

Pumpkin Cottage - Silverstream

Research “**Silverstream School**” as this was another name for the Pumpkin Cottage Art School

There are many folk lore stories about “*Pumpkin cottage*” that was once situated in Silverstream.

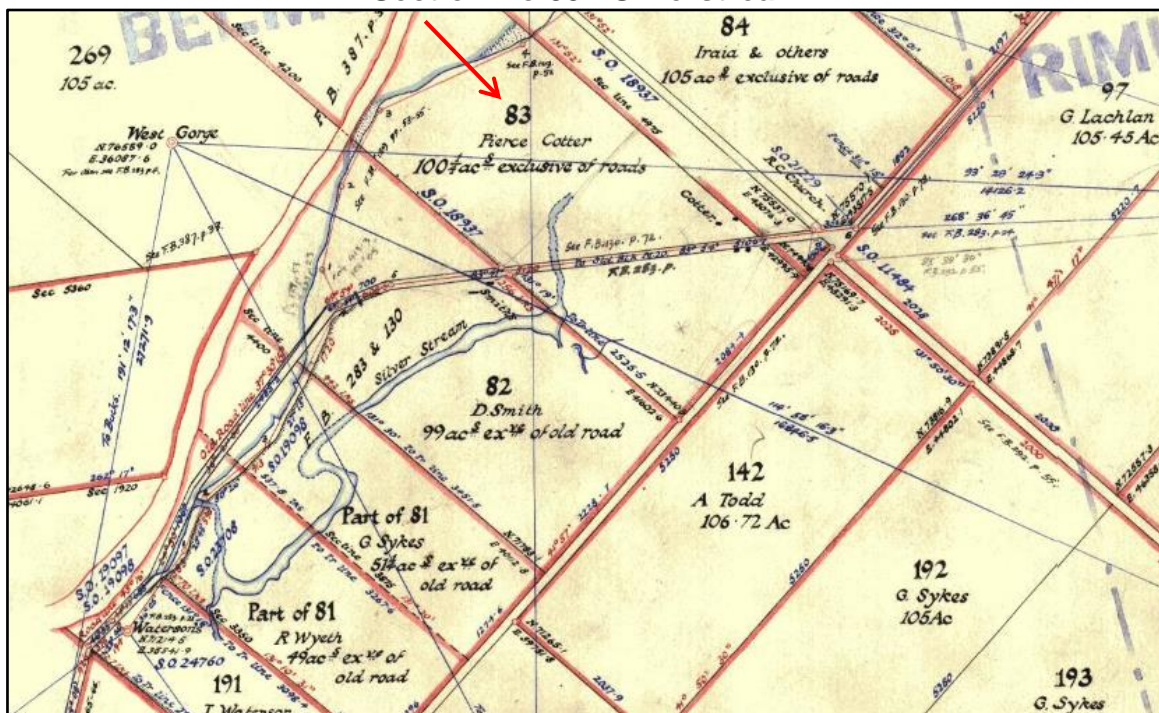
Who built it, who lived in it, when was it relocated across the road and who named it “*Pumpkin cottage*”?

I have tried to put all the stories together then try to locate records to confirm or disprove some of the folk lore stories. By researching the early survey maps, surveyor field books, land and deeds documents we will perhaps find the answer to the questions above.

Pumpkin cottage was originally built on Section No 83 in Silverstream. Pierce COTTER was the original owner of Section No 83. Many years later the cottage was relocated across the road on the same section or was it relocated closer to or on Section No 82 which was original owned by David Smith.

There is a story at the end of this document written by Roger Haybittle a descendant of the Haybittle family. He records his story regarding who built the cottage and the naming of “*Pumpkin Cottage*”. Roger gave me written permission to transcribe his story into the document about Pumpkin cottage.

Section No 83 - Silverstream



(Reference Survey Map saved as Map1860sUHSilverstreamJGillardWNC_SO_10985_1.jpg)

We will start with the history of Section No 83. The Crown Grant for Section No 83 was issued to Pierce Cotter. The 1855 Electoral Roll records that he had freehold land in Upper Hutt. Pierce was a carpenter and had a business in Wellington. Later he also purchased land in the Wairarapa. In the early years Pierce advertised for people to manage his Wairarapa property.

The 1859 Jury list records Pierce builder address River Hutt. In some of the early records the Upper Hutt district and the Hutt Valley was referred to as River Hutt. An 1860 newspaper article recorded Pierce’s address as Silver Stream so perhaps he was living in Silverstream the year before.

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls page 80 & Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 21 February 1860 page 2)

In 1867 Pierce's son Thomas was resident in Greytown perhaps looking after his father property. In 1868 Thomas Cotter married and settled with his wife Susan nee Dixon in the Wairarapa. Thomas was now farming his father's property in the Wairarapa.

Folk lore records that Thomas Cotter built Pumpkin Cottage in 1868 but he was living in the Wairarapa at this time and Pumpkin Cottage was situated in the Silverstream district.

Wellington Independent newspaper 13-31 July 1869

The Silver Stream Farm to Let – To be let for a term of years that beautiful Farm in the Upper Hutt known as the Silver Stream Farm at present in the occupation of Mr Pierce Cotter containing 130 acres of the best agricultural land, sub-divided into paddocks each of which is well watered and laid down with the best English grass. There is a good Dwelling House containing nine rooms. There are two large Store Houses, a twelve stall Stable, with an open sluice at the back 54ft long also two labourer's Cottages with Stock Yard and Cow Shed. The above offers a fine opening for a Dairy Farmer as the land will carry from 60 to 70 Milch Cows and is well adapted for agriculture. For further particulars apply to Pierce COTTER on the Premises 12th July 1869 – NB Immediate possession can be given.

(Reference Papers past website Wellington Independent newspaper 13 July 1869)

In the 1869 newspaper article it gives a good description of the buildings occupying Section No 83. Peirce Cotter was a carpenter and local miller so he could have built these dwellings and his son Thomas may have assisted before he went to the Wairarapa. Perhaps one of the dwellings on Silver Stream property described as two labourer's cottages was Pumpkin Cottage. The 1870-1871 Hutt Electoral Roll, records that Pierce was still resident in the Upper Hutt district.

Whirinaki occupied the neighbouring Section No 84. The section was once a Native Reserve which Iraia and other Maoris purchased from the Crown around 1857. They built a church on the land and the Whirinaki chapel was opened in 1859. Built on the same Section No 84 but across the road from the chapel were two whares.

Now folk lore records that Pumpkin cottage was also known as Te Kaeaea's whare and that he lived in the cottage when he visited his Ngati Tama followers at the Whirinaki kianga (village).

In 1871 Te Kaeaea (also known as Wikitoa Taringa Kuri) was injured near the gorge and taken back to Silverstream where he passed away and was later buried at the Te Peni urupa in Petone.

In 1871 Pumpkin cottage was still located behind the main homestead on Pierce Cotters land Section No 83. Why would Te Kaeaea stay on Pierce's land in Pumpkin Cottage and not just down the road in the whares at the Whirianki kianga.

One theory is that when Te Kaeaea was injured and taken back to Silverstream the nearest dwelling was the Cotters cottage. It was in this cottage that Te Kaeaea passed away and from that day the cottage was known as Te Kaeaea's whare.

By 1871 Thomas Cotter departed the Wairarapa and settled back in Silverstream.

After the death of Te Kaeaea in 1871 his followers Iraia and the other Maori land owners of Section No 84 sold the land in 1872 to Pierce Cotter.

By 1872 Pierce Cotter departed Silverstream and settled on his property in the Wairarapa. In 1873 Thomas Cotter was leasing Section No 83 in Silverstream from his father Pierce Cotter.

In the early 1870s the Government surveyors began to survey the land suitable for a railway line between Wellington and the Wairarapa. The surveyor field books are a valuable source of information as they often marked dwellings near the survey lines and Cotters property was well

recorded in these field books. The Railway line from Wellington to the Upper Hutt was completed in 1876.

In 1877 at Silverstream Susannah the wife of Thomas Cotter died and was buried at St John's churchyard.

In 1879 widower Thomas Cotter married Emma Ann Haybittle. Emma parents were Emma and William George Haybittle. Emma had 15 siblings including 2 younger brothers Charles and Ralph Haybittle and one of her sisters was Williamina Haybittle who married widower Charles Seagar and they also resided in Silverstream.

Folk lore states that Thomas Cotter built Pumpkin Cottage (perhaps his father Pierce Cotter built the cottage) behind the Cotters main Homestead on Section No 83. Years later the cottage was relocated to the opposite side of the road on the same section, or was it closer to Section No 82?

The 1890s painting by C Aubrey showing the Cotters Homestead also shows that Pumpkin Cottage was still on Section No 83 behind the main house.

The other 1890s painting by C Aubrey shows the Cotters Homestead on the north side of the road with the Whirinaki Chapel further down the road in the same side.

There is no pumpkin cottage on the south side of the road so it had not been relocated when this painting was done.

The painting also shows a train on the railway line. The Railway line from Wellington to the Silverstream was opened in 1876 so the painting was painted after 1876.

Questions - when was Pumpkin cottage relocated to the opposite side of the road was it still on Section No 83 or was it closer to Section No 82 and who owned Section 82 at that time?

In 1880 Thomas Cotter purchased Section No 83 from his father. Thomas Cotter died in 1889. Thomas's father Pierce was resident in the Wairarapa and in 1894 he died in Greytown.

