



THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES  
TE RUA MAHARA O TE OPE WHAKAORA

SEPTEMBER 2018

# REVELATIONS 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE SALVATION ARMY HERITAGE CENTRE & ARCHIVES IN NEW ZEALAND

## CENTRAL TARANAKI 125 YEARS

Stratford and Eltham - a Salvation Army heritage

## THE THOMSON FAMILY

Early officers and musicians

## PRESERVING TEXTILES

Including old clothing, uniforms and household textiles

## AUSTRALASIAN WARRIORS

Major Hendy

## Print

If you wish to print the newsletter PDF:

- 1) Print both pages as A3 sheets/posters, or
- 2) Print |'actual size'| A3 double-sided | flip on short edge | then, if you wish, fold as illustrated.



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The Heritage Centre and Archives also has a webpage on which you can find information and articles of interest:

<https://archives.salvationarmy.org.nz/>

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## WELCOME to REVELATIONS 3

► Welcome to our 'Spring' edition of the Heritage Centre & Archives quarterly newsletter. It's been a busy Winter for us, lots of moving boxes around, rediscovering treasures and welcoming new ones to Archives.

We've enjoyed welcoming groups of visitors to the Centre including the Joyful Evangelist's who were at the Booth College of Mission for their sessional reunion and the Officers visiting for their Ten Year Review.

We were recently visited by a film crew from TV3 who came to film the 'Brunner Bible' as part of a programme about Dinghy Pattinson who is assisting in the Pike River Mine re-entry. Dinghy Pattinson is a fifth generation West Coast coal miner. His great grandfather John William Pattinson, a Salvationist, was killed in 1896 in the Brunner Mine disaster. When the recovery team came upon John Pattinson they found him sitting with his bible cupped in his hands. We are very privileged that the Pattinson family kindly donated the bible to the Heritage Centre, it is a treasured artefact.

Sharon Burton | Territorial Archivist ◀

If you'd like to visit our Facebook Page Salvation Army Archives NZFT:

<https://www.facebook.com/SalvationArmyArchivesNZFT/>

## CENTRAL TARANAKI 125 YEARS

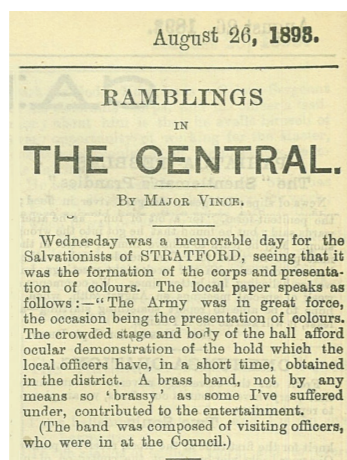
Stratford and Eltham - a Salvation Army heritage

► The celebration of the Central Taranaki Corps' 125th commenced in the afternoon of Saturday 23 June 2018. The Heritage Centre & Archives had the privilege of preparing display panels on the corps' history and they proved a great discussion point. The corps had brought out many historical items which had the phone cameras clicking. The first event was the cutting of an anniversary cake and pieces distributed as afternoon tea was enjoyed. A concert in the evening was presented by the Wellington Citadel Band. Sunday morning worship was followed by a shared lunch and a fascinating celebration was complete.

The Eltham Corps had opened in 1893 and Stratford in 1895. In 1988 the two corps combined at Stratford as Stratford/Eltham Corps and in 2002 changed its name to Central Taranaki Corps. A colourful history of two corps brought together people of similar histories, because the two corps had existed only several kilometres apart. ◀



Eltham officer quarters undated.



The Central Taranaki Corps 125th celebrations were supported by the Heritage Centre & Archives with a seven panel display. Two of the panels are shown above. Historical photographs, officer rolls, street plan and War Cry articles combined to share insights into the early days of the Stratford Corps and Eltham Corps. The pioneers of these corps were energetic and faithful in their service and the commitment they demonstrated comes through clearly in the descriptive articles of *The War Cry*.



Five of the display panels illustrating progress through the years - 1893 through to the present day.



The 125th cake topped with a wooden cross.



Rimu bowl turned from timber out of the demolished hall.

