

New Zealand

*founders*



# BULLETIN

\* Registered at the POHQ as a Magazine

Vol. 24 No. 62

1987/88 Edition



The Adams' family home showing William Adams, his wife, Emma, their daughter, Mrs A. Crawford and two grandchildren. (Photo taken circa 1904)

*Our Pioneers brought the  
skills of milling to  
Aotearoa .....*

## The Staff of Life

### THE GREAT NEW ZEALAND WHEAT STORY

Contributed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Florence Keene  
(Member of Whangarei Founders)



*Partington's Mill on  
the hill in what is now  
the Symonds Street -  
Karangahape Road area,  
Auckland.*

In the *Letters and Journals of Samuel Marsden*, edited by J.R. Elder, we learn that in 1813: "To Ruatara, a nephew of Hongi, belongs the honour of planting in New Zealand soil the first grain, given to him by Samuel Marsden when the chief visited him at Parramatta. Ruatara shared his wheat with other chiefs who, however, pulled theirs up long before it matured. They expected to find the crop underground and scorned the idea of food appearing at the top of the stalk.

Ruatara's wheat ripened, but having no means of grinding it, his fellows poured ridicule on him. He promised them that they should yet see the white man's bread of which he had told him, and finally Marsden was able to send him a steel mill. The chiefs gathered curiously around, and at the first trickle of white flour, they danced for joy. Ruatara made a cake, baked it in a frying pan, and gave it to them to eat. His triumph was dramatic and complete. On his first visit to New Zealand, Marsden has the satisfaction of seeing growing wheat, "Exceeding strong and fine; the grain was very full and fine."

It can be readily understood that the main reason for establishing the first New Zealand Mission Station at Rangihoua at the mouth of the Bay of Islands was the fact that here the settlement would have the protection of Ruatara and generous gifts from his plantations in those first difficult months. It was too long and treacherous a journey by sail over the unfriendly Tasman for settlers to rely on supplies of wheat and other commodities from Australia. So it follows that during those early years that wherever a European settlement was formed, wheat was grown - with varying degrees of success.

In 1831, the missionary, Richard Davis, an agricultural expert, supervised the clearing, ploughing and sowing of two and a half acres with wheat at the new Waimate North Station. Five years later he had 44 acres under cultivation. On his visit in 1835, Charles Darwin described the flourishing fields of Waimate:

"... at length we reached Waimate; after having passed over so many miles of uninhabited useless country, the sudden appearance of an English farm house and its well-dressed fields, placed there as if by an enchanter's wand, was exceedingly pleasing ... .. At Waimate there are three large houses ... .. On an adjoining slope, fine crops of barley and wheat in full ear, and others of potatoes and of clover were standing; but I cannot attempt to describe all I saw; there were large gardens with every fruit and vegetable that England produces, and many belonging to a warmer clime. I may instance asparagus, kidney beans, cucumbers, rhubarb, apples and pears, peaches, apricots, grapes, olives, gooseberries, currants, hops, gorse for fences, and English oaks! and many kinds of flowers. Around the farm yard were stables, a threshing barn with its winnowing machine, a blacksmith's forge, and on the ground, ploughshares and other tools; in the middle was that happy mixture of pigs and poultry which may be seen so comfortably lying together in every English farm yard. At the distance of a few hundred yards, where the water of a little rill had been dammed up into a little pool, a large and substantial watermill has been erected. All this is very surprising when it is considered that five years ago, nothing but the fern here flourished. ..."



Perhaps our modern "Potato Kings" might gain an inspiration for a new use for their produce from the ingenuity of the early Nelson settlers. About 1843, when flour was in very short supply, the settlers made bread from equal quantities of flour and mashed potatoes mixed into a stiff dough. This was covered in hot ash and embers and baked in the open fire. The bread was light and very tasty.

As time went by and sea transport became more reliable, bigger flourmills were built, and these gradually replaced the smaller ones. Even today, there will be some people in Auckland who remember that picturesque landmark, Partington's Mill. When it was first built by Mr C.F. Partington in 1850, it stood like a lonely lighthouse on the hill in what is now the Symonds Street - Karangahape Road area. For many years it supplied flour to the growing community, and also operated a biscuit factory. When Mr Partington's son, Joseph, took over, he had the sails of the huge windmill restored and the brick tower increased to ten storeys in height. The mill was then known as the Victoria Flourmill and Steam Biscuit Factory, and continued production until 1941. Finally crowded out by business houses, the old mill was demolished in 1950.

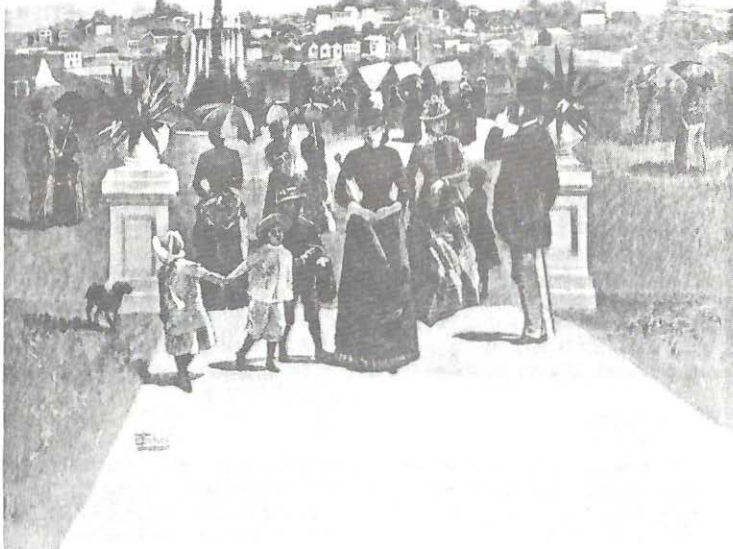
### WHANGAREI'S FLOUR MILLS

In the late 1850s in the little township of Whangarei, sometimes the production of flour was almost a family affair, as Laura Jackson, nee Mair, wrote: "I can remember seeing my brothers cutting the wheat with a sickle, a handful at a time, we children gathering the ears in our little pinafores, and like the workers in a rich man's vineyard, each received one penny at the end of the day ... The grain was threshed on the floor of the barn with a flail, homemade, then it was taken outside to winnow. If the wind



*Aucklanders promenading in Albert Park last century. Partington's Mill is seen on the skyline.*

*Wellington's major windmill, located at the foot of Majoribank St (site of today's Embassy Theatre) was first erected in March, 1842 and operated by Simmonds & Hoggard.*



ALBERT PARK AND OLD WINDMILL.

was fair, one of my brothers would stand on the sail, holding a sieve above his head, pouring slowly, the wind separating the husk from the grain, which was again taken into the barn to grind in the mill, and poured into a hopper. By turning a handle two flat circular stones revolved in opposite directions, filling the bag with coarse flour. It was hard work for a poor result, and the workers grumbled. ... .. Indian corn was also ground, and it made a delicious porridge. We often had boiled wheat for breakfast, eaten with sugar and cream... .."

A little later, Francis Wood, a Canadian miller, built a flour mill at the north end of Mill Road in Whangarei on the banks of a stream. He used the same dam and waterwheel tha H.C. Holman had built for his flaxmill some years previously. This mill was a step forward from the handmills owned by the pioneers, and settlers from the outlying districts brought their wheat to be ground into flour.

To have this privilege, men, women, and sometimes girls, would have to stumble over muddy tracks from some miles - the more fortunate on horseback, others on foot. For instance, two girls who lived at Tamatarau, used to carry a 50lb bag of wheat to the mill, walking miles over the hills, and returning the same day with their quota of flour.

And women from Kauri and Whareora, both five or six miles from Whangarei, brought their sacks of wheat to the mill on horseback. Here they ordered some flour, were paid for the balance of the grain and then, after changing into "town clothes" rode on to the village to buy and sell various commodities. On their return, they called into the mill, changed back into their old clothes, which would stand up to the rough ride through tea-tree lined tracks, and then picked up their freshly-ground flour.

Today, wheat growing is an important industry, and the most modern and sophisticated machinery is used to produce flour. *-(to be continued)*

30 Dahlia St  
Palmerston North  
July 1987

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have just received my copy of the 1986/87 edition of the NZ Founders Bulletin and would like to correct my details as published on Page 33.

The entry reads:

N. ROSBURG	P. Nth	Whaler?	E. Stockman J & M Marsh H. Bailey & J. Old
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This should read:

N. ROSKRUGE	P. Nth (1) Ngati Rahiri & Te Atiawa - Toumairangi	Trader 1832 Timandra 1842 Essex 1843	E.W. Stockman James & Maria Marsh Henry Bailey Jane Old
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Edward Stockman was a Trader for Montefiore & Co. of Sydney, basedat Kawhia amongst the Maori. I don't think he had any connection to whaling.

In October this year the descendants of Esau Marsh (son of James & Maria) and his wife Hera (daughter of Stockman & Toumairangi) have their reunion at Waitara Taranaki. The numbers at present are in excess of 2,000 with over 4,600 descendants of Esau & Hera who both died in 1929, quite a prolific family be any measure. Would you like a short account of them on the reunion after it has occurred. We are publishing a 22 volume book with over 1100 photos and 1100 pages.

Thanking you  
Nick Roskruge

*(Editor's Note: Thank you indeed for the entry correction. Your reunion sounds magnificent. Yes, please provide the short account for the next edition - if possible, along with a photograph for reproduction. Your contribution will be very welcome as a guideline too for other members also planning one of the many reunions bound to be staged from now on ...)*



Member H.M. Tankersley, 45 Upper Plain Road, Masterton, writes: "Thought this may be of interest for the Bulletin ..."



