

Elizabeth SINCLAIR (1848-1919)

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/1.R12B358 Registrar General's Office Birth Registration Folio 1848/55

Entry No. 135 Elizabeth Sinclair born 10 November 1848 daughter of Hugh Sinclair, labourer and Agnes formerly Spiers. Registered by William Mills, Sergeant of Police, Wellington on 14 November 1848

Marriages solemnised at St John's Presbyterian Church, Willis St, Wellington

16 May 1870 at the Terrace – Thomas Gray, labourer to Emma Mann. Witnesses Duncan Sinclair, Elizabeth Sinclair

Colonial Succession Duty Register 1871 - Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAEC 6161

Entry No.184 – 16 Nov 1871 Hugh Sinclair Wainuiomata Died – not given Amount sworn under: £1300; Date of Will: 8 Feb 1864 Executor John Sinclair; Legatee or Next of Kin Daughters: Elizabeth Sinclair, £200; Agnes Mowlem, £200

Wises Post Office Directory 1878-1879

W. Builder, Masterton, builder

Bank of New Zealand Masterton Branch Safe Custody Register 1879-1896 - Wairarapa Archive Reference 03-156/2-1.R14B1S2

Received from William Alexander 05 Feb 1879 Items 18/2 and 48 Parcels said to contain deeds. Both withdrawn 29 May 1879.

Wairarapa Daily 04 Jul 1879

We are glad to learn that Mr Alexander's tender for the Opaki bridge has been accepted. Mr Alexander is admitted to be one of the best builders in the Wairarapa, and the structure could not be in better hands. We believe the amount of the tender is £5,600.

Wairarapa Daily 30 Oct 1879 Advertisement – Notice to Contractors – Opaki Bridge Contract

Tenders for road formation in connection with the above contract will be received by the undersigned at Messrs R. and J. Brown's offices, where plans and specifications can be seen up to noon of Wednesday, the 5th November, 1879. Plans and specifications can also be seen at the Opaki bridge works. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. William Alexander.

Marriage Register St Johns Presbyterian Church, Willis St, Wellington - From transcript at www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

Date: 24 Jan 1882; Place: Revd James Paterson; Bridegroom: William Alexander, 45yrs, Contractor, born Kippen, Stirlingshire, usual and present residence: Masterton; son of John Alexander, farmer and Catherine Alexander (nee McOwat); Bride: Elizabeth Sinclair, 33yrs, born Wellington; usual residence: Wellington; present residence: Palmerston; daughter of Hugh Sinclair, Farmer, and Agnes Sinclair (nee Spiers)

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/2.R12B358 Copy of Register of Marriage

Entry No.24 Marriage on 24 Jan 1882 at the house of the Rev James Paterson, Woolcombe St, Wellington. William Alexander, 45yrs, contractor, bachelor, born Kippen, Stirlingshire, Scotland; present residence – Masterton; usual place of residence: not given. Father John Alexander, farmer; Mother Catherine McOwat. Elizabeth Sinclair, 33yrs, spinster, born Wellington; present residence Wellington; usual place of residence Palmerston North. Father Hugh Sinclair, farmer. Mother Agnes Spiers. Witnesses: John Sinclair, settler, Wainuiomata; Kate Manwell, Wainuiomata

Wairarapa Daily 26 Jan 1882 Marriage

On 24th January at St John's Manse, Wellington by the Rev. James Paterson, William Alexander of Masterton to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Mr Hugh Sinclair of Wainuiomata.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/3.R12B358 Certified Copy of Entry in the Register Book of Births in the District of Masterton

Entry No.56 Birth of John Alexander on 12 Feb 1883 at Masterton. John was not present when registered. Father William Alexander, builder, 46yrs, born Kippen, Scotland; Married 24 Jan 1882 at Wellington. Mother Elizabeth Alexander formerly Sinclair, 34yrs, born Lowry Bay. Informant: William Alexander, father of infant, of Masterton. Registered 30 March 1883 – J. Bagge, Registrar. I, Samuel Johnston, Registrar of Births and Deaths in the District of Masterton do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the entry of the birth of John Alexander in the Register Book in my office. Given under my hand at Masterton this 28th day of May 1897.

Wairarapa Daily Times 01 Dec 1882

To Let – A Hay Paddock at Homebush. Apply immediately to William Alexander, Chapel-street, Masterton.

Wairarapa Daily Times 12 Feb 1883 Birth

On the 12th instant, at Masterton, the wife of Mr William Alexander, of a son.

Wairarapa Daily Times 16 Jul 1883

To Let – A three-roomed cottage in Smith Street. Apply to W. Alexander, Chapel Street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 07 Sep 1883

To Let – Four roomed cottage in Smith-st. Apply to William Alexander, Chapel Street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 22 Oct 1884

To Let – A four roomed Cottage in Smith Street. Apply to Wm. Alexander, Chapel Street.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/4.R12B358 – Registrar General's Office Birth Registration – Folio 1885/2662

Entry No. 156. Hugh Alexander born 26 July 1885 at Masterton. Hugh was not present when registered. Father William Alexander, builder, 48yrs, born Kippen, Stirlingshire, Scotland. Married 24th January 1882 at Wellington, New Zealand. Mother Elizabeth Alexander formerly Sinclair, 36yrs, born Lowry Bay, Wellington. Informant: William Alexander, father, of Masterton. Registered 23 Sep 1885 – W. Bagge, Registrar.

Wairarapa Daily Times 30 Jul 1885 Birth

At Masterton, on the 26th instant, the wife of W. Alexander, of a son.

Wairarapa Daily Times 08 Oct 1885

At a meeting of the Presbyterian Church Committee held yesterday, the following tenders were received for enlarging and improving the Church:- W. Alexander, £225 (accepted); Parker and Turner, £233; John Montgomery, £235.

Wairarapa Daily Times 31 Oct 1885

Mr W. Alexander advertises a grassed paddock at Home Bush to let.

