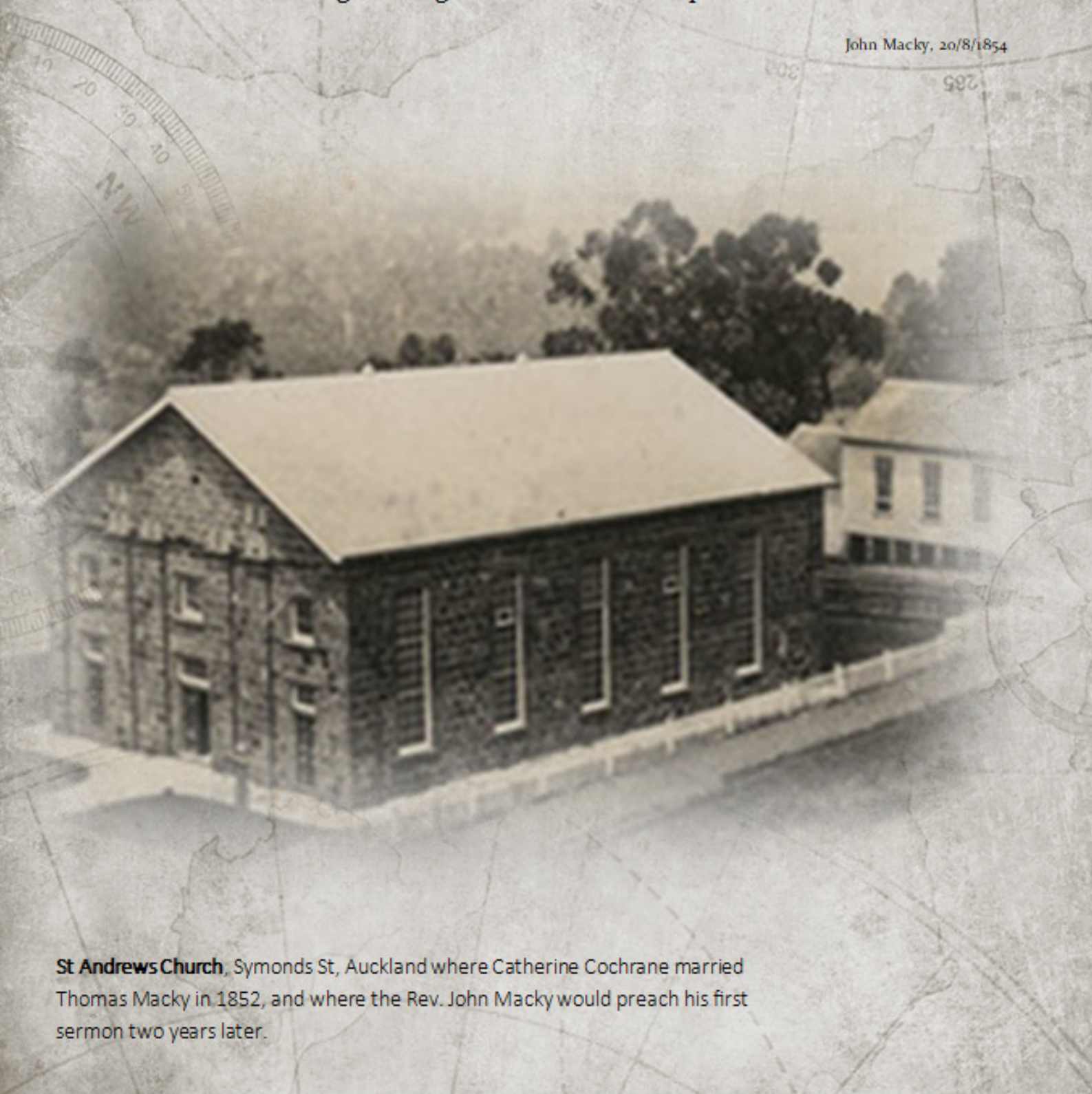




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“ Arrived in Auckland .... being Sabbath heard Mr Bruce preach  
... brother Thomas accompanied me ... found all friends well ... my  
feeling meeting them I will not attempt to describe.”

