

## Thomas BURT (1818-1888)

### *Evening Post 01 Dec 1882 Death*

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November 1882 at the residence of Mr Thos. Burt, storekeeper, Lower Hutt, Richard Burt aged 70 years.

### *Evening Post 4 Dec 1882*

Between 11 and 12 o'clock on Wednesday evening Mr Richard Burt, brother of Mr Thomas Burt, storekeeper, Lower Hutt, with whom he was residing, died very suddenly in the garden attached to his brother's premises. The deceased was 70 years of age, and was well known in the Hutt district, where he had lived for some years. Dr Tripe made a *post mortem* examination of the body yesterday.

### *Evening Post 5 Dec 1882*

At an inquest held by Dr Wilford on the body of the late Mr Richard Burt, at the Lower Hutt, the evidence went to show that death had been caused by a rupture of the heart, and the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

### *Evening Post 29 Apr 1886 Marriage*

On the 17th April, at Lower Hutt, by the Rev. J. D. Murray, Robert Orr, Hutt to Ellen, fourth daughter of Mr Thomas Burt, Hutt.

### *Evening Post 15 Sep 1888 Death*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September at his late residence, Lower Hutt, Thomas Burt aged 69 years; deeply regretted.

### *Evening Post 15 Sep 1888 Death of Mr Thomas Burt*

The pioneer settlers of Wellington - those who have witnessed the rising of a populous city and the establishment of thriving settlements in the room of the wilderness which they found on arrival - have to-day to lament the disappearance from their ranks of another of their most sturdy comrades. We sincerely regret to have to chronicle the death, from heart disease, of Mr Thomas Burt, which occurred at his residence, Lower Hutt, at about 1 o'clock this morning. Mr Burt was a native of Launceston, Cornwall, and arrived at Port Nicholson about the year 1843 in the brig Attila, being then a robust young man of about 24 summers. The Attila continuing her voyage to Auckland, Mr Burt went with her, and he settled temporarily in the Waikato district, near the site of the present township of Alexandra. He did not, however, remain there long, and a couple of years later found him back in the Wellington district. The manner in which he made the journey is characteristic of the early stages of the colony, and would surprize many of the present generation. Lines of steamers there were none, and sailing vessels were very few, and not at all regular in their services, so Mr Burt had no alternative but to walk most of the distance down the coast. He climbed over the ranges between Waikato and the head of the Mokau River, descended the river in a canoe, and thence came on foot from one native hapu to another, receiving right royal treatment from the Maoris, *en route*. On his return to this district he established himself at Lower Hutt, and shared with his fellow settlers the dangers of the stirring times between 1845 and 1848, when the murders were committed in the valley by Rauparaha's people, and all the male European inhabitants were placed under arms for their own defence. Mr Burt's occupation was that of a storekeeper, but in addition to this, he undertook the conveyance of the commissariat stores from the settled neighbourhood to the camp, which had been formed at Taita, and also

brought back some of the dead and wounded from the scene of bloodshed. Since the days when the terrors of native troubles were at an end, the deceased gentleman has quietly carried on his store at Lower Hutt, in conjunction with one of his sons, and though his ailment forbade any active exertion he was always able to direct the affairs of the business. Early in his experience as a colonist Mr Burt married the daughter of Mr Wilkie (another old settler at the Hutt), who survives him, and who is supported in her bereavement by a large family, consisting of two unmarried daughters, one widowed daughter, the relict of the late Mr Woods, of Wainui, two sons, and three other daughters married to well-known residents in the provincial district, namely, Mr Robert Orr, Mr Robert Cleland, and Mr Henry Sanson, of Sanson township. The deceased never took any prominent part in public life as regards local government affairs, but he will live in the memory of all who knew him as one of the good old school of colonists - unobtrusive in manner, open-handed with his means, and ever ready with friendly counsel to any person in need of assistance. His influence with the natives was considerable, and on more than one occasion his persuasions were of public service, in at least averting bloodshed for the time in the periods of serious conflict. Mr Burt has always expressed the desire to be buried beside his brother in the Anglican cemetery, Lower Hutt, and there his remains will accordingly be interred on Monday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.

*New Zealand Mail 30 Dec 1892 p23e*

Fire at the Hutt. About midnight Wednesday, began Mr Burt's store, that and Oddfellows Hall totally destroyed. The Family Hotel seriously damaged by fire and water.

*On Our Way: The First 150 years of the Methodist Church in Lower Hutt*  
Appendix H: Circuit Stewards – Ernest B. Jones 1895-1901