Wairarapa Daily Times 19 Dec 1885

The additions to the Masterton Presbyterian Church have now been completed, and the Church will be re-opened for service tomorrow morning. The southern wing of the building has been carried back a distance of 15 feet to the full width of the original building (20 feet), and additional seating accommodation has thus been provided for about 80 adults. The Church will now hold fully 250 adults. The walls are of wood, and the roof of iron. For the sake of uniformity the old part of the building has also been re-roofed, and the whole has been re-painted. The inside has been very nicely varnished and painted, the seats throughout having also been varnished. The contract for the additions has been carried out by Mr W. Alexander, and the painting by Mr Haskell. The Church will be re-opened with special services tomorrow, when the Rev J. Paterson will preach, morning, afternoon and evening. On Monday a tea and public meeting will be held to celebrate the occasion.

Wairarapa Daily Times 12 Jan 1886

The Treasurer of the Masterton Hospital begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscriptions:- Mr P. L. Smith 21s, Mr W. Alexander 20s, and employees of the latter, 25s.

Wairarapa Daily Times 30 Jan 1886 Thompson's New Aerated Water Factory

The new aerated water factory which is being erected for Mr James Thompson is rapidly approaching completion, and is expected to pass out of the hands of the builder next week. It is situated on a section of land between Queen and Chapel streets, adjoining Mr Feist's store, and its dimensions at once strike the eye of anyone passing along either of the thoroughfares named. A considerable amount of work had to be done before the erection of the building could be proceeded with, because the Makora stream winds through the section. To prepare a proper foundation, heart of totara piles were driven along the northern front, and on these a portion of the floor has been laid. The building consists of a square block, measuring 90ft by 20ft. It is strongly built of totara throughout, the roof being covered with corrugated iron. The evenness of the ridge is broken by four large square ventilators, which will prove useful as well as ornamental. Entering the building through a door from the western side, the machine room is reached. This is a compartment measuring 26x20, and here the machines for manufacturing aerated waters will be placed. On one side of it is a well, from which the water used for aerated waters and cordials will be drawn. Mr Thompson informs us that he finds the water of the creek unsuitable, and he has not used it for over six years. To the right is a roomy and well-lighted office, and beside it a repairing room, which is of similar size. Passing along towards the other half of the building the first room reached is set aside for the manufacture of cordials. It is fitted with a suitable copper boiler, substantially set in brickwork. From here a passage divides the building, the right hand side being taken up by two store rooms and a private room, which Mr Thompson might call his laboratory. On the extreme end of the passage, and on the left, is a room to which no special purpose has yet been assigned, but it will, no doubt, come in handy ere long. The remainder of the same side is taken up with a washing up and storeroom for bottles about 8x35. A washing up stage 9ft wide, and roofed in, extends along the whole northern side of the building. The whole is capitally arranged, and the factory, when in working order, will compare favorably with anything of the kind in Wellington. The building has been designed by Mr J. King, Mr Thompson, of course, assisting him in planning the internal arrangements. The contract for erecting the building is in the hands of **Mr W. Alexander**, while the painting is being carried out by Mr G. Coker. The building reflects the greatest credit upon all concerned, and we trust Mr Thompson will find that his venture will bring him an increase of business commensurate with his enterprise.

Wairarapa Daily Times 26 Oct 1887

To Let – Shop and Dwelling house, Queen St., at present occupied by Mr G. Haskell. Apply to Wm. Alexander, Chapel St.

Wairarapa Archive – 1888 Masterton School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal

Entry No. 1753 John Alexander born Feb 1883. Date of admission: Feb 1888. Parent: William Alexander, Chapel St.

Wairarapa Daily Times 13 Sep 1888 Resident Magistrate Court, Masterton

Ernest Haskell, a respectable looking boy aged 13½ years, pleaded guilty to stealing a carpenter's tool from premises in course of erection by Mr W. Alexander. The tool, a brace, was subsequently disposed of by a man named Wilson at Mr Shaw's shop. The father stated that the boy had borne a good character until the last six months. During this period his parent had been very much from home, and the boy had played truant from school and mixed with undesirable companions. The Court expressed deep regret to see a boy, the son of respectable parents in such a position. It would not blast his character by a lengthened term if imprisonment but at the same time it must mark its sense of the gravity of the offence, and would direct the boy to remain in the custody of the police for twenty-four hours, and to receive six strokes of the birch under the supervision of the Sergeant.

Wairarapa Archive – 1890 Masterton School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal

Entry No. 1753 John Alexander born 12 Feb 1883. Date of admission: Jan 1890. Parent: William Alexander, Chapel St.

1890 Masterton Electoral Roll

William Alexander, carpenter, Part Town acre 26

Wairarapa Daily 21 Jan 1890 Advertisement

For sale or to let for a term of years, shop and dwelling of eight rooms, Queen-street, Masterton, adjoining Star Hotel. Terms easy. Also Residence, Chapel-street, seven rooms and scullery, Cornish range in kitchen, detached wash house, with water laid on, large workshop and buggy shed. W. Alexander, Builder, Chapel street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 19 Apr 1890

To meet the requirements of a rapidly increasing business, Mr George Johnson has just had erected a large and substantial warehouse at the rear of his present business. The building is 31ft x 51ft and is built on reclaimed land. The piles on which it stands are 18ft in length, and were put in by Messrs Reynolds and Dixon, Mr W. Alexander being the contractor for the building. All kinds of produce will now be dealt in by Mr Johnston.

Wairarapa Daily Times 25 Mar 1891 Presbyterian Church Annual Gathering

The annual congregational tea in connection with the local Presbyterian Church was held last evening and was a most successful affair. The tables, under the supervision of the ladies, presented a most charming appearance, and it is almost needless to say the fullest justice was done to the good things provided. The following ladies presided:- Mesdames Wood and James McGregor, Miss Feist and Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Alexander and Mrs King, Miss Johnston, Mrs Finlayson and Mrs McLennan...