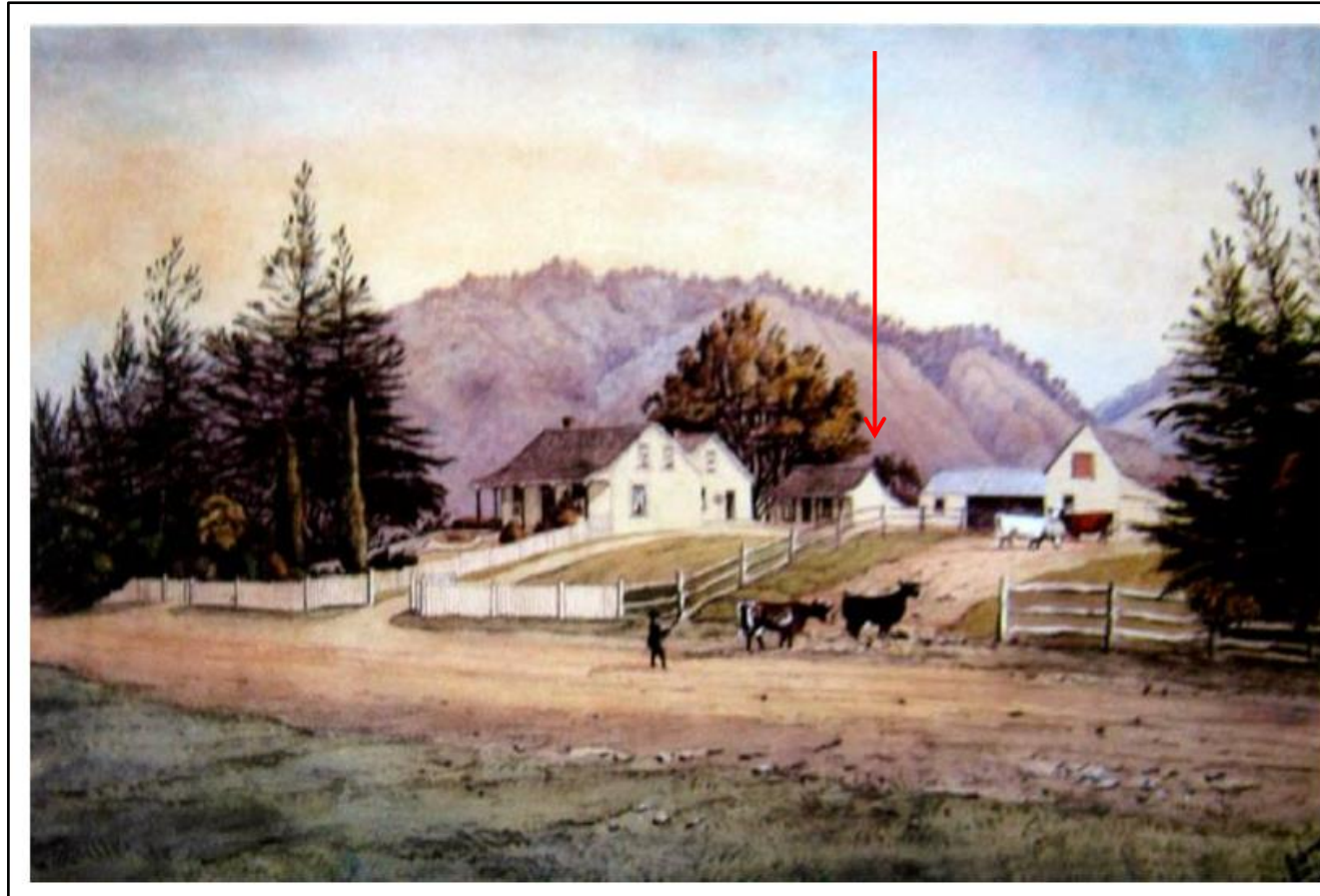
Folk lore states that around 1890 Charles and Ralph HAYBITTLE resided in Pumpkin cottage Silverstream but the cottage was now situated on the opposite side of the road but the circa 1890s painting by C Aubrey has Pumpkin cottage still located behind the main Cotter homestead.

Charles Richard Haybittle was born 1871 Upper Hutt (married 1902) and Ralph Stanley Haybittle was born 1876 Upper Hutt (married 1904). In 1890 Charles would have been 19 year old and Ralph would have been 14 years old.

Question - When was Pumpkin cottage relocated to the other side of the road? Was it relocated on Section No 83 or was it closer to Section No 82.

If I could get a modern map of Silverstream and superimpose the old 1843 survey map on top of the modern map then we could perhaps work out what section Pumpkin cottage was relocate to.

Thomas Cotter Homestead Silverstream (now St Patrick's College)
(Artist Christopher Audrey 1830-1902)

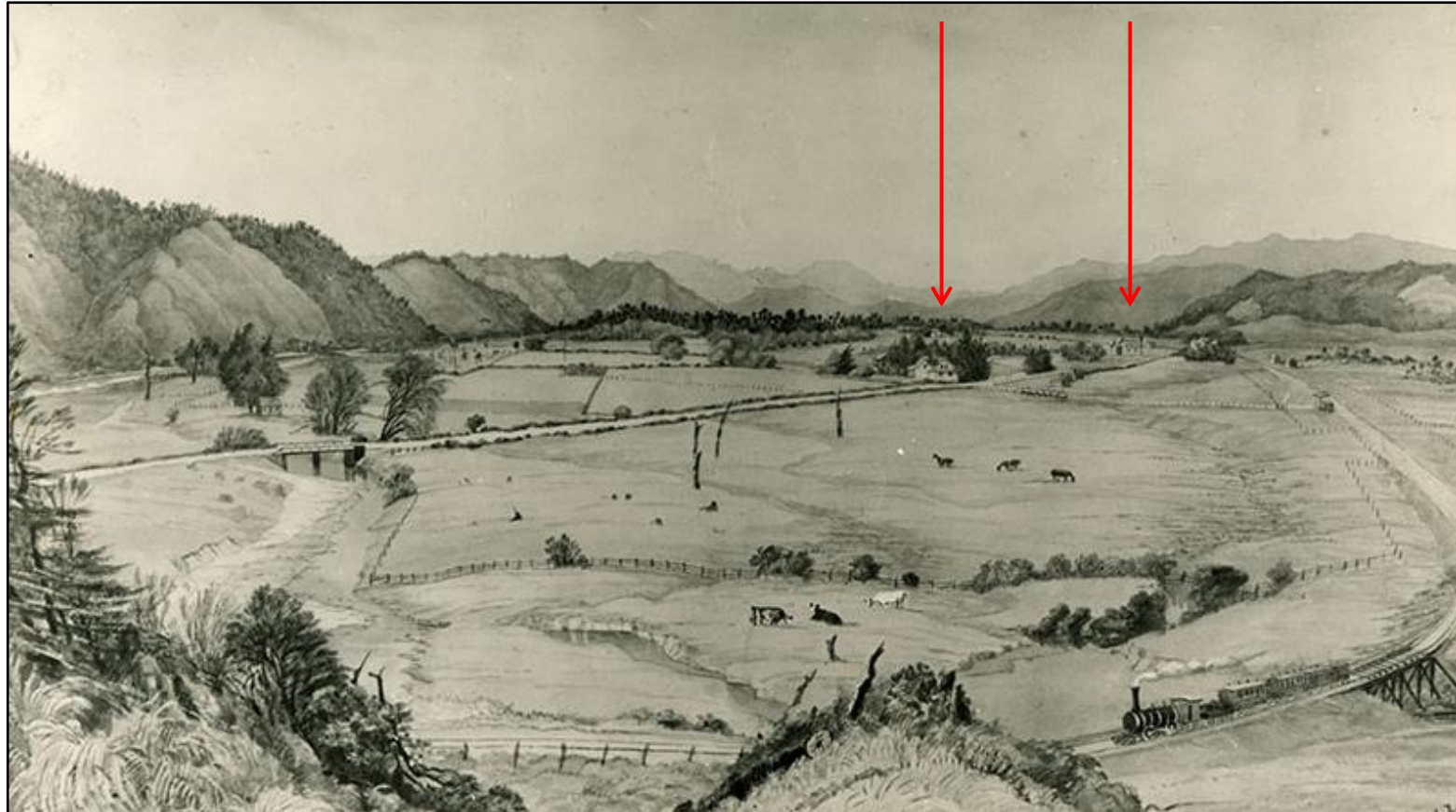


Cotter's Homestead and behind a cottage (believed to be "Pumpkin Cottage"). The road is now the west side of Fergusson Drive in Silverstream. A view of a farmstead and outbuildings, on the higher side of the road in the foreground. A child supervises two cows entering a farm gateway through mud, for milking, while two other cows await them near the shed. There is a formal garden in front of the house, and the trees around the homestead and pine and yew or cypress. The background hills are partially covered in bush. The small cottage immediately to the right of the main house is probable the one that later became "Pumpkin Cottage", the centre for a group of artists. St Patrick's College was later built on the site.