Pictured is 2nd Mate T.W. Tankersley with his son Richard Theophilus.  
(See further family photos over page)

## The Death of WILLIAM EDINBOROUGH TANKERSLEY

(Great Grandson  
of  
THOMAS WILLIAM TANKERSLEY  
2nd Mate of the  
NZ Company's Advance Party Ship  
"Tory")

On 27th September, 1987, the death occurred of William Edinborough (Tim) Tankersley at "Glenside", Maraekakaho, Hastings. He was a Great Grandson of Thomas William Tankersley, 2nd Mate on the ship "Tory", and Sarah Draper on the "Aurora". They were married in Wellington 1840. He was also a Great Grandson of Robert Wyeth and Jane Runalls, who were married in Wellington 1840 - Robert Wyeth arrived on the survey ship "Cuba". Another Great Grandfather was Thomas Chamberlain who had married Susannah Catherine Bull in England about 1831. They arrived in New Zealand with three children in 1842, on the ship "London".

An obituary that was in the HB Herald-Tribune, 29th September - A Mangatahi farming identity, Mr Tim Tankersley, has died at the age of 80. Mr Tankersley died suddenly at his home, "Glenside", on Sunday. (His wife, Wyn, had also died suddenly on 1st September.) Mr Tankersley started farming at "Glenside" at the age of 16 when his father, William Tankersley, died in 1923. Tim had to leave school (Wairarapa District High School) and it was a slump period. Tim's father was the third owner of the 243 hectare property, two miles above the Maraekakaho settlement. A close friend, Mr Jim Sorenson, said Mr Tankersley was the last of his age group who still farmed in the area.

Up until his death he still drove around the farm in his diesel truck each day feeding his cattle and turkeys. He had an extensive workshop, and many a time people around the district called on him for help when they had mechanical problems. Mr Tankersley was influentially and actively involved in the construction of the Maraekakaho School baths, the Mangatahi School tennis courts, the extensions and renovations to the Maraekakaho Hall, and many other amenities such as Fire Fighting Equipment for the district, name plates for sports areas, and so on.

He was an advisory member of the Maraekakaho Young Farmers' Club, and organised ploughing matches and shearing competitions. He was also a keen rifle shooter, a member of the Poporangi Rifle Club and the Maraekakaho Miniature Rifle Club. Also, he was a member of a team which won a Hawke's Bay riflshooting title. He enjoyed playing indoor bowls.

Mr Tankersley is survived by a son, Robert Edinborough Tankersley, a Life Member of the Founders' Society, three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Thomas Chamberlain  
Susannah Chamberlain

(Sarah Ann married Brown Hunt  
(William Edinborough  
(Giles Edinborough  
(Edmund Edinborough - Grandfather to Robert E. Chamberlain  
(Thomas Edinborough  
(Samuel Edinborough - Grandfather to William E. Tankersley

Thomas William Tankersley - Great Grandfather to William E. Tankersley  
Robert Wyeth - Great Grandfather to William E. Tankersley



**THOMAS CHAMBERLAIN**  
Came in NZ Company  
ship "London" in 1842



**ROBERT WYETH**  
NZ Company ship  
"Cuba" in 1840.



**SUSANNAH CATHERINE CHAMBERLAIN**  
Came on NZ Company ship  
"London" in 1842



Another true Founder descendant ...

## **WAIRARAPA FOUNDERS MOURN THE PASSING OF THEIR LONG-SERVING PRESIDENT ...**



### **MR ROBERT EDINBOROUGH CHAMBERLAIN, M.B.E.**

Robert (Bob) was a great grandson of Thomas and Susannah Chamberlain who arrived in New Zealand, on the ship London, in 1842. Robert's Grandfather was Edmund Edinborough Chamberlain, born 1843 in Wellington, but as a young man, came with his family to Masterton - his father, Thomas, having drawn a section on the Upper Plain. Stories are told of how Edmund's older brothers, Giles and William, brought a cart over the Rimutakas while there was still no road. At that time Robert's grandfather, Edmund, would have been about 12 years old, but he is said to have helped. Eventually he took up property in Kibblewhite Road, known as "Rosswood".

Edmund married Catherine McKenzie, born in Ross Shire, Scotland - their son, Alfred Edmund Chamberlain, was Robert Edinborough Chamberlain's father. (The story of these families can be read in "Petticoat Pioneers", by Miriam Macgregor, a connection of Bob's family.)

### **Extract from Times-Age by Deborah Lahatte GOLDEN SHEARS FOUNDING PRESIDENT DIES**

*A Wairarapa farmer who became internationally known, has died in Masterton aged 86. Bob Chamberlain, MBE, was the founding President of Golden Shears and gained fame from his overseas trips to establish other shearing competitions, a World competition, and as President of the World Council of Golden Shears. Mr Chamberlain, a member of a pioneering Wairarapa farming and business family, started his working life with the old Bank of Australasia before becoming associated with his family's farming operations. He began farming on his own account in 1932 at Te Ore Ore Settlement later in 1939 moving to Rosewood on Manaia Rd, first with dairy cattle and sheep, later beef cattle.*

*He was responsible for the organisation of town milk producers in Wairarapa, and became Chairman of Wairarapa Town Milk Producers Association from its inception. He took an active interest in the old Farmers' Union and was Chairman of the Masterton Branch at the time of the changeover to Federated Farmers which he helped found. He became the first secretary-organiser for Wairarapa from 1955-1963, President in 1955, stepping down in 1963. During that term he also served as Dominion Councillor.*

*During his Presidency, the meat and wool section ran the first shearing demonstration which received such support that Golden Shears was set up. Mr Chamberlain became it's founding President. His interest in the shearing competition resulted in a number of overseas trips to promote and establish Golden Shears, including the Bath and West Show in Britain, and Euroa in Australia.*

*Mr Chamberlain also became President of the newly-formed World Council of Golden Shears. He was the founding President of the New Zealand Shearing Records Committee. He was a life member of Golden Shears, and was patron of both Golden Shears and the World Council at the time of his death.*

*Mr Chamberlain was also involved in farming developments in Wairarapa including assisting Mr Len Daniels in the first aerial top-dressing trials towards the end of World War II. He was a member of the Wairarapa Catchment Board in its early stages from 1953 to 1963, being Deputy Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman for six years.*

*He was awarded the MBE in 1965 for his services to dairy farming, Federated Farmers and Golden Shears.*

*Mr Chamberlain was also the Charter President of the Pakeke Lions Club in 1978, held the Presidency of the Wairarapa Branch of the NZ Widows and Widowers Society, the Presidency of the Wairarapa Branch of the NZ Founders' Society, and was a keen golfer and bowler.*

*Mr Chamberlain is survived by three daughters, eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.*

The photo on the previous page shows Queen Elizabeth and Mr Chamberlain, Mrs Chamberlain beside Prince Philip, behind the Queen. It was taken at the special Queen's Shear held at Fraser Park, Wellington in 1963. The event was the only time the Golden Shears was held outside Masterton to honour the Queen's visit.

## FOUNDERS BRANCH REPORTS ON THEIR LATEST ACTIVITIES

### WAIRARAPA BRANCH

NZ Founders' Day was spent in Southern Wairarapa, visiting the Matthews' beautiful little church at Western Lake. The bus then drove to the Wairarapa Catchment Board's lock. This lock controls the Ruamahanga River which benefits the farmland and has reclaimed a lot of land which is being farmed. It assures proper conditions for the parcel of land on which wild-life thrives. We had lunch at the Lake Ferry Hotel and the afternoon was spent at the Sutherland's historical home "Whakatomotomo", where afternoon tea was had in the beautiful gardens.

In an effort to attract more members we commenced our year with an excellent display in Masterton Public Library, depicting early times in New Zealand. This did bring us a few more members. Unfortunately some were lost through ancestors landing after the founding of the Province.

In April we visited the Ross's Gardens at Longbush, and in May had the Fire Safety Officer as our speaker. In September, through his invitation, we had a visit to Masterton Fire Station, where a demonstration of fire fighting was made. We were served afternoon tea and our President, Mr G.A. Barr, took this opportunity to present his late uncle's fine medals and awards to the Brigade.

Our October meeting was a "Pot Luck Tea" with an evening of anecdotes of the past with photographs and relics; this brought forth a lot of happy memories.

Highlights of the year were our visits to Vogel House, then on to Wakefield House for lunch with Wellington members, followed by a conducted tour of Katherine Mansfield's Wellington.

Our largest get-together was our Christmas Dinner held at Solway Park where Mr and Mrs Lindsay Buick-Constable were our guests. Mr Buick-Constable read passages from various books on early Christmases aboard sailing ships when our pioneer forefathers made their journey to New Zealand. A new member of the Society entertained us with some very enjoyable violin solos.

Our highly respected President of many years, Mr Bob Chamberlain M.B.E., retired owing to ill health, and his death was deeply mourned by our members.

G.A. Barr  
President



## AUCKLAND BRANCH

Since the 1986 National Council meeting, Auckland Branch has held a number of interesting meetings, at which we have had speakers, with the exception of our End-of-Year Luncheon and Christmas Luncheon. The Branch AGM in March was fairly well attended and there was little change in office holders. At the present we still lack two committee members and a Secretary.

Our meetings since the last National Council have been as follows:

**August 1986:** Mr Alwyn Long speaking of the work of the United Nations.

**September:** Mr & Mrs Marriott, two of our members, speaking of their holiday in the USSR.

**October:** Mr J. Webster, speaking of his holiday in China.

**April 1987:** Mrs Robin Tish speaking of her research and writing of the history of Epsom Normal School.

**May:** Mr & Mrs V. Bunce speaking on the formation and development, and continuing work of the group "Counterstroke".

**June:** Mr Arthur Loo, speaking on the history of the Chinese in New Zealand.

**July:** Joyce Lush, a member, speaking on the history of kitchen appliances and history of some vegetables. She illustrated her talk with items loaned by MOTAT.

**August:** - a "Show and Tell" - which is our third annual one and very much enjoyed by all members.

As in the past, we have continued representation on the Central Committee of Auckland Patriotic Societies, and members have been able to attend, by invitation, other societies activities, including the combined Commonwealth Day Service in March at Holy Trinity Cathedral. In September we again attend the Annual Captain Hobson Memorial Service at his graveside. This event was made interesting by the presence of a group of protestors chanting throughout the service.