Wairarapa Daily 06 Jun 1891 Correspondence – Modern Thought

(To the Editor) Sir – Some time ago, after the Rev Mr Cecil delivered a lecture on spiritualism in the Presbyterian Church, Masterton, you congratulated the Rev lecturer of being “abreast of Modern Thought” on that subject. From your remarks in a sub-leader of the Daily of May 29th, on the recent election of the Masterton Licensing Committee, I am of opinion that you are very far from being “abreast of modern thought” on the question of temperance. You seem in favor of lopping off one or two of the branches of the drink traffic, whereas “modern thought” has come to the conclusion that nothing short of entire rooting up or total prohibition will cure the disease of intemperance, drunkenness, and all the evils that flow from the drink traffic. I am glad to see that a bright day is yet to dawn on Masterton, when the new Committee carry out prohibition pure and simple. I am, &c., Wm. Alexander.

Wairarapa Daily Times 28 Jun 1892 Masterton Borough Licensing Bench

An adjourned meeting of the Masterton Borough Licensing Bench was held in the Courthouse at noon today... the application of Edward J. Searl for a license for the Star Hotel was considered... Mr Beard then proposed to call evidence in support of the petition... the Rev Robert Wood, the first witness called, deposed that he had written out the petition and attested several signatures... W. Alexander, on oath, said that he owned property "unfortunately" situated in the immediate vicinity of the back entrance of the "Star Hotel." His property had depreciated fifty per cent through a license being granted to the house. He had seen Chinamen, Maoris and married men going in and out of the house on a Sunday. His wife and family were disturbed by drunken rows. In answer to the Chairman of the Bench, witness stated that he was a Prohibitionist... Without retirement the Bench intimated that a license would be granted on the condition that a temporary transfer was made to J. O. Eastwood.

Wairarapa Archive Newspaper Card Index - Wairarapa Daily Times 17 Oct 1892 p2 col 8

William Alexander – Built entrance hall and other improvements to St Lukes Church, Masterton

Wairarapa Daily Times 30 Jan 1893

We have received a long and abusive letter from Mr W. Alexander, who desires to lay down the lines on which the Wairarapa Daily Times should be conducted with regard to the temperance question. We have a great respect for Mr Alexander, as an old subscriber to this journal and as an occasional contributor to its columns, but we will not allow him or anyone else to dictate to us how our paper should be conducted. Mr Alexander has decided views of his own with which we do not quarrel, but when he attempts to force them down our throat he makes a mistake. The intemperance of temperance reformers has always been one of the greatest hindrances to the progress of the movement. Mr Alexander fails to realize that in writing to a public journal some display of courtesy and some consideration for other people's opinions is necessary. A short time ago we published a letter from him which, according to journalistic etiquette, should have gone into our waste paper basket. We cannot continue to waive points of this kind in his favour. One of Mr Alexander's grievances against us is: that we did not give more prominence to the Tennyson Smith mission. We have heard this objection from other quarters, and perhaps it may be worth while to say why we were not more impressed by the distinguished lecturer who recently visited us. We have seen and heard the first Gough, and were certainly very much impressed by him. He was an exceedingly able, straightforward, earnest man! The second Gough, as he calls himself, the Tennyson Gough, the long-haired, kid-gloved, smart platform actor is no more like the first Gough than chalk resembles cheese. Anyone who has seen and heard the first Gough cannot very well gaze on Gough No2 without a smile. What business has he to call himself the second Gough, why should he wear "the Giant's robe?" Why does he not make a name for himself as Mr E. T. Smith, of Birmingham, instead of intimating and mimicking great and true men like Alfred Tennyson and John Gough. We do not object to Mr Alexander and others being impressed by Mr E. Tennyson Smith or taking tinkling brass to be all the same as sounding gold, but when they complain that we don't fall down and worship their idol they force us to explain that we cannot honestly do so. If Mr R. T. Booth comes this way we fancy we shall like him and give more space to his mission. He is, we believe, an original, not a copy, and we have heard true men speak well of him. Probably Mr E. Tennyson Smith is a very nice man in a quiet way, but he certainly failed to impress us and we are not going to be controlled even by old subscribers like Mr Alexander into expressing an admiration of a very clever man who is as unlike John Gough or Alfred Tennyson as it is possible for a man to be. Another thing our Temperance friends have been telling us for more than a year is that if we don't publish all they wish us to print they will run a temperance paper of their own. Perhaps, the sooner they do this the better! We have some sympathy with the temperance cause and we shall never hesitate to express it as far as it goes, even if a dozen temperance papers were published in the district, but the Wairarapa Daily Times has never been

under the control of any society or individual. It will not admire Mr E. Tennyson Smith and it will not accept guidance from Mr W. Alexander, unless the latter reciprocates by taking from us a few lessons in carpentering.

Wairarapa Daily Times 13 Feb 1893

The Philistines are upon us! In our last issue we published a letter from Mr E. Tennyson Smith and in our present one we print a communication from Mr W. Alexander. We have not very much to say to the latter. He sent us, a short while ago, a libelous letter, which we declined to publish, he then sent an insulting semi-public letter which we did not take in that spirit of meekness and contrition which he expected us to display. He is anxious for editors to call "a spade a spade" and we should no doubt, gratify him if we were to state that, in this matter, he has been a fool. Mr Tennyson Smith's letter is written in admirable tone and temper and there is not a word in it to which we feel disposed to take exception. There is just a difference of opinion between him and ourselves which can be argued on our side, we trust, with as much courtesy as upon his. He accuses us of not duly appreciating the magnitude and importance of the Prohibition mission and of not doing justice to it in the columns of our paper. We say to this that we fully realise the strength of the Temperance party and do appreciate the moral objects which it has in view. Many of our friends who take one extreme view say we do not give enough space to Temperance questions; others declare that we give too much. It is very probable that we are – exactly what we desire to be – fair all round. This does not mean that we have no opinions of our own. On the contrary, we have very decided ones and are always happy to state them frankly. With respect to this "Tennyson Smith Mission" we feared that it might be made instrumental to stir up strife and bad blood between friends and neighbours throughout the town. In moments of enthusiasm Temperance advocates are apt to go too far and say things which had better be left unsaid. We did not ignore the mission, but we certainly did not help to work it up to that red hot point to which some enthusiasts would have liked to have brought it. The battle of Prohibition has, no doubt, to be fought out to the bitter end, but it is quite possible that a journalist, in trying to infuse a spirit of moderation into the contest, may do useful work. He may not like Mr Tennyson Smith claim to stand on holy ground, and to be the object of direct inspiration – even if he entertained a sentiment of such a kind, he would probably deem it impious to express it – but he possesses as much right to be credited with honest and conscientious service in the cause of truth and morality as men like Mr Tennyson Smith, who, by proclaiming their own virtues from the house tops, leave no doubt about them.

