, Garrity for filling in of ditch and formation on Kuritawhiti Street—£30 for 20 chains.

Cr Humphries thought the tender was rather high for the work.

Cr Cotter said no doubt Cr Humphries had not seen the specification. He would make some explanation further on.

Cr Maxton said the explanation was due to the Council at once.

Cr Cotter said his explanation of there being only one tender for the work was this—A Councillor advised a would-be-tenderer that there would be no tenders accepted for the work; he (Cr Cotter) told the person contrary to that, as the Council reserved to itself the option of rejecting or otherwise a tender. He understood that Cr St George was the Cr alluded to, and Mr H. Hawke the intending tenderer.

Cr St George said he could give the assertion a distinct denial. The only remark he had made at any time was that he questioned if the Council could find funds at present for the purpose. So far from working against the interests of any portion of the town he had always consistently endeavored to assist in remedying any wants when funds were available, no

¹⁰⁸ Wairarapa Standard 17 March 1886.

matter in what direction. It would be extremely narrow minded for any person to accuse him of any partiality.

Cr Maxton could not see how the remarks made by Cr St George should prevent tendering.¹⁰⁹

Fire was a recurring menace,

There was a very narrow escape from a most serious fire in Greytown on Sunday night. Mrs Jorgenson, thinking probably that her husband was in the house, left a lighted candle on her dressing table, opposite an open window. There was a sudden puff of wind, which blew the window curtain on to the candle. The curtain immediately caught, and the paper of the room was soon in a blaze. Some passers-by saw the glare, and succeeded in beating out the flames before they had caught the woodwork; fortunately so, for had they not seen it so soon the building must have gone, and nothing could have saved Mr St. George's shop and dwelling-house next door.¹⁰

Leo gave evidence at an inquest into a Greytown suicide,

Have known the deceased for the last 18 months; she was a frequent customer of mine, not being in good health. She was an anaemic subject and of a nervous disposition. She was in the habit of taking chemical food. She sent for laudanum on the 20th of April tor tooth ache and face ache. Having known her as respectable I had no hesitation in supplying her with two drams. I thought her trustworthy. According to the poisons act the purchaser must procure a witness unless well known. I just got her to sign the book as produced. A few mornings subsequently Mrs Snowshell came to me and cautioned me not to supply Mr Hammerich's housekeeper, as she had a bottle of poison locked up in her box, and threatened to take it. She told me her reasons, and I advised her what to do if there was any symptoms of poison. On 5th inst., little Miss Ticehurst came to my shop and enquired for 6d laudanum. I enquired who it was for; she would not at first answer me. She admitted ultimately it was for the

¹⁰⁹ Wairarapa Standard 7 April 1886.

¹¹⁰ Wairarapa Daily 13 April 1886 – ie "shop-and-dwellinghouse (one building)" next door to Jorgensen's.

housekeeper. I refused on the ground that she was under 17 years of age. I heard nothing farther until last night. Dr Bey informed me of the act of suicide."

Greytown's winter entertainments in July included "An instrumental duet with cornets was well played by Masters Maurice Wood and A. St George, and considering that the cornet is a most difficult instrument to play it is surprising that such very young boys could so well acquit themselves". Arthur Douglas (Arty) St George was twelve years old.

Leo was re-elected to the Borough Council in September¹¹³ and chaired a meeting of the Subcommittee of the Greytown Horticultural Industrial and Poultry Society in October;¹¹⁴ eight year old Frank sang "Work and Be Joyful" in a chorus and 14 year old Louis played "O Wert Thou in the Cold Blast" with Maurice Wood in a cornet duet (and later "gave an illustration of his musical ability with the tenor horn") at a "Little Folks' Concert" also in October.¹¹⁵

In the summer Leo gave prizes at the Wairarapa Rifles shoot. In and was a Trustee of the Greytown Hospital; In attended Borough Council and Horticultural Society meetings, sold tickets for a concert by the Fisk Jubilee Singers. In and the annual soiree in aid of the Greytown Hospital Fund. In and in the winter helped organise a series of concerts in aid of a fund for the purchase of a new fire engine for the borough. In It was much needed, for again,

On account of the timely assistance of Messrs Macguire, Webster, Kimberley and others, who were on the scene at the outbreak of fire at Mr Moriarty's Boot Shop, at Greytown on Thursday night last, there was no serious damage sustained, with the exception of a few pairs of boots being damaged by water, the glass in the shop window broken, and the wall paper

¹¹¹ Wairarapa Standard 12 July 1886.

¹¹² Wairarapa Standard 14 July 1886.

¹¹³ Wairarapa Standard 10 September 1886.

¹¹⁴ Wairarapa Standard 22 October 1886.

¹¹⁵ Wairarapa Standard 13 October 1886.

¹¹⁶ Wairarapa Daily 4 January 1887.

¹¹⁷ Wairarapa Standard 14 January 1887.

¹¹⁸ Wairarapa Standard 16 February 1887.

¹¹⁹ Wairarapa Standard 25 March 1887.

¹²⁰ Wairarapa Standard 29 April 1887.

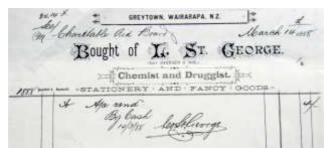
and ceiling being saturated. Had the flames taken hold, nothing could have saved the house and the shop of Mr St. George, chemist, adjoining.¹²¹



Moriarty's, next occupied by a lawyer but still a fire risk for the dispensary.

Winter Entertainments.

Although a most enticing programme was presented for Monday night's concert at the Town Hall, Greytown, a very limited audience paid compliment to the exertions of Messrs G. Wyett and L. St. George, but nevertheless the performers did their parts to perfection and there was no hitch in the proceedings whatever.¹²²



¹²¹ Wairarapa Daily 25 January 1887.

¹²² Wairarapa Standard 25 May 1887.

1890s

A proposal to establish an arbor day or tree planting anniversary, is to come before the Greytown Borough Council to night. Mr W. C. Nation is, we believe, promoter of the idea in its local application. Originally, of course, it comes from America, where, on the annual arbor day, thousands of trees are planted by the children and people of the United States. Mr Nation's idea is primarily to beautify the public reserves and streets of Greytown, and we understand that if the Council adopts the proposal, he already has promises of a large number of trees and protecting enclosures for them. Persons taking part in the celebration would also plant trees on their own properties on the day which would be annually set apart for the exclusive purpose of tree planting. The benefit of such a systematic work is too evident to need remark.

Nation was now editor of the *Standard*. Leo St George was a member of the Borough Council that approved the first Arbour Day in New Zealand and a member of the Council committee that planned and organised the event.

Sir George Grey gave his apologies, five guineas and "one of his charmingly expressed messages fraught with the congratulatory sentiment and delicate flattery to the recipients, which he invariably so well conveys". Masterton's *Wairarapa Daily* reported,

ARBOR DAY.

Demonstration at Greytown.

The first regularly organised tree-planting day yet held in New Zealand was celebrated in Greytown yesterday, and after the success which attended its institution and the admittedly good results which may in the future be expected from it, "Arbor Day," as it is called, will undoubtedly become an annual event of increasing interest as the years roll on, and Grevtown will not alone bear the honour of taking part in such

¹²³ Wairarapa Daily 14 April 1890.

a demonstration, for the movement is bound to spread. Indeed it has spread, reports from other places tell us.

The day was beautifully fine. Captain Edwin, although unable to respond to the cordial invitation of the Secretary and come himself, had sent along one of his real tip-top compounds in the way of weather, and yesterday, specially manufactured to the order of Greytown, regardless of expense, was simply perfect. A clear mild atmosphere, a blue Italian sky, and under foot just enough of the traces of recent inclemency to make one realise how gracious the elements were in their desire to pay respect to Greytown's gala day, now all over.

"The day, is wet and cold and dreary.

It rains, and the wind is never weary,"

The procession started punctually at 11 a.m., and the proceedings lasted three hours, concluding at 2 p,m. Everything passed off well. There was no tedious waiting, and no confusion or carelessness in the planting of the trees. Today's rain should indeed make them spring up in all the flourishing growth of a hardy youth, for they were all healthy saplings. The total number of trees planted was one hundred and fifty three, and they consisted of Spruce, Tuberculata, and Pinus Marittia.

The Greytown Brass Band led the procession, and then followed about 250 school children, each bearing a flag. A huge wagon carried the younger children. Next came Mr A. Bowers' brake, laden with trees, and the farmer costumed in the smock frock and dress of an English farmer. Mayors, Councillors, County and Road Board Chairmen, townspeople, buggies and horsemen completed the retinue.