During the past year the luncheons have been only fairly well attended. We have noticed a drop-off in numbers since our removal from our old venue of over twenty years. The new venue has some features which are not conducive to the enjoyment of our luncheon or our speaker. Our Committee will be investigating a new venue for 1988, and working toward regaining the attendance at functions. Committee meetings have been held prior to luncheons.

Auckland Branch send greetings to all our companion branches, wishing them the best for the New Year.

J.P. Webster  
Chairman

## TARANAKI BRANCH

In my report to the AGM of the Taranaki Branch of the Society, I was able to confirm that membership continues to grow. This, to some extent, is due to interest on the part of members of the Genealogical Society. Unfortunately, the average age of our members also increases. Also, like all other bodies, we are facing ever-rising costs. So far, thanks to a grant from the Taranaki Savings Bank, donations and fund-raising activities, we have managed to cope. A generous donation from Mr and Mrs Faull has enabled us to purchase a second-hand Gestetner which will reduce the cost of newsletters, etc.

Attendance at our end of year function was rather disappointing but it was good at our annual luncheon and also at our AGM. We were happy to welcome Mr and Mrs Buick-Constable at the luncheon. Monthly meetings, particularly the afternoon ones, have been very well patronised. I think this is a tribute to the quality of the speakers we have been able to obtain. Last spring a most enjoyable trip was made to South Taranaki. A stop was made at Te Ngutu o te Manu where an account was given of the attacks and defence of the stronghold. Then on to Turuturu Mokai for a picnic lunch and finally to the Tawhiti Museum - a very interesting private collection. We hope to organise another outing this spring.

As always, visitors from Head Office and other branches are always most welcome.

M.L. Standish  
President



TED GILBERD, Q.S.O., K.St.J.  
Philanthropist & Author

# The Gilberd Saga

PART II: "Voyage to the Other Side of the World" (continued)

*An Oral History - a taped interview-discussion between Life Member and Founders "For Service" Medallion recipient, Ted Gilbert, Q.S.O., and your Bulletin Editor, during March, 1981:*

**Ted G:** Their ship ("London") was held up in the Downs - just out in the English Channel awaiting favourable tides or wind and that sort of thing - and a passenger already aboard was taken ill. He should never have got on in the first place - and they had to call in at Portsmouth - an unscheduled stop which was never intended ... and when this passenger went off because he was a delicate personage really - the Gilberts approached the Captain and the Captain allocated them a cabin which they had to pay for. Only the father and the mother and the three younger children were in the cabin. The two elder boys had to "rough it" in the steerage, coming out as they were to New Zealand as independents. (See explanation of this arrangement, Page 11, previous edition of the Bulletin.) The two "independents" had all their meals with the rest of the family in the cabin.

The cabin wasn't very big you know and it had to be fitted out by themselves, but Gilbert, being a carpenter, had no trouble - this did not present a difficulty you see ...

**L.B.C:** Would there be timber available on the ship to enable the Gilberts to do this?

**Ted G:** Yes, in ballast, etc. You see, when you joined an immigrant ship in those days, you were told and it was commonly accepted that you were given a space of, say, 8 feet by 8 feet, in which you built your own bunks and what have you. Sometimes passengers had scrim or canvas to help divide the modest space up or to act as "walls" between the other passengers' spaces similarly allotted aboard. In fact, most brought canvas with them because this could be used for roofing when they first got ashore at their NZ destination.

It may not be generally known that once the immigrant ship sailed from Gravesend, then if the Captain had any empty cabin spaces he could sell them to anyone who wanted them and could afford them. Sometimes, even before the ship left anchorage in the London area, any unused cabins or cabin-space that attracted non-cabin passengers could be sold by the Captain, who enjoyed this as a perk for himself, and Captain Shuttleworth was no exception ....

**L.B.C:** Ted, I don't believe you have yet recorded the real reasons which caused your first forebears in this country to, as it were, throw up everything that they must have accumulated in England ... position, immovable possessions - such as houses, a tremendous heritage in their own land and country; to make what could have seemed then to be a dicey, chancy, dangerous, months-long journey in cramped quarters to the other side of the planet. In short - what prompted those Gilberts of the late 1830's to come out to New Zealand?

**Ted G:** Yes, well, in the first place the Gilberts have always been travellers - may I use the term? - they had itchy feet! Way back in the 12th to 15th Centuries, and even earlier, we find the Gilberts as seafarers ... We see them as trading in the Mediterranean - probably as smugglers (though we have no proof of that but I quite suspect there would have been one or two ... going over to France and so forth and bringing back the Brandy ... however, we do know that they had a Charter from the Crown to carry pilgrims to and from the Holy Lands in the 1300's. We do know too that they dealt in fleeces



- wool fleeces - and that their families were weavers and employed scores of individual persons who took these fleeces to their own homes to weave and that sort of thing and bring back the cloth for trading ....

*L.B-C:* Cottage industry?

*Ted G:* Oh yes, and very extensive. We also know for sure (and this is going from the travelling bit but I'll just bring it in while I think of it!) that William Gilbert - son of Thomas Gilbert - was appointed as Clothmaker to King Henry VIII and, because Henry VIII lived a long time for those days - Gilbert became a very wealthy man for the simple reason that everybody wanted to have cloth made for them by the King's Clothmaker - or more correctly stated, "Sewer to the Chamber".

*L.B-C:* Before you leave that aspect of the Gilberts - what sort of things did the Gilberts bring back in their ships from the Mediterranean?

*Ted G:* They brought back citrus fruits, olive oil, spices, almonds, general merchandise, silk and also artifacts, wines - also the products of Greece; the product of what it now Italy, Lombardi and so on ....

*L.B-C:* Was this linked to the last phases of the Crusading times?

*Ted G:* Well all we know is that in receipt of commissions and charters from the Crown of England, the Gilberts were permitted to carry pilgrims over to the Holy Lands - Jerusalem, Haifa and so on ...) But to get back to reasons that led my forebears to come all the way out to NZ ... in addition to their love of adventurous travel - conditions in England were very insecure - Corn Laws; the tin mines were giving out; the spinning - mills were starting the onset of the industrial revolution affecting "cottage industry" such as home weaving for instance ... farmers were discovering that the "new fangled" plough could do three furrows at once, whereas in former days it had been one furrow at a time. So the farmers and land-owners found that instead of having, say, ten men working on his property he could get by with three. This threw seven men on the job market. Very often they risked it going into the cities or big towns where there were spinning-mills or foundries or other heavy industry. Most times they had to live in most unhealthy and very cramped conditions - But at least they would have bread to eat!

Now, small towns like Kingsbridge were suffering because the people were leaving the place - the provincial population was dwindling. There was a potato famine in Ireland and there were blights; the political situation was not happy ... where there was unemployment there were also gangsters - called highwaymen and footpads in those times - echoes of today perhaps ... the whole atmosphere of life and living was changing rapidly ...

Now, the Gilberts were a quiet people. They were elders of the Church; they were Superintendants of the Sunday School; they took an interest in local affairs. They were not the kind of people to tolerate the rough elements that were coming in to the community (very much like today again!) When they heard about these new colonies down South - New Zealand and Australia - but New Zealand in particular, William Gilbert went to the Plymouth Company (which was being formed) with the idea of founding a settlement in Taranaki. There he met a Mr Luscombe who had a lot of influence with some people in the NZ Company. Mr Luscombe wrote a letter to Mr Ward - Secretary to the NZ Company - (Ward Island in Wellington was to be named after him) - telling him of a Mr William Gilbert from Knightsbridge who would make an excellent citizen to go out to New Zealand and he would recommend him to the Company. And on that basis (and in that way) William Gilbert and family were eleventh-hour recruits for the NZ Company ship "London". Bear in mind too that the two eldest Gilbert boys were of age to invite attracting the attention of H.M.'s official Press Gangs that were everywhere to pounce upon and virtually shanghai such young lads to man H.M.'s ships-of-the-line. And so, feeling so very vulnerable, the Gilbert's move to New Zealand was all done very quickly ... even though you may be sure, such a move had been thought about for some time ... (To be continued)

#### Deserved it

The pharmacists' conference in Christchurch brought to the mind of one reader the days when pharmacists used to treat their customers as well as dispense medicines. The story concerned the late Stanley Richards, we well-known Christchurch land agent, who went to Barnett's the chemists in Cathedral Square, with toothache when he was aged about 17. He had suffered agonies all weekend and Mr Barnett immediately took him into his dispensary, sat him in a chair, and proceeded to tug at the tooth with a pair of forceps. It was a long and bloody battle before the tooth gave way - and there was no anaesthetic. When the deed was done, the chemist wiped his brow, went into his cupboard, and took out a bottle of whisky. It was a welcome sight to the young patient - but it was not for him. The chemist poured himself a generous shot of whisky, downed it in one gulp, and said, "My God, I earned that."

*Stanley Richards was a grandson of Joseph Richards who arrived in Lyttleton, December 16th, 1850, on board "Sir George Seymour".*

- H. Olsen (Wgtn)

# FOUNDERS BRANCH ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO AMAZE IN THEIR VARIETY

## WAIKATO REGION

I would again bring to your notice that Hamilton's official birthday was on the 24th August ... 122 years old.

Our programme since August 1986 has been as follows:

### 25 September 1986

A bus trip to the Tauranga Historic Museum was arranged but had to be abandoned through lack of support.

### 20 October 1986

A bus trip of Hamilton City and surrounding areas (points of interest) was arranged but this also had to be abandoned for the same reason as the proposed visit to Tauranga.

### 25 November 1986

Our Christmas Party was held at the Ferrybank Lounge. This was well attended, the meal and entertainment excellent. Several members put articles of family historical interest on display and spoke about them. This innovation was very well received and most interesting.

### 16 March 1987

A luncheon was held at the Ferrybank Lounge when it was our pleasure to welcome the National President, Mrs Hillary Olsen, and her husband, Geoff.