Wairarapa Daily Times 20 May 1893

A superior iron frame tricord piano is advertised for sale. The instrument which is nearly new, and is in excellent order may be seen at the house of Mr W. Alexander, Chapel St.

Wairarapa Daily Times 25 May 1893 – For Sale

A Superior German Piano, Iron Frame, Trichord, nearly new, greatly reduced in price. May be inspected at house of Mr W. Alexander, Chapel Street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 09 Jun 1893 Masterton Borough Licensing Committee – Annual Meeting

... The annual police report was read and showed the hotels to all be in a good state of repair... but the police had to complain of the conduct of the Star Hotel and the Royal Hotel... the Police would oppose the granting of a license to Elizabeth Jane Low, for the Star Hotel, on the grounds that the House is not required and also that it is situated in the immediate vicinity of a place of public worship. The police report of the conduct of the Star Hotel during the past year, was also very unfavourable, and stated that the law was set at defiance, and the house made the resort of bad characters... The application of Elizabeth J. Low for a new license was next dealt with. Mr Pownall proved that all formalities had been carried out. A petition objecting to the license was put in and signed by Robert Wood, John Johnston, Joseph Carpenter, Agnes Johnston, J. Mundy, J. J. Falk, Catherine Mander, May Moynihan, J. H. Pearse, S. Kingdon, Eliz Kingdon, Mary Ann Carpenter, Edwin Feist, Edward Pragnell, Maud Pragnell, Hans Themsen, M. Themsen, W. Reeves, Mrs Reeves, John Johnson, Mary Johnson, Allan Harford, Mrs J. J. Falk, Mrs Jenkins, L. F. Ayson, Alice Ayson, Grace L. Wood, J. Neal, Mrs Neal, O. Pragnell, Sarah Pragnell, W. Cunningham, Arthur Tyler, Jessie Tyler, W. W. Scott, A. Fergusson, Mary E. A. Scott, R. H. Scott, E. R. Sly, **W. Alexander**, A. Alexander, W. Pragnell, Maggie Jolly, G. W. Woodroffe. The signatures to the petition were witnessed by William Alexander, William Pragnell and Robert Wood. Mr Pownall stated that the petition was informal as the age of the person signing had not been certified to by the persons themselves. This is required by the Act. Mr Beard replied on behalf of the petitioners. Mr Pownall said that the statement of age must be opposite to each signature. The Committee were of opinion that Mr Alexander should be put in the box to satisfy the Committee whether he put the question to each person when they signed the petition. Mr Beard asked the Committee to say if the petition was bad or not. The Committee decided to take the signatures for what they were worth. The Committee retired and after consideration decided to receive the petition.

Wairarapa Archive – 1893 Masterton School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal

Entry No. 488 Hugh Alexander born 26 Jul 1885. Date of admission: 17 Jul 1893. Last school: Infant side school. Parent: William Alexander, Chapel St.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/5.R12B358 – Registrar General's Office Death Registration – Folio 1894/1389

Entry No.41 William Alexander, 58yrs, Carpenter and builder died 05 September 1894 at Masterton. Verdict of Jury: Suicide by hanging whilst of unsound mind. Father John Alexander, farmer. Mother: not known. Buried 16 Sep 1894 Cemetery Masterton by Rev Robert Wood, Presbyterian Minister. William was born in Stirlingshire, Scotland and had resided in New Zealand for 28 years. He married Elizabeth Sinclair at Wellington at 46yrs of age. If issue living, state number, age and sex: Sons 1 at 11 years, 1 at 9 years. Informant: Henry McArdle, Agent of Coroner of Masterton. Registered 07 Sep 1894 - W. Gillespie, Deputy Registrar.

Wairarapa Daily Times 5 Sep 1894 – A Sad Occurrence – Suicide of Mr W. Alexander

It is with mingled feelings of deep regret and astonishment that we have to record the death by suicide of one of the oldest and most respected settlers in this town. Mr William Alexander, who has been a resident amongst us for twenty-five years or more, a builder by trade, in comfortable circumstances, with a wife and family, and occupying also a position as a leading elder in the Presbyterian Church, was about the last man anyone would have expected to have put a violent end to his own existence. It has been noticed latterly that he was somewhat peculiar and abstracted in his manner, and possibly some occult mental aberration has led to the awful climax of this morning. Quite a sensation was caused when it became known that Mr Alexander had taken his life in such a strange manner, and people were utterly at a loss to account for the terrible act. We understand, however, that a letter was left in his workshop addressed to his wife, bidding her farewell. The letter indicated that he thought his business affairs were in a bad state, and yet at the same time, showed that he was out of debt, and had house property and a considerable sum of money in the Bank. There is no doubt that the mind of the deceased suddenly gave way. Three years ago he had a very severe illness, and has not been the same in mind or body since. He had recently talked of giving up contracting, and contemplated buying a farm property. The particulars of the sad occurrence are – as far as we can ascertain – as follows:- Mr Alexander rose as usual this morning, and after partaking of his breakfast, intimated to his wife that he was going to his stable, which is in a paddock some distance from his residence. He then dragged a feed-box, which stands about three feet high, from the wall, and fastening a rope to a beam in the centre of the shed, threw himself off the box. The letter being found caused a search to at once be made, but it was too late, life being extinct. Dr Butement was called, and, on examination, found that death had resulted from strangulation, and that deceased's neck was not broken. An inquest on the body will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon before Mr T. Hutchison, District Coroner.

