

Arthur GADSBY (1856-1940)

Three Gadsby brothers worked as butchers in the Hutt Valley – Joseph, Arthur, and Frederick – sons of Joseph Gadsby (1810-1872) of Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire. Three sisters and another brother remained in Great Britain.

By 1881 Joseph and Arthur, both butchers, were residing in the Hutt Valley – Joseph at Petone and Arthur at Lower Hutt.

In February 1883 Michael Ryan and Gadsby leased the Gear Meat Preserving and Factory Company's shop at the corner of Cuba and Ghuznee Street, Wellington. In April they went deerstalking near Martinborough and afterwards displayed a 230lb buck in the shop.

Joseph Gadsby was charged for allowing cattle to wander at large in the township of Petone in January 1884. Advertisements in the New Zealand Times in March and June 1884 announced Joseph's intention to apply to the Hutt County Council for a license to slaughter cattle on the premises of Isaac Cooley, Lower Hutt and Mr Earp, Taita, late Albion Hotel¹ respectively.

In March 1885 Arthur Gadsby was resident at Taita when £11 in silver was stolen from his dwelling. On 5 May 1885 a poll was taken at Joseph's house in Taita for the office of local warden for the Wellington Road Board. Thomas Mason scored an easy victory over Henry Southee.

At a sitting of the Supreme Court on 27 August 1885 the Gear Meat Preserving Company brought a case against Burt to recover possession of a house at Taita and £37 rent. The plaintiff stated that the original owner of the property was Mrs Ross. She leased it to Arthur May Richardson, an Upper Hutt butcher who opened a branch establishment at Taita in August 1880. Richardson then transferred it to Henry Freeman, also an Upper Hutt butcher, who disposed of his butchering business at Taita in September 1882. Possession was then handed over to Mr Gadsby who in turn transferred it to James Gear. The defence argued that the property belonged to Mr Avery and not to the Gear Meat Company. The case was dismissed.

On 20 December 1887 Arthur Gadsby married Sarah Bennett at her father's home at Waiwetu.

Both Joseph and Arthur were elected to the committee of the Hutt Special Settlement Association in 1888. This organization was behind the development of the Mangatainoka K Block of about 4,000 acres in the 40-mile bush and the creation of the Township of Brownston north of Eketahuna, later known as Hukanui. Other Taita people who applied for land in this block on 11 May 1889 were John Fraser, William Kilmister, David Mabey, Job Charles Mabey, William S. Milne, John H. Ross, and Robert W. Ross.

At a meeting of the Hutt Town Board on 1 April 1889 Arthur Gadsby, along with Walter Goalen and Riddiford pointed out that they were unable to get cattle down from Upper Hutt in time to drive them through the Town District before 8am. In response it was decided that the Chairman would be given power to issue a permit to drive cattle through the district between 9am and noon (Sundays excepted).

At Taita about 6 June 1889 the Gadsby Brothers suffered the loss of 21 pigs, stores and partly finished porkers and the hair of the tail and mane were maliciously cut off a horse.

On 24 June 1889 Arthur's first son, Joseph Topham Gadsby, was born at Victoria Street, Petone.

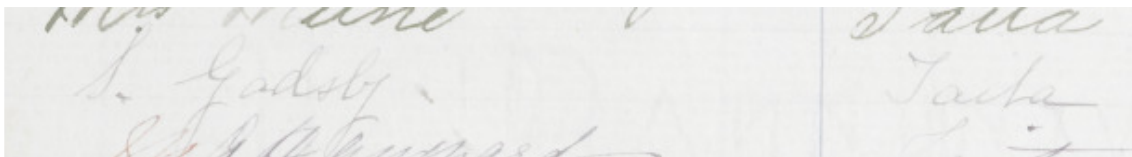
¹ Established by Robert Buckeridge (1816-1874) – subsequent proprietors William Cleland, Samuel Death, John Hicks Corbett and John Anderson Williams

Land records suggest that Arthur and Joseph Gadsby purchased part of Hutt Section No.49 from the estate of William Earp (1824-1888) of Tawa Flat on 29 August 1889. It was mortgaged the same day to Thomas Steele and Edward William Earp, the executors of William Earp's estate, and was repaid on 24 September 1896.