Having Mrs Olsen speak to us meant that our members were able to see and speak to her in person and so she ceased to be just a name to them.

The visit did a great deal of good and therefore should be part of each president's programme during his/her term of office.

As a result of Mrs Olsen's visit we are delighted to learn that the Ida Carey painting of Mrs Ronga has been framed and hung in our Wakefield House rooms. It is interesting to note that the Waikato Branch presented this painting ten years ago and it then cost \$150 and is now valued at \$3000.

Following the Luncheon, our Annual General Meeting took place. The following were elected to office:

Chairman:	Mr P.H. Mowbray
Deputy:	A.F. Prestidge
Secretary:	Mrs B. Barclay (since replace by Mrs V. Von Dadelszen)
Treasurer:	Mrs A.J. Donovan
Committee:	A.G.A. Baigent, Mrs J.H. Currie, Miss M.S. Tudhope, Mrs E. Lofthouse, Mrs J. de Rene, R. Stonyer, Mrs J. Cameron
Auditor:	W.A. Bridgman

### 15 June 1987

A luncheon was held at the Ferrybank Lounge. The speaker was Mrs Kerry Mrkusic whose talk was entitled "Impressions of a Wayward Housewife in the Antarctic". Mrs Mrkusic gave an excellent address about her six months at the American base on McMurdo Sound. We had a record attendance.

Our next luncheon will be on 24 August when the guest speaker will be Councillor Betty Morbray who will talk about the visit of the Hamilton City Council delegation to Hamilton's sister cities of Wuxi in China and Urawa in Japan.

### Financial

Our finances are in good shape. The committee has decided to donate \$250 to the Waikato Museum of Art and History who will duly record the Society's name as a donor.

### Membership

As at 28 February 1987, our membership was 105.



## WHANGANUI BRANCH

We continued with our winter evening monthly meetings and visiting historic homes and institutions during the warm summer days.

Unhappily, during the year we lost a number of valued members - Foundation member Mrs Nina Cameron, Mrs Barbara Corballis, Mrs Fay Mitchell, Mrs M. Fogg, Centenarian Mrs M. Remnant, Mrs Bette Healy, Mr Rory Duncan, Mr Lindsay Bruce and sadly, our Immediate Past President and Historian W. Hugh Ross.

However, our Branch is steadily increasing its membership with ten new members this year.

**August 1986** - Guest speaker, Mrs Pam Kitson, gave a lively account of her journey through the island country of Okavango, Africa.

**In September** I arranged a trip to Wellington to enable our members to visit Wakefield House and to meet our National President, Mrs Hilary Olsen and members of the Executive Council. After lunch our group then went on to visit the Te Maori Exhibition at the National Museum where Dr Yaldwin had arranged a Maori ceremonial greeting for our members.

**October** - the recently retired Superintendent of the Wanganui Police Force spoke of his long and varied career in the Force.

**November** - we had the pleasure of welcoming our National President, Mrs Hilary Olsen, and her husband to Wanganui. We arranged a trip by river boat to the Waireka Estate where a special luncheon had been prepared by Mr and Mrs Barnett, followed by a visit to the Estate museum. The museum is a popular Wanganui tourist attraction.

In reply to the welcome, Mrs Olsen said how delighted she was to visit Waireka Estate after nineteen years. She said there was a family connection with Mrs Robertson, the grandmother of Mrs Barnett. The Robertson family had started the private museum which the Barnetts have now opened to the public.

Mrs Olsen also spoke of the importance of the intermingling of the various branches of the Founders Society.

**February 1987** - the first outing of the year was to "Pukemarama", near Sanson, to the 17-roomed homestead of Mr and Mrs Ian McKelvie. This large house is situated on a hill with steps leading down to extensive gardens.

**March** - member Mrs Maude Hughes of Maxwell, kindly opened the well known Hughes farmstead "Glenlea" to our branch. Maude is one of our earliest branch members, and for many years had been a member of the Wanganui Hospital Board as well as being active in other community organisations. Although she has to travel many miles by car, Maude rarely misses our meetings. The history of her family farm is fascinating as it has links with one of the area's earlier Maori forts.

**In April** we held our 43rd Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker was the ex-matron of the Wanganui Maternity Annexe and the Marton Maternity Hospital, Miss Dorothy Cleary. Miss Cleary gave an account of a five-day trip down the Wanganui River.

**May** - Mrs Mavis Harper who helped to establish the ceramic section at the Taranaki Museum as well as with the research for Mrs Gail Lambert's book "NZ Pottery - Commercial and Collectible" published in 1985, spoke on early Colonial pottery.

**June** - one of our new young Founder members, Mrs Lynn Teki, arranged for our group to visit her father, Norman Turner's, unusual collection of memorabilia relating to Wanganui. Both she and her father are keen collectors.

**July** - in place of our usual monthly meeting, members attended an open forum with the three Wanganui political candidates in attendance.

C.D. Marks  
President

## MANAWATU BRANCH

The Manawatu Branch has continued to enjoy the company of its members, although meetings became infrequent over the summer months when some members took a very well-deserved break away from town.

In September, we were pleased to attend a meeting as the guests of the Horowhenua Historical Society in Levin. The meeting proved to be most interesting and informative.

In October, we had the privilege of attending the re-enactment of the first train trip from Wellington to Palmerston North. Sir Paul Reeves, Lady Reeves and several other notable persons all came to the party in period costumes. Some of our younger members were more interested in seeing Bob Parker from TVNZ, who also arrived on the same train! We were pleased to see so many of Palmerston North's people were still interested enough in our local history to attend such an event.

On 6th December, we were honoured to have Mrs Hillary Olsen and Mr Olsen at our end of year luncheon. Mrs Olsen told us about the foundation of the Founders' Society and what it meant to be a Founder. I'm sure many of our members were heartened by what Mrs Olsen had to say; all too often it is too easy to forget that we are people who count for something.

Waitangi Day 1987, saw us back at Ashhurst for a very enjoyable lunch. Mrs Ruth Penny, our President, gave us a very interesting talk about Ashhurst and Pohangina in the early days.

We held a Mid-Winter Dinner at the home of our Vice-President, Mrs Sullivan, in June, to mark the Winter Solstice. We chose an extremely cold and bitter night for this meeting quite by accident, but an excellent turnout of members made this event a roaring success.

On July 21st, at a coffee morning, we were treated to a fascinating tour round the Lighthouses of New Zealand, when we invited one of our members to talk to us about her early life growing up as the daughter of a lighthouse keeper. We were all awed by the lifestyle and were sure we could not live in such conditions. Also we took the opportunity to congratulate our member Geoff Swainson on his work on his ancestor Wm. Swainson, which had just been published.

We have been pleased to discover several of our older members have qualified for Honorary Life Membership of the Founders' Society. We offer them our congratulations and best wishes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our President, Mrs Penny, for all her efforts over the past year and also our "new" Vice President, Mrs Marian Sullivan, for her help and guidance over the past few months while I settled in as Secretary, and for all the work she has put in the Founders' Society over several years. Without Marian the Manawatu Branch would not be in the position we now are proud to hold in local historic circles.

Barbara Chandler (Branch Secretary)

## CANTERBURY BRANCH

Our first outing last September, was cancelled because of heavy rain. We were to have visited Peacock Springs Wildlife Park, which made news with the auctioning of the Black Robin Painting, while Prince Phillip was present. The painting was sold for \$11,000.00.

Dr Bill Tramosch, an expert in the Museum Education field, invited members of Founders to a Public Lecture on the Colonial Williamsburg Museum in Virginia. He has spent the last seven years working at this museum. It is America's largest Colonial Museum, and includes 500 houses restored to an eighteenth century town.

Our Christmas Party was well attended with 30 members and friends. A presentation was made to Mr and Mrs Chapman for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. A card was signed by all present for Mr Alex Struthers, our former President, for his 80th birthday. The raffle was drawn, and the evening ended with Mr Keith Thwaites playing the piano, while everyone sang Christmas carols.



Christchurch had three functions that deserved our support, and members were urged to attend. They were, the Ferrymead Museum, the Southern Ballet theatre and Te Maori. Those who went, were full of praise for all three.

Our Founders' Artifacts, which have been donated to us, are now housed at the Sumner Museum. Towards the end of the year, we will have a special outing for members to view the many interesting items we own. Canterbury Branch have joined the Sumner-Radcliff Historical Society, whose members caretake the Sumner Museum.

Canterbury Founders have also joined the Barbadoes Street Cemetery Preservation Society. Our members are active in "working bees" with pruning, weeding and helping restore headstones in Christchurch's historic Barbadoes Street Cemetery.

We have several new members and look forward to a more active year in 1988.

- Hon. Secretary

## BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

The B.O.P. Branch has had another year with six very well-attended functions. As usual, emphasis is placed on an outing involving the early days of NZ. We are of the opinion that the success of our branch is in its informal style. We always make time for the pre or after lunch chat - a "getting to know you" time, quite frequently a welcome cup of tea at a members home prior to the homeward journey.

### September 6th - Rotorua:

Visited the Museum and Art Gallery and their exotic Orchid House. Lunched at the Rotorua Womens Bowling Clubrooms where Mrs Joan Nisbet spoke to us of the very early days in Rotorua.

### November 2nd:

Whakatane was the venue where we had a conducted tour of the new Museum, lunched in the grounds then visited their lovely rose gardens.

### December 14th:

Our Christmas outing was held in the historic grounds and home of our dear Mr Maxwell at the "Elms" in Tauranga. Mr Maxwell, now well into his eighties, personally conducted us through the well appointed grounds, the library, his home and the other buildings.

### March 15th:

The AGM with an attendance of 60 members and friends, at the "Travelodge" in Rotorua, where Mr Owen Gwilliam was re-appointed President. We were delighted to welcome our National President, Mrs Hillary Olsen, and her husband, to join us for the luncheon which followed, also the immediate Past National President, Mr Don Harper, and his wife. Mrs Olsen gave us a short talk, then took the opportunity to present Mrs Dorna Newberry with her "For Service, Honorary Life Badge".