(Reference & Google image National Library of NZ & Australian Art Auction Records website painting by C Audrey)

Railway Line - Cotter Homestead Silverstream – Whirinaki Church – circa 1890

(Artist Christopher Audrey 1830-1902)



In the foreground bridges over the Silver Stream. The railway shown is the original line part of it survives ending at right at the end of Kiln Street and the NZ Railway and Locomotive Society's workshop, trains run there from Silver Stream Railway museum on Reynolds Bach Drive. The Whirinaki chapel is on what is now the St Patrick's College site, the Māori living in Whirinaki Pā across the road were almost wiped out by measles 1857-1860 and the chapel and pa were destroyed in 1900. The hut of the chief Turingakuri was moved to Thomas Cotter's property at left and was later known as Pumpkin Cottage. The railway reached Silverstream in 1875 and Upper Hutt in 1876. There are few signs of Cotter's buildings, so the picture might be dated closer to 1876; but a similar painting is dated 1890.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection C Audrey Art P5-74-778)

The [Pumpkin Cottage] story is as follows:

One Saturday Charles travelled to Wellington by train with the intention of returning in the afternoon and going onto Upper Hutt to a dance that evening. Before he left he arranged with his brother Ralph that if he required assistance with the evening milking he was to signal him and he would not go to Upper Hutt but would get off the train at Silverstream to give him a hand. It was decided that Ralph would light a fire in the cottage for Charles to see the smoke from the cottage chimney as he passed in the train. Bear in mind, of course, that the railway line ran much closer to the property in those days than it does now.

(Reference family story written by descendant Ralph Haybittle who gave permission to place in this document)

What transpired was that Ralph, had become preoccupied working in the garden but when he heard the train's whistle as it was leaving Hayward's Station across the Hutt River, suddenly remembered the arrangement. By then it was too late to light a fire, and as there was a ladder leaning against a wall of the cottage he carried up a long stick and put it in the chimney as a substitute signal. However, it then occurred to him that the stick might not be visible from the train so he picked up a large golden shade pumpkin from the garden, took it to the roof, thrust it on the end of the stick and put it back in the chimney.

(Reference family story written by descendant Ralph Haybittle who gave permission to place in this document)

Much to the amusement of many the pumpkin remained in place until it fell down on its own accord some months later. The stick and the pumpkin was still in place when Jimmy Nairn next visited the cottage. He asked about the stick and the pumpkin and being told the circumstances, was so amused that he painted on the cottage wall facing the road a pumpkin on a stick with the caption "Ye Signe of Ye Golden Pumpkin". The walls in those days were painted red and the sign was in a golden-yellow shade. My father noted that other artists maintained the painting in good order for many years and he could well recall seeing it often when he lived with his Aunt Wilhelmina Seagar.

(Reference family story written by descendant Ralph Haybittle who gave permission to place in this document)

Charles Richard Haybittle was born 1871 in Upper Hutt and Ralph Stanley Haybittle was born 1876 in Upper Hutt. In 1890 Charles would have been 19 year old and Ralph would have been 14 years old. Charles married in 1902 and Ralph married in 1904.

Question – What year did the Haybittle boys reside in Pumpkin Cottage and what year did they vacate the cottage? It had to be before the cottage was leased to the artist James M Nairn.

Question – When did the artist James M Nairn begin to lease Pumpkin cottage?

New Zealand Mail newspaper 06 October 1892

The Wellington Art Club was established in 1892. On 21 September 1892 Mr J M Nairn read a paper at the meeting of the Wellington Art Club. [Mr Nairn was the first president of the club]

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Mail newspaper 06 October 1892 page 11)

New Zealand Mail newspaper 17 February 1893

Art Notes – So far as an outsider is concerned it is very difficult to glean any news in the art world here. Our local artists are still away working quietly at their several pictures for the Exhibition held at the different centres during the year. Mr J M Nairn did not go to Otaki as he intended but went to Silver-stream whence he has just returned

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Mail newspaper 17 February 1893 page 11)

New Zealand Times newspaper 15 July 1893

The first annual exhibition of the Wellington Art Club will be held at the Art Gallery on Thursday next. [the first exhibition opened Wednesday 19 July closed Saturday 22 July 1893]

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 15 July 1893 page 2)

Folk lore records that around 1894-1895 that James Nairn rented Pumpkin cottage. He would invite other artists associated with the Wellington Art School as weekend guests. Perhaps it was early in 1893 as per 17 February 1893 newspaper article.

New Zealand Times newspaper 10 May 1894

The pictures the well-known local artist Mr J M Nairn is now disposing of by art union comprises ten of his best paintings, five in oils and five in water-colours. They are now on view at Macgregor Wright and Co.'s, Lambton Quay. The first prize a large oil painting entitled "Changing Pastures" represents a beautiful piece of natural scenery near Silverstream.

(Reference Papers past website New Zealand Times newspaper 10 May 1894 page 2)

Evening Post newspaper 16 May 1895

Mr James M Nairn has decided to offer by auction his complete collection of pictures and sketched in oil and water colours including his well-known works Changing Pastures – Tess – Cloud – and Noon. George Thomas and Co., have been entrusted with the sale which takes place at Thomas Hall on Wednesday 22nd May at 3 O'clock.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 16 May 1895 page 3)

Evening Post newspaper 16 May 1895

Several of Mr J M Nairn's pictures were destroyed by the fire at the Travellers Rest Hotel Taita. The pictures including one intended for the Exhibition in July were painted at the hotel at intervals during the past six months. The loss amounts to about £60.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 16 May 1895 page 3)

How the cottage got its name – Quote "Nairn got a small [pumpkin] tied it to the end of a small stick which he stuck under the gable roof & painted on the wall beneath the legend "Ye signe of ye golden pumpkins". Later the pumpkin fell away & he made a yellow drawing in place of it on the gable

(Reference source Maurice Crompton-Smith to Stanley Edwards 1939)

Comment – the same story attached to James Nairn had been attached to the Haybittle & Cotter families.

James McLachlan Nairn was born 18 November 1859 Kirkentilloch Glasgow Scotland and studied Art. Due to ill health James immigrated to New Zealand in 1890.

James rented Pumpkin Cottage in Silverstream until his death on 22 February 1904 in Wellington New Zealand. Other publications state that James rented the cottage to use as an art school from 1894 to 1904.

Free Lance newspaper 05 March 1904

For two or three seasons Mr Nairn went away to Silverstream to an abode he christened "Ye Sign of Ye Golden Pumpkin". Here art students foregathered and lived in Arcadian simplicity assisted thereto by the presence of a Maori dug-out canoe and much bathing. At these times the artist happy beyond words painted and piped, wore the kilts, and made the bush resound to the skirt of the 'chanter'.

(Reference papers past website Free Lance newspaper 05 March 1904)

In February 1904 James Nairn died in Wellington but the Wellington Art School continued to meet at the Pumpkin Cottage in Silverstream

According to the 1905 Valuation Roll section No 83 was occupied by Charles Cotter but was part of the estate of Thomas Cotter (deceased), Section No 83 occupied by Mrs T Cotter Silverstream and again part of the estate of Thomas Cotter per Charles Seagar the Trustee of the property.

1905 Silverstream between Section No 83 and No 82



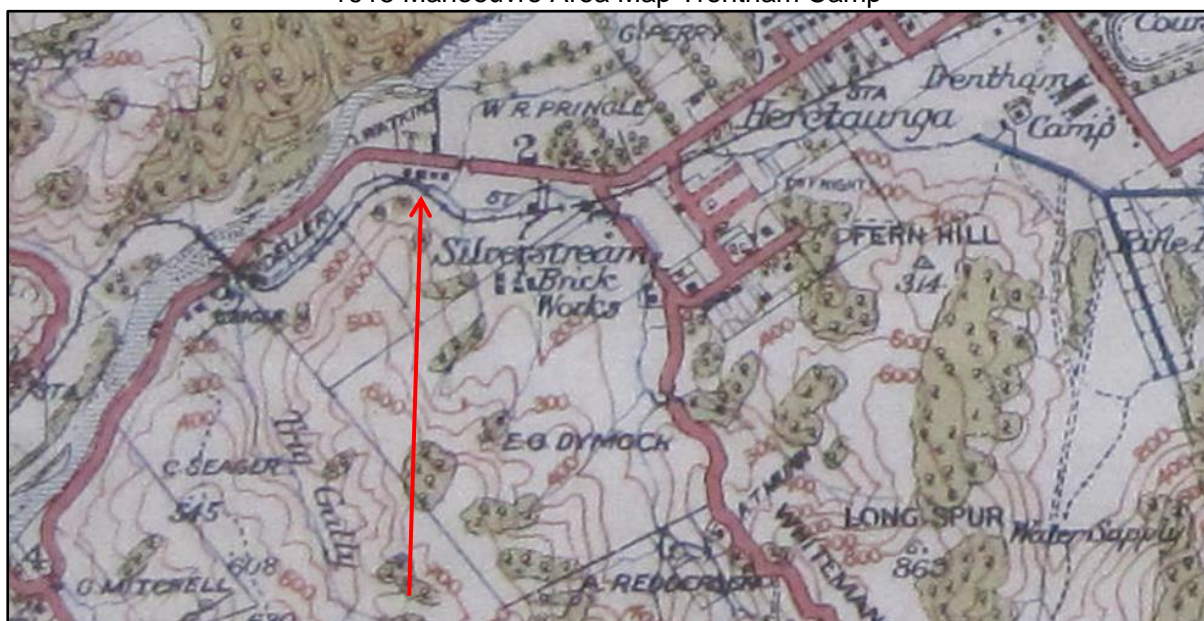
(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection circa 1905 Pumpkin Cottage Murray Maxwell collection)

The 1905 photo show a larger house behind Pumpkin Cottage. It is now known who owned and lived in the house behind Pumpkin Cottage?