John Macky, 20/8/1854



**St Andrews Church**, Symonds St, Auckland where Catherine Cochrane married Thomas Macky in 1852, and where the Rev. John Macky would preach his first sermon two years later.

The Macky Ministries

Over a period of 150 years, many Presbyterians left Ulster in search of religious freedom and a better life. The Rev. John Macky and his family found both in New Zealand.

Thomas Macky wrote to his brother John that the Irish Presbyterians would like to have a minister of their own country, and in 1853 John received the blessing of the board of mission directors of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland the Presbyterian Church of Ireland sent to take charge of the Tamaki district an area of over 100 square miles.

Pioneering life was not in any way, easy. In a colony of less than twenty years since its foundation, by Western standards the land was undeveloped and people were often very isolated. However, despite these apparent shortcomings, they forged ahead in an attempt to tame their surroundings and create their place in New Zealand's early European settlement.

Besides Otahuhu (Papatoetoe), John Macky preached every Sabbath either in Onehunga, Panmure or Howick, and made more distant excursions during the week conducting services at Slippery Creek and Wairoa.

His pioneering ministry required a lot of time in the saddle, so the first lesson for a colonial clergyman was to learn to ride and to shoe a horse. John Macky's horse, Jack, a gift from his brother, William, served him faithfully for 27 years.

According to his obituary, one of the Rev. John Macky's major milestones was his appointment as the first moderator of the Presbyterian Church in NZ at its founding assembly, in 1862.

He resigned from active duties of the ministry, in December 1889.

There is no doubt that Rev. Macky served the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand well, in both his capacity as a revered elder, but as a compassionate and dedicated pastor.

*" . . . there is an urgent call from the country." "What we want is a minister whom the people will believe is a Presbyterian".*

