

## PROVENANCE

The organ was a wedding gift from William Alfred Lightband [b 24 Aug 1861 Lightband's Gully Collingwood, d 12 Aug 1948 Richmond] to Lillian Mary Lightband [nee Cropp, b 26 Jul 1883 Richmond, d 1967 Richmond NOTE Lillian's great aunt Mary Ann Jessop {nee Cropp} arrived at the end of 1842 with her husband William and 6 children as migrants on the *Prince of Wales* with the Marsdens]. The organ was manufactured in America by the Cornish Company, Washington, New Jersey around 1900 and imported to New Zealand. William was the son of George William Wales Lightband one of the first to discover gold in payable quantities in the Collingwood area. William was just 8 years old when the Lightband family [George Wales and Mary Ann Lightband plus 4 offspring] arrived on the *Thomas Harrison* on 25 October 1842.

In the family it was understood that the organ be handed down to the eldest daughter of the family. Lillian Grace Walker [nee Lightband] known as Grace, handed it down to daughter Annette Walker but as she has no children, the organ has been in the care of other family members. Now it seems appropriate that the organ is left to a place that her mother knew well. The photo of William and Lillian was taken on their wedding day in 1905 in the Tyree Studio in Trafalgar Street. Some church music belonging to their daughter Grace was included with the gift.

Grace was a very active member of the Nelson Historical Society and her husband, Keith Welsh Walker, was a Nelson City councillor when the City raised the money and built the Museum in the grounds of Isel House. Keith and Grace Walker were also close friends of the Nicholls family who lived at Isel House from 1938 till 1960. Family members recall that Archibald [Arch] Nicholls was active in the Acclimatisation Society.

It seems both sides of the family had strong ties to the Church

At present another family member [grand daughter Eileen Street] is serving as one of the Volunteer Guides in the house.

Lillian Mary Cropp was one of 12 [maybe 13] in her family, the second eldest child.

Three of her brothers were called up in WW1,

Alfred William embarked in July 1917 and was killed in action in France on 27 April 1918.

Benjamin Frank was called up and appealed in March 1917 on grounds he had 100 sheep of his own, and 500 belonging to his father, to care for. The appeal was adjourned and he appealed again in August 1918.

Thomas Arthur was called up and enlisted [3/4285] He went in to camp in August 1918 at Awapuni with the Medical Corps but did not proceed overseas. He had appealed against his callup on religious grounds.

# Cornish Pump Organ Company



*The following is just about all the information that's survived the passing of time on the Cornish Pump Organ Co.*

The Cornish & Co. factory was located on Hornbaker St., corner of Washington Ave., Washington, NJ 1879 to about 1921.

The company was founded by Joseph B. Cornish, who sold organs in the 1870s. In 1879 he bought out the organ company Dawes & Wyckoff.

He was later joined in business by his son Johnston Cornish, and they sold directly to customers, said to be the only one in Washington, NJ who made any money.

The factory capacity in 1900 was 8,000 organs per year. Organ actions, keys, etc. were bought from other companies.

Alvin F. Florey was general manager. The company discontinued organ production about 1917.

Serial numbers: 1897 - 86492, 1897 - 96175, 1897 - 97852, 1899 - 104374, 1900 - 108241, 1906 - 139279, 1906 - 146035, 1907 - 150718, 1913 - 176886, 1914 - 177891.

Xx m Mary Lightband nee Wales]

George Wales Lightband m Mary Ann Lightband [nee Williams]  
1804-91 1803-90 **NOTE arrived on THOMAS HARRISON**

William Jessop m Mary Ann Cropp  
arr 1842 *Prince of Wales*

Thomas Wales L [Martin Wales L [George William Wales L Sarah Ann Wales L  
1828-42 [1832-1914 [1834-1909 1835-1902  
[m Sarah Jackson [m Rebecca Brent  
[1835-82 [1839-1912

Thomas Cropp m Ann Graves  
arr 1856 sponsored by Jessops [sister]

Ben Cropp m Sarah Wadsworth

[+19 sib?]

William Alfred L m Lillian Mary L [nee Cropp]{ 9 SIBLINGS incl. Thomas, Ben and Alf(died on Somme)  
1861-1948 1883-1967 married 1905 – the organ was a gift from groom to bride

[+3 sib]

Keith Wales L m Lavinia Pearson Lillian Grace L m Keith Walker Dorothy Adele L m Charles Henderson  
1910-97 1907-86 1906-80 1922-

Margie Silich [nee Lightband] Annette Walker Eileen Street [nee Henderson]

These three grand daughters agreed to donate the organ to NCC for display at Isel House.