Wairarapa Daily Times 6 Sep 1894

The funeral of the late Mr W. Alexander takes place at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Wairarapa Daily Times 6 Sep 1894 The Late Mr W. Alexander – Inquest

Before Mr T. Hutchison, District Coroner. An inquest was held on the body of Mr Alexander, before Mr T. Hutchison, Coroner, and a jury consisting of Messrs W. Dougal (foreman), H. Hounslow, C. Dixon, R. G. Williams, E. Darley, and J. A. Robertson. After having viewed the body the following evidence was taken.

Rev Robert Wood sworn, said that he recognised the body as that of William Alexander. That morning, in company with Mr John Johnston, he went to a stable at the back of the Fish Ponds, on the Upper Plain Road, and about 400 yards from the residence of deceased in Chapel Street. On opening the door of the stable found deceased hanging to a rafter, his feet about two feet from the ground. With the assistance of Mr Johnston the body was taken down and they found him to all appearance dead. Witness waited in the stable till Mr Johnston returned with Sergeant McArdle and Dr Butement. He had known deceased since before he came to Masterton. Last saw him alive about a week ago, he had been a different man both mentally and physically. He was sober and industrious, and of the highest moral character. After his illness, for a short time, he was in a very melancholy state. Again three months ago he was subjected to another attack of melancholy, due witness believed, to dullness in trade, deceased having no steady occupation. His wife was anxious and asked witness to speak to deceased, and from conversation the inference witness gained was that business matters were troubling him and lack of employment. That morning Mrs Alexander came to witness, and put the letter produced into his hand, which had been written by deceased. It referred to a letter written to witness, dated 30th June, stating that he considered himself unfit for active Church work. Although dated 30th June, witness did not get it till he

found it to-day among deceased's papers. It gave no hint of what had now happened. After the conversation with witness deceased seemed to cheer up, consequently the letter referred to had not been destroyed or delivered. After reading the letter to Mrs Alexander witness asked her when deceased had left the house and where she thought he had gone. Her reply was that he left at 8 o'clock and had told one of the boys that he was going to the paddock. On hearing this witness went for Mr John Johnston, and then went to the stable in the paddock mentioned. The rope produced was that by which deceased was hanging, and which was taken by Sergeant McArdle. Witness here described the position of the stable and how the rope was fixed. A box was near where the body was hanging, and from appearance witness concluded that deceased had stood on the box to make the rope fast, and then pushed away the box or jumped from it. The wife of deceased was both mentally and physically unfit to be present at the inquest. There had been signs of insanity in the family. By the foreman of the jury: Witness would swear that the letter produced was in the handwriting of deceased.

John Johnston, storeman, gave corroborative evidence as to the finding of the body in the stable. He had known deceased for six years. Witness had noticed that for the past month or so, deceased was melancholy as if brooding over something, and attributed it to his being out of work. Would have thought him the last man to do such an act, if in his proper senses. Witness had no doubt that deceased committed the act himself.

Dr Butement said he had been called that morning by the police and on going to the stable found the body of the deceased. He examined the body externally and discovered an impression in the neck about half an inch in depth. The impression was caused by the rope produced. There was nothing to show that the neck was dislocated or any bones broken. He concluded that death was caused by asphyxia due to strangulation. From the appearance of the rope mark on the rafter there had been considerable backward and forward movement.

The Coroner summed up the facts as brought out by the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide by hanging while in a state of unsound mind.

Wairarapa Daily Times 8 Sep 1894

The funeral of the late Mr W. Alexander was attended by many personal friends. The service at the house was conducted by the Rev C. Murray and Rev Robert Wood and at the grave by the Rev James Patterson and Rev Robert Wood.

Wairarapa Daily Times 10 Sep 1894 Presbyterian Church – Memorial Service

The services of the Presbyterian Church were largely attended yesterday and were of an unusually solemn character. In the morning the Rev R. Wood preached from the text "Our Friend Lazarus Sleepeth" and in the evening from the words "Jesus Wept." At the close of the morning sermon the preacher made the following reference to the tragic death of Mr W. Alexander: "Brethren we meet this morning under a dark cloud of sorrow. The strange and dread bereavement that has entered one of our homes has filled our hearts with a grief that words cannot express. One, who, for many years has taken the deepest interest in this congregation, is no longer on earth. He was in this place of worship in spite of storm and tempest last sabbath, and now he is in the eternal world. The mystery and meaning of his death are known only to God. This much we know, that like Hugh Miller, one of Scotland's noblest and most pious sons, he died suddenly; he died alone; he died while his reason was under an eclipse. For the prematureness of his death, I believe he was no more responsible than the man who is smitten by lightning, or engulfed by an earthquake. Brethren, Gods providence is sometimes very dark. The mysteries of Christian faith are less perplexing than the dark mysteries of human life with its great sorrows. In the presence of our grief are we not tempted to say like the Jews at the grave of Lazarus "Could not Jesus who opened the eyes of the blind have caused that this man should not have died." For holy and wise purposes God permitted Lazarus to die. For holy and wise purposes God permitted the saintly Hugh Miller, in a moment of insanity, to shear his life away. For some wise but inscrutable purpose, God has permitted this strange and dread death to take place. Brethren, all this is very dark to us now. When the end of our Christian pilgrimage is reached we shall see that the Judge of Earth has done all things well. But now, while we are on the road, and when all things seem dark and crooked, the fact of God's wisdom is of faith, and not of sight. We are reminded again this morning that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain. The believer in Jesus Christ is no way exempted from the physical burdens of pain and disease. He may suffer from a diseased heart or from a diseased brain and he is no more blameworthy for the one than for the other. But our Christian Hope tells us of an Eternal Home in which there is no disease, nor pain, nor sorrow, nor death. Brethren, the life lived by our brother, whose death is so full of mystery is known to you all. In his daily life he acted justly, loved mercy and walked humbly before God. During the last two or three dark days of sorrow, many outside of this congregation have spoken to me of the integrity and purity of his life. A merchant in this town for example writes me: "I was brought into contact with him some years ago through some work he did for me and I then formed a high opinion of him. My subsequent intercourse deepened my esteem – so humble, so upright, so consistent in all his ways." This testimony of one outside this congregation describes his character not only in his business life but in his home life, and in his church fellowship. The inner life of his home was the same as his outward life in the world. He was tender-hearted, humble, upright, consistent, up to the last words he exchanged with those he left behind on earth. There is no secret thing in the shape of sin or shame to keep back from public gaze in this life so strangely ended. This much we may rest assured that the act of a diseased brain will not separate from God in eternity the life that was lived for God in time. Brethren, we are summoned to weep this morning with those that weep. May our tears of sorrow cleanse our eyes so that we may more clearly see human suffering and be moved to help. Let us bear on our hearts by our prayers and sympathies the case of the widow and the fatherless. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Wairarapa Archive Newspaper Card Index - Wairarapa Daily 07 Jun 1895 p2 col 6
Mrs Alexander – Donated clothing to Dorcas Society