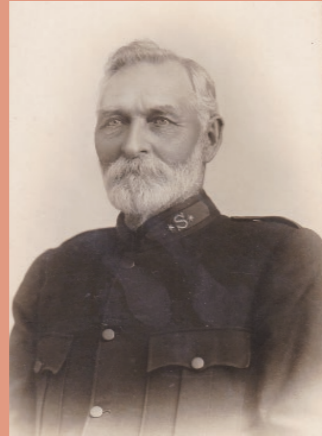
## THE THOMSON FAMILY

Discovering Family Roots in The Salvation Army in New Zealand

▶ When Tracy Smith started working at The Salvation Army, she knew that way back in her family tree she had relatives that were associated with The Army. With a wee bit of information about her great grandmother, we here at The Heritage Centre and Archives were able to discover that her great-great grandfather and his family were prominent officers and soldiers in The Salvation Army in New Zealand and Australia.

John and Elizabeth Thomson were born in Shetland, Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand in the 1860's. They had 7 children: Mary, Maggie, Ellen, Grace Eliza, John Robert, Andrew and Jessica Elizabeth.

Five months after The Salvation Army opened on Invercargill, John and Elizabeth Thomson enrolled as Salvation Army soldiers. On 1 July 1885, John was accepted into Salvation Army officer training and on 11 August 1885 he received his first appointment to Oamaru. To say that the Thomson family were musical would be an understatement; all could play the violin and a few of them, brass instruments; John alone wrote over 28 songs that were published in *The War Cry*.



Staff-Captain John Thomson.



The Thomson Family c. late 1890's - L to R (back row) Maggie, Grace, Andrew, Ellen, and John Robert (front row) Mary, Jessica, John and Elizabeth.

Staff-Captain John and Elizabeth served in New Zealand for 10 years before being appointed to Australia. They retired from officership in 1921 after 36 years as officers.

Both Mary and Grace Eliza followed the calling to become Salvation Army officers. In 1891, Mary was one of the first cadets to be sent to the **Newtown Training Garrison**. After her training she was appointed to the famous **Lasses' Band** and travelled all around New Zealand. She served at various corps in New Zealand before being appointed to Australia. Adjutant Mary Thomson resigned from officership in 1906 after serving 15 years as an officer.

Eliza Grace was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Salvation Army in Australia in 1899 and was appointed to the Brisbane Divisional War Office as a 'scribe'; a position she held throughout her career. On 27 April 1908, Adjutant Grace Thomson married Staff-Captain Ambrose Henry. They rose to the rank of **Colonel** and served as officers in The Salvation Army until their retirement in 1938.

Ellen, Tracy's great grandmother was converted at the age of 10 at a Salvation Army Juniors Meeting. She was a member of the family's string band, playing the violin, organ and a brass instrument. Like her father, she wrote many songs that were published in *The War Cry*. In 1916 Ellen married John Watt. They had three children: John William, Eric and Andrew.

With a little research, we were able to uncover Tracy's family roots in The Salvation Army and help her discover her family's contribution to The Army. ◀

### PARDON, PEACE, AND LIBERTY.

Tune—*Forward* (N.Z.B.J., No. 2).

4 Sinner, Jesus now is waiting  
With His outstretched arms of love ;  
He is calling gently for thee,  
Pleading with thee from above.  
He is waiting now to free you  
From the galling yoke that binds ;  
He will welcome and receive you,  
If you would salvation find.

CHORUS.

Come just now, come just now,  
Jesus longs to set you free ;  
He is waiting now to give you  
Pardon, peace, and liberty.

Though you've been a deep-dyed sinner,  
And in sin you've gone astray,  
Jesus still in pity lingers,  
Now He'll take your sins away ;  
Though your sins may be as scarlet,  
Yet this moment you may know  
Christ can give you full salvation,  
Christ can wash you white as snow.

If you will refuse this Saviour,  
And will still in sin go on,  
There will come a time, poor sinner,  
When God's mercy will be gone ;  
Then you'll think of all the chances  
You rejected while down here,  
And you'll wish you'd sought salvation,  
When before God you appear.

ELLEN THOMSON, Wellington.

*The War Cry* 28 October 1893 - Song by Ellen Thomson.

## PRESERVING TEXTILES

Including old clothing, uniforms and household textiles

▶ Do you have some **old clothing, uniforms** or **household textiles** that are just too precious to throw out? Here are some suggestions on how to look after your precious textiles & items of clothing at home.

Textiles should be **stored as clean as possible** because dust particles can actually rub through fibres causing weak patches or even holes.

**Natural fibres will expand and contract** with changing temperatures, natural fibres need to breathe so don't store items in plastic bags or containers. Storing **textiles in plastic can trap moisture** and will only encourage mould growth.