The third Gadsby brother, Frederick, departed from Plymouth, England on the *RMS Ruapehu* and arrived at Wellington on 13 October 1889.

The March 1893 tropical hurricane that impacted much of the North Island resulted in a Hutt River flood that left the main street of Petone looking like a Venetian Canal. The view from the Belmont Hills revealed water that stretched from Petone on one side to the road leading to Wainuiomata on the other.

Trees, houses, and higher pieces of land stood out like islands and peninsulas above the flood. In the Taita area stock entangled in fencing were drowned and the winds brought down large trees. Mr Gadsby lost several animals.



Sarah Gadsby signs the 1893 Suffrage Petition – Sheet No.422

On 25 September 1894 Joseph Gadsby got separated from his mates while searching for cattle in the 40-mile bush and failed to return that night. The next day John Wolland found his body in the Mangatainoka River near Hawera (now known as Hamua) along with his horse and dog nearby. It was supposed that as he rode into the river, he was seized with one of his fits of giddiness and fell off his horse into the water. Joseph was returned to the Hutt and buried at the public cemetery at Taita with members of the Star of New Zealand Lodge in attendance.

A formal announcement of the dissolution of the partnership existing between Arthur and Joseph Gadsby under the style of Gadsby Bros., Butchers, &c Taita was published in the Evening Post on 4 October 1894. The business was to be carried on by Arthur under the old style of Gadsby Bros.

In 1899 Arthur lived in a six-roomed house owned by William Cleland. On the Saturday morning of 1 October, he was awakened by a crackling noise, and on getting up he found the back part of the house in flames. The only articles saved were some harnesses, wearing apparel, and a bicycle. It was supposed that the fire occurred through a defect in the brickwork in connection with the kitchen range. The house, furniture and piano were insured with the Liverpool, London, and Globe Company. On 22 November another house, owned by Gadsby Bros., burned down in Lower Hutt. It was occupied by Thomas Iremonger, a painter and paperhanger.

A "Petone Woollen Mill" blanket was reported stolen from off Arthur's horse in a section near the Family Hotel on 24 April 1901. It was fawn coloured, 7ft by 5ft, with a check pattern consisting of red, white, blue and grey stripes about six inches square and was valued at £2 2s.

The next year the Gadsby Bros., unexpectedly lost their long-term employee, Charles Aldridge, who was an old identity of the Hutt Valley. He had long suffered from heart disease and was found dead on the floor of the stable at Taita on 9 August 1902.

In September 1902 Arthur and Frederick were charged with failing to brand carcasses as required under the Slaughter and Inspection Act of 1900. They pleaded guilty and explained that in the rush of business the men had neglected to brand certain carcasses on 25 August. They were fined 5s and £1 10s costs.

On 22 August 1905 Arthur Gadsby was questioned by members of the Joint Agricultural, Pastoral and Stock Committee for his opinions on the Slaughtering and Inspection Amendment Bill. Arthur did not want the large meat-export companies to have control of the sale of meat. He said that he was a wholesale and retail butcher. He processed about 25 bullocks and 150 to 200 sheep a week and had his own boiling down plant. "If killing-powers were delegated to the large companies I should lose nearly the whole of my offal, and this at the end of the year would amount to a very considerable sum."

Twelve acres of land with cottage, behind the Gadsby Slaughterhouse at Taita, was advertised to let by tender for a period of seven years in 1915. When advertised again in July 1922 it had not been cropped for over 30 years and would be highly adaptable for growing tomatoes, early potatoes and for close cultivation. It has been continually manured and requires no money spent on it for two to three years. The term offered was for five years.