Wairarapa Archive Newspaper Card Index - Wairarapa Daily 16 Aug 1895 p2 col 6
Mrs Alexander – Donated roll of flannelette to Dorcas Society

1896 Masterton Electoral Roll (19 October)

Elizabeth Alexander, Masterton, married woman

Wairarapa Archive Newspaper Card Index - Wairarapa Daily Times 29 Jul 1896 – p2 col 9

Mrs Elizabeth Alexander – To Masterton Borough Council re culvert overflowing on her land.

Wairarapa Archive – 1897 Masterton School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal

Entry No. 1111 Mabel Alexander born 09 Oct 1891. Date of admission: 03 Feb 1897. Parent: Mrs Alexander, Chapel Street.

Note: Mabel BENSON daughter of William and Catherine BENSON was born 09 Oct 1891 and registered at Masterton. The births of older siblings were registered at Buller – Annie Selina (1885), Clara (1886) and Elsie (1887).

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/6.R12B358 (1 of 2 letters) - 1897 Testimonial for John Alexander

Letter written 28 May 1897 by W. H. Jackson, Headmaster, Public School, Masterton. I have pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent character of John Alexander who has attended this school for the last nine years. I have always had reason to be satisfied with both his work and conduct. He is an intelligent boy, of a willing disposition, and thoroughly trustworthy. He has my strongest recommendation.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 91/53-1 1897 General Valuation Roll for Borough of Masterton – West Ward

Entry No. 75 Elizabeth Alexander, widow, Masterton. Elizabeth is occupying this property. Date when land visited and valued: 3 Nov 1897. Part of Section 26 Chapel Street – 52ft x 165ft. Capital value £425. Unimproved value £78. Value of improvements £347. Dwelling houses: one wood house with an iron roof that is 20 years old and in good condition. Distance from nearest building: 20ft. Amount for which actually insured: £350. Value £300. Other buildings: one wood dwelling with a slate roof that is 20 years old and in good condition. Distance from nearest building: 20ft. Amount for which actually insured: £50. Value £40. Fencing: Post and rail, good condition, three chains, value £7. Whether urban, suburban, rural: urban. Annual letting value: £31.

Entry No.170 Elizabeth Alexander, widow, Masterton. Parts of Town Acre 25, Smith Street, 66ft x 115ft. Capital value £217. Unimproved £65. Improvements £152. Dwelling houses: two, wood, iron roof, 16 years old, good condition. Distance from nearest building: 8ft. Value £150. Fencing Post and Rail, good condition, two chains valued at £2. Annual letting value: £33. Remarks – weekly.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/6b.R12B358 (2 of 2 letters) – 1899 Testimonial for John Alexander

Letter written 30 Oct 1899 by Robert Wood, Presbyterian Minister from the Manse at Masterton. I have much pleasure in saying that I have known John Alexander for a number of years and can certify to his excellent character and to his intelligence and activity.

1900 Masterton Electoral Roll (14 February)

Elizabeth Alexander, Masterton, widow

Wairarapa Archive – 1902 Fernridge School Register of Admission, Progress and Withdrawal
Entry No. 559 Mabel Alexander, admitted 30 Jan 1902

New Zealand Gazette 27 Feb 1902 pages 486-487
Civil Service Junior Examination: Order of Merit – No.208 John Alexander, Masterton

Wairarapa Daily Times 13 May 1902 Local and General
An outbreak of fire, which was very fortunately discovered at an early stage, occurred at Mrs Alexander's residence in Chapel-street, Masterton, last evening. The fire was confined to one room only, which was occupied by Mr F. Hunn, a boarder, and his Band uniform, as well as other belongings, were destroyed. The furniture in the room also suffered. On the alarm being given the Brigades were quickly on the scene, and the fire was promptly extinguished. The total loss is estimated at £50. The fire is believed to have been caused by placing a lighted candle near the window, and causing the curtains to ignite. The building was insured in the Alliance office (Mr E. Feist local agent) for £350, and the furniture in the same office for £130. Mr F. Hunn's many friends will be sorry to learn that there was no insurance on any of his belongings consumed in last night's fire.

Wairarapa Daily Times 10 May 1904 Local and General
Private board and residence is available for one or two gentlemen boarders at Moness House, Chapel-street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 21 May 1904 Advertisement
Private Board and Residence – Mrs Bell-Malcolm (late Mrs Alexander's), Moness House, Chapel street

1905 and 1908 Masterton Electoral Roll
Elizabeth Alexander, Masterton, widow

Wairarapa Daily Times 18 Mar 1909 Fire in Chapel-Street

Smart work by the Brigade – Fire kept within limits – considerable damage by water.