### May 10th:

Karangahake Gorge and Waitekauri Village, near Waihi. A quite incredible day, when one realized the enormity of the settlement there in the Gold Rush days, nothing left remembered and recalled for us by 87-year-old Mr Cyril Gwilliam, a school-teacher at that time.

### July 5th:

The Annual Winter Luncheon was held at the Timber Museum in Putaruru with an excellent attendance, at which we were pleased to include our Mayor & Mayoress, Mr & Mrs J.D. Howland. Members toured the museum prior to lunch. Elizabeth Howland, a B.O.P. Branch member, gave us a delightful talk on her early settler ancestors and concluded with the history and making of the Timber Museum over the last 12 years.

This concluded a year of progress.

- Branch Secretary

## NORTHLAND BRANCH

Greetings from the Northland Branch. We have had another busy year. The only worry is that our membership has declined. Unfortunately we have lost some of our more senior members during the year. Attendance at our monthly luncheon meetings is still between 35 to 40 members.

At our AGM Mrs Joan McInness was elected President. All other officers remain the same.

Since the last report we have had eleven luncheon meetings. At three of these members brought items of interests to talk about. We have had these most popular meetings for many years now and new items keep coming.

October was a busy month. For our meeting, the committee arranged a party for over 80 year olds, with a small gift and flowers for all of them. On the 11th we had a bus trip to Port Albert and Wharehine (on the Kaipara). Mrs Bess Farr, a member from Port Albert, gave a talk on the Albertlanders, and a Whangarei member who grew up in the district pointed out places of interest, we had a very good trip.

December was our Christmas Lunch with some of the genealogists as our guests. This is always our best attended get-together of the year.

We have had two travel talks by members. One on a trip to South Africa and the other on Eastern Europe.

Mrs F. Keene gave a very interesting talk on Mrs Bedlington (nee Caroline Mair). Other speakers were two authors - first an English woman who has written many books on many subjects from cooking and sailing to windmills. The other author spoke on receiving the American Express "Short Story Award".

After the AGM, Miss E. Berry read a short story about Mrs Lillian Harris, the mother of two of our past members who came from Hokianga. Then with Mr Munn playing the piano, we had a sing-along.

After the August meeting, we were invited to have lunch with the Genealogists, who were celebrating their tenth birthday.

During the year we have had many books donated to our library and Miss C. Lupton's bequest of a set of Cyclopedia of New Zealand were all most welcomed.

We are now looking forward to another busy year and hopefully an increase in membership.

Barbara Walsh  
Secretary

## HAWKES BAY BRANCH

Our activities have continued much as in the past and with no less enthusiasm.

In September we held a highly successful "Mystery Drive", in three buses around Central Hawke's Bay. Right until the end, only the President and Secretary know where we were going.

October 31st saw 74 of us heading for the Arahina Guide Headquarters in Marton. On the Saturday we visited the Waireka Estate and Holly Lodge Vineyards up the Wanganui River. On the way back to Marton we called in on two historic homes in the Fordell area. Here we were met by Mrs Marks and other members from the Wanganui Branch. We intended visiting Oneida but somehow missed it and ended up on some pretty interesting inland roads in the country at the back of Turakina. Some of the local natives must have had doubts about the sanity of anyone taking two large buses on such roads! On the way home on Sunday we called at Cross Hills Rhododendron Gardens at Kimbolton. It was a most enjoyable weekend, which we will be repeating this year, but this time we will visit the Bulls/Hunterville area where we already have a most interesting programme arranged.

Our Christmas Picnic was cancelled due to wet weather.



A highly successful Waitangi Day Dinner, 115 being present, was held at Wharemoana Farm Guest House, south of Hastings. Mr Buick-Constable, who was our guest speaker, gave a most interesting address on the Treaty of Waitangi - from the point of view of NZ Company Pioneers already settled in Wellington.

One hundred and twenty members attended our AGM in Hastings in March.

Our last function was our Winter Lunch in July. This was held at the Te Aute College and was our largest function yet, 135 members being present. Thirteen members of the Eastbourne Historical Society joined us at this lunch. Included in this group, and wearing different hats, were Mr and Mrs Buick-Constable. We were delighted to have them back with us.

We have our programme arranged for the next 12 months. We are presently arranging a return trip to Norfolk Island for next April. Already enough members have booked to ensure its success.

Owing to the high cost of internal travel, we are not planning long trips within New Zealand. Instead we will be concentrating on long weekends away.

Owing to a steady growth in our membership, we find it difficult to locate venues large enough to hold our functions, and now require three buses for most of our picnic outings. These are sometimes followed by members in cars!

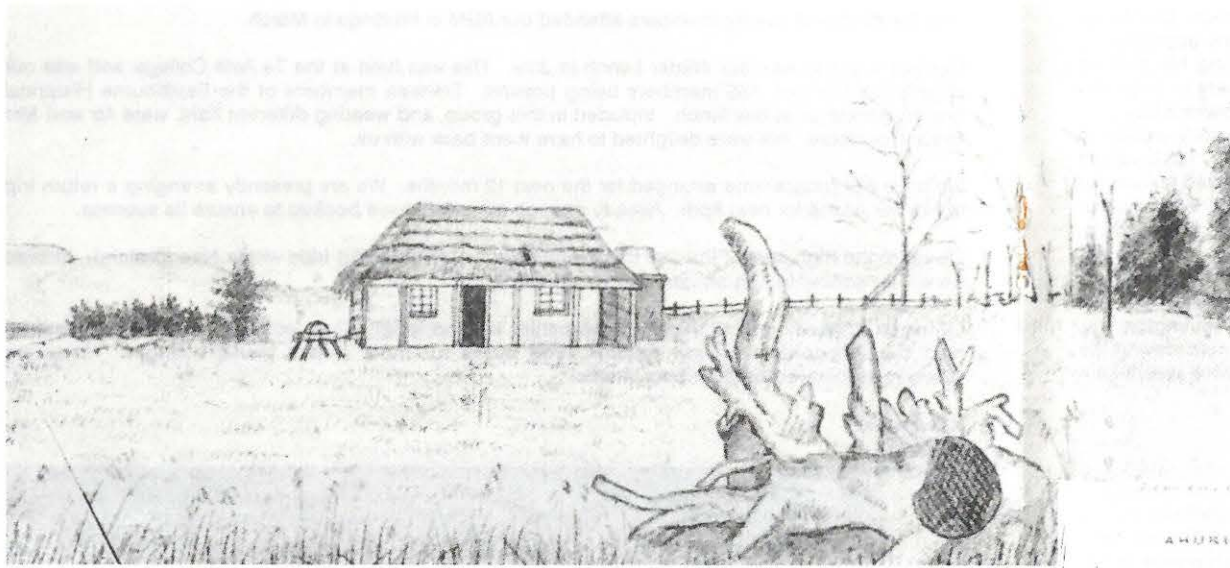
P.R. Harding  
President



*Photo by Thelma Downes, Secretary, Eastbourne Historical Society*

*Peter Harding stands, hands in pockets, on the steps of his magnificent residence "Mount Vernon", where he and his wife graciously hosted members of the Eastbourne Historical Society at a scrumptious morning tea en route to Te Aute College. (Your Editor stands on the top step, behind President Peter, reacting to the crisp mid-Winter temperature.)*

# The Three "Mt Vernon's" of Central Hawke's Bay



The first Mount Vernon house completed in June, 1854. (A sketch by St. Claire Inglis)

This is the story of John Harding and his wife Emma who in 1842 came to New Zealand to begin a new way of life and to establish Mount Vernon Station.

Why did they decide on New Zealand? This may never be known. Harding was a young man when he made the momentous decision. Born in Redbridge, Hampshire, he moved to Southampton where he gained experience in such trades as brushmaking and carpentering. These skills were to stand him in good stead in the land of his adoption.

In 1841 John Harding, 21, married Emma Walden, 20. Soon after in the 400-ton barque Birman (Captain James Cleland) they sailed for New Zealand.

We can see the young couple, surrounded by their worldly goods on the Southampton dock, taking a tearful parting of parents. The paddle-tug towed the sailing ship clear of the harbour, presently sails filled on the light northerly, and the vessel began to lift to the long swell of the Channel. The Hardings' big adventure had begun.

John Harding was a man of resource, inherited skills, intuition and an abiding faith in his own abilities. In the 1840's England offered little scope for such a man. And so it was with deep interest John Harding read the prospectus of the New Zealand Land Company recently founded by Edward Gibbon Wakefield. He used some of his slim capital to buy shares.

The balance of his small capital John Harding invested in tools for industrial and agricultural uses. His pride and joy was a small wood-turning lathe, later to be put to good purpose.

## SIX-MONTH JOURNEY

In an age when England is no more than 24 hours' travel from New Zealand, it is of interest to note that the Birman spent six months on the journey. The 280 passengers, who included 111 children, in the custom of the times fended for themselves on that long journey. The shipping company provided basic rations. These were drawn daily by the passengers, who cooked for themselves as best they could. They attended to their own laundry, scrubbed their own cabins. By no stretch of the imagination could it be called a pleasure cruise!