Upon arrival at the scene of plantation it was noticed that the protecting triangles extended from the railway along the Featherston road towards the Cheese Factory, and it was this, the south approach to Greytown, it was proposed to beautify. There were by this time fully 400 adults and 250 children present, and the appearance was bewilderingly gay and alive with the air of festivity to the onlookers. The children as they marched along fell in to the railed enclosures which had been numbered and allotted to them, and soon all were busy planting the trees which will so long survive even the youngest of those responsible for their existence. The following will also

be commemorated by a tree of their planting:—Mrs Wood, who represented Mr F. H. Wood, an ex-mayor, Mr Wm. Beetham, (Chairman of the North Wairarapa County Council and Masterton Road Board): Mr H. Braithwaite, (South County Council and Taratahi-Carterton Road Board); Messrs Udy, senr., Udy, junr., (ex-Mayors), Mr R. Fairbrother, (Mayor of Carterton.) The teachers of the Greytown school, and the natives. A tree each for Sir George Grey and Mr W. C. Buchanan, M.H.R. was planted by the Mayor of Greytown. These gentlemen, it might be mentioned, were unavoidably absent through Parliamentary duties. They each, however. generously contributed five guineas towards the expenses fund. Sir George Grey, in excusing his own absence, sent one of his charmingly expressed messages fraught with the congratulatory sentiment and delicate flattery to the recipients, which he invariably so well conveys. Other apologies were read from influential settlers, who all commended the undertaking. Short speeches were made by several of those whose names we have previously mentioned, and also by Mr Bunting, Tenuiorangi, (Mr Brown), and S. Mahapuka, The terminated with three cheers schoolmaster, and the singing by all present of God Save the Queen. The crowd then dispersed.

This record of the day's proceedings would not be complete without a tribute of praise to Mr W. C. Nation, the gentleman who initiated the idea of an Arbor Day in Greytown, and who has so ably and successfully conducted the scheme to a practical issue. Mr Nation is ever ready to spend his time and his energy in whatever benefits his township, and the unselfish way in which he does this is an example of true patriotism, if this expression may be used in speaking of one who loves his country. The benefit to Greytown in making it attractive to visitors, with its future Sylvan beauty, is hard to over estimate. It is a pretty retreat now for those who are weary of a city life in Wellington, and what it will be in a few years to come, with continued nourishment, is easy to perceive by those who at all reflect.

The concert in the evening was equally successful, and completed the day's triumph. 124

Sadly copies of the *Standard* for this period have not survived so no detail of Leo's involvement is now available, but

The members of the committee who worked so hard to make the affair a success were, the Mayor, Councillors St. George and Hammerick, Messrs Vernon, Mark Maxton and W.E.R. Thompson, Mr W.C. Nation and Mr Bunting, together with all the school children.¹²⁵

Leo was elected Chairman of the Greytown School Committee in April 1890, ¹²⁶ and his brother in law left for Wellington,

Mr M.R. Varnham, of Greytown, is shortly going to Wellington for two months, where he has to build a home for Mr L.E. St. George, a brother to Mr. St. George, of Greytown. Mr Varnham will temporarily return to Greytown, but he has some idea of subsequently leaving the Wairarapa altogether. He will be much missed by musical friends and others. 127

The boys were passing their examinations at school, Arthur was playing rugby, Louis was playing cricket and playing the viola shad all were winning prizes at the Horticultural Society's Shows. Leo was auditor of the Greytown Town Lands' Trust and on the committee of the Greytown Literary and Debating Society. He wrote a letter to the editor as Chairman of the Greytown School Committee,

EDUCATION BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

SIR.—At the ordinary monthly meeting of the Greytown School Committee, the following resolutions were carried:—

(1) "That the Education Board be requested to increase the value of all country scholarships from £30 per annum to £60 per annum."

¹²⁴ Wairarapa Daily 4 July 1890.

¹²⁵ Bull BH 1986. *The years between: Greytown Borough Centennial 1878–1978*. Roydhouse Publishing for Greytown Borough Council.

¹²⁶ Wairarapa Daily 29 April 1890.

¹²⁷ Wairarapa Daily 20 October 1890.

¹²⁸ Wairarapa Daily 28 February 1891.

¹²⁹ Wairarapa Daily 17 April 1891.

(2) "That a copy of the foregoing resolution and the following circular be forwarded to all the chairmen of the School Committees in the Wellington District, asking for the co-operation of their Committees."

For some years past it has been evident to everyone who has considered the question, that the present scholarship value is quite inadequate for country competitors. The majority of parents of children attending country schools do not receive more than £100 and £120 a year income. The gainer of a scholarship, to avail himself of the prize, would cost his parents at least £40 in addition to the £30 value of Scholarship, for board, lodging, etc. It is quite out of the question for the majority of parents to find this sum. We know from experience that parents in country districts have declined to take up scholarships which their children have won, because of their utter inability to meet the extra expense.

At present, the £30 Scholarship value is merely a subsidy to the well-to-do parents who would under any circumstances give their children secondary education. To be of real use, Scholarships must cover the expense of the *poorest* child living away from home, that is, over and above the ordinary home expenses of keeping a child, which is hardly worth considering—from £5 to £10 a year, perhaps. There is good reason also for believing that the children of poor people do not make any effort *to try* for the present Scholarships; this can be noticed by the poor attendance. Parents well know that for their children to win a scholarship would be indeed an empty honor under existing circumstances.

The Committee is of opinion that there are only three courses which the Education Board can fairly and logically take up: (1) To increase the value of country scholarships, maintaining their present number; (2) To increase the value of country scholarships, but reduce the number; or (3) To abolish country scholarships altogether.

I am. etc.,

L. S. ST. GEORGE, Chairman Greytown School Committee. 130

¹³⁰ Wairarapa Daily 19 May, 1891.

In June 1891 Leo acted on the committee that celebrated the first anniversary of Greytown's Arbor Day by planting, with local Maori, 120 trees. ¹³¹ He was Greytown agent for Kempthorne Prosser's line of "Mother Mary Joseph Aubert remedies". ¹³²

Their lives took a major turn in August 1892, as he left shopkeeping for farming,

Mr R. Gant, formerly of Masterton, yesterday took possession of the business at Greytown lately carried on by Mr. L. St. George, druggist and stationer. We wish Mr Gant every prosperity in his venture. Mr St. George intends farming on his property at East Greytown, where he is having a substantial residence built.¹⁸³



The St Georges' "substantial residence" at Purakau c. 1897. Photograph by CS Keedwell. Wairarapa Archive Ref. No. 03-89/227.

Robert Gant was an extraordinary man: a gay cross-dresser, a theatrical exhibitionist and a highly talented photographer. ¹³⁴ He appeared in just about every concert and entertainment in the

¹³¹ Wairarapa Daily 11 June 1891.

¹³² Wairarapa Daily 18 August 1891.

¹³³ Wairarapa Daily Times 10 August 1892.

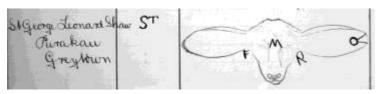
¹³⁴ Brickell C 2012. Manly affections: the photographs of Robert Gant 1885–1915. Genre Books. Dunedin.

Wairarapa for a time, but perhaps his finest creation was his play, written in 1893, the year of women's suffrage,

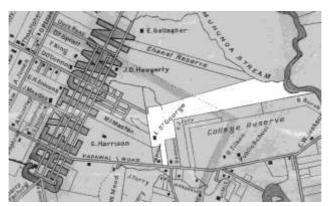
"THE LADY MAYOR."

The above comedy, written by Mr Robert Gant, and first produced and staged at Greytown, will be given in the Theatre Royal on Thursday evening, the 15th instant, in aid of the funds of St. Patrick's school. We append a precis of the plot the Standard:-The "Lady Mayor" was taken from appropriately introduced by an overture called the "Lady Mayor Polka" especially composed by Mr M. R. Varnham. The comedy is the work of Mr Gant, and does him infinite credit. The plot is sufficient to lend interest to the piece, while the action and dialogue are lively and witty, the "hits" good, and in the case of a box on the ear given by the Lady Mayor to a Councillor decidedly palpable. The lady, Mrs Potts (Mr C. Riverton) having been returned as Mayor, to the sorrow of her husband (Mr W. Knell), returns from the poll in triumph, but Jack Bellairs (Mr J. Hornblow), the lover of Miss Nellie Potts (Miss O'Loughlin) hits upon a scheme to make the victorious lady retire voluntarily, borrows a remarkable looking "divided skirt," disguises himself, and enters Mrs Potts' service as an emancipated female and lady-help, proceeding immediately to make amatory advances to Mrs Potts' husband. Mrs Potts and her faithful general servant, Evelena Maud Ninepence (Miss Ella Gallagher) cannot fail to observe this. The Lady Mayor becomes horrified and orders the minx out of the house. The minx, however, produces an agreement signed by the Lady Mayor when engaging the lady-help by which such engagement is to continue for twelve months or until the Lady Mayor resigns. To crown the Mayor's dismay the Councillors, headed by the Town Clerk (Mr Frank Roydhouse) wait upon her at this moment and solemnly inform her they will resign in a body and nominate their wives instead. This doubly decides her, she has already declared that she is not going to look after other women's husbands, while her "own fool," is philandering round with the lady help, and now she says having seen what the men councillors are, heaven keep her from women in their places. So she resigns and everyone is happy."¹³⁵

Leo (now a farmer)'s brand and earmark are recorded in a book at the Wairarapa Archive, $^{\tiny{136}}$



Louis and Arthur were shooting well at the Rifle Club and in September 1892 Leo was elected to its Committee.¹³⁷ Ella (Maude Ella) St George played the pianoforte "very nicely" at a concert in the St Luke's Church schoolroom in December.¹³⁸



Purakau: Leo St George's 80 acres. Greytown, N.Z., T.M. Drummond, 1896.