Thomas Macky, 1851

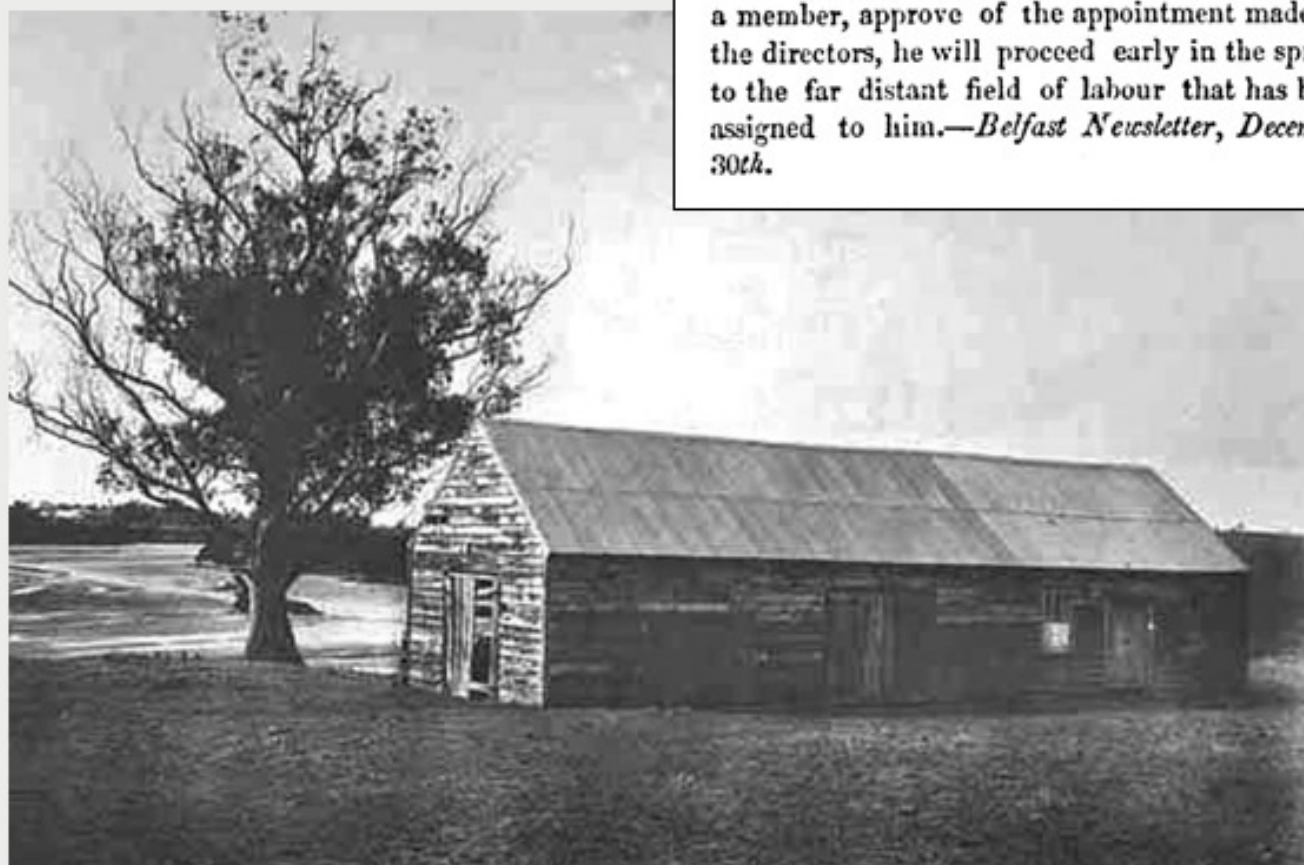
# The quest for religious freedom



*"... in the afternoon commenced my ministry in Otahuhu by preaching from Acts 10. 29. The service was conducted in Mr. Baird's Store beside his wharf".*

John Macky 27/8/1854

ASSEMBLY'S COLONIAL MISSION.—A memorial from a number of Presbyterians, resident in the district of Tamaki, near Auckland, in New Ulster New Zealand, was presented to the directors of the Assembly's missions, at their meeting on Wednesday, setting forth the religious destitution of the district, and praying that a minister from the Irish Church might be sent out to them. The directors unanimously resolved to appoint the Rev. John Macky, minister of Fahan, in the county Donegal, to this important sphere of usefulness, the strongest testimonies having been borne to his faithfulness and efficiency. It is hard to deprive a prosperous congregation of the services of such a minister, but the claims of the colonies must be attended to, and they require missionaries of first-rate energy and talent. In case the Presbytery of Derry, of which Mr. Macky is a member, approve of the appointment made by the directors, he will proceed early in the spring to the far distant field of labour that has been assigned to him.—*Belfast Newsletter, December 30th.*



1854

**Baird's storage shed** on the shores of the Tamaki River, Otahuhu, where the first Presbyterian services in the area were held in 1854. This photo was taken in the 1920s. The owner, Thomas Baird, was John Macky's uncle by marriage.

"We have now to chronicle the arrivals of Revs. J. Macky, T. Norrie, and R. McKinney. The Church in them received a considerable addition to its ministerial strength. Three ministers in three years was then an unwonted and welcome event. Ireland and Scotland united in sending of their best to the Auckland field. The Rev John Macky, a graduate of the Glasgow University, brought with him much wisdom, gentleness, and grace from Fahan, County Derry, Ireland, where in his native land he laboured for some time as minister. He is one of the fathers of the Auckland district whose memory is to-day greatly revered. During his long and faithful ministry of thirty-six years, he endeared himself to all and was distinguished for his wise counsel in Presbytery and Assembly."

Taken from The History of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand by Rev. John Dickson (1899)





**LEFT:** Built on land donated by Thomas Baird, the school began its life as the Otara Presbyterian Day School in 1856. Initially based in the first Otara Presbyterian Church (later St Johns Church), it became a non-denominational school known as the Otara Day School in 1870. This photograph was taken in 1884, during the life-time of the Rev. John Macky.