Storms and doldrums behind them, came the day when the passengers eagerly crowded the rails for their first sight of Aotearoa. The ship's lookouts first called "land-o!" on February 18, 1842, but

THE PASTURE OCCUPATION LICENSE AT THE LEFT READS AS FOLLOWS:--

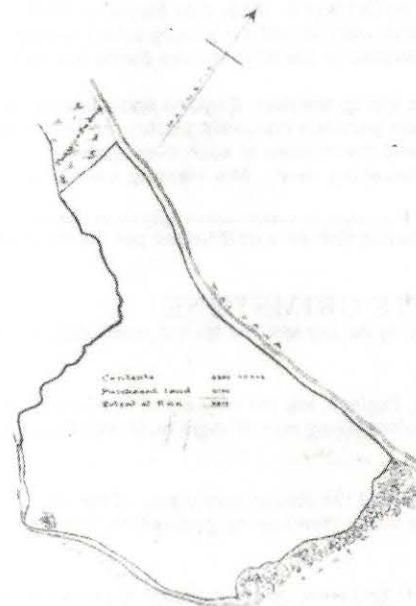
WHEREAS JOHN HARDING OF AHURIRI IN THE PROVINCE OF WELLINGTON GRAZIER HAS MADE APPLICATION FOR A PASTURE OCCUPATION LICENSE IN THE DISTRICT OF AHURIRI AND HAS LODGED WITH ME THE REQUIRED DESCRIPTION AND DEPOSIT. AND WHEREAS, THE BOUNDARIES OF THE RUN THUS APPLIED FOR ARE SET FORTH IN A PLAN ATTACHED TO THIS LICENSE, AND THE ACREAGE CONTENTS SATISFACTORILY CERTIFIED.

NOW THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM FOX CHIEF LAND COMMISSIONER DO HEREBY LICENSE THE SAID JOHN HARDING TO DEPASTURE STOCK UPON THE SAID LAND FOR THE TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM THE DATE HEREOF.--SUBJECT, NEVERTHELESS, TO BE SOONER DETERMINED PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS UNDER WHICH THIS LICENSE IS ISSUED, AND TO BE CANCELLED AS IN SUCH REGULATIONS PROVIDED.

DATED THIS FIRST DAY OF JANUARY  
ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY SEVEN

WILLIAM FOX,  
COMMISSIONER

AHURIRI DISTRICT



## Pasture Occupation License.

WHEREAS *John Harding of Ahuriri* in the Province of Wellington Grazier

has made application for a Pasture Occupation License in the District of Ahuriri and has lodged with me the required description and deposit. And whereas, the boundaries of the run thus applied for are set forth in a plan attached to this license and the acreage contents satisfactorily certified.

Now therefore, I, *William Fox Chief Land Commissioner* do hereby license the said *John Harding*

to depasture stock upon the said land for the term of fourteen years from the date hereof.--subject, nevertheless, to be sooner determined pursuant to the Regulations under which this license is issued, and to be cancelled as in such Regulations provided.

Dated this *first* day of *January*  
One thousand eight hundred and *fifty seven*

*William Fox*  
Commissioner



worsening weather caused the captain to stay clear of Cook Strait. Not until March 3 were the Hardings able to stretch their legs in Wellington town.

Most of the newcomers moved around to Petone (Pito-one), at that time named Britannia. The Hardings considered the place unsuitable, and took up a business site, thought to be in the vicinity of Stewart Dawson's, at the corner of Willis Street and Lambton Quay. On an acre lot in Webb Street John Harding was soon at work with his tools to build a wooden house with a slate roof. Onlookers crowded a small attached workshop to watch Harding at work with his lathe. Quickly appreciating the beauty of native woods, Harding made many articles of use or ornament. Among his patrons was the Governor, Sir George Grey, who bought many articles as souvenirs for friends in England. Impressed by the young new colonist, the Governor advised him to take up land in Hawke's Bay.

During his early years in Wellington John Harding constantly recalled the Governor's advice to own his own land. Leaving his young family in charge of the business, Harding in May, 1852 walked from Wellington to Ahuriri, later to become Hawke's Bay. He and a companion trekked by way of Wairarapa, Castlepoint and Porangahau, and were impressed by the country around Waipukurau. They returned south by way of Woodville, the Forty Mile Bush and where Masterton now stands, arriving home hungry and exhausted.

John Harding was not a man to waste time. On July 7, 1852, he applied for a grazing licence for approximately 16,000 acres between the Tukituki and Waipawa rivers. Harding always enjoyed a relationship of mutual respect with the Maori people. Among his acquaintances in Wellington was an old Maori chief who described an area of native bush on the hill Pukerua giving a wide view of the river and the surrounding land. Harding should build his "Kaianga" there. The advice was taken, and this was the site for the Mount Vernon house.

#### **A "RAUPO" HOMESTEAD** (see sketch on previous page)

The first Mount Vernon homestead was modest. The Maoris built a four-roomed raupo dwelling in readiness for the small family. Harding made John Davis Canning his manager and partner, but his place was taken at Mount Vernon shortly afterwards by Edward Ludaby. Two bales of wool were shipped to Sydney in 1852. Never a man to neglect an opportunity, Harding took advantage of the Australian gold rush to ship maize, potatoes, wheat and other foodstuffs across the Tasman at a handy profit.

Came the time when Mrs Harding and the young family were to move from Wellington to Mount Vernon. Arriving in the ship Shepherdess at Westshore on October 6, 1855, they stayed at McKain's Boarding House for 10 days while their household goods were ferried on a boat called Maraia to Waipureku at the mouth of the Tukituki. The children revelled in the adventurous canoe trip up the Tukituki as far as Patangata.

To the young Emma Harding making the adventurous trip up the river, England and all its homely comforts must have seemed a distant dream. The Maori paddlers conversing softly in their Ngati-Kahungunu dialect would pitch tents for Mrs Harding and the children at each overnight stop. The glittering stars looked down on golden kowhai and darkening river. Mrs Harding carried a six-months-old baby on the trip. (- to be continued)

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At Kororaeka in early February 1840, this newly-wed member of Hobson's staff helped put the finishing touches to the Treaty of Waitangi .....

## **SAMUEL AND CHARLOTTE GRIMSTONE**

*Compiled by Miriam Macgregor Redwood from notes collected by the late Mrs Zoe Muir, a grand-daughter of S.E. and C. Grimstone.*

Samuel Edward Grimstone, born 1818 at Fotherhithe, Kent, England, was the only son of Samuel Edward Grimstone, a master mariner. It is said he was a tall fair-haired young man of slight build who turned to clerical work rather than the sea.

By the time he had reached the age of 21 in 1839 he had passed the accountancy exams of the day. He had also become dissatisfied with the mundane life he was living, therefore he pestered his father for a passage on his next ship bound for Sydney.

Friends warned him against this wild venture. It was possible he'd come up against rough men who swore ... or worse, became drunk. But he assured them he was bored with the task of accompanying his mother to visit friends whose homes reeked of hothouse plants and stale Sunday dinners. He wanted adventure, even violence in a place where there was plenty of fresh air.



#### FAMILY PHOTO OF THE GRIMSTONES AT HOME

1. Samuel Grimstone (Grandpa), 2. Charlotte Grimstone (Grandma), 3. Frank (America), 4. Alphonso (Sydney), 5. Mary Bernard (Seatoun), 6. George (Woodville), 7. Ollie (Seatoun), 8. Vernon (London), 9. (?), 10. Cis (Gisborne), 11. Chas (?), 12. Leo, 13. Joe, 14. Charlotte (Tarl), 15. Constance (Con), 16. Bernadette (Babe).

In Sydney he obtained a position as a clerk in the Government of New South Wales. He also met and fell in love with nineteen-year-old Charlotte, the daughter of a military man, Captain Burrows. However, her parents did not approve of Samuel who appeared to have little to offer their daughter.

But events changed with the arrival in Sydney of Captain William Hobson RN who had been appointed Lt Governor of New Zealand. He reached Sydney on 24 December 1839, and Samuel Grimstone applied for a position on the staff he would take to New Zealand. In this he was successful, and his next problem was to persuade Captain and Mrs Burrows to allow Charlotte to marry him.

Eventually they agreed, possibly because he was one of the applicants chosen by Governor Gipps, a fact which made his position with Hobson appear to be important.

With the decision made, Charlotte had little time to prepare for her wedding, which took place on 16 January 1840 in a small Church of England chapel in Sydney. There was also the matter of furniture for their cabin on the *Herald*, to say nothing of clothing to take to a new land, and items to set up a home in a place where there would be little in the way of such commodities.

The *Herald* arrived at Bay of Islands on 29 January, landing the next day at Kororareka, and for the first week or more Captain Hobson's officials continued to live on board, there being no accommodation on shore.

James Busby, the British Resident, Henry Williams and other leading members of the Church Missionary Society had summoned several northern chiefs to Waitangi for the purpose of negotiating a treaty. The discussion began on 5 February when Hobson explained its terms and its necessity.

At the end of the day the drafting of the treaty was in the hands of Samuel Grimstone who painstakingly compiled a record of the decisions made during the discussions between Hobson and the chiefs. The long



task took him well into the night, and when it was finished, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed on 6 February 1840. Next day, after further argument and explanation, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed on 6 February 1840.

Eventually Hobson's officials left the Herald to live in tents on the beach until cottages could be built. The one allocated to the Grimstones had a timber frame and a thatched roof. The mud walls were lined with nikau palm fronds, while a step ladder was the only access up to a sleeping attic. There was no glass in the windows, and cooking had to be done in a camp oven, or over an open fire. These conditions were to be accepted until the new sawmill and locally made bricks could provide something better. However, the furniture they had brought from Sydney helped to make it comfortable.

One of the officials who came with Hobson was William C. Hayes who was made Police Magistrate's clerk and Postmaster. He handled the mail in a store he'd set up at Kororarereka, but in less than six months he was dismissed for dishonesty and drunkenness. Samuel Grimstone was then appointed acting "Postmaster of New Zealand", his salary being 20% of the postal receipts of the office under his immediate control.

However, the job in that particular area did not last long because by September 1840 Hobson had moved the capital south to what was to become Auckland. He was accompanied by Grimstone and other officials, all of whom found themselves again living in tents. By that time Charlotte was pregnant with the first of her ten children, and because of her condition the Grimstones were allotted one of the first houses to be built by Felton Mathew, the man from whose plan Auckland was laid out.

As the new settlement grew Samuel's job caused him to travel to outlying districts, and for this a horse became necessary. With the Governor's approval, an aged animal was bought for £8.10.0. It was spavined and gone in the wind, yet possessed enough life to kick Samuel through a Queen Street shop window the first time he rode it.