Textiles should be removed from storage and aired every so often. If the item has been folded, care should be taken to refold it, changing the position of the folds will also lessen the chances of fibre breakage or wear.

Gravity pulls on hung items, eventually causing hanger 'humps'. Don't hang knitted items because they're stretchy, instead fold them and place them on shelves.

**Keep clothes away from light** if they're not being worn. Ultraviolet light deteriorates fabric over time. Damage from light will accumulate and is irreparable; over time it causes fading and colour changes and can make materials dry and brittle.

Keep an eye out for wee beasties such as **Silverfish, Clothes Moths**, and **Carpet Beetles** who are likely to cause damage. These pests are best deterred by the



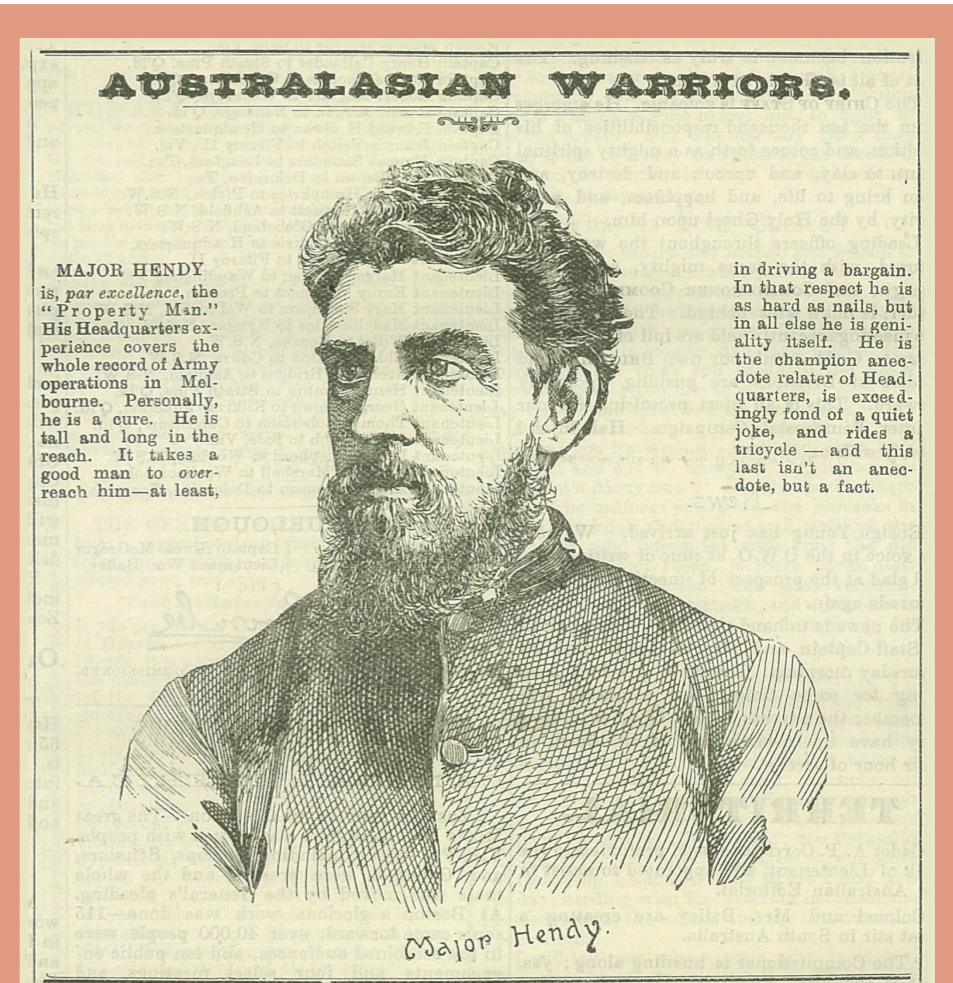
Ladies Salvation Army Overcoat wrapped in acid-free tissue.

cleanliness of the garments and their environment.

Store textiles flat in **acid-free boxes** or in drawer units if you are able to. Line and interleave the textiles with acid-free tissue or well-washed unbleached calico.

Only fold textiles if there's not enough space to store them flat or rolled. Pad the folds out generously with crumpled acid-free tissue or unbleached calico wadding. This will **stop sharp creases forming**, which in time cause the fabric to wear.

Wire and wooden hangers that aren't padded can cause a great deal of damage to the neck and shoulder of garments so if you have to hang garments it's advisable to use padded hangers. ◀



Major Hendy in *The War Cry*, New Zealand, 27 April 1895.