Even at the farm in East Greytown they were not safe from fire,

BUSH FIRE AT GREYTOWN.

The bush on the farm known as Tohorahina, managed by Mr George Harrison, was set fire to by him yesterday. A strong

¹³⁵ Wairarapa Daily Times 10 November 1894.

¹³⁶ Wairarapa livestock brands. Wairarapa Archive 00-88/5.

¹³⁷ Wairarapa Daily Times 15 September 1892.

¹³⁸ Wairarapa Daily Times 3 December 1892.

wind was blowing, and the sparks ignited the newly erected dairy of Mr J. Desmond, which was soon in ashes. The residence of Mr L. S. St. George was also in great danger throughout the night.¹³⁹

His son Leo (Leonard Warner St George) was elected secretarytreasurer of the Greytown Cycling Club in March 1895, 140

Capt. H. R. Wood of the Grevtown Rover C.C., together with Mr Leo. St. George, secretary and treasurer, and Mr S. F. Fuller assistant secretary, took train for Eketahuna last Saturday night, starting at 6.30 a.m. on their bikes for Awahuri, some twelve miles along the Rangitikei line, arriving there at noon on Sunday. After a short rest the wheelmen made a start for home reaching Eketahuna on Monday, which place they left at 3. a.m, on Tuesday, but being strange to this part of the country headed for Alfredton. This slight mistake added about 30 miles on to the distance. The roads were found to be in fair order, with the exception of that portion between Eketahuna and Hawera, where the bikes had to be led 4 miles. The riders did the finish in good style, making the run from Masterton to Greytown in 40 minutes against head wind. The distance covered was 200 miles, average speed including stoppages for refreshments, 10 miles per hour.¹⁴¹

Mr L.W. St. George, the Secretary of the Greytown Cycling Club has been rather unfortunate of late with his bicycle, on Thursday while coming through Kuripuni in company with Mr G. S. Fuller the chain of his bike broke, just then the Captain of the Club (Mr H.R. Wood) appeared on the scene on horseback. A council of war was held, when it was decided to fix the two machines together, tandem fashion, which was soon done, with a spare rein from the Captain's bridle. The same gentleman with a surcingle then took the pair in tow. The trio rattled down to Carterton in good style, from Carterton to Greytown no tug was required. With the aid of a couple of umbrellas and the gale that was blowing Greytown

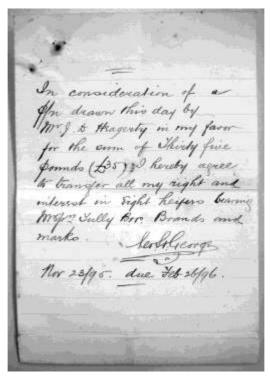
¹³⁹ Wairarapa Daily Times 17 February 1893.

¹⁴⁰ Wairarapa Daily Times 16 March 1895.

¹⁴¹ Wairarapa Daily Times 23 March 1895.

was reached without further trouble. The wheel men swear by the horse as a tug, so the horse-owners need not despair. A couple of high steppers with a string of bicycles in tow, may soon be a common sight says the *Standard*.¹⁴²

Ella witnessed the drowning of one of her friends in the Ruamahanga at Kahutara in January 1897, ¹⁸ Louis (Louis George Varnham St George) left to manage a pharmacy at Egmont, ¹⁴ Frank (Francis Clarence St George) undertook the duties of Town Clerk during the temporary absence from Greytown of Mr HO Tully. ¹⁵



Among legal papers in the Wairarapa Archive.

¹⁴² Wairarapa Daily Times 29 October 1895.

¹⁴³ Wairarapa Daily Times 12 January 1897.

¹⁴⁴ Wairarapa Daily Times 6 May 1897 and see Appendix B.

¹⁴⁵ Wairarapa Daily Times 10 June 1897.

Leo was Chairman of Directors of the Greytown-Wairarapa Dairy Company Ltd¹⁶⁶ and was one of a group that represented the Wairarapa at a conference of the National Dairy Association in Wellington in August.¹⁴⁷

In November the Mayor convened a meeting to consider the question of bridging the Ruamahunga at Papawai, arguing strongly in its favour, for it would open up communication with the settlers to the east of the town. Mr St George said he would be glad to throw his land open so that the road might be continued in a direct line from the Post Office to the site of the bridge. The bridge was never built, last mentioned in 1909.

Onions are being grown very plentifully in this district this year, Messrs Fuller and St. George having two nice crops. 149

In September 1898, "Mr Louis St. George, eldest son of Mr L. St. George, of Greytown, has purchased a chemist's business in Otaki". 150

1900s

In June 1900 Leo was made a permanent director of the new Wairarapa Bacon and Freezing Company in Carterton¹⁵¹ and presented his 4th annual report of the Greytown-Wairarapa Cooperative Dairy Company in August.¹⁵² Frank was secretary of the football club, but

Mr St. George, the Secretary of the Greytown Football Club, met with a nasty accident during a scratch match. While trying to touch the ball over the line, his head came in contact with the goal post, which necessitated his having to pay a visit to the doctor to have it seen to. 158

¹⁴⁶ Wairarapa Daily Times 9 August 1897.

¹⁴⁷ Wairarapa Daily Times 13 August 1897.

¹⁴⁸ Wairarapa Daily Times 5 November 1897.

¹⁴⁹ Wairarapa Daily Times 23 November 1897.

¹⁵⁰ Wairarapa Daily Times 2 September 1898.

¹⁵¹ Wairarapa Daily Times 12 June 1900.

¹⁵² Wairarapa Daily Times 21 August 1900.

¹⁵³ Wairarapa Daily Times 8 April 1902.

In 1902, another change: "It is reported that Tamahau Mahupuka has purchased Mr L. St. George's farm, Purakau, near Greytown". 154

... the Government Land Purchase Commissioners have acquired eighty acres of land from Mr St. George, of Greytown, as a residential estate for Mr Tamahau Mahupuku, the Wairarapa chief, who is parting with his interests in the Longbush and Tablelands estates for special settlement purposes. The price paid to Mr St. George is said to have been £22 per acre.... ¹⁵⁵

There is a later photograph of the house that Leo built on his Purakau block, showing major Edwardian additions, presumably made by the Mahupukus,



Purakau homestead, Greytown. The Skeet family was leasing the homestead from Mahupuku in 1923. "Tapere" may have been a later name of the house. Wairarapa Archive Ref. No. 03-89/109.

¹⁵⁴ Wairarapa Daily Times 8 July 1902.

¹⁵⁵ Wairarapa Daily Times 16 July 1902.

The *Daily Times* announced Leo's reappearance in Greytown as a chemist,

Mr L. St. George, who was in business here some years ago, has decided to try his luck amongst us once more as chemist and druggist.¹³⁶

Mr J. F. Sutherland, chemist, who has been a resident here for the last 3 years, has disposed of his business to Mr L. St. George. $^{^{157}}$

CHAPTER 3: MASTERTON

But four years later they moved to Masterton.

Leo was a businessman and he could see that Masterton, on the railway line, was becoming the most progressive of the Wairarapa towns. Their daughter Ella had married and moved to Lansdowne in 1903 and perhaps that was another reason, for in 1906,

Mr L. St. George, who has been connected with Greytown for over a quarter of a century, as chemist, will shortly commence business in Masterton....¹⁵⁸

Mr Leo St. George, who some forty years ago opened at Greytown the first chemist's shop in the Wairarapa district, and who has resided in that neighbourhood ever since, is removing to Masterton. He is about to open a chemist's shop in Pragnell's Buildings, and the new pharmacy will doubtless prove a convenience to the residents of South Masterton.¹³⁹

Mr St. George, chemist, has commenced business in Mr Pragnells' new premises, lower Queen-street. His shop is

¹⁵⁶ Wairarapa Daily Times 22 July 1902.

¹⁵⁷ Wairarapa Daily Times 28 July 1902.

¹⁵⁸ Wairarapa Age 9 January 1906.

¹⁵⁹ Wairarapa Daily Times 25 January 1906.

replete with a full stock of drugs, toilet requisites, etc., of the very best quality. Mr St. George hopes, by strict attention to business, and stocking only first-class goods to merit a fair share of public support.¹⁰⁰

Mr L. St. George, pharmaceutical chemist, has opened in business in Masterton, in premises opposite the junction of Worksop-road with Queen-street, He has a complete stock of drugs, chemicals, patent and proprietory medicines, toilet requisites, and perfumery. Prescriptions will be accurately and faithfully dispensed.¹⁶¹

Opening Announcement.