Evening Star newspaper 12 June 1913

In 1913 Otago Art Society – E Killick of Wellington is showing in Dunedin for the first time. One of his works is a nice study of trees and he has got the sunshine property on “Pumpkin Cottage”
(Reference Papers past website Evening Star newspaper 12 June 1913)

1915 Manoeuvre Area Map Trentham Camp



(Reference 1915 Map of Manoeuvre Area Neighbourhood of Trentham Camp IMG_4590.JPG)

The 1915 map shows four dwelling situated on the south side of the road in Silverstream. One of these dwellings (red arrow) would have been Pumpkin Cottage.

Free Lance newspaper 03 September 1919

Artist F Sedgwick has been making most satisfactory progress in hospital and will soon be out again and back to the old haunts at Silverstream. When the warm days come and Sedgwick, Welch and the rest of the boys gather round for the evening sing song Sedgwick will lead the band in "I've gotta a motta – always merry and bright:, and the walls of "Ye signe of ye Golden Pumpkin", the old cottage sacred to the shade of Jimmy Nairn will resound with song and story and merriment.

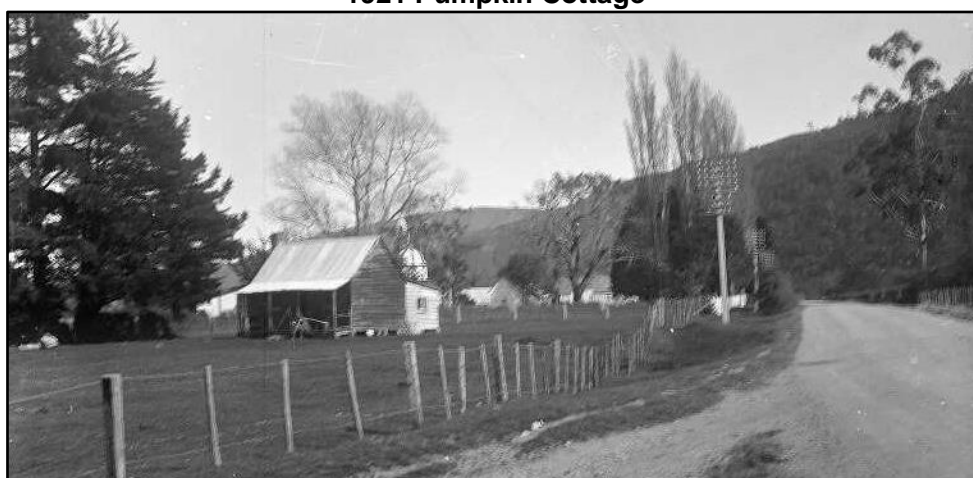
(Reference Papers past website Free Lance newspaper 03 September 1919 page 4)

Dominion newspaper 03 October 1919

1919 Academy of Fine Arts – Annual Exhibition – The popular Pumpkin Cottage at Silverstream so intimately associated with the name of the late Mr Jimmy Nairn is a prominent feature in a sound and soberly painted landscape. The quiet evening effect with its felling of simple repose is faithfully and sincerely portrayed

(Reference Papers past website Dominion newspaper 03 October 1919)

1921 Pumpkin Cottage



(Reference Digital NZ Golder Albert Percy Pumpkin Cottage or Whare o Taringa-Kuri at Silverstream circa 1921 Alexander Turnbull Library Tiaki IRN 288241 APG-0772-1-1/2-G)

In 1926 the land around Pumpkin Cottage was sold along with other parcels of neighbouring land. St Patricks College was built on the former Cotter farmland and the Whirinaki Native Reserve.

Sun (Auckland) newspaper 24 March 1928

"Sign of the Pumpkin" - Former Rendezvous of New Zealand Artists - Full of memories of the past and significant associations is the picturesque and now alas, ramshackle old cottage at Silverstream Wellington which goes by the quaint title of "Pumpkin Cottage." Some years ago this cottage was the rendezvous for artists from all over New Zealand. Here they spent weekends and here it was that many of the best New Zealand pictures originated and were painted. The cottage was built by James Nairn the well-known Scottish artist who came to New Zealand for his health and settled in Wellington. He was arts master at the Technical School in Wellington and was a very great acquisition to art in New Zealand. Several of his best pictures were painted at this old cottage which he bought, the most famous of these being "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," which is at present in the Wellington Art Gallery. His work is now almost unprocurable and commands high prices. The cottage stands in about three acres and outside it is tacked up a sign "The Sign of the Pumpkin." In the grounds is an old rose bush planted by Miss Fiona Scales the well-known animal painter. After the death of "Jimmy" Nairn as he was affectionately known to his pupils the rent of his cottage was paid by a group of New Zealand artists. Unfortunately in the last few years the cottage has fallen into disrepair, and there is some talk of it being demolished. Among his pupils Nairn numbered Mrs M E R Tripe and Lady Alice Fergusson.

(Reference Papers past website Sun (Auckland) newspaper 24 March 1928 page 24)

Stratford Evening Post newspaper 12 April 1928

At Silverstream down near Wellington is a quaint old dwelling which goes by the name Pumpkin Cottage. It has now fallen into disrepair but a little while ago was a rendezvous for artists and here it was that many New Zealanders' best pictures were planned and painted. A well-known Scottish artist James Nairn built the cottage and lived there for some time. Mr Nairn was arts master at the Wellington Technical School and was a decided acquisition to art in the Dominion. His work is now almost unprocurable and commands high prices.

(Reference Papers past website Stratford Evening Post newspaper 12 April 1928 page 4)

Bay of Plenty newspaper 17 February 1930

1930 Art Exhibition – The works purchased included "Hutt Stream" and "Pumpkin Cottage" by Mr Sydney Higgs

(Reference Papers past website Bay of Plenty newspaper 17 February 1930)

Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1944

1944 Art Exhibition – The well-known "Pumpkin Cottage" has attracted Carl Laugesen and has not lost any of its artistic attractions in its delineation by the artist.

(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 27 November 1944)

In 1949 a story states that the cottage was extended to be used as accommodation for the College, restored and extended again to artists until 1949 when the lease was revoked.

Originally on the land where St Patrick's college was built was a two story villa built by the Cotter family. [Part of the story above covering accommodation may have been connected to the two storey villa and not the story covering the lease to artists connected to the Pumpkin cottage]

1949 Otaki Electoral Roll

- Aima [Alma] Edith FESCHE Main Road Silverstream married
- Harry Roskell FESCHE Main Road Silverstream labourer

(Reference Ancestry website New Zealand Electoral Rolls)

I was informed that in 1950 Alma Fesche resided in Pumpkin Cottage in Silverstream. She was recorded on the 1949 Otaki Electoral Roll.

Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 16 April 1953

Golden Wedding - Last Monday Upper Hutt saw yet again another Golden wedding that of Mr and Mrs Tom Scrimshaw, Main Road. The happy couple throughout the day were inundated with messages of congratulations by telegrams letters flowers and callers. Throughout the day Mr and Mrs Scrimshaw had with them their two bridesmaids of 50 years ago. Mrs M Williamson (sister of the bridegroom) and Mrs S Kelly (sister of the bride). A beautiful cake made and decorated by Mr Munn was another feature of the day and during the evening many friends and relations were entertained at their home. At the supper adjournment several congratulatory speeches from guests were delivered and everyone joined in the singing for they are jolly good fellows. A telegram of congratulations was received from the Governor General Sir Willoughby Norrie which will be greatly treasured with others from all parts of New Zealand. Mr Scrimshaw who will be 75 years of age this year was born at Belmont and as a boy worked at Taita after which he went with his parents to live in Whiteman's Valley his father working for Prouse Bros., sawmillers. After some time at Whiteman's Valley the Scrimshaws moved to Ebdentown Road and young Tom used to walk to Silverstream every day cutting posts and rails. Their next move was to Heretaunga near the Prison Reserve and from there to Silverstream where Tom was apprenticed to the coopering trade to a man named Stewart Menzies. His work mostly consisted of making butter boxes and casks. The sign of the 'Golden Pumpkin Main Road Silverstream was the Scrimshaw's next move where Tom worked for Mrs Cotter laying drains through the swampy land where St. Patrick's College now stands. In relating this story Mr Scrimshaw told the Leader representative he well remembers the Maori Church at Silverstream which was eventually burnt down by swaggers who use to sleep in it after the Maoris had left the area. Turning to dairy farming Mr Scrimshaw first worked for Mr McCulloch at Trentham on the Barton's Bush property milking cows for 8/- a week. He next was engaged by Mrs John Barton driving her in the buggy to

Upper Hutt as well as working on the land. At 19 years of age Mr Scrimshaw took on milking 130 cows a day by hand for the late Mr William Barton and stayed with him for 32 years. In 1913 accompanied by Mr Barton he went to America and brought back 18 head of Holstein black and white cattle which cost £5000. On arrival back in New Zealand with this herd they were first of all put on Some's Island for the recognised quarantine period then proceeded to the Wairarapa where these cattle produced the highest pounds of milk per cow in the country at that time. These cows were milked three times daily 6 am, 2 pm and again at 8 p.m. "Pearl of Rock" one of the best milkers used to produce 110lb of milk a day or 500 lbs of butterfat for 12 months. Milk used to be sent from Featherston to Wellington by train and it was part of Mr Scrimshaw's work to see the milk was on time to catch the train. From the Wairarapa Mr Scrimshaw came back to Upper Hutt and worked for the late Jacob Geange who was farming in Whakatiki Street. Tom Mabey took the farm over from Geange but Mr Scrimshaw continued to carry on then the property was sold to the Whakatiki Golf Club for a sports area and picnic grounds. (This land has recently been taken over by the Crown for Housing). Mr Scrimshaw then retired building the house he now lives in on the Main Road.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 16 April 1953 Volume X page 14)

Upper Hutt Leader 23 July 1953

Acre Section the Plateau Te Marua flat and cleared very sunny fenced. Small concrete foundation suitable for Bach or garage already down - Price £325 - Will accept £150 deposit balance 12 months. Apply Pumpkin Cottage Main Road Silverstream

(Reference Papers past website Upper Hutt Leader 23 July 1953 volume X number 28)

Upper Hutt Leader 18 December 1958

This area was a favoured spot of the artistic element and the little cottage that stands to the right of main road as one crosses the concrete road bridge from Wellington was erected by a group of painters who used the dwelling as a weekend dwelling and a base for their painting activities. They of course gave a very arctic name to this neat little dwelling which was called "Pumpkin Inn".

