

In 1915 the annual meeting of the New Zealand Society of Friends was in Wellington.



But Friends who lived in Wellington city were few in number. The Rigg family was central to the meeting.



Back: John Rigg snr, John Rigg jnr.
Middle: Arthur Rigg, Hannah Rigg snr, Theodore Rigg
Front row: Hannah Rigg jnr, Maud Rigg

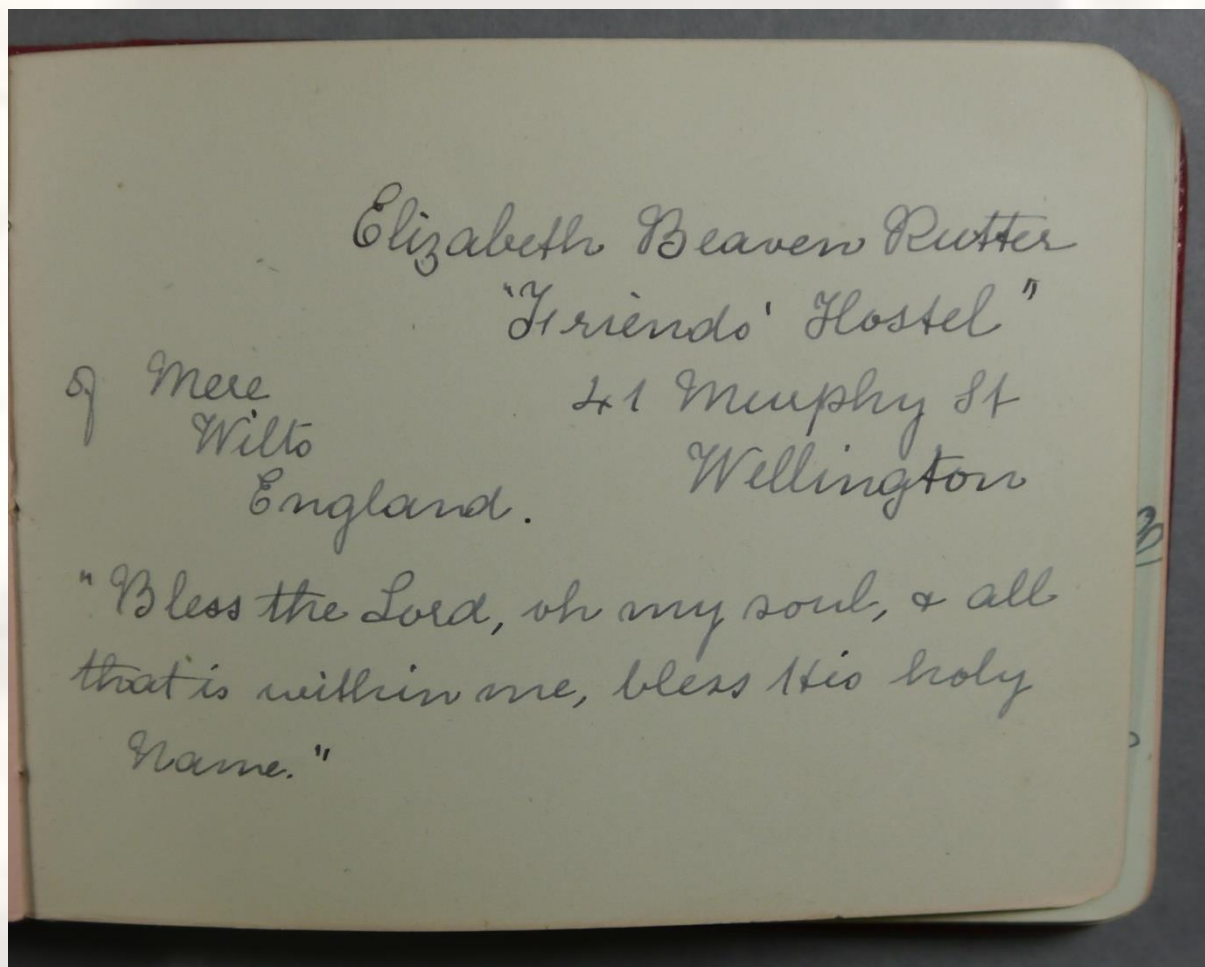
However Elizabeth B Rutter was the mainstay of Meeting, totally committed to its support. She ran the hostel for a time then rented a house where Friends met.