L. ST. GEORGE Chemist and Druggist, QUEEN-STREET, MASTERTON.

Will open in business in PRAGNELL'S NEW BUILDINGS in the course of a few days.

Watch this space for fuller particulars.¹⁶²



"The Oaks", Leo and May St George's house at 72 Renall St Masterton today.

¹⁶⁰ Wairarapa Daily Times 20 February 1906.

¹⁶¹ Wairarapa Daily Times 22 February 1906.

¹⁶² Wairarapa Daily Times 26 January 1906.

They lived at 72 Renall St and the shop was at 216 Queen St. In April 1906 Leo was elected an Honorary Member of the Masterton Municipal Fire Brigade¹⁶³ and in May the *Wairarapa Daily Times* published this advertorial on his behalf,

AN UP-TO-DATE PHARMACY.

During the past few months a block of handsome buildings has been erected in the southern end of Queen-street. Masterton, which wonderfully enhances the appearance of that part of the town. Prominent in the block is the establishment of Mr L. St. George, chemist and druggist, who was in business in Greytown for many years, but who has filled a long felt want in the southern portion of this town by opening in business there. The stock carried by Mr St. George is complete in every detail, and the window display is creditable. Grouped around in an artistic style are samples of toilet soaps, drugs, antiseptics, etc., whilst two handsome glass goblets, containing coloured liquids, set off the centre of the window. Crossing the threshold a noticeable feature is a beautiful mahogany dispensing screen, which divides the dispensing room from the shop, and contains two large plate glass show cases, filled with fancy goods and incidentals. Along the right and left walls are handsome show cases containing toilet requisites of all descriptions and a full set of Whittal-Tatum Co.'s bottles respectively. The counter cases contain articles for which there is constant demand. At the rear of the screen is a spacious well-furnished room, admirably suited for a doctor wherein to have private consultations, whilst beyond there is another room devoted to the safe-keeping and preservation of drugs both liquid and solid. Residents can rely on having their prescriptions faithfully dispensed at this establishment, which does credit, to Mr St. George, and the town of which he is an enterprising resident. 164

Sure enough,

¹⁶³ Wairarapa Daily Times 4 April 1906. 164 Wairarapa Daily times 24 May 1906.

Dr J. A. Cowie, a recent arrival from England, has commenced practice in Masterton, and can be consulted for the time being at Mr L. St. George's pharmacy, Queen-street, opposite the Presbyterian Church.¹⁶⁵

He was ready for the winter...

Mr L. St. George chemist and druggist has the latest and most up-to-date hot water bottles for sale at his pharmacy. His emulsion preparation for coughs and colds has been proved by a number of local residents during the past week to be thoroughly effective. ¹⁶⁶

... and was by now making up his own formula,

THROAT REST!

You can cough yourself into bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption. There is nothing so bad for a cough as coughing. Stop it by using St. George's Al Cough Core. When this could core comes in colds go out.

L. ST. GEORGE, Pharmaceutical Chemist.

SOUTH QUEEN-STREET, MASIETTON.

WILSON'S CAPILLARINE

for the Hair contains the best known bactericide for Bundruff, the cause of baldness. It is a non-greasy, cleanly, cooling and strengthening wash. To be cotained only from ST. GEORGE, Queen-street, Masterton.

A nice assortment of HAIR BRUSHES just received.

WATER GLASS for Preserving Eggs. SPRAY COMPOUND for Coddin Moth, Government formula.

ST. GEORGE'S South End Pharmacy.

¹⁶⁵ Wairarapa Daily times 31 May 1906. 166 Wairarapa Daily times 20 June 1906.

A WELL APPOINTED PHARMACY

I S not only a Convenience, but a mecessity at the Southern end of the Berough. The long felt want has been supplied, and if you visit St. GEORGE'S you will find his little Pharmacy replate with every day wants in the shape of Drug", Chemicale, and Druggists' Sundries. This Pharmacy has come to stay, and the Proprietor hopes that with the rapid growth of the Township, his business will increase in proportion.

L. St. GEORGE.

CHEMIST, QUEEN STREET.

TO THE PUBLIC.

NO DANGER OF FEVER

I F YOU USE THE GREAT GERM
DESTYOYER.

KRESO.

As a Disinfectant it can be used almost anywhere, with safety both to the user and to the material with which it comes in contact.

L. ST. GEORGE,

South End Pharmacy.

LADIES. A Complexion Specialist from Luscombe and Co., Wellington, will be in attendance at Mr St. George's, Chemist, Queen Street, for 2 days on Monday and Tuesday, for the benefit of those ladies desiring Massage Treatment for the face and neck. Appointments can be made now at Mr St. George's. Charges moderate. Consultation Free. Ladies should not miss this opportunity of learning how to treat the skin and eradicate blemishes and wrinkles. Zolak Skin Food used, 1s 6d and 2s 6d per jar.¹⁰⁷

¹⁶⁷ Wairarapa Age 22 March 1907.

Keen to retain advertising income, the editor obligingly echoed his advertisers in the editorial columns,

A complexion specialist from Luscombe's, Wellington, will be in Masterton for a few days, and may be consulted at Mr St. George's, chemist. Ladies desirous of obtaining massage treatment are invited to consult the specialist, who will give instruction in the treatment of the skin, and complexion.¹⁶⁸

On account of the numerous engagements made for to-day the lady complexion specialist has decided to remain over Wednesday. Further engagements can be made at Mr St. George's (chemist), Queen Street.¹⁶⁹

To the overworked tired Mother.

To the overgrown, pale, weakly Girl of from 12 to 21 years (especially).

To the Young Fellow just growing into manhood.

To any, in fact, requiring a Good, Bracing Restorative, I strongly recommend

STEARNS' WINE OF COD LIVER OIL.

containing the active principle of the Oil and Iron Peptonate.

IT IS PALATABLE AND INVIGORATING.

BYNO-HYPO-PHOSPHITES,

An Ideal Tonic for the Aged.

Sold by

L. ST. GEORGE, Chemist.

QUEEN-STREET, - - MASTERTON.

Early in May 1907 it rained... and rained...

¹⁶⁸ Wairarapa Age 22 March 1907.

¹⁶⁹ Wairarapa Age 26 March 1907.

Phenomenal Rainfall. Rivers in High Flood.

Areas in Borough Submerged News from Outside Districts Bridges Washed Away

Coach Services Interrupted

The continued heavy rains of the last few days have had due effect upon the rivers and creeks around and in Masterton. The Waingawa river rose very rapidly, and was soon running almost level with the top of the new stopbank erected by the County Council since the last wash-out near the Carterton-Masterton bridge approach. However, the bank withstood the force of the current, and although at 7 o'clock last evening the volume of water rushing under the bridge at the north end threatened serious consequences, no damage resulted, only a small overflow finding its way across the road. Local butchers apprehending a repetition of the difficulty experienced some three months back in getting their meat supplies from the abattoir, took no chances this time, and most of the town's supply of meat for to-day was in by nine o'clock last evening.

The Waipoua river rose to the highest level it has reached for many years, at 7 o'clock the stream reaching its maximum. In spite of the abnormal fresh, no damage of any consequence is reported. The paddocks adjoining the road, between the two bridges on the Masterton-Lansdowne-road were

completely submerged, and the river itself could barely find fairway under the superstructure of the bridge nearest the town, but by this morning an appreciable subsidence in the flood waters alleviated any anxiety as to a serious overflow.

The ornamental lake in the Park was full to within a foot of the top of the pug bank at the eastern end, and the new wired boulder bank, erected in place of the ordinary stop bank, which was washed out, at last flood, stood the strain very satisfactorily. The paddocks in the Park extension had a good depth of water on them early this morning. The Ruamahanga was very high indeed, at Te Ore Ore covering the roadway near the bridges at the western approach.

The creeks which relieve the Borough of its flood water were full to overflowing, and the creek which bears the various titles of "Waipakakaweka," "Renall's Creek" and "Makora Creek" was responsible for a considerable amount of damage and inconvenience to shopkeepers in Queen-street.

It appears that the culvert through which the main body of the stream is conducted in Renall-street is only four feet by four feet, whereas in Essex-street the same volume of water which is expected to pass down this culvert is brought through a 9ft culvert. To expect a 4ft square culvert to carry the water of a 9ft wide waterway is obviously an impossibility, and last evening the shopkeepers in Pragnell's Buildings in Queen-street had ocular demonstration of the fact. The water backed up at the mouth of the Renall-street culvert, rushed down the right-hand side of the

road, and, sweeping round northwards into Chapel-street, made for Messrs Gardner and Son's timber yard. A body of water also found its way down Essex-street, through a culvert in that thoroughfare becoming blocked, and this water further contributed to the volume of water rushing down Renall-street.

The evidences of the watery visitation are plainly visible on the road and sidewalks in the three streets named. In Renall-street the silt deposited on the corner is nearly a foot deep in places, whilst on the crown of the road the top-dressing is washed away altogether. In Chapel-street it is easily seen that a strong current was at one time running, as the formation of the road and footpaths is plainly exposed.