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection 18 December 1958 volume XV number 48)

By 1970s the cottage was run down and despite a concerted campaign beginning in 1974 the move to save the building failed.

In 1980 Pumpkin cottage was owned by St Patrick's College and they authorised the cottage to be demolished

In 2000 the former site of Pumpkin Cottage on Fergusson Drive was designated as Pumpkin Cottage Reserves. A large Hutt River boulder was donated by Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove on the reserve to mark the site of the former "Pumpkin cottage".

A – Z People associated with Pumpkin Cottage

Thomas COTTER

Thomas Cotter's descendants state that it was Thomas who built Pumpkin cottage in 1874 and another stated that the cottage existed in the 1860s. The story also records that it was a member of the Cotter family who placed the pumpkin on the chimney of the cottage. The cottage's name came about due to a signal devised by brothers who farmed the land. When one brother wanted to let the other brother know he should get off the train at Silverstream to help milk the cows, he would hoist a pumpkin onto the cottage's chimney as a signal.

Thomas Cotter (1847-1889) married 1868 Susannah Anne nee Dixon (1843-1877). Susannah died and was buried at St Johns churchyard in Trentham. They had four children, Margaret Louisa Sarah born 1870, Percy Charles born 1872, Thomas Arthur born 1874 and John born 1875.

In 1879 widower Thomas Cotter married Emma Ann Haybittle (1859-1929). Emma was the daughter of Emma (1840-1903) and William George Haybittle (1822-1898). They had three children, William Stanley born 1880, Evelyn May born 1884 and Lilian Maud born 1886. Thomas Cotter died 24 May 1889 at Silverstream and was buried at St John's churchyard in Trentham.

Emma Cotter's nee Haybittle younger brothers were Ralph Stanley Haybittle (1876-1960) and Charles Richard Haybittle (1871-1907). The brothers may have helped on the Cotter farm and one of them placed the pumpkin on the chimney before Pumpkin cottage was rented to James Nairn around 1895. The story at the beginning of the document matches this theory.

It may have been the widow Emma Cotter who rented the cottage to James Nairn around 1895. Emma may have also employed her brothers to assist on the farm but this would have to have been before 1895 for them to have been the first to name the dwelling "Pumpkin cottage".

It is important to locate what Section No in Silverstream that "Pumpkin Cottage" was situated on, and who owned the land around this time period.

NOTE - The Cotter family history document is located in the folder "UH Family History & Genealogies" and saved as UHFCotterDixonHaybittle.doc & UHFCotterBrennan.doc

HAYBITTLE and SEAGAR family

How the cottage got its name – The cottage name came about due to a signal devised by the sons of Charles and Emma Haybittle who farmed the land and lived just behind the cottage. When young Ralph Haybittle wanted to let his brother know he should get off the train at Silverstream to help milk the cows, he would hoist a pumpkin onto the cottage's chimney.

(Reference source Maurice Crompton-Smith to Stanley Edwards 1939)

Looking at the statement above it shows that the details about Emma and Charles Haybittle are not correct. Emma's (1840-1903) husband was actually William George Haybittle (1822-1898) not Charles.

Emma and William George Haybittle resided in the Wallaceville and Trentham area not in Silverstream. William's close friend was Charles Seagar (1833-1918) who lived at "Sherwood House" in Silverstream. Charles's land is where the Silver Stream Railway Museum is now situated and included part of the old Silverstream hospital and landfill land. This land was in the neighbourhood of the Pumpkin cottage.

Charles's wife Frances Emily Seagar (1835-1909) died and was buried at St Johns churchyard Trentham. In 1911 Charles Seagar married Wilhelminia Haybittle the daughter of the late Emma and William George Haybittle. Charles Seagar (1833-1918) died and was buried at St John churchyard Trentham. Charles's widow Wilhelminia Seagar inherited "Sherwood House" and her siblings were known to have assisted in farming the land. Some of Wilhelminia's siblings lived, died and were married at "Sherwood House". Wilhelminia (1869-1937) died and was buried St Johns churchyard Trentham.

Wilhelminia's younger brothers were Ralph Stanley Haybittle (1876-1960) and Charles Richard Haybittle (1871-1907) may have helped to farm Charles Seagar's land before their sister married Charles in 1911. However it is more likely that the brothers Ralph and Charles Haybittle assist in farming their other sister Emma and her husband Thomas Cotter's land which included the Pumpkin cottage.

Thomas died in 1889 and his widow Emma Cotter nee Haybittle may have owned Pumpkin cottage and rented it to artist James Nairn around 1894-1895. If Ralph and Charles Haybittle farmed the land where the Pumpkin Cottage was once situated then it would have been before 1895.

It is important to locate what Section No in Silverstream that "Pumpkin Cottage" was situated on, and who owned the land around this time period.

NOTE - The Haybittle family history document is located in the folder "UH Family History & Genealogies" and saved as UHFHaybittleGooding.doc

James (Jimmy) NAIRN – The Bohemian Artist

#How the cottage got its name – Quote "Nairn got a small [pumpkin] tied it to the end of a small stick which he stuck under the gable roof & painted on the wall beneath the legend "Ye signe of ye golden pumpkins". Later the pumpkin fell away & he made a yellow drawing in place of it on the gable *Reference source Maurice Crompton-Smith to Stanley Edwards 1939)*

This same story has been attached to James Nairn above and the Haybittle & Cotter families.

James McLachlan Nairn was born 18 November 1859 Kirkentilloch Glasgow Scotland and studied Art. Due to ill health James immigrated to New Zealand in 1890. At one time James was the president of the Wellington Art Club.

James rented the dwelling in Silverstream known as 'Pumpkin cottage' around 1895 until his death on 22 February 1904 in Wellington New Zealand. Other publications state that James rented the cottage to use as an art school from 1894 to 1904.

Free Lance newspaper 05 March 1904

For two or three seasons Mr Nairn went away to Silverstream to an abode he christened "Ye Sign of Ye Golden Pumpkin". Here art students foregathered and lived in Arcadian simplicity assisted thereto by the presence of a Maori dug-out canoe and much bathing. At these times the artist, happy beyond words, painted and piped, wore the kilts, and made the bush resound to the skirt of the 'chanter'.

(Reference papers past website Free Lance newspaper 05 March 1904)

James McLachlan NAIRN - NAIRN family history

[James Nairn the artist & sister Isabella MacGibbon nee Nairn settled in New Zealand]

0- **Archibald NAIRN** born 28 December 1817 Barony Lanark Glasgow Scotland died 04 November 1888 Glasgow Scotland married 24 February 1846 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
Catherine RENNIE born 11 November 1818 Barony Lanark Glasgow Scotland died 18 April 1893 Glasgow Scotland

#1851 Census 59 Renfield Street Barony Lanarkshire Scotland ED 23B page 22 household 79 line 14 cssct1851_143

- Archibald NAIRN head age 33 Carpenter & Joiner number of men employed N.K. born about 1818 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Catherine NAIRN wife age 31 born about 1820 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Catherine NAIRN daughter age 4 born about 1847 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Isabella NAIRN daughter age 2 born about 1849 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Mary NAIRN daughter age 1 born about 1850 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- John NAIRN son age 3 months born about 1851 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- John RENNIE brother-in-law age 24 Sugar Broker born about 1827 Glasgow Scotland
- Catherine MCCALLUM age 45
- Christina THOMSON age 21
- Jessie McKREAGH age 14

#1861 Census Willow Field Cottage Kirkintilloch Dumbartonshire Scotland ED 11 household 34 line 16 cssct1861_68

- Archibald NORIN [sic NAIRN] head age 43 Wright & Bailder born about 1818 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Catherine NORIN wife age 41 born about 1820 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- Catherine NORIN daughter age 14 scholar born about 1847 Glasgow Lanark Scotland