Much of his travelling was done in wet weather when he'd remain in damp clothing for long periods, and possibly it was this fact that led to the illness lurking ahead of him. And then his duties and responsibilities became even more arduous when Governor Grey asked him to found a "Post Office Service."

After he became Postmaster at Auckland, Samuel was given a fine new weatherboard house to live in. The front of it had been imported from England, and the six rooms consisted of a sitting room, three bedrooms, a kitchen and pantry. The inside walls were panelled but left in an unfinished state of roughness. There was a large fireplace, a clock with a pendulum, green cloth curtains and several pictures in large gilt frames. And while Samuel attended to the district's mail, Charlotte attended to the feeding and clothing of her ten children which followed each other in rapid succession.

Samuel also became occupied in the literary field. He compiled a book entitled *The Early Settlement of New Zealand*, published in Wellington in 1847, which gives statistics of the day, and he became editor of the *New Zealand Magazine*, said to be first magazine published in New Zealand.

About 1851, a move was made to Wellington where they remained for 17 years. The Wellington Almanac of 1853 describes him as chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Dept, and receiving an annual salary of £250. In 1856 he was Collector's Clerk and Accountant in the Wgtn Customs Dept, while in 1862 he was listed as First Clerk in the same department. At first they lived in what was then known as Elizabeth Street, but are later listed as living in Wadestown.

During the early 1860s their eldest daughter, Charlotte Eleanor, married Tom Redwood who farmed the Vernon run near Blenheim, and in 1865 their second daughter, Mary Elizabeth, married Tom's brother, Charles Redwood of the Riverlands run, also near Blenheim. Their first home was the historical cob cottage which stands beside the highway, a short distance from Blenheim.

During those years life deteriorated for Samuel. The disease he suffered from was now showing its "inevitable decay". Possibly it was tuberculosis, and he had also become an alcoholic. His two eldest daughters had turned Roman Catholic on marrying the Redwood brothers, and ... worse ... had persuaded their mother, all her life a staunch Episcopalian, to embrace the Roman Catholic religion.

In 1868, perhaps in search of a warmer climate, Samuel decided to move to Sydney. He died there during

the Winter of 1872 at the age of 54. He then remained unburied for ten days before permission was granted for his burial in the Roman Catholic cemetery in Devonshire Street, Sydney.

Charlotte survived eight of her ten children. She died in 1912 at the age of 92, ending her days at Toowoomba, Queensland, with her daughter, Mary Redwood, whose husband had moved there about 1898.

After her death, her daughter found a petticoat with a lining, which, when cut open, revealed a hoard of cheques and paper money. Most of the cheques had been sent to her by her sons but were so old they had become valueless. The secret treasure was her insurance against the poverty she had experienced when her husband could no longer work, and there had been no pension after his twenty-two or more years as a Government servant.

In the painting of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Samuel Grimstone is depicted standing behind Lt Governor Hobson.

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*A distinguished National Past President of NZ Founders, Sidney L. Moses, C.B.E., delivered the 1987 Eulogy at the annual Wreath-laying Ceremony at the E.G. Wakefield graveside. (The other speaker, Mayor James Bellich, will have his address recorded in the next edition.)*

Friends,

We are gathered today to honour the memory of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. He was the real founder of Wellington, being the originator of the Wakefield Colonisation Scheme which was conceived in London.

Wakefield embarked on the ship "Minerva" on October 12th, 1852, which set sail for New Zealand arriving at Lyttleton on February 2nd, 1853. He was accompanied by the second son of his sister Mrs Torlesse, as well as bringing his favourite dogs, he brought some pure-bred stock for the Canterbury Province.

Wakefield, in his wisdom, and his supporters following suit, ruled out the submerged classes of society with which previous colonising companies had thought fit to people empty lands, and had insisted on health strength and character to an unusual degree, but even Wakefield and his disciples could scarcely have visualised men of such exceptional ability and training of such lofty ideals and fearlessness of purpose as responded to his call, and crossed 16,000 miles of trackless sea to lay the foundations of a life that might approximate more closely to their conceptions of what seemed right and just and free. The step was irrevocable, ties were severed for life, material comforts as many had known them passed out of their world, but they won through with a shining faith that had something of the sublime about it.

Wakefield was a man of rare ability and vision. He was an economist in the most practical sense. The son of Edward Wakefield Esq., of Burnham Hall, Essex, he was born in 1796, and educated for the bar. In 1833 he wrote a careful work on "England and America" and "A View of the Art of Colonisation". He then effected the colonisation of South Australia and New Zealand by means of associations, founded on his system. With the aid of Robert Rintoul, editor of the "Spectator", and Sir William Molesworth, he attacked the institution of convict transportation, to abolish which he gave the first effective blows. He was ostensibly, as well as virtually, the Director of the New Zealand Company, although his name will seldom be found appended to the official documents which he drafted or inspired. When the NZ Company was formed, a dinner, accompanied by much oratory, was given at Lovegrove Tavern at the West India dock. On the 29th of April the Colonial Secretary was informed of the project and the "Tory", the expeditionary or pioneer ship, which was to meet the emigrant ships at Port Hardy by the 10th of January 1840, was four days late in starting and as she cast anchor at Plymouth, a stout, fresh complexioned, middle aged gentleman with a countenance expressive of intelligence and resolution, left London in a post-chaise, driving rapidly to the south west. This was no other than Edward Gibbon Wakefield whom rumours had reached, that the Government intended to stop the departure of the vessel. He urged the "Tory" off and she sailed unmolested on the 12th of May, 1839. Wakefield's action was the fittest crown of a series of vigorous actions which won for Queen Victoria, as bright a jewel as any in her diadem, and saved Britain of the South from becoming a French convict settlement.

I could go on for a long time with further details of the work of Edward Gibbon Wakefield.

Suffice it to say he was a man of rare vision and unshakeable resolve. Finally, partly through over work and not taking care of himself, he contracted Rheumatic Fever.

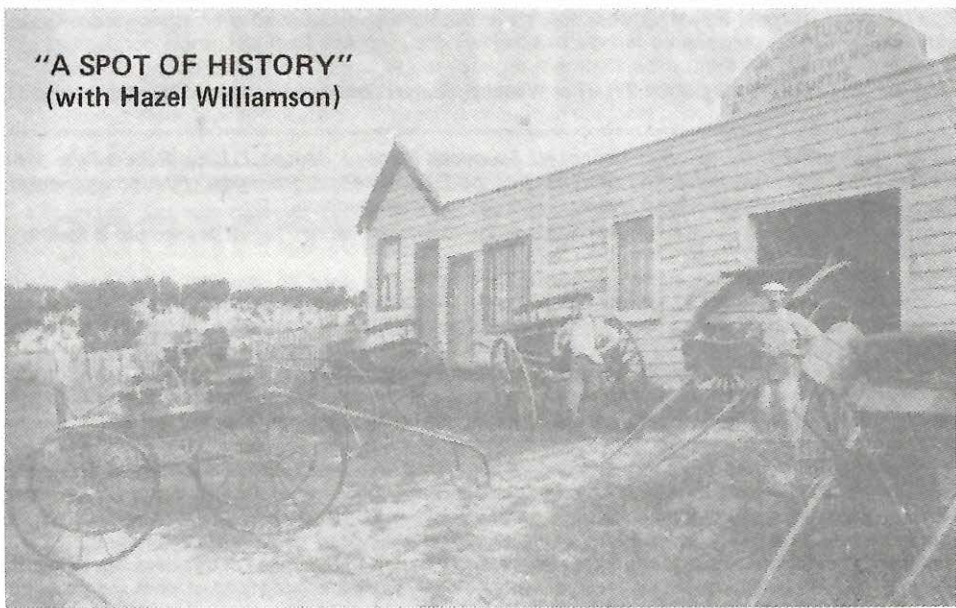


His niece, Alice, daughter of his brother Daniel, and afterwards Mrs Harold Freeman, was with him a great deal in 1862. William Schmidt was his devoted man servant.

Mrs Freeman mentions that they moved from his Tinakori house to Wellington Terrace and Wakefield died there on May 16th, 1862. She stated he was laid by the side of two brothers who had been devotedly attached to him, Colonel Wakefield and my father - also my sister. The four graves are close together in this, the Bolton St Cemetery.

Thus we are here to do honour to a man who can be truly said to be the REAL founder of Wellington, and might I say in the presence of His Worship - it will be a fitting additional memorial to him if the projected Wakefield Centre is allowed by the powers that be - to proceed as planned.

## "A SPOT OF HISTORY" (with Hazel Williamson)



A coach and smithy works at Maungaturoro, owned and operated by A.H. Curtis, once operated near the site of the present Church of England.

When my father was apprenticed to the blacksmithing trade in 1907 at this establishment, Mr Curtis was a farrier and blacksmith in shop hours and a horse and dairy farmer in early mornings and evenings. Besides this, he had a very good knowledge of the ailments of cattle and horses and was often called out to assist with a sick animal.

Unfortunately Mr Curtis had to give up the heavy work of the smithy about 1909, owing to a serious leg injury, but he continued farming and opened a land agency in Mr John Mould's store building.

The smithy business was taken over by Messrs A.J. Grant and Sons.

As motor cars gradually became more numerous this became a motor garage, a Ford car agency and the Grants also ran a taxi service.

Drivers' licences were issued there and the purchase of a new Ford simply required the

buyer to request a licence and Mr Grant or son willingly wrote one out without further ado.

When the building became rather old and inconvenient it was vacated for a large new garage at the Railway Settlement. After operating there for a number of busy years it was bought out by Mr James King, who with his son, Ron, ran a good service from 1932 for about three years.

### BURNED DOWN:

The old garage (smithy works), after being vacated, gradually became derelict and was suddenly burned down about 9pm one Friday evening.

The blaze was first noticed by visitors and friends having supper at Pasley's residence, and some locals can still remember how the fire quickly took hold and lit up their rooms.