Messrs Gardner and Son extensive damage done in their vard. In one shed £150 worth of new doors and sashes, with glued joints, were partly submerged, and will have to be removed and stripped. In their stacking sheds Mr Pragnell, vard overseer, estimates that 12.000 feet of timber, all dry and seasoned, has been affected by the water, and will have to be removed and restacked. At the height of the flood, about 6.15 p.m., the horses in the stables were knee-deep in water, and had to be removed to the paddocks. Stacks of heavy timber were in places completely uplifted and upset.

All the shops from Mr St. George's chemist shop to the corner of Renall-street were badly flooded....

Mr St. George, chemist, was occupied the whole morning in cleaning up silt from his floors. He had taken the precaution to remove his stock above the level of the water.

All the shopkeepers concerned were indignant at the state of things prevailing, and it is probable a deputation will wait upon the Borough Council at next meeting to urge immediate remedial measures.¹⁷⁰

JUST a few spinions re Peter's Cure for Hamorrhoids (Piles)-

- "Please send me another pot of Peter's Cure. That you sent last cured me. I want this for a friend."
- 2. "Real good stuff. If you want a tes] timonial I will give you one. My name is B—n. So far I am completely cured and I was bad a long time, too."
- 3. "Best thing I have yet tried, and tried a good many and spent pounds! Nothing did me much good till I tried this."

Sold n pots at 1s 3d and 5s. Agent for Masterton:

L. St. George, Chemist

Cucen Street

At the Masterton Hospital Trustees' monthly meeting,

With regard to the supply of drugs, Messrs J. V. Gordon, E. G. Eton, and H. T. Wood, chemists, waited on the meeting and submitted a joint tender on behalf of themselves and Mr St. George. The deputation asked that each local chemist should be allowed to serve the hospital for a quarter. The tender was referred to the medical officers and the secretary to deal with.¹⁷¹

¹⁷⁰ Wairarapa Daily Times 2 May 1907.

¹⁷¹ Wairarapa Age 19 December 1907.

Leo kept up his calligraphy,

The testimonial presented to Mr F. T. Redman, last night, by the Congregationalists, is a handsome one in an artistic oak frame. The engrossing was carried out skillfully by Mr L. St. George, and was purely a labour of love. 172

Family often visited,

Mrs Halse, of Greytown, is on a visit to her sister, Mrs St. George of Renall-street.¹⁷³

Mrs H. Wood, a former Lansdowne resident, now of Dannevirke, is visiting her mother, Mrs St. George... Mrs Halse, of Grey town, and Miss Halse are the guests of Mrs St. George, Renall-street. Mr L. St. George left yesterday for the Empire City, on a health-recruiting trip, via Otaki and Manawatu. He will afterwards go to New Plymouth.¹⁷⁴

Mr and Mrs H. R. Wood (Dannevirke) are visitors to Masterton and are staying with Mr and Mrs St. George. 175

Miss St. George, of Wellington, is at present visiting Mrs L. St. George, of Masterton. ¹⁷⁶

Mrs H. R. Wood is spending the holidays with her mother, Mrs L. St. George, of Masterton. ¹⁷⁷

Leo rented his room to visiting health professionals,

You may have good short sight and defective long sight. You may have good long sight, and defective short sight, or perhaps long and near sight are both bad. You may have weakness of the eye muscles or even squint. To use your eyes under any of these conditions will cause you trouble. Generally it causes headache, sometimes at the back of the head, over the temples, at the side of the eyes, or an aching which seems to

¹⁷² Wairarapa Daily Times 30 October 1908.

¹⁷³ Wairarapa Daily Times 21 August 1909; just as George St George and Henry Halse had married Shaw sisters, so Leo and John Henry Halse married Varnham sisters.

¹⁷⁴ Wairarapa Daily Times 12 January 1910.

¹⁷⁵ Wairarapa Age 28 December 1910.

¹⁷⁶ Wairarapa Age 8 June 1911.

¹⁷⁷ Wairarapa Age 28 December 1911.

come from behind the nose. At times your vision may become blurred. If this is your case consult a good optician at once and thus protect your eyes and save months of misery. H. M. Bennett, F.S.M.C., Lond. M.P.S., has the highest qualifications and practical knowledge and is most fitted to do this. May be consulted at Mr St. George's, chemist, from Monday next, the 9th.¹⁷⁸

Then it was War. Leo gave money and kind to the Patriotic Dance, the Allies Relief Fund, the Sale of Flags, the Mayoress's Fund, for bandages for the wounded, for Patriotic Concerts, the Red Cross Fund, the Xmas Gift Fund. The newspapers had headlines, THE PATRIOTIC EFFORT, PROGRESS OF THE WAR, THE ROLL OF HONOUR, NZ WOUNDED SOLDIERS, CITIZEN'S DEFENCE CORPS—and then, on 10 September 1915,

THE TRENTHAM DISEASE

ANOTHER VICTIM OF CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS Rifleman Eric Varnham St. George, of the Earl of Liverpool's Own Regiment, aged 20, died at Trentham last night from cerebro spinal meningitis, following on an attack of measles. (The deceased was a son of Mr Louis St. George, of Wellington, and a nephew of Mr L. St. George, of Masterton. The deceased had been a member of the New Zealand Contingent which went to Samoa at the outbreak of the war.)¹⁷⁹

On 3 July it was announced that Lance-Corporal Francis Clarence St George of the Rifle Brigade had been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field during the Battle of Messines. ¹⁸⁰ But then the terrible news that Frank had been killed on 9 August 1917,

Mr L. St. George, of Masterton, this morning received a cable conveying the sad news that his son had been killed at the front.¹⁸¹

¹⁷⁸ Wairarapa Daily Times 6 October 1911.

¹⁷⁹ Wairarapa Daily Times 10 September, 1915. Bacterial meningitis was from time to time epidemic in a number of military camps, including Trentham. Measles? 180 Wairarapa Age 3 July 1917.

¹⁸¹ Wairarapa Daily Times 23 August 1917. He is buried in Prowse Point Military Cemetery, Commines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium. Grave Reference III. A. 21. "In Flanders field the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row...."





Frank Loeta

Their youngest, Loeta, would marry a soldier,

EYRE–ST. GEORGE.–On October 29th, at Wellington, Second Lieut. R.J. Eyre, eldest son of R.B.D. Eyre, New Plymouth, to Loeta, youngest daughter of L.S. St. George, Masterton. 182

In July 1918 seventy year old Leo was injured by a fool on a bike,

Mr L. St. George was knocked down last night by a cyclist who was riding on the footpath in Renall street, and had his leg badly lacerated. Mr St. George is confined to his home to-day. A correspondent draws our attention to the fact that it is a common occurrence in both Renall street and Essex street for cyclists to ride on the footpath at night, and even without lights attached to their machines. Frequently motor cyclists and motorists are seen scorching along these streets at night without lights. The correspondent suggests that the police should exercise more vigilance in an endeavour to catch these

¹⁸² Wairarapa Age 12 November 1917.

lawbreakers, and that when caught the Bench should make an example of them. 183

Then between October and December 1918 came the lethal influenza pandemic that killed nearly 9000 people. Leo advertised again, the first time in several years, 184

ARRIVED!

DANN'S RAPID INFLUENZA CURE.

427 BOTTLES sold in 12 days by one Christchurch Chemist.

A MASTERTON MAN CURED WITH TWO DOSES.

PRICE 3s. At ST. GEORGE'S PHARMACY Only.

216 QUEEN STREET.

But did he really hold a referendum?

REFERENDUM VOTE ON THE BEST

INFLUENZA REMEDY.

MASTERTON RESULT:

	taken completely and	440000000000000000000000000000000000000		ores.
f.o.	Dann's	Rapid	Influenza	
				3512
For	all other	Reme	dies	125

PRICE 3s.

L. ST. GEORGE'S PHARMACY.

¹⁸³ Wairarapa Daily Times 10 July 1918.

¹⁸⁴ Wairarapa Daily Times 14 October 1918.

"Buy it now," he urged readers, "Delays are dangerous, Dann's Rapid Influenza cure is having a phenomenal sale. Wholesale orders cannot be executed at present." Supplies must have been short, for he started making his own formula,

PROTECT YOUR HOMES.

USE "INHALO"

ST. GEORGE'S "INHALO."
ST. GEORGE'S "INHALO."

CARRY a Bottle in your pocket, and sprinkle a few drops on the kiddies' hankies. Is equally efficacious, and does not irritate the eyes and nostrils like formalin.

PRICE 1s and 2s per Bottle.

LEO. ST. GEORGE. CHEMIST. MASTERTON.

Panic was rising. Social gatherings were cancelled, shops were closed. Leo's colleague wrote to the editor of the *Daily Times*,

Sir,—As many people are using sheep dip as a disinfectant, I wish to warn your readers of a grave danger. As long as it is mixed with water and used for outdoor purposes it is safe enough. In many homes it is being used indoors, and vaporised on hot embers, and carried from room to room. The risk is, that 90 per cent of sheep dips contain arsenic, and the fumes arising, whilst burning, are extremely dangerous to health. For vaporising, your readers had better stick to Jeyes Fluid, Lysol, Kerol, carbolic acid, eucalyptus, sulphur, etc.