- Isabella NORIN daughter age 12 scholar born about 1849 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
 - Mary NORIN daughter age 11 scholar born about 1850 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
 - John NORIN son age 10 scholar born about 1851 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
 - Jessie NORIN daughter age 8 scholar born about 1853 Glasgow Lanark Scotland
 - Thomas NORIN son age 5 born 1856 about Kirkintilloch Scotland
 - Archibald NORIN son age 3 born about 1858 Kirkintilloch Scotland
 - James NORIN son age 1 born about 1860 Kirkintilloch Scotland
 - Mary Anne MORTON age 30 born about Glasgow Lanark Scotland
 - Elisabeth AITKEN age 23 born about Glasgow Lanark Scotland
- 0-1- Catherine McKirdy NAIRN born 15 February 1847 Glasgow Scotland died 18 April 1873 Glasgow Scotland
- 0-2- Isabella Williamson NAIRN** born 16 May 1848 Glasgow Scotland died 30 June 1923 Dunedin New Zealand married 18 July 1867 Glasgow Lanark Scotland **Thomas MACGIBBON** born 09 October 1839 Glasgow Scotland died 27 September 1925 Dunedin New Zealand
#James MACGIBBON died 27 September 1925 Dunedin New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1925 folio website 1825/7232 age 85 born about 1840
#Isabella Williamson MACGIBBON died 30 June 1923 Dunedin New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1923 folio website 1923/9535 age 75 born about 1848
#MACGIBBON Hon Thomas Dunedin born Glasgow 1839 arrived Otago 1849 farming merchant Matara member Otago School, Commerce, Southland Education Board, (chairman), Matara Borough Council, M.L.C. 1914-1921 reference 1925 Who's Who in New Zealand and the Western Pacific page 157
- 0-2-1- Catherine Rennie MCGIBBON born 1869 New Zealand
#Catherine Rennie MCGIBBON born 1869 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1869 folio website 1869/37678 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas McGibbon
- 0-2-2- John MCGIBBON born 1870 New Zealand
#John MCGIBBON born 1870 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1870 folio website 1870/38467 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas McGibbon
- 0-2-3- Colina Jane MCGIBBON born 1872 New Zealand
#Colina Jane MCGIBBON born 1872 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1872 folio website 1872/40667 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas McGibbon
- 0-2-4- Mary Nairn MCGIBBON born 1873 New Zealand
#Mary Nairn MCGIBBON born 1873 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1873 folio website 1873/43835 parents Mary [sic] and Thomas McGibbon
- 0-2-5- Eve /Eva Isabella MCGIBBON born 1875 New Zealand
#Eve /Eva Isabella MCGIBBON born 1875 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1875 folio website 1875/13064 parents Isabella Williams and Thomas McGibbon
- 0-2-6- Archibald Nairn MACGIBBON born 1877 New Zealand
#Archibald Nairn MACGIBBON born 1877 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1877 folio website 1877/14179 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-2-7- Thomas Arthur MACGIBBON born 1878 New Zealand
#Thomas Arthur MACGIBBON born 1878 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1878 folio website 1878/3324 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-2-8- James Ernest MACGIBBON born 1881 New Zealand
#James Ernest MACGIBBON born 1881 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1881 folio website 1881/5486 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-2-9- Eleanor Ann MACGIBBON born 1882 New Zealand
#Eleanor Ann MACGIBBON born 1882 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1882 folio website 1882/13238 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-2-10- Jessie MACGIBBON born 1884 New Zealand

- #Jessie MACGIBBON born 1884 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1884 folio website 1884/10120 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-2-11- Roy Grager MACGIBBON born 1885 New Zealand
#Roy Grager MACGIBBON born 1885 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1885 folio website 1885/13462 parents Isabella Williamson and Thomas MacGibbon
- 0-3- Mary Mathers NAIRN born 13 May 1849 Glasgow Scotland died 1873
- 0-4- Susannah NAIRN born 24 June 1854 Govan Glasgow Lanarkshire Scotland
- 0-5- Jessie Rennie NAIRN born 24 June 1854 Govan Glasgow Lanarkshire Scotland died 1917
- 0-6- John Rennie NAIRN born 30 December 1855 Glasgow Lanarkshire Scotland
- 0-7- Archibald NAIRN born 11 May 1857 Kirkentilloch Glasgow Lanarkshire Scotland
- 0-8- James McLachlan NAIRN** born 18 November 1859 Kirkentilloch Glasgow Scotland died 22 February 1904 Wellington New Zealand married 17 March 1898 Silverstream New Zealand
Ellen SMITH born 1879 New Zealand died 23 December 1955 New Zealand
#James Maclachlan NAIRN married 1898 New Zealand Ellen SMITH reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1898 folio website 1898/503
#James McLachlan NAIRN died 22 February 1904 peritonitis New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1904 folio website 1904/1186 age 45 born about 1859
#Ellen NAIRN married 1910 New Zealand Alfred MILES reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1910 folio 6760 website 1910/6394
#Alfred MILES died 1912 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1912 folio website 1912/296 age 44 born about 1868
#Ellen MILES married 1916 New Zealand Frederick TAYLOR reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1916 folio 3934 website 1916/6477
#Ellen TAYLOR died 23 December 1955 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1955 folio website 1955/28795 age 76 born about 1879
- 0-8-1- Mari Bhan / Marie Bhanog NAIRN born July 1898 Wellington New Zealand died 22 September 1958 Auckland New Zealand 1st married 1915 New Zealand Frederick Charles HAYCRAFT born 1893 died 1963 Hamilton New Zealand 2nd married 1936 New Zealand Ernest Edward HALE born 06 March 1897 died 1990 New Zealand 3rd married New Zealand Edward John BASSETT born 30 January 1906 died 2003 New Zealand
#Mari Bhan NAIRN born July 1898 Wellington New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1898 folio website 1898/8177 parents Ellen and James Maclachlan
#Miss Bhan Ogh Nairn daughter of the late Mr J M Nairn and of Mrs E Miles (formerly Mrs Nairn) of Wellington and Mr F Haycraft of the Wellington branch of the State Fire Insurance whose engagement was recently announced were married at St Paul's Pro-Cathedral Wellington on Saturday last. The Rev Mr Fancourt was the officiating clergyman. The bride who was attended by her sister (Miss Ellen Nairn) wore a cream tailored costume with a cream crepe de chine hat trimmed with black velvet pansies, and carried a bouquet of pink carnations. The bridesmaid's costume was a navy coat and skirt, with which she wore a white tagel hat. Her bouquet was of violets and snowdrops. Lieut. A Sievewright acted as best man. The rooms at Sayes Court, where, the reception was held, were decorated with pink white flowers. The bride's mother was attired in a smart checked costume, with which she wore black fox furs and a cream tagel hat. Mrs L Smith (an aunt of the bride) wore a black tailored costume, with ermine furs, and black velvet hat. Mr and Mrs Haycraft left for the north, on their honeymoon tour, the bride wearing a gabardine coat and skirt, and a brown tagel hat reference Papers past website
#Marie Bhan Og NAIRN married 1915 New Zealand Frederick Charles HAYCRAFT reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1915 folio website 1915/14681
#Frederick Charles HAYCRAFT died 1963 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1963 folio website 1963/30460 age 70 born about 1893
#Marie Bhan Og HAYCRAFT Wairere Road Belmont Lower Hutt married 1935 Otaki Electoral Roll
#Marie Bhanog HAYCRAFT married 1936 New Zealand Ernest Edward HALE reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1936 folio 4505 website 1936/4536

- #Marie Bhanog HALE Valley Road Henderson married & Ernest Edward HALE Valley Road Henderson farmer 1938 Auckland Suburbs Electoral Roll
#520639 HALE Ernest Edward dairy farmer "Brooklands" Valley Road Henderson World War Two Ballot Lists January 1942 reference NZ Gazette Military Area No 3 (Whangarei) No 7 page 156
#Ernest Edward HALE died 1990 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1990 folio website 1990/43960 born 06 March 1897
#Marie Bhanog HALE Divorce File 636 & Divorce file 219 Auckland Court reference Archives NZ Auckland office BBAE 4985
#Mairie Bhanog BASSETT 7 Bongard Street E1 married & Bhanog Mairie BASSETT 7 Bongard Road E1 married & Edward John BASSETT 7 Bongard Road E1 accountant 1954 Tamaki Electoral Roll
#Maire Bhanog BASSETT 7 Bongard Street E1 married & Edward John BASSETT 7 Bongard Road E1 secretary & Elizabeth Anne BASSETT 7 Bongard Road E1 nurse 1957 Tamaki Electoral Roll
#Marie Bhanog BASSETT died 1958 Auckland New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1958 folio 2801 website 1958/34634 age 60 born about 1898
#Marie Bhanog BASSETT age 60 born about 1898 last address 7 Bongard Road religion Presbyterian died 22 September 1958 cremated 23 September 1958 Purewa cemetery Auckland Funeral Directors Sibuns Funeral Advisors 582 Remuera Road Auckland ashes disposal returned
#Edward John BASSETT died 2003 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 2003 folio website 2003/15969 born 30 January 1906
- 0-8-2- Ellen May Victoria NAIRN born July 1901 Wellington New Zealand died 1966 New Zealand married 1948 New Zealand Cyril Lindsay SANDARS born 29 January 1893 died 1982 New Zealand
#Ellen May Victoria NAIRN born July 1901 Wellington New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1901 folio website 1901/14887 parents Ellen and James Maclachlan Nairn (Sun newspaper 27 July 1915 page 4)
#Ellen May Victoria NAIRN 4 the Crescent spinster 1938 Wellington Central Electoral Roll
#Ellen May V NAIRN married 1948 New Zealand Cyril Lindsay SANDARS reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1948 folio 01840
#Ellen May Victoria SANDARS died 1966 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1966 folio website 1966/28128 age 63 born about 1903
#Ellen May Victoria SANDARS married women Wellington 1966 Probate Wellington Court reference Archives NZ Wellington AAOM 6031 0102/1966 filed date 04 February 1966 Will
#Cyril Lindsay SANDARS died 1982 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1982 folio website 1982/37959 born 29 January 1893