Shortly after 10 o'clock last night a fire was discovered in an eleven-roomed house in Chapel-street, known as Moness Boardinghouse, owned by Mrs Alexander. The occupier, Mrs Neame, and her two children were absent at the time of the outbreak, but from all accounts the flames originated in an unoccupied room in the front portion of the house. Some delay was caused in giving the alarm, but when the central bell was eventually rung, a strong contingent of the local brigade turned out under Deputy-Superintendent Pickering, and were on the scene in a very short space of time. The water pressure was at its best, and the Brigade was able to confine the flames to the front rooms of the house. They soon had the outbreak subdued, despite the difficulty of a shingle roof being underneath the ordinary iron roofing, which had a tendency to hinder the work of suppression. A good deal of furniture and personal effects were saved from the flames, but though the fire only burnt the front rooms and passage, a considerable amount of damage was done to the other parts by water. Two boarders, who occupy rooms in a detached portion of the building did not suffer any loss, but Mr R. McLaren, another boarder, whose room is in the house proper, had practically all his personal property destroyed. The building was insured for £400 in the Alliance office, and the furniture was covered by a £300 policy in the Victoria office.

The Shoalhaven News and South Coast Districts Advertiser 20 Nov 1909 A Great Scheme of Popular Education

In our last Saturday's issue it was stated that the International Correspondence Schools (which are now attracting great attention and securing hosts of students) were founded in Sydney. This is not correct, as the schools were founded at Scranton, America, some nineteen years ago. The manager for Australia is **Mr J. Alexander**, and the Sydney office is at 83 Pitt-street...

New Zealand Times 26 Nov 1909 Palmerston Notes

Mr William Munro, a very old resident of Palmerston North, who is leaving to reside in Masterton, was last night presented by the officers of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church with a handsome illustrated Bible and hymn book, in appreciation of his long and faithful connection with St Andrew's. Mr Munro was the oldest member of the kirk session.

Wairarapa Daily Times 27 Nov 1909 Personal Matters

Mr William Munro, a resident of Palmerston North for the past thirty-five years, is about to settle in Masterton. He is the oldest member of the Kirk session of St. Andrew's Church, and the officers of the church made him a presentation.

Wairarapa Daily Times 30 Nov 1909 Personal Matters

Mrs Alexander, an old Masterton settler, is to be married today in Wellington. The Rev James Paterson will be the officiating minister.

1911 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, York Street, farm hand; William Munro, York Street, carpenter; Elizabeth Munro, York Street, married

1914 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, York Street, farm hand; William Munro, York Street, carpenter; Elizabeth Munro, York Street, married

Wairarapa Age 11 Jan 1916 For Sale

Two good dairy cows, one full profit and one to calve in March. Apply W. Munro, York street.

1916-1917 New Zealand Army WWI Reserve Rolls – Masterton

Hugh Alexander, farm labourer, Yorke St

Wairarapa Age 09 Feb 1917

Mr W. Munro, York Street, advertises cooking apples for sale.

Wairarapa Age 10 Feb 1917 For Sale

Cooking Apples, 2d lb. Apply W. Munro, York street.

Wairarapa Daily Times 22 Mar 1917 Local and General

A Jersey bull, donated by Mr W. Munro, of York Street, was offered at the Masterton stock sale yesterday on behalf of the Red Cross fund, and realized £5 1s.

1919 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, York Street, farm hand; William Munro, York Street, carpenter; Elizabeth Munro, York Street, married

Wairarapa Daily Times 05 Sep 1919 Wanted

Laying Pullets for immediate sale, 30 Black Orpingtons 7s 6d each; 18 White Leghorns 7s 6d each; and a breeding pen of Black Orpingtons (8 hens and 1 cock) £3. Apply Mrs W. Munro, York Street, Solway.

NZ Society of Genealogists Cemetery Transcript? Masterton Cemetery

In loving memory of Elizabeth Munro died 9 Nov 1919 aged 71yrs, called home; William Alexander died 4 Sep 1894 aged 58yrs. Masterton Cem Block T Row 6

Wairarapa Age 10 Nov 1919 Mrs William Munro

The death occurred in Masterton yesterday of another old resident, in the person of Mrs William Munro, of York Street. The deceased, who had been ailing for a considerable period, was seventy years of age, and had been twice married. Her first husband was Mr Alexander. She leaves two sons of her first husband, one of whom is in charge of a Correspondence School in Sydney. The funeral leaves the late residence in York Street for the Masterton cemetery at one o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The friends of Mr William Munro are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of his late wife, which will leave his residence, York Street, on Tuesday, November 11th, at 1 p.m. for the Masterton Cemetery. G. Hyde, Funeral Director.

1920 Wises Post Office Directory – Masterton

York Street right side off Short St – Hugh Alexander, labourer; William Munro, carpenter