I am, etc., E. C. DANN. St. George's Pharmacy.

Masterton, November 16th.

185 Wairarapa Daily Times 26 October 1918.

Chemists were being worked off their feet,

Otaki's one chemist, Mr L. St. George, a son of Mr St. George, of Masterton, broke down on Sunday from overwork, and had to go to bed. He has been working at high pressure for several weeks past.¹⁸⁰

By December the epidemic was easing...

CHEMISTS' NOTICE.

THE Chemists of Masterton, who have extended their hours during the epidemic, will, as from MONDAY, 9th inst., revert to their old hours of closing at 6 p.m., and not re-opening in the evening.¹⁸⁷

But "Recovery brought a post-flu fatigue characterised by mental apathy, depression, subnormal body temperatures and low blood pressure, which could last for weeks or months," so now post-flu fatigue syndrome cried out for pharmaceutical remedy,

ST. GEORGE'S TONIC.

LOSS of energy; nervous debility; depression; poor appetite; weakness following Influenza and other diseases, quickly benefited by a course of St. George's Tonic.

PRICE 3s.

LEO. ST. GEORGE. CHEMIST, MASTERTON.

¹⁸⁶ Wairarapa Daily Times 21 November 1918.

¹⁸⁷ Wairarapa Daily Times 9 December 1918.

¹⁸⁸ Killingray D (ed.) 2007. The Spanish influenza pandemic of 1818–1819: new perspectives. Routledge.

He advertised with renewed vigour in 1919, to an edgy people, gullible in the aftermath of the double trauma of war and pestilence,

EVERY MAN

WANTS

PERFECT HEALTH.

YOU CAN GET MIGHTY NEAR IT BY TAKING

ST. GEORGE'S TONIC.

PRICE 3s.

PHARMACY.

216 QUEEN STREET.

In April, three "good remedies",

3

GOOD REMEDIES.

ST. GEORGE'S TONIC, 3s.

Makes the Weak Strong.

ST. GEORGE'S WHITE PINE COUGH SYRUP, 2s.

For Coughs, Bronchitis, etc.

DANN'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER, 3s

Removes Dandruff, stimulates growth, and restores colour.

ST. GEORGE'S PHARMACY

216 Queen Street, Masterton.

In June 1919 Leo was elected a member of the local Miniature Rifle Club, ¹⁸⁰ developed an "A.1" children's cough syrup for the winter, ¹⁹⁰ and later in the month advertised their 4 room house at 72 Renall street for sale. ¹⁹¹ In July (the original meaning of "peace offering"?)

A cheque for £5 5s has been received by the secretary of the Wairarapa Patriotic Association (Mr A. E. Prentice) from Mr L. St. George, as a Peace offering, to provide comforts for returned wounded soldiers. 192

In August he sold his pharmacy to EB Stohr,

NOTICE.

IN introducing Mr E. B. STOHR to my numerous clients, I take this opportunity of thanking them for their patronage and hope for a continuance to my successor. Accounts due to me may be paid to Mr Stohr, or posted to my private address, Renall Street,

L. ST. GEORGE, Chemist.

E. B. STOHR

PHARMACEUTICAL & VETERINARY CHEMIST,

216 QUEEN STREET, MASTERTON.

(Opposite Presbyterian Church).

WISHES to notify Residents of Masterton, and surrounding districts that he has purchased the old established Chemist's business from Mr L. St. GEORGE, and trusts to receive the patronage hitherto accorded his predecessor.¹⁹⁸

Stohr was soon in trouble,

FOOD AND DRUG ACT

CHARGE AGAINST MASTERTON CHEMIST.

¹⁸⁹ Wairarapa Age 9 June 1919.

¹⁹⁰ Wairarapa Daily Times 26 June 1919.

¹⁹¹ Wairarapa Age 28 June 1919.

¹⁹² Wairarapa Age 23 July 1919.

¹⁹³ Wairarapa Daily Times 29 August 1919.

In the Magistrate's Court, at Masterton yesterday, before Mr S. L. P. Free, S.M., Edward Stohr, chemist, of Masterton, was charged with a breach of the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, by having sold adulterated iodine.

Mr R. R. Burridge appeared for the Crown, and Mr W. Noble for the defendant.

Mr Burridge said that in this case a man purchased a shilling's worth of iodine, and sent it down to the Government for analysis. A certificate of analysis had been procured. Counsel asked His Worship whether it would be necessary for the analyst to be present in person to give evidence.

Mr Noble said that he did not see that it would be necessary for the analyst to attend. His certificate would be sufficient.

His Worship said they could reserve leave to call the analyst if necessary. This would get over the difficulty.

Mr Burridge said the defendant on 13th November, 1919, sold to James Cairns, Health Inspector, one shilling's worth of iodine. The bottle was marked "Tincture of Iodine." Cairns sealed the bottle and sent it to Wellington, where an analyst of the Public Health Department analysed the iodine. The analyst had forwarded a certificate of the result of his analysis, which counsel handed to the Magistrate.

James Cairns, Health Inspector at Masterton, said that on 13th November last he went to Stohr's chemist shop in Queen street, and asked for a small bottle of tincture of iodine. The iodine was supplied, and witness paid one shilling for it. The label on the bottle read: "St. George, Queen Street, Masterton. Tincture of Iodine." Witness included this bottle with three other samples of the same drug obtained elsewhere and forwarded it by registered post to the Dominion Analyst. He marked Stohr's sample, so that it could be easily identified. Stohr did not say anything about the drug being adulterated. So far as Stohr knew, witness was purchasing the drug for ordinary use.

Mr Noble said the defence was that the requirements of the Act, when samples are taken for analysis, had not been complied with. Mr Noble submitted that, according to law, Inspector Cairns should have told defendant at the time that he was taking the samples for the purpose of analysis. He had not done this, and counsel maintained the prosecution must fail.

His Worship said he would reserve his decision. 194

Stohr was convicted of selling adulterated iodine and fined $\pounds 10$ and costs. The case was a scandal covered by every newspaper in the country. His lawyers gave notice of their intention to appeal, but, apart from occasional chemists' bottles embossed "E.B. STOHR, CHEMIST, STRATFORD, N.Z." appearing in sale catalogues, Stohr disappears thereafter from the public record.

CHAPTER 4: MARY EMILY (VARNHAM) ST GEORGE

Leo and Mary Emily (May) Varnham were married on 21 February 1871 in the newly opened St Luke's church, Greytown.

May was the eldest daughter (born 1848) of the late Captain John Rowe Varnham and Elizabeth Marshall who married in Sydney in 1850. He had been with the East India Company and came to Wellington in 1844, became a ship owner and merchant, was briefly (1857–1861) one of the Wellington city representatives on the Wellington Provincial Council, then managed a farm named "Bowlands" at Tauweru, east of Masterton, then, from 1866, a dairy and seed farm at Papawai, east of Greytown.

Varnham was a freemason and a lieutenant in the militia so had some interests in common with Leo and Louis St George. He died of a stroke at age 50; at his funeral "he was followed by a large concourse of both European and native friends, who held him in high esteem"; he is buried in the Greytown cemetery.

Leo and May's wedding attracted the attention of the media,

¹⁹⁴ Wairarapa Age 28 February 1920.

¹⁹⁵ Wairarapa Standard 23 May 1868.



May (Varnham) St George. Wrigglesworth & Binns, Photographers, Wellington. Wairarapa Archive Ref. No. 16-70/32.

WAIRARAPA. [FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] A BALL AND A WEDDING.

"No events of importance during the past week!" exclaimed a lady in our hearing. "Has not there been a grand ball at Featherston, and a grand wedding at Grevtown during that period, in which one half the female population have taken more interest than you could have done in the visit of Mr Rochfort, or in the report that Mr Fitzherbert is to be nominated for the Superintendency? You journalists and newspaper correspondents appear to think that nothing is of importance which does not interest your sex, while you seem to be totally oblivious of the fact that ladies never read newspapers, and that one of them has been returned at the head of the poll as a member of the London Board of Education." We were not only silenced, but convinced. The position of women in society marks on the social barometer the different degrees of civilization, and the height to which it has risen amongst the people in the several countries of the world. Women, now moreover, read newspapers, and it is quite right and proper that their tastes and wishes should be consulted. The ball referred to was a private one given by Mr Bunny to celebrate his return for the third time at the head of the poll as member for the district in the House of Representatives; and it was attended, notwithstanding the weather was unfavorable, by nearly "all the beauty and fashion" in the neighborhood. The marriage referred to was that of Mr Leonard St. George, second son of Mr St. George, surgeon, of New Plymouth, (who years ago was a frequent correspondent of the Independent 196), to Mary Emily, the eldest daughter of the late John Varnham, Esq., long a resident in Wellington, and at one time one of its representatives in the Provincial Council. The marriage took place at St. Luke's Church, Grevtown, the Rev. A. Knell officiating, and a large number of people were present; it being one of the first weddings which has been publicly celebrated in the valley, the practice having usually been for the ceremony

¹⁹⁶ I find no evidence of that claim and think it most unlikely.

to take place at the residence of the bride's parents, which, now we have a Church will not be continued.¹⁹⁷

I can find no record of where they lived for the first five years, but they appear to have lived over their new shop from 1876. On the night of the 1881 fire,

Mr. Wickerson's household had not all retired when the alarm was given, as his youngest child—who is not expected to live—had an attack of croup, and was being watched and nursed at the time the fire occurred, Mrs. Wickerson being also far from well. Mrs. Baillie kindly took care of the two invalids, and Mrs. St. George of the rest of Mr. Wickerson's family.¹⁹⁸

May won prizes at the Greytown Horticultural Society's shows—usually for bouquets and table flower arrangements, though at the Spring Show in 1885 she contributed "a very pretty drawing representing a Bohemian girl, which attracted much attention". 199

May had seven children and the birth notices, of standard format, did not give her name, only that of the sire,

Louis George Varnham St George 1872 ("BIRTH. ST. GEORGE. —At Grey town, on 18th inst., the wife of Mr L. St. George, of a son".) Arthur Douglas St George 1874.