Thomas SCRIMSHAW

Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 16 April 1953

Golden Wedding - Last Monday Upper Hutt saw yet again another Golden wedding that of Mr and Mrs Tom Scrimshaw Main Road. The happy couple throughout the day were inundated with messages of congratulations by telegrams letters flowers and callers. Throughout the day Mr and Mrs Scrimshaw had with them their two bridesmaids of 50 years ago. Mrs M Williamson (sister of the bridegroom) and Mrs S Kelly (sister of the bride). A beautiful cake made and decorated by Mr Munn was another feature of the day and during the evening many friends and relations were entertained at their home. At the supper adjournment several congratulatory speeches from guests were delivered and everyone joined in the singing for they are jolly good fellows. A telegram of congratulations was received from the Governor General Sir Willoughby Norrie which will be greatly treasured with others from all parts of New Zealand. Mr Scrimshaw who will be 75 years of age this year was born at Belmont and as a boy worked at Taita after which he went with his parents to live in Whiteman's Valley his father working for Prouse Bros., sawmillers. After some time at Whiteman's Valley the Scrimshaws moved to Ebdentown Road

and young Tom used to walk to Silverstream every day cutting posts and rails. Their next move was to Heretaunga near the Prison Reserve and from there to Silverstream where Tom was apprenticed to the coopering trade to a man named Stewart Menzies. His work mostly consisted of making butter boxes and casks. The sign of the 'Golden Pumpkin Main Road Silverstream was the Scrimshaw's next move where Tom worked for Mrs Cotter laying drains through the swampy land where St. Patrick's College now stands. In relating this story Mr Scrimshaw told the Leader "representative he well remembers the Maori Church at Silverstream which was eventually burnt down by swaggers who use to sleep in it after the Maoris had left the area. Turning to dairy farming, Mr Scrimshaw first worked for Mr McCulloch at Trentham on the Barton's Bush property, milking cows for 8/- a week. He next was engaged by Mrs John Barton, driving her in the buggy to Upper Hutt as well as working on the land. At 19 years of age Mr Scrimshaw took on milking 130 cows a day by hand for the late Mr William Barton and stayed with him for 32 years. In 1913 accompanied by Mr Barton he went to America and brought back 18 head of Holstein black and white cattle which cost £5000. On arrival back in New Zealand with this herd they were first of all put on Some's Island for the recognised quarantine period then proceeded to the Wairarapa where these cattle produced the highest pounds of milk per cow in the country at that time. These cows were milked three times daily 6 am, 2 pm and again at 8 pm. "Pearl of Rock" one of the best milkers used to produce 110lb of milk a day or 500 lbs. of butterfat for 12 months. Milk used to be sent from Featherston to Wellington by train and it was part of Mr Scrimshaw's work to see the milk was on time to catch the train. From the Wairarapa Mr Scrimshaw came back to Upper Hutt and worked for the late Jacob Geange who was farming in Whakatiki Street. Tom Mabey took the farm over from Geange but Mr Scrimshaw continued to carry on then the property was sold to the Whakatiki Golf Club for a sports area and picnic grounds. (This land has recently been taken over by the Crown for Housing). Mr Scrimshaw then retired building the house he now lives in on the Main Road.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library Heritage collection Upper Hutt Leader newspaper 16 April 1953 Volume X page 14)

0- Thomas SCRIMSHAW born 1875 New Zealand died 1963 New Zealand married 1903 New Zealand **Eva Beatrice FLETCHER** born 1883 New Zealand died 1953
#Thomas SCRIMSHAW born 1875 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1875 folio website 1875/10477 parents Martha and James Scrimshaw
#1896 Otaki Electoral Roll (mother) Martha SCRIMSHAW Silverstream Western Hutt married women residential
#1897 Otaki Electoral Roll Thomas SCRIMSHAW Upper Hutt farmer residential & (mother) Martha SCRIMSHAW Silverstream Upper Hutt married women residential & (father) James SCRIMSHAW Mungaroa Valley Labourer residential
#1902 Hutt Electoral Roll Thomas SCRIMSHAW Upper Hutt farmer residential & (mother) Martha SCRIMSHAW Silverstream Upper Hutt married women residential & (father) James SCRIMSHAW Mungaroa Valley Labourer residential
#1903 Hutt Electoral Roll Thomas SCRIMSHAW Upper Hutt farmer residential & (mother) Martha SCRIMSHAW Silverstream Upper Hutt married women residential & (father) James SCRIMSHAW Mungaroa Valley Labourer residential
#Eva Beatrice FLETCHER born 1883 New Zealand reference RGO NZ birth registration 1883 folio website 1883/2838 parents Matilda Jackson and Thomas Fletcher
#Thomas SCRIMSHAW married 1903 New Zealand Eva Beatrice FLETCHER reference RGO NZ marriage registration 1903 folio website 1903/2586
#1905-1906 Hutt Electoral Roll Tomas SCRIMSHAW Upper Hutt farmer & Eva Beatrice SCRIMSHAW Upper Hutt married & (mother) Martha SCRIMSHAW Silverstream married & (father) James SCRIMSHAW Mungaroa labourer
#Eva Beatrice SCRIMSHAW died 1953 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1953 folio website 1953/23647 age 70 born about 1883
#Thomas SCRIMSHAW died 1963 New Zealand reference RGO NZ death registration 1963 folio website 1963/42468 age 88 born about 1875
#SCRIMSHAW issue Phlyice Virginia Scrimshaw born 1904 New Zealand to parents Eva Beatrice and Thomas Scrimshaw

Chief Te Kaeaea – also known as Taringa-kuri

Whirinaki / Wirinaki was the early name given to the Silverstream area by local Maori. The Whirinaki Church also referred to as the Maori Chapel was once situated on land (Section No 84) now occupied by the St Patrick's college tennis courts. Some believe the Maori church was closer to the Home of Compassion which is further north from the college.

One publication states that the Whirinaki church and kainga existed in 1837. I do not think this is correct.

The New Zealand Company settlers arrived at Port Nicholson in 1840. The early documents and survey field books record that no Maoris appear to be residing in Upper Hutt in the 1840s. The early surveyors recorded travelling to Petone to talk to the Maori requesting information about the tracks through the Upper Hutt district – If there were Maori in the Upper Hutt district they would not have travelled to Petone to request the information. Early records do however record that Maori had settled in the Silverstream district in the early 1850s on the Native Reserve land Section No 84. So perhaps the Whirinaki church was established in 1847 or 1857. The Ngati Tama who settled in Silverstream purchased Section No 84 which was formerly referred to as a Native Reserve. In 1837 Chief Te Kaeaea also known as Taringa Kuri and his followers from the Ngati Tama were resided at the Pa Kaiwharawhara.

Across the road from the Church was the Whirinaki kainga (village) where the resident chief was Te Kaeaea also known as Taringa Kuri (dog's ears) or Whitoa Taringakuri. Near the kainga and southeast of Pierce & Thomas's (father & son) Cotters property was a dwelling known as Te Whare o Turingakuri. This is where the chief resided when he visited the kainga.

The story goes that the dwelling known as Te Whare o Turingakuri was actually '*Pumpkin cottage*'.

Te Kaeaea was injured when a horse and trap capsized over the Upper Gorge bank and fell onto the chief. Te Kaeaea was taken back to Silverstream where he died on Monday 02nd October 1871. Perhaps Te Kaeaea died at the dwelling known as Te Whare o Turingakuri.

Another story records that Thomas Cotter built "Pumpkin Cottage" in 1874 but Te Kaeaea died in 1871. Thomas would have had to have built the cottage before 1871 and not 1874 to collaborate the story about the dwelling of Chief Te Kaeaea known as Te Whare o Turingakuri.

NOTE - The Te Kaeaea family history document is located in the folder "*UH Family History & Genealogies*" and saved as UHMAOTeKaeaeaTaringaKuri.doc

Pumpkin Cottage Miscellaneous Information

Historical Homes in Upper Hutt – Pumpkin Cottage

Built in the 1860s the cottage was used by Thomas Cotter a dairy farmer from about 1874 to the 1890s. About 1894 artists James Nairn started using the cottage as headquarters for the Wellington Art Club. Many famous Wellington artists painted there and they became known as the Silverstream School. The club continued to use it intermittently until 1949. After it was used as staff accommodation by St Patricks College until it fell into disrepair and was destroyed in 1980. A memorial stone and plaque were installed on the original site in 2000.

(Reference Upper Hutt City Library recollect website Historic Homes of Upper Hutt publication)

Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists

An exhibition held at the Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre based on the Pumpkin Cottage paintings collection gifted by Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove was curated by Jane Vial. A brochure was produced and contained paintings and information about Pumpkin cottage. In the publication there are various paintings and photographs of Pumpkin cottage and the surrounding

area of the Upper Hutt district. There is also a photograph of James Nairn and the famous photograph of the cottage taken by James Chapman-Taylor.

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 4-5)

For about 50 years Pumpkin Cottage was a retreat for bohemian artists to paint, discuss and develop a unique New Zealand style of impressionism.

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 4-5)

Nairn first rented the cottage in about 1895 near the train line at Silverstream. The building was unremarkable in itself a two room pitched roof cottage with veranda, built of local matai. Ngati Tama chief Te Kaeaea stayed there when he visited the nearby Whirinaki Pa from the 1850s. Pumpkin cottage was moved further up Hutt Main Road to its present site sometime after Te Kaeaea's death in 1875 [sic].

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 6-7)

How the cottage got its name – The cottage name came about due to a signal devised by the sons of Charles and Emma Haybittle who farmed the land and lived just behind the cottage. When young Ralph Haybittle wanted to let his brother know he should get off the train at Silverstream to help milk the cows, he would hoist a pumpkin onto the cottage's chimney.

Quote "Nairn got a small [pumpkin] tied it to the end of a small stick which he stuck under the gable roof & painted on the wall beneath the legend "Ye signe of ye golden pumpkins". Later the pumpkin fell away & he made a yellow drawing in place of it on the gable reference source Maurice Crompton-Smith to Stanley Edwards 1939.