She returned twice to assist Wellington Friends.

She put all her resources and energy entirely into supporting the local meeting for worship and into networking widely

At the first national gathering of New Zealand Friends in 1909 she had signed Hannah Rigg's autograph book



Elizabeth Beaven Rutter
"Friends' Hostel"

of Mere
Wilts
England.

41 Murphy St
Wellington

"Bless the Lord, oh my soul, & all
that is within me, bless His holy
name."

Wellington Friends were aghast at the
declaration of war on 4 August 1914.

They took stock of their position:

We realize that this year, with the outbreak of the war cloud in Europe has been a very painful one, & although our numbers are small, & we feel so weak, yet we firmly believe that we are true as a corporate body in God's ordering, & that He has a testimony for us to maintain of the unlaiffulness of all war, & that if we are faithful to Him, so we shall be upheld & guided. During the present season it is difficult to see what we can do beyond quiet individual conversation. We incessantly

On 22 August they resolved to send William Massey, the Prime Minister, their advice:

67 Webb St
Wellington

August 22. 1914.

To the Right Honourable W.F. Massey.

We, Members of the Society of Friends, meeting at Wellington, desire to express at this time of European conflict, our sense of the importance of quiet and selfcontrol. We believe war to be contrary to the mind of Christ. We would most earnestly hope that everything possible may be done to discountenance the attitude of mind, which seeks to exalt our own country, by depreciating or villifying other nations. This fosters a hatred and disrespect which makes the breach between the nations harder to bridge over after the war has ended.

the methods

In May 1915 the small Meeting of Wellington Friends strategised to send clothing for war victims as part of the effort to alleviate suffering:

At a Business Meeting held at 67 Webb St. 23 May 1915.

Present: Mrs. H. Bell, Dorothy Bell, Elizabeth B. Putter

Also Alfred Clemes, from Hobart.

- 1 The 7th, 8th & 9th Issues have been read.
- 2 We understand that some more clothing is being prepared by Friends, for the War Victims Relief Fund, & Alfred Clemes has kindly offered to take it to England for us. He is starting this week to go home to join the Friends Ambulance Unit.
- 3 New Representatives attended the Half Yearly Meeting.

Then in 1915 while Elizabeth B Rutter was away, the Police raided Friends' records kept at her house

6 It is decided to place on record the fact that during the absence of the Clerk, her house was raided by the Police at the direction of the Defence Authorities, a quantity of papers was taken away by them for inspection - Amongst these was the Minute Books of this meeting - They were returned after about two weeks,

She left New Zealand in late 1915

months ahead -

- 8 A letter from Theodore Rigg at Sentari has been read to us by his father, in which he expresses his feelings for the Serbians in connection with the Serbian Relief Committee in order to see what he can do for the refugees. Theodore Rigg went from study in England to join the Friends' relief effort working with refugees: supplies for the refugees and a description of the destitution & distress amongst the refugees who had tramped for days from Serbia with little food or shelter - A loaf of bread cost 9/- & was most difficult to procure.
- 9 Ada K. Bell is requested to call the next meeting together before the six months meeting -

He saw much horror

*Maurupt (Marne)
Champ de bataille à l'est du chemin
de Pargny-sur-Saulx*



Theodore joined the Society of Friends Relief Expedition and was given a safe pass to carry aid to war victims...

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS RELIEF EXPEDITION

Mission envoyée par la Société des Amis

Nous déclarons par la présente que

T. Rigg.

est un des représentants en France de la Mission envoyée par la Société anglaise des Amis pour porter des secours aux victimes de la guerre.

*Hilda Clark
Pauville Co. Straits*

P : P : T. E. Harvey M. P.

Président de la Mission.



Signature,

T. Rigg