Leonard Warner St George 1876 ("BIRTH. ST. GEORGE.,—On the 10th inst., at Greytown the wife of Mr L. St. George of a son.")

Francis Clarence St George 1878 ("BIRTH. ST. GEORGE.—At Greytown, on the 18th inst., the wife of Mr L. St. George of a son.")

Maude Ella (St George) Wood 1880.

Waldyve Wellington St George 1882 ("BIRTH. St George.—At Greytown, on September 8th, the wife of Mr Leonard St George, of a son.")

Loeta Beatrice (St George) Eyre 1885 ("BIRTH. ST. GEORGE.—On the 25th inst., the wife of Mr L. St. George, Greytown, of a daughter.")

¹⁹⁷ Wellington Independent 2 March 1871.

¹⁹⁸ Evening Post 1 November 1881.

¹⁹⁹ Wairarapa Standard 11 December 1885.



This ripe languid and very competent pencil drawing is signed "L St G". It is said to have been drawn by Leo St George and to depict May. It is undated. But is it May's 1885 "Bohemian girl"?

They would lose nine year old Waldyve to diphtheria in December 1891, during the summer school holidays. His headmaster wrote,

"Only little Waldy St George has not returned this year". He is buried in the Greytown cemetery.

Family legend says Maori elders at Papawai begged Leo and May to let them clear the sick boy's throat of the obstructing membrane by scraping it with a spiny burr, but his parents thought it too cruel a remedy and would not permit it. There would be 281 deaths from diphtheria in New Zealand in 1892, its worst year.

It was also in 1892 they sold the business and moved to the Purakau farm at Papawai. In 1894 she served on the committee for the annual ball in aid of the Greytown (Wairarapa) Hospital.²⁰⁰

In February 1896 May and Leo celebrated 25 years of marriage,

On Saturday Mr and Mrs St. George celebrated their silver wedding, having been married twenty-five years ago in Grey town, where they have lived continuously ever since. Six children, four boys and two girls, have been born to them, and we hope (says the *Standard*), to see them helping in the celebration of silver weddings of some of these, and that they will themselves not feel a bit older when their own golden wedding day arrives.²⁰¹

Their daughter Ella married in 1903,

WEDDING BELLS. Wood—St. George

One of the prettiest weddings that have yet taken place in the Wairarapa was celebrated at Greytown, yesterday, when Mr H. R. Wood, second son of Mr F. H. Wood, Mayor of Greytown, and the popular manager of the Masterton branch of Messrs F. H. Wood and Sons (Ltd.), was married to Miss Maud Ella St. George, oldest daughter of Mr L. St George, of Greytown. St. Luke's Church, where the ceremony took place, was prettily decorated for the occasion, and the building was filled to overflowing with friends and relatives and the general



Leonard and May



public. The service was fully choral, Mr Blakemore officiating at the organ.

The Rev. A. M. Johnson, was the officiating minister. The bride, who was charmingly attired in a trained costume of Louiseine silk, with the orthodox veil, etc., carried a pretty shower bouquet, and was given away by her father. She was attended by Miss L. St. George (sister), and Miss E. Halse (cousin), as bridesmaids, who were prettily dressed in Tasseau silk, and wore chiffon hats to match. Mr C. E. Wood (brother of the bridegroom), acted as best man, and Mr W. Booth as groomsman. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a massive gold Nelly Stewart bangle, 202 to Miss St. George a gold ring and to Miss Halse a gold brooch. The bride's travelling costume was of blue cloth, with lace collar. A numerously attended reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents after the ceremony, and in order to accommodate all the guests it was necessary to erect a large marquee on the grounds. About thirty members of the Masterton Mounted Rifles, of which Mr Wood is a Lieutenant, under Lieutenant Stuckey, visited Greytown, and were entertained by Mr and Mrs St. George, and afterwards formed a guard of honour for the bridal procession as it proceeded to Masterton.

Mr and Mrs Wood will take up their residence at Lansdowne. The large number of valuable wedding presents received testified to the high esteem and regard in which the young couple are held by all to whom they are known in Wairarapa; and we join in the good wishes expressed by a very large section of the community that an abundant store of happiness and prosperity may attend them in the future.²⁰³

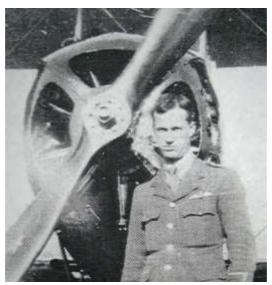
Leonard Warner St George married Catherine Jolly in Sydney (where her widowed mother lived) in 1903.²⁰¹ He survived the War, though he was badly wounded in a crash while serving in the Royal

²⁰² See Annita Boyd 2014. The private and public life of Nellie Stewart's bangle. Journal of Popular Romance Studies. http://jprstudies.org/2014/10/the-private-and-public-life-of-nellie-stewarts-bangleby-annita-boyd/.

²⁰³ Wairarapa Daily Times 9 January 1903.

²⁰⁴ Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011. Sydney Morning Herald 19 September 1903.

Flying Corps, after which he served as a gunnery officer. The couple lived in England and the south of France.



Leonard Warner St George with Sopwith Pup

In 1906 May and Leo moved to Masterton, to 72 Renall St.

May made balaclavas, knitted socks and sent boracic foot powder for wounded soldiers²⁰⁵ and to the Lady Liverpool Equipment and Relief Fund²⁰⁶ and the "Wairarapa boys of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade".²⁰⁷

They would lose Frank: he was killed by an exploding shell in the Messines trenches in 1917 on a day when 733 Allied troops died. He is buried in Prowse Point Military Cemetery in Flanders: he had just been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

She outlived Leo by 13 years, leaving Masterton to live with her daughters Ella Wood in Auckland and her youngest, Loeta Eyre (who had married in 1917) in Nelson. She died in Nelson in 1933 but is buried in Masterton with Leo.

²⁰⁵ Wairarapa Daily Times 20 May 1915.

²⁰⁶ Wairarapa Daily Times 6 October 1915.

²⁰⁷ Wairarapa Daily Times 31 January 1916.

CHAPTER 5: ENDINGS

DEATH.

ST. GEORGE.—At his residence, Renall Street, Masterton, May 10, 1920, Leonard Shaw, beloved husband of Mary Emily St. George, aged seventy-three years.

The Wairarapa Age,

OBITUARY MR. L. ST. GEORGE

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Mr L. St. George, which occurred at his residence in Masterton somewhat suddenly last evening. The deceased had been ailing for some time, but had recently shown improvement. Early last evening he had a heart seizure, from which he expired almost immediately. The late Mr St. George, who was seventy-three years of age, was a very old resident of the Wairarapa. He was for many years in business in Greytown as a chemist, and some years ago established a chemist's business in Masterton, from which he retired a few months back, owing to failing health. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, who was highly respected by all who knew him for his strict integrity. He leaves a widow, one son, and two daughters. One of the daughters is married to Mr H. Wood, manager for Messrs Dalgety and Co., Ltd., at Whangarei. The family will have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.²⁰⁸

The Taranaki Herald.