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 6-7)

By 1930 the cottage was in poor shape. St Patrick's College had bought the land and cottage in 1926 and extended it to be used as accommodation for the College, restored and extended it again to artist until 1949 when the lease was revoked. By 1970s the cottage was run down and despite a concerted campaign beginning in 1974 the move to save the building failed. St Patrick's College demolished it in 1980 but the Fergusson Drive site, now Pumpkin Cottage Reserves was marked in 2000 by a Hutt River boulder donated by Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 30)

A local Upper Hutt history records how the cottage got its name. "*Pumpkin cottage name came about due to a signal devised by the sons of Charles and Emma Haybittle, who farmed the land and lived just behind the cottage. When young Ralph Haybittle wanted to let his brother know he should get off the train at Silverstream to help milk the cows, he would hoist a pumpkin onto the cottage's chimney*".

(Reference Upper Hutt The History by J A Kelleher 1991 Upper Hutt City Council)

Another publication gave another story about the cottage

"Nairn first rented the Pumpkin cottage in about 1895 near the train line at Silverstream. The building was unremarkable in itself a two room pitched roof cottage with veranda, built of local matai. Ngati Tama chief Te Kaeaea stayed there when he visited the nearby Whirinaki Pa from the 1850s. Pumpkin cottage was moved further up Hutt Main Road to its present site sometime after Te Kaeaea's death in 1875".

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 6-7)

[Comment - Te Kaeaea died in 1871 and Pumpkin cottage had not been moved from its original site according to the C Audrey painting dated 1890s]

"Nairn got a small [pumpkin] tied it to the end of a small stick which he stuck under the gable roof & painted on the wall beneath the legend "Ye signe of ye golden pumpkins". Later the pumpkin fell away & he made a yellow drawing in place of it on the gable" reference source Maurice Crompton-Smith to Stanley Edwards 1939.

(Bohemians of the Bush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists page 6-7)

'Pumpkin Cottage' Silverstream Wellington - By Roger Haybittle

Much has been said written and referenced about the artists who banded together to form the Wellington Art Club and whose members travelled from Wellington to Silverstream in the late 1890s through to the mid-1900s to paint in the area. Silverstream was renowned for its light qualities and those who came often stayed in a little wagoner's cottage that was to become known as '*Pumpkin Cottage*', and, in turn, become part of New Zealand Art history.

The exact age of the cottage is unknown but its earliest recorded occupant was around 1860. It is also understood that Thomas Cotter lived there for a period before his first marriage in 1868 but more on the Cotters' later.

As a result of the art exhibition '*Bohemians of the Brush – Pumpkin Cottage Impressionists*' touring galleries in New Zealand recently the cottage, and its role in early New Zealand art, became better known to the general public. The exhibition was based on the Pumpkin Cottage paintings collection generously given by Ernest and Shirley Cosgrove to the Expressions Trust for the people of Upper Hutt. The exhibition told the story of the Scottish born artist James (Jimmy) MacLauchlan Nairn. In 1892 he stimulated the development of impressionism as a style of painting through his teaching at Wellington Design School, which later became Wellington Technical College Art School. In doing so, he brought together many artists, including Mabel Hill, Mary Tripe, Nugent Welch, Fred Sedgwick and others. The curator of the exhibition was Jane Vial. James had a great love for the outdoors but suffered from poor health and came to New Zealand in the hope that the climate would assist his recovery. Sadly this was not to be and he died in 1904, aged 44.

He was also instrumental in forming the Wellington Art Club, which continued many years after his death. Artists William Wauchop, Carl Laugensen and others continued to frequent this unassuming little cottage at Silverstream, treating it as a base for their painting excursions up until 1945.

However, this story is not a lesson in art history but about how this cottage came by its name.

It relates to an event involving my Grandfather Ralph Haybittle and his brother Charles around 1900. It was a story my Grandfather often told my father and in turn, my sister and I heard many times as children. It became one of those family stories we fondly remembered. Whilst time often dims the mind my father fortunately recorded it in the family records he painstakingly wrote back in 1984. A little family/local history at this point is necessary to explain just how the family was connected to the cottage.

My Great Grandfather William George Haybittle, formerly a mariner, as was his brother Richard Brignell, ran a successful lightering business in Wellington for a number of years. This involved carrying goods from ship to shore in a small vessel known as a lighter and was the standard means of getting goods ashore before Queen's Wharf, the first public wharf, was built in the 1860s. They were quite entrepreneurial, trading as coal merchants and ferrying gold prospectors to the goldfields in Marlborough in their vessels, the "*Mosquito*" and the "*Sandfly*". Other enterprises followed, and William George and his wife Emma finally settled in Trentham in 1876 where he became a storekeeper until his death in 1898. He and Emma had 15 children and my Grandfather Ralph was the younger of the two surviving males. The other, being his brother Charles. Both attended Upper Hutt School, as did other siblings from the family.

Emma Ann [Haybittle], the eldest of the children, married widower Thomas Cotter, who owned and farmed land locally. The area included the property on which '*Pumpkin Cottage*' sat, as well as a substantial and holding across the road. Both holdings totalled some 600 acres which was later sold to the Catholic Church. On the larger holding across the road, St. Patrick's College was subsequently built. Emma and Thomas had four children with another four from his previous marriage. Emma's sister Edith, as a teenager, assisted in looking after the children.

Wilhelmina [Haybittle] married Charles Seagar who was a well-known Wellington marine engineer. He had both foundry and shipping interests and lived on a 400-acre property at

Silverstream. He named it '*Sherwood*', which was his mother's maiden name. While they had no children, the property became a focal point for social events for this large close-knit family.

My father recalls the mischief he and his cousins got up to there during their holidays, especially with the Hutt River across the road. Later on, his mother spent a long period of convalescence after being hospitalised with an illness. That meant he boarded with his Aunt who was then widowed (Charles Seagar had died in 1911) and went to Banks College in Wellington, travelling to and from Silverstream daily by train. I mention this because he often talked about '*Pumpkin Cottage*' and seeing it frequently from a young age meant the details surrounding it and its name were indelibly etched in his memory. Incidentally, on the death of Wilhelmina in 1937 the land was sold to the government and used to build a naval hospital for the Americans in support of the Pacific campaign later in WWII. At the end of hostilities it continued as a hospital for geriatric patients for many years and was known as Silverstream Hospital.

Other siblings of my Grandfather married lived and farmed locally.

Charles Richard, the eldest brother, dairy farmed the portion of land owned by his brother-in-law Thomas Cotter on which '*Pumpkin Cottage*' was situated, together with a larger adjacent dwelling in which Charles lived. My Grandfather Ralph was an engineer in his brother-in-law's foundry in Wellington at that time. However, he also assisted his brother Charles in farming duties from time to time. At that time both boys were single and would have then been aged 24 and 31.

One Saturday Charles travelled to Wellington by train with the intention of returning in the afternoon and going onto Upper Hutt to a dance that evening. Before he left he arranged with his brother Ralph that if he required assistance with the evening milking he was to signal him and he would not go to Upper Hutt but would get off the train at Silverstream to give him a hand. It was decided that Ralph would light a fire in the cottage for Charles to see the smoke from the cottage chimney as he passed in the train. Bear in mind, of course, that the railway line ran much closer to the property in those days than it does now.

What transpired was that Ralph, had become preoccupied working in the garden but when he heard the train's whistle as it was leaving Hayward's Station across the Hutt River, suddenly remembered the arrangement. By then it was too late to light a fire, and as there was a ladder leaning against a wall of the cottage he carried up a long stick and put it in the chimney as a substitute signal. However, it then occurred to him that the stick might not be visible from the train so he picked up a large golden shade pumpkin from the garden, took it to the roof, thrust it on the end of the stick and put it back in the chimney.

Much to the amusement of many the pumpkin remained in place until it fell down on its own accord some months later. The stick and the pumpkin was still in place when Jimmy Nairn next visited the cottage. He asked about the stick and the pumpkin and being told the circumstances, was so amused that he painted on the cottage wall facing the road a pumpkin on a stick with the caption "*Ye Signe of Ye Golden Pumpkin*". The walls in those days were painted red and the sign was in a golden-yellow shade. My father noted that other artists maintained the painting in good order for many years and he could well recall seeing it often when he lived with his Aunt Wilhelmina Seagar.

Efforts were made locally in the 1970s to try and restore the little historic cottage but unfortunately politics intervened. The owners of the day argued it was being beyond repair and sadly, it was demolished in the early hours one morning in 1980.

There is a plaque mounted on a stone wall marking the former location of '*Pumpkin Cottage*' and lists the names of the artists who stayed there over the many years. It is an appropriate acknowledgement of the part this little cottage played in local history. Its name will continue to live on in the narratives and works of those pioneer New Zealand impressionist artists who are now documented in our art history.

Footnote: Many member of that early branch of the Haybittle family referred to above died locally and are buried at St John's church, Silverstream [Trentham]. They include: William George and Emma Haybittle; Charles Haybittle; his sisters Clare, Emma Cotter and her husband, Wilhelmina and her husband Charles Seagar and Edith Allen (nee Haybittle). Carl Laugensen, one of the member artists who frequented '*Pumpkin Cottage*' in later years and whose name appears on the plaque, was an art teacher at Wellington Technical College and taught the writer in 1954/55.
(Reference story 'Pumpkin Cottage' Silverstream Wellington written by Roger Haybittle)