On 27 June 1916 Arthur's son, William Arthur, enlisted as a private in F Company of the 18th Reinforcements. In England he was transferred to the 4th Field Ambulance of the New Zealand Armed Services Corps, spent a year in France and returned to New Zealand in 1919.

In March 1918 Gadsby Bros gave notice that they had disposed of their business to Messrs Curle and Co.² and took the opportunity to thank the residents of the Hutt and Taita for the very liberal support accorded them over the last 30 years. Frederick Gadsby left for Tasmania and got married at Hobart on 7 September 1921. He died there in August 1922.

By this time Arthur Gadsby had become a grandfather via his son Joseph Topham Gadsby. The latter had three sons – William Joseph (1917), Topham Henry (1919) and Peter Topham (1921). They were orphaned in September 1921 and were brought up by their recently married uncle, William Arthur Gadsby.

On 19 June 1922 Arthur Gadsby was elected a Trustee of Taita Public Hall. At the Hall committee meeting held on 7 September 1922 it was proposed by Henry Foley and seconded by John Bentley that Charles Alsop, Frederick Bertelsen and Rob Roy McGregor wait on Mr Gadsby regarding a loan. It was further proposed by Thomas Foster and seconded by Frederick Kitchener that a loan of £700 be asked for. On 18 September McGregor reported on the unsuccessful interview.

Arthur contributed £25 towards the funds and in 1925 he was thanked for donating £1 towards aggregate prizes for card parties in May and another £1 in October. At the sixth annual general meeting of the Taita Public Hall held on 10 June 1929 mention was made of the serious illness of Mr A. Gadsby and a letter was later sent expressing sympathy on behalf of the Hall committee.

At the farewell to Rev H. V. C. Reynolds³, held at Taita Hall on 17 October 1934, T. Gadsby contributed a fancy dancing item. Master T. Gadsby, a pupil of Mr Errol Muir⁴, was also excellent in presenting an elocutionary number at the annual dance recital organised by Miss P. Stupples⁵ in December 1936. This was Arthur's grandson, Topham Henry Gadsby. His stepmother, Lavinia Martha Gadsby, was a committee member of the Taita Women's Institute who began using Taita Hall from 1934.

On 14 January 1940 Arthur died at Wellington Hospital aged 87 years and was buried at Taita Cemetery. At the opening of the Taita Public Hall annual general meeting held on 10 June 1940 the Chairman referred to the passing of the late Mr A. Gadsby, one of the original Trustees of the Hall, and all 50 members stood in silence to his memory.

His daughter-in-law, Lavinia, died on 16 November 1940 at a private hospital in Wellington aged 44 years. The garden circle decorated the Taita hall with roses for the last meeting of the year of the Taita Women's Institute. Mrs Hunter presided and referred to the loss the institute has sustained by the death of the late Mrs Gadsby, an esteemed member of the committee.

² Frederick William Curle (1886-1948) was a butcher in Lower Hutt and son of Henry Curle (1854-1939) storekeeper of Petone

³ Harry Vivian Collett Reynolds (1902-1978)

⁴ Errol Henry Frederick Muir (1910-1989 Sydney, Australia)

⁵ Phylis Hazel Stupples (1908-1991)

After the second world war, Topham Henry Gadsby, Gunner, 4th Field Regiment (43717), married Maisie Vera Burt of Wainuiomata. Like his forebears Topham was a long-standing Hutt Valley butcher and raised his family in Lower Hutt. Topham and Maisie enjoyed 65 years of marriage.

