

With 2025 being Woodville's Sesquicentennial -150 years, the Historic Gorge Cemetery Tours will concentrate on early pioneers of the district. These will include business people and the settlers who took up land in the Woodville Small Farm Association. Henry Hawkin and Joseph Sowry qualify in both these areas.



1876 Joseph Sowry (pictured) was called upon by Mr Ormond MP to form the Woodville Small Farm Association which held its first meeting in Waipawa. Members had to be married and over the age of 21.

There were 35 sections balloted for in this lot and the electoral roll of 1878/79 showed that 18 of the number were on the land and wanting their right to vote. Joseph was allocated section 11 opposite the now racecourse, (which was allocated at that time to Edward Harding.

Come and hear what he achieved when he came to live in Woodville.

Prior to joining the WSFA Henry Hawken had served in the Taranaki Volunteers and the Hawkes Bay Militia. In 1863 he took up a Blacksmithing business in Clive. 1865 he received a Crown Grant of sections 230, 231 Clive. His balloted land was section 27, on Woodlands Road near Bushmills Road.

Come along and listen to the rest of their stories and many others.

Anyone with ancestors in the Historic Gorge Cemetery, we are always interested in additional information for our growing records, please get in touch.

For our special year we are asking families to tidy up the graves if this is possible.

Tours will be conducted on Sunday 29 December 2024,

2025; - 30th March, -29th June, -31st August and 20 November, at 2pm

We have a cuppa at the Rinitawa Gallery at the conclusion. If it is too wet etc, it will be a virtual tour at the Rinitawa Gallery instead.

Joan McIntyre 06 3765690