**BELOW:** The original St. John's Presbyterian church in Otahuhu.

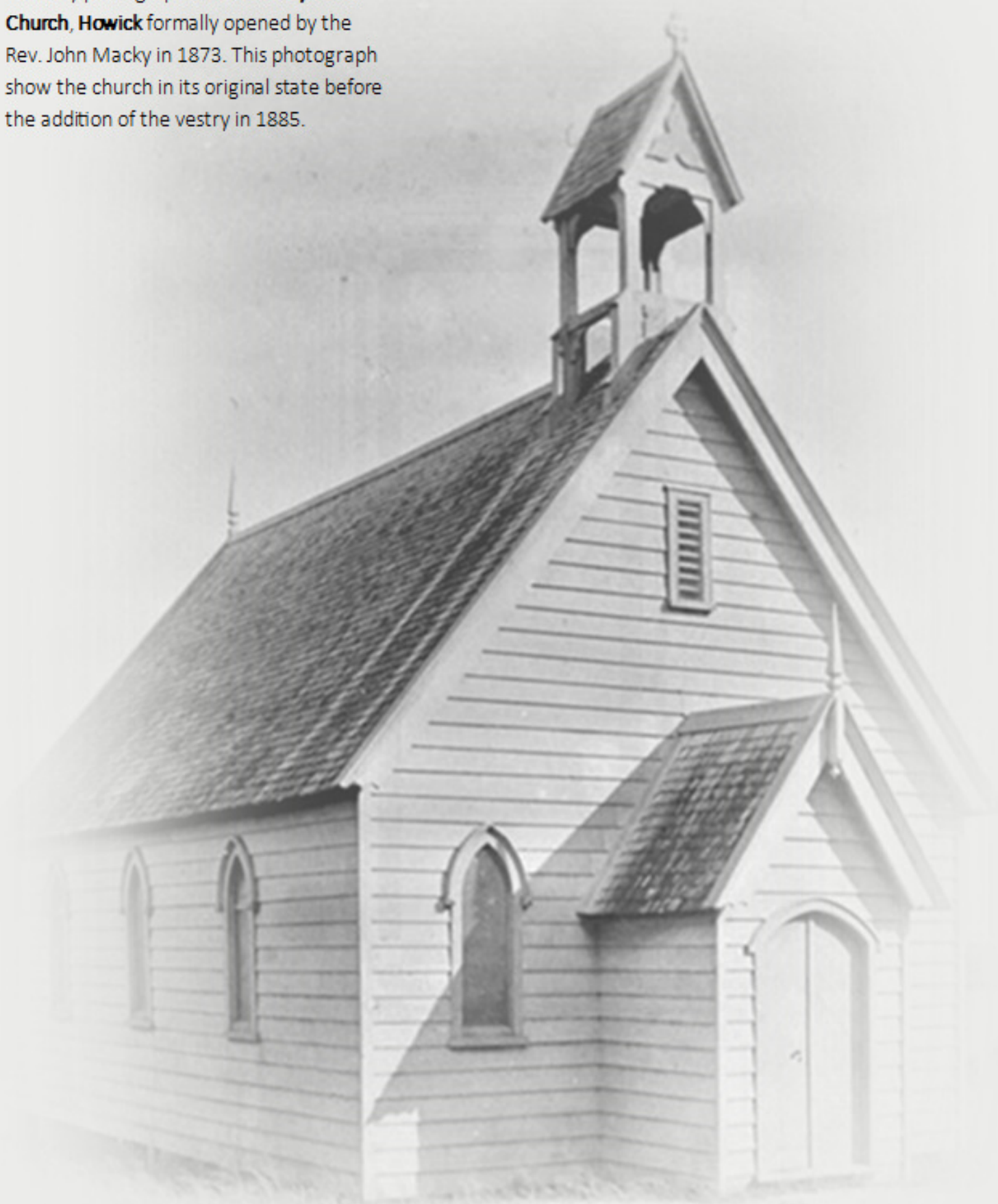
1856





1873

An early photograph of the **Presbyterian Church, Howick** formally opened by the Rev. John Macky in 1873. This photograph show the church in its original state before the addition of the vestry in 1885.





*Rev. John Macky*



*Rebecca Cochrane Macky*



300





LEFT: **St John's Presbyterian Church, Papatoetoe**, c. 1960. The wooden building on the left dates from the time of Rev. Macky's ministry and replaced an earlier building built in 1855.

RIGHT: The gravesite of the **Rev. John Macky**, born in Co. Londonderry 1821 and his wife **Rebecca Cochrane Macky**, Papatoetoe, Auckland.

*Photograph from the Macky family website, [www.macky.net](http://www.macky.net)*





**Written and researched by Wanda Hopkins (Cochrane Family descendant)**

Facebook: NZ & Ulster Connections; NZ Family & Social Heritage

E: nzulsterheritage@gmail.com

Member, New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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