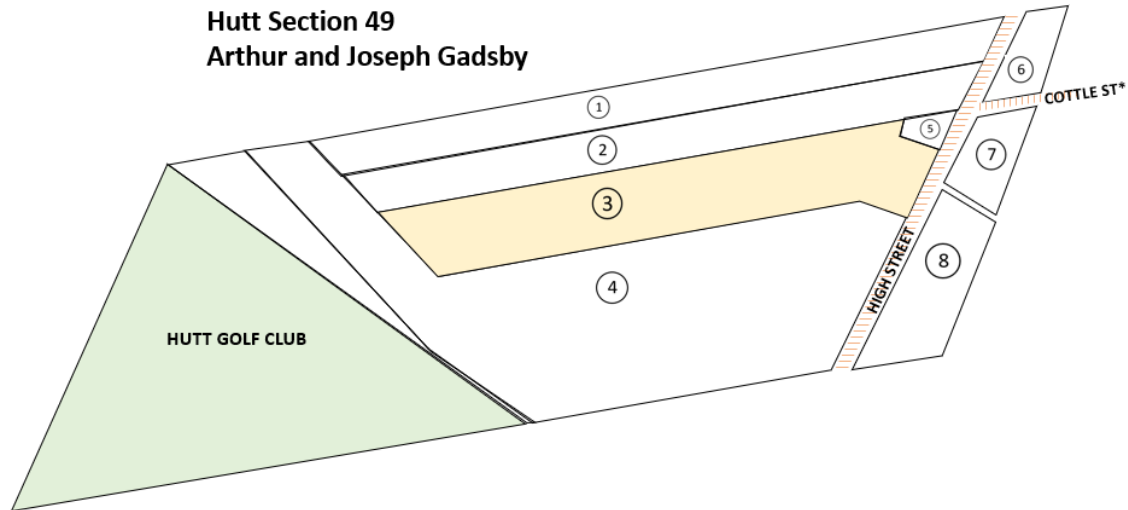


1939 Aerial photograph showing land owned by Arthur and Joseph Gadsby
Hutt City Archives Reference ARCH72680 Hutt Valley Sheet No.2



American G.I.'s from Hutt Park Camp and local lads on a pig hunt at Wainuiomata
Taken at the Rifle Range Wainuiomata Coast Road March 1943 - Maisie Burt on the right
Les Dalton Collection - Wainuiomata Museum P1509

**Hutt Section 49
Arthur and Joseph Gadsby**



Based on part of a map of the Taita Proclamation Area – late 1930s
Archives NZ R22399869

No.	Owner	Area	Title References	Hall Contribution
Cottle St* - later to become Walters Street				
	Hutt Golf Club		CT 405/227	
1	Public Trustee	9a 3r 29p	CT 5/106	
2	Charles Kerr Drummond	9a 3r 24p	CT 5/105	1950 Odd Jobs
3	Arthur Gadsby	14a 1r 9p	CT 348/45	Trustee - £25
4	SJ Avery & 7 others	31a 0r 24p	CT 135/157, CT 423/99, CT 355/171	
5	Estate of J Pike	0a 2r 0p	CT 348/143	
6	?	2a 0r 0p	CT 389/61	
7	?	2a 0r 0p	CT 348/43	
8	Catherine Cleland	41 2r 0p	CT 348/42	

Gadsby Question / Mystery

Arthur Gadsby had six siblings – five have been traced - Agnes Dawson (1849-1936), Joseph Gadsby (1849-1894), Charlotte Hodgson (1852-1927), Wilfred Gadsby (1860-1927), and Frederick Gadsby (1862-1922). Joseph and Frederick worked as butchers in Taita.

What happened to Mary Ann Gadsby born in 1854? Did she come to New Zealand too?

When Michael Ryan, of Ryan & Gadsby, Cuba Street, Wellington was petitioned for maintenance in August 1885 by his wife of Echuca, Victoria, Australia a witness, Annie Gadsby, denied ever having been improperly intimate with Ryan.

On 18 January 1887 the Evening Post reported that the Boardinghouse in Courtenay-place recently occupied by Mrs Watt, has been acquired by A. Gadsby, who announces by advertisement that **she** has re-furnished it and otherwise made it a comfortable abode.

Do these two references refer to Mary Ann?