Probate Papers 1920 - Archives NZ Reference AAOF 18576 W5447 56/105/19

This is the last Will and Testament of me Elizabeth Munro of Masterton married woman. I appoint Duncan McGregor of Masterton, sheep-farmer and Lois McGregor of Masterton spinster to be executors and trustees of this my Will and I declare that the words "my trustees" herein used shall comprise the two persons aforesaid and the survivor of them and the executors and administrators of such survivor or other the trustees or trustee of this my Will I devise and bequeath all my real and personal property whatsoever and wheresoever situate (herein called my trust property) unto my trustees Upon Trust to pay thereout all my funeral and testamentary expenses and all my debts (including the sum of £800 which I now owe to my husband William Munro for moneys advanced to me) And after payment of the said expenses and debts I direct my trustees to stand possessed of the residual of my said real and personal property (hereinafter called "my residuary estate") Upon Trust during the lifetime of my son Hugh Alexander and in such manner in, all respect as my trustees shall think proper to pay or apply or to accumulate and invest to or for the maintenance and support or otherwise for the benefit of my said son out of the income of my residuary estate the sum of £3 per week And any fund accumulated as aforesaid out of the said £3 per week may from time to time at the discretion of my trustees be paid or applied by my trustees to or for any of the said purposes and if not so paid or applied shall at the death of my said son sink into and form part of my residuary estate And I declare that during the lifetime of the said Hugh Alexander the remainder of the income of my residuary estate shall as and when the same shall arise be paid to my son, John Alexander and after his death to his widow (if any) and after the death of the said John Alexander and his widow shall be equally divided between such of the children of the said John Alexander as may from time to time be living (the shares of those under twenty one years of age to be applied for their benefit by my trustees in such manner as they think proper). I declare that as from the death of the said Hugh Alexander my trustees shall hold my residuary estate in trust for the said John Alexander if he shall survive me and be living at the death of the said Hugh Alexander But if he shall die in my lifetime or during the lifetime of the said Hugh Alexander Then I declare that after the death of the said Hugh Alexander my trustees shall pay the income of my residuary estate to the widow of the said John Alexander during her lifetime And after her death shall hold my residuary estate in trust for such of the children of the said John Alexander whether born in my lifetime or after my death as shall whether before or after their mother's death attain twenty one years of age in equal shares And in case of the failure of the aforesaid trusts concerning my residuary estate I declare that my trustees shall hold my residuary estate in trust for such of my brothers and sisters as may be living at my death in equal shares, absolutely I empower my trustees at such time or times as they shall think proper to sell all or any of my trust property for such sum or sums payable at once or by instalments and generally upon such terms and conditions as my trustees shall think proper and to rescind or vary any agreement for sale And all moneys arising from any such sale and the income arising from any investment thereof shall be held by my trustees upon the trusts therein declared of and concerning my trust property and the income thereof. I empower my trustees to let from year to year or for any term not exceeding fourteen years to take effect in possession any part of my trust property at such rents and on such conditions as they may think proper and any lease of my trust property may contain an option for a covenant by the lessee to purchase all or any of the property comprised therein either at a price mentioned therein or at a valuation I empower my trustees while any of my freehold or leasehold lands remain unsold to retain possession of and manage cultivate farm or otherwise employ such lands and to make out of the capital or income of my trust property any outlay which my trustees may consider proper for the purposes aforesaid or for repairs improvements insurances or otherwise for the benefit of my trust property. I empower my trustees to apply all or any part of the capital or income of the presumptive or contingent share to which any minor may become entitled under this Will on or towards his or her

maintenance or education (Subject however to any prior trust relating to the same) I revoke all former wills and other testamentary writings. On Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this fifteenth day of September 1919.

Wairarapa Age 10 Jan 1920

Preliminary Notice – Sale of House and Land situated at York Street, Masterton – Tuesday January 27 at 1.30 p.m. Messrs A. J. Cooper & Co., Ltd., have been instructed by the Trustees in the Estate of the late Elizabeth Munro (deceased) to offer by public auction at above time and place the following property:- 7-roomed house and 8¾ acres land, more or less; also, at the same time, the whole of the furniture and effects, dairy cows, horse, gig, and harness etc., etc. Full particulars later – any further information can be obtained from the auctioneers.

Wairarapa Age 26 Jan 1920

Sale of House and Land, Live Stock, Furniture etc – York Street, Masterton – Tuesday January 27 at 1.30 p.m. Messrs A. J. Cooper & Co., Ltd have been instructed by the Trustees in the Estate of the late Elizabeth Munro (deceased) to offer at above time and place, the following property:- 7-roomed house and 8¾ acres of land, outbuildings, etc., hot and cold water, also high-pressure supply, good orchard, handy to Solway showgrounds and school – Also – 2 dairy cows in milk, 1 empty 3-year heifer, 1 yearling heifer, 1 weaner calf, 2 yearling heifers, 1 18-month heifer, 1 horse, gig and harness, 25 White Leghorn and Minor fowls, 10 ducks – Furniture and sundries – Spring cart, 60-egg incubator, carpenter's tools, lawn mower, 76ft hose, garden tools, etc; contents of seven rooms, comprising Organ (14 stops), hall stand, hall lamp, palm stand, hat runner and mats, Chesterfield, divan chairs, 6 dining-room chairs, rocker, dining table, kitchen table, fender and fire irons, 6 linoleums, 3 double bedsteads and mattresses, 3 chest drawers, wardrobe, washstand and ware, 2 couches, bedclothing, table linen, crockery etc., etc.

1922 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, York Street, farm hand

1925 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander c/o J. McGregor, Upper Plain, labourer; Agnes McGregor, Upper Plain, married; James McGregor, Upper Plain, farmer; Lois McGregor, Upper Plain, spinster; Marjorie McGregor, Upper Plain, spinster; Martha McGregor, Upper Plain, spinster; Robert McGregor, Upper Plain, farmer

1928 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, 'Balquahidder', Upper Plain, labourer.

1931 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, 'Balquahidder', Upper Plain, labourer.

1935 Masterton Electoral Roll

Hugh Alexander, 'Balquahidder', Upper Plain, labourer.

Wairarapa Archive Reference 09-01/7b.R12B358 - Registrar General's Office Death Registration – Folio 1937/472

Entry No.15 Hugh Alexander, Farm-hand, 51yrs, died 08 Feb 1937 at 'Balquidder', Upper Plain, Masterton. Coroner's verdict: A severe epileptic fit whilst cleaning out a shallow creek. Father: William Alexander, builder. Mother: Elizabeth Munrow [sic] formerly Alexander, maiden name Sinclair. Buried 09 Feb 1937 Masterton by John Da... Presbyterian. Hugh was born in Masterton and spent his life in New Zealand, and was unmarried. Informant: Coroner, Masterton. Registered 09 Feb 1937.