The death occurred suddenly at his residence, Masterton, on May 10, of Mr. Leonard Shaw St. George, at the age of 73 years. The cause of death was heart failure. Deceased was a native of New Plymouth and was the oldest surviving son of the late Dr. St. George, and brother therefore of Mrs. Newton King. He was educated at Beardworth's School and afterwards joined his father and Mr. Fred Rawson in carrying on a chemist's business in premises standing where Mr. F. W. Hall's shop now is. In the early seventies he went to the Wairarapa and established himself as a chemist at Greytown. Selling out he took up a farm at Purakau, Greytown, but after a few years returned to business again in Greytown. Some vears later he sold out again and removed to Masterton, where he again took up business as a chemist. In later years he sold out, and since has been living in retirement. He leaves a widow and three sons and two daughters, all of whom are married. The daughters are Mrs. Henry Wood, Whangarei, and Mrs. Ayre, Wellington.²⁰⁹

The friends of Mrs L. S. St. George are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of her late husband, which will leave the residence, Renall street, at 2 p.m. to-morrow (Thursday) for the Masterton Cemetery.²¹⁰

A correspondent writes:-Born in New Plymouth six years after the landing of the pioneer settlers, Leonard St. George passed away at Masterton at the age of 73. He was a wellknown figure in the old town in the early days, and there are still a number of his old schoolboy acquaintances who will regret to hear of his death. He attended Beardsworth's school with the Douglasses, Samuels, Watts, Carringtons, Humphries, Standishes, Chilmans, Hughes, Georges, Olivers, Blacks, Skinners, and other New Plymouth families, maintaining the respect of all. There were four boys in the family—George, Leonard, Lewis, and Douglas, The firstnamed was drowned in the sea near Te Henui in the fifties, and it will be recollected by others besides myself that he scooped out a small hole in the cliff, where it was said he used to take shelter during rainy days while rounding cows (it was nearly opposite this hole where he was drowned). Leonard, after leaving

²⁰⁹ Taranaki Herald 14 May 1920. 210 Wairarapa Age 12 May 1920.

school, joined his father, and they opened a chemist's shop near the Huatoki bridge. He afterwards left from Greytown, where he was in business as a chemist for many years, eventually moving to Masterton.²¹¹

Mrs Henry Wood (Auckland) and Mrs J. Eyre are staying with their mother, Mrs St. George, Masterton. 212

Mr. A. T. Dickason is holding a clearing sale of furniture at the residence, Renall Street, on behalf of Mrs. St. George, who is leaving for Auckland. The sale takes place on Wednesday afternoon, and full particulars will be advertised in Monday's issue.²¹³

Thirteen years later,

Regret will be felt by the many friends of Mrs. Mary Emily St. George, to learn of her death on April 29 at the age of 85, Mrs. St. George resided with her daughter, Mrs. R. J. Eyre, of Richmond Avenue, Nelson. Of her family of five sons and two daughters the surviving are Mr. Arthur St. George (Auckland), Mr. Leonard St. George (Wimbledon, England), Mrs. E. St. G. Wood (Rotorua), and Mrs. R. J. Eyre (Nelson).²¹⁴

What do we know? Leonard Shaw St George was "a quiet, unobtrusive man, who was highly respected by all who knew him for his strict integrity", a successful man in his provincial way, well-to-do, generous in his donations to charity; competitive and encouraging competitiveness in others by donating prizes for schoolwork, athletics, shooting, horticulture; a good citizen in his work on school committee, Horticultural Society, Borough Council (nine years) and various other bodies; director of local companies, devout in his Anglicanism; musical; neat in his calligraphy and talented with the pencil; and a small businessman who used that single medium of mass communication, the local newspaper to good effect.

²¹¹ Wairarapa Age 19 May 1920.

²¹² Wairarapa Age 27 May 1920.

²¹³ Wairarapa Age 3 July 1920.

²¹⁴ Evening Post 2 May 1933.

He was the first in Greytown to light his shop windows with electricity, was one of the pioneers of Arbour Day and was the first chemist in the Wairarapa.

CLEARING SALE OF FURNITURE.

AT RESIDENCE, RENALL STREET.

TO-DAY.

At 1.30 p.m.

A. T. DICKASON has been favoured with instructions from Mrs. St. George, who is leaving for Auckland, to dispose of her household furniture and effects as above:—

Cabinet Bookense, with glass doors; Dining Table, Colonial Couch, Horsehair Couch, two Oak Dining Chairs, Carved Stool, Double and Single Iron Bedsteads, Chest Drawers, Dress Tables, Art Tables, Hanging Hall Lamp, Stag Horns, Oregon Pine Table, Rosewood Lady's Work Table, Cupboard, Kitchen Dresser. Cooking Utensils, Meat Safe, about two cords Firewood. Planet Jr., two pairs Steps, Wire Notting, Lots assorted Pot Plants, and lot Sundries too numerous to mention.

A. T. DICKASON, Auctioneer.



²¹⁵ Wairarapa Age 8 July 1920.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The late Averil Legg gathered much of the St George family history together²¹⁶ and her work was an essential starting point. I am grateful to Douglas St George for photographs and information; to Gareth Winter and the staff of the Wairarapa Archive for courteous help and permission to use images. But this is essentially a scrapbook of clippings: I thank the founders of Papers Past for the rich mine of information I have been able to access from home. Those and other sources are acknowledged in footnotes.

Leo and May were my great grandparents: their son Arthur Douglas, known to his family as Arty, was my paternal grandfather.



Leo and May's broken gravestones at Archer St cemetery, Masterton, in 2017.

²¹⁶ Legg A 1992. St George of New Zealand 150 years on. Privately published, Sydney.



A rare chemists' bottle. Photo Mark Pacey.

APPENDIX A: O GENTLY BREATHE



O gently breathe the tender sigh, Which fell so sweetly on mine ear, And let thy soft and beaming eye Again be radiant with a tear. I'd rather hear that mournful sound, And see that drop so pearly fine, Than list to thy most mirthful round, Or view thine eye with laughter shine.

Chorus. —Then gently breathe the tender sigh, Which found a lingering echo near, And let thy soft and beaming eye Again be radiant with a tear.

They speak of fond affection's sway O'er all thy pure confiding breast, They tell that passion's far away, Nor mars thy peace, nor breaks thy rest. To me they are more pleasing still Than gayer sight or merrier sound, For do they not a tale reveal Of love requited and returned?

Chorus

—Words by John Rogers Thomas 1858, published by H De Marsan, New York, 1860, sung by Leo St George in Greytown on 31 October 1879

APPENDIX B: LOUIS GEORGE VARNHAM ST GEORGE

Leo and May's eldest son Louis was the first chemist in Otaki.

While reviewing the commerce of Otaki, special mention must be made of the well-known business of Mr. St. George, established about eighteen years ago. The two shops controlled by this gentleman—one in the town, and the other at the Otaki Railway, are the recognised centre for the supply of everything pertaining to



the healing art. The proprietor's premises, which have large plate glass windows tastefully dressed, are handsomely appointed, and contain the usual assortment of drugs, chemicals, and pharmaceutical preparations, toilet requisites, perfumery, surgical and medical appliances, etc., which are submitted to inspection in a system of perfect orderliness that cannot fail to be admired. Primary consideration is at all times devoted to the requirements of the sick room and nursery, and every department of modern pharmacy is fully and exhaustively represented, any new specific being at once placed in stock, and all authorised medicines periodically added to the large assortment with which both shops are replete. Photographic goods, including Kodaks, form a specialty of the establishment, and every facility is at hand for toning and printing. Mr. St. George is also the sole agent for the celebrated Nyal family remedies, (which can be had in any quantity, and will be posted to clients anywhere). 217

... Mr. St. George is a 'cello player in the local orchestral society, and is a member of the tennis, golf, and rifle clubs. He is married, and has two children.²¹⁸

His elder son, Keith, would become a chemist.

²¹⁷ Evening Post 21 June 1916.

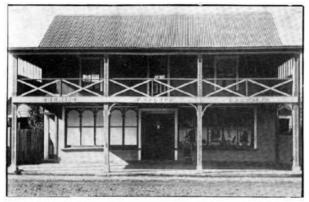
²¹⁸ Cyclopedia Company Limited 1908. The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts]. Christchurch

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APPENDIX C: HAROLD VARNHAM HALSE

Harold Halse was Robert Gant's assistant and eventually took over the Greytown pharmacy; he was May's nephew.

HALSE, HAROLD V., Pharmaceutical Chemist, The Pharmacy, Greytown. This well-known pharmacy was established in the year 1869 by Mr. L. St. George, and after passing through several hands is now under the management of Mr. Halse. The shop contains a large stock of drugs, chemists' sundries, proprietary medicines, and toilet requisites. A feature of the establishment is the dispensing of physicians' prescriptions and family recipes, in which the purest drugs are used. Mr. Halse was born in Wellington in June, 1885, was educated at the public school and Wellington College, and afterwards apprenticed to Mr. Sutherland and Mr. St. George. He qualified as a pharmaceutical chemist in the year 1905, became assistant to Mr. Robert Gant, and subsequently took charge of the business, which he has since successfully conducted. Mr. Halse takes a keen interest in music, and is clarionet player and secretary of the Greytown Orchestral Society.219



Premises of Mr. H.V. Halse.

²¹⁹ Cyclopedia Company Limited 1908. The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts]. Christchurch.

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ERRATUM

p.85 The photograph of the bottle is by Gareth Winter as noted in the inside front cover.

ADDENDUM

Inset into the marble plinth on Leo and May's grave but hidden behind the accumulated debris is Frank's Memorial Plaque. The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next of kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. They were bronze, about 1mm diameter and popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny".