Mr Tom Sadler was just closing up P.C. Taylor's grocery and took off in haste to help, almost winding himself in a smart sprint to the scene. The cause of the fire remains a mystery.

THE "SOOTEE SAMMEE" MADE IT IN 125 DAYS! (Gravesend to Banks Peninsular).

## \*VOYAGE OF THE "SAMARANG"

*The ship that brought Frederick WRIGHT, 17 years, to NZ in 1852.  
(From the Lyttleton Times", August 7, 1852)*

### (PART TWO)

After experiencing for some days a strong northerly current, we crossed the line on May 27th, in long. 16 24 W, forty days after leaving the Downs, and send off a scaled bottle announcing the fact to whoever may pick it up. On the 9th we caught the S.E. Trades which prevailed so well easterly that our extreme longitude was but 27. From thence steady favourable winds and fine weather showed the sailing qualities of the "Sootee Sammee" to advantage, but elicited also a capacity for rolling which must be seen to be believed. Some of the lurches in which she was wont to indulge appeared perfectly incredible, and rendered once a matter of the greatest difficulty to sit or stand still, and a matter of imminent risk to attempt to move. The appurtenances of the dinner table performed some extraordinary evolutions, and "consumption" made such ravages among the glasses and crockery as very soon to render their number "small by degrees and beautifully less." On May 23, we accomplished the longest day's run of the voyage, 269 miles actual distance by observation. On May 29, we crossed the Meridian of Greenwich in lat. 30 South, and on June 5th, passed about 250 miles to the Southward of the Cape. Henceforward, the sportsmen on board had an infinity of ocean birds in which to display their murderous skill, and soon became as learned in the habits of Cape pigeon, mollyhawk, and albatross, as others professed to be in the ropes and manoeuvres of the vessel.

Out of door occupations being now somewhat scarce, theatricals came into favour. With the assistance of the ship's colours, cabin lamps, etc, a neat little house was fitted between decks, and amateurs of both sexes tried their histrionic skill in three farces entitled respectively: "Chaos is Come Again", "The Irish Attorney" and "On His Last Legs". The performers were on the whole very creditable and exceedingly amusing. Unavoidable anomalies in scenery and costumes contributed not a little to the general merriment. We enjoyed a singular immunity from the tempestuous weather which is said to haunt the Cape during the winter season. But further on our road we encountered what to landsmen appeared one or two severe gales. The Naval authorities, however, so perseveringly declared everything of this sort to be "nothing", that the phrase became a byword for the remainder of the voyage.

A heavy S.E. swell showed that we had but just escaped strong winds from that quarter, and made us appreciate the double reefed topsail breezes from N.W. and S.W. which after a quick run of fourteen days enabled us to sight St. Paul's at 10 p.m. on June 19. Speculations as to the length of the voyage, which had been gloomy and desponding before we crossed the line, now improved wonderfully, and it appeared that with an average amount of fair wind for three weeks more, our passage would be an exceedingly rapid one.

After attaining the longitude of Cape Leuwin, however, the wind gradually drew round to the eastward and compelled us, much against the inclination of our commander, to run as far South as 51.37. Here we were detained by a calm for two days, the tedium of which was somewhat relieved by boating and by the sight of a very magnificent Aurora Australis. Although the cold in this high latitude was far from being agreeable, it was no means extreme, the thermometer never falling below 40, in the middle of the day. A week of strong easterly winds now had us at a respectful distance from our destination until July 18, when the ship's head once more pointed towards New Zealand and raised our drooping spirits. Perhaps the most pleasing feature of our voyage was the perfect harmony and good feeling which always existed between the chief cabin and intermediate passengers. When our separation appeared near at hand the latter invited their friends to a soiree 'tween decks and on the 21st a return party was given by the cuddy passengers, during the progress of which the loom of Stewart Island was at length announced. A fine N.W. breeze carried us quickly round New Leinster and in the morning the hills at the back and to the southward of Otago were visible at a distance of about 50 miles.

### "Home Straight" calms added days to the voyage

Our favouring gale was soon exchanged for one from the N.W. which added eight or nine days to our voyage, but almost atoned for the delay by the fine glimpses of the coast which we occasionally enjoyed as the vessel stood close in to the shore. Banks Peninsular was sighted on Tuesday, the 27th, but tedious calms were once more our lot. Through the kindness of Captain Escott, the passengers again amused themselves by boating, approaching on one occasion within the sound of the surf near Akaroa, and on another bringing home the only albatross we had on board during the voyage.



At last an increase of wind enabled us to weather the formidable promontory and to make the Canterbury beach a little to the Southward of Double Corner. The dense fog in which the peninsular was enveloped rendered it impossible to distinguish the entrance to Port Victoria until we were within a mile of the heads and considering the heavy sea and strong N.E. wind which was blowing dead on to the shore, we felt not a little relieved when at half past eleven on July 31 our anchor once more touched ground. Our voyage, from land to land, occupied 113 days and from port to port, 125. We were abreast of Van Diemens Land within 100 days of leaving England, and but for the extraordinary amount of calms and contrary winds which characterised the latter part of our journey it would have proved shorter by at least a fortnight than it actually has been. The general health of the passengers has been throughout exceedingly good, and all our livestock, down even to the rabbits, have been landed in excellent condition. The most serious casualty which befell us was the loss of a small boom.

We have had our little social squalls, but on the whole, jogged on very comfortably together, and we believe there is nothing to prevent nine-tenths of us from parting as good friends.

*My Favourite Uncle recollected ....*

## MEMORIES OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

(Nelson from 1897 onwards)

by Aubrey Spear

*(Contributed by Sylvia Spear,  
Wellington Member)*



AUBREY SPEAR

### PART ONE

I was only a little fellow, but can now visualise the old home, with four peaked gables, built on The Terrace in that lovely old part of the town, so near to the beloved river The Maitai, in which, in years to come, so many happy hours were spent swimming and trying to catch cockerbullies, crawlers and shrimps, after lifting up small stones in the shallows of the river. The river was not deep in many places, and we could paddle across it, holding up our knickerbockers, while the girls tucked their clothes into their pants! My sister Rachel, who was only three years older than myself, was always very keen to join me in my hunting under the stones. I was the baby of the family (number eleven) and no doubt spoilt. I have four sisters and six brothers. I was an uncle when I was five years old, being twenty years younger than my eldest sister.

It must have been a relief for Mother (Bless her) to have the children away for a few hours where she knew the water was not deep. We could all swim. I learned at the age of four to swim under the water. One of my elder sisters (Effie) taught College girls to swim in the Girls' Bathing Hole, just up the river from the Nile Street foot bridge.

I can well remember often going to Wilkie's Butcher Shop (next to Griffin's Mill) in Nile Street to get a penny worth of cat meat which was always nice and fresh. Often the penny was not taken by the man. My sister Effie had a pot which she took when we were taken for a picnic to "Almond Tree Flat" just past Sharland's Bridge. This pot was used to boil onions and potatoes and sometimes I am afraid the "cat meat" was mixed in with it. A real Irish stew!

My youngest sister Rachel and I were great pals and she loved being a "boy". We would go for mushrooms over the hills above the Maitai, Long Look-out, Clouston's Hill and Two Peak and came home with our bags full. We used to have a flax bag with two handles and a stick crosswise in the bag to stop the mushrooms being crushed. Other days we went bird nesting. The Council gave a penny a dozen for blackbird and thrush eggs. Mr Bolton, who had a nursery in Waimea Road and a shop near the Theatre Royal in Lower Waimea Road, gave a penny a dozen for peach stones so in season we collected a lot and sold them.

A day's outing to the "Sands" (Tahuna as it is now called) was a joy. We could take the Palace

car from Masonic Hotel, Nelson, and the bus on rails, to Wakefield Quay and then went to Brook St. Miss Lucy Kitching was the mistress and when she called us in at playtime she would knock on the window. It must have been extra strong glass for we could hear it all over the playground.

I did not go to school till I was six years old and then went to Brook St. Miss Lucy Kitching was the mistress and when she called us in at playtime she would knock on the window. It must have been extra strong glass for we could hear it all over the playground.

We boys had iron hoops and a stick with a crook to hold it while in motion. The girls only had light wooden hoops and a straight stick. Marbles were all the go those days, and spinning tops.

We made a thrasher with a half blade of green flax and then stripped it down into small strands about 12 inches long, and then kept hitting the top to keep it moving on the asphalt path.

**Fat and Kill** was another game. A piece of wood, usually green willow, 6 inches long, pointed at both ends was called the "fat". A boy stood on a cross drawn in the centre of a circle, holding upright a stick about two feet long. About ten feet away another boy would throw the "fat" into the circle and try to hit the piece of wood. The other boy would hit the other end of the "fat" and when it jumped into the air, he would hit it as far as possible. Then his opponent stood in the middle of the cross with the stick pointed downwards and the second boy would try to hit the stick. If he did it was his turn to carry on. (As far as I can remember.)

**Spinning Tops** was a game for the older boys. A circle was made on the ground, a top placed in the centre, and a boy took his spinning top, wound his cord firmly around it, then taking the top in his hand and holding the end of the cord, he threw his top at the one in the circle, still holding the cord in his hand. If he got a "bull's eye", then the top on the ground could easily be split in half or damaged. A great shout came if he scored!

**A game of marbles** was played by digging permanent holes in the ground about 6 inches apart and 2 inches deep. I can't remember the name for it.

**Jump the Nag's Tail** was another rough and tumble game. Six boys were needed to kneel down, and the front one put his arms about a tree trunk, with the top of his head against the tree. The next boy put his arms around the boy in front and so on until the six were in place. Another six were needed, and in turn, each one ran and jumped on the backs of the boys kneeling down, and if he could break the "nag's tail", then his side won.

**Gag's Home** was a real struggle, six boys to a side. The first six marked their man. The second six went behind a shed or the school and one of them had a "gag" (a button or rubber or something easy to hide on a person.) These boys had to race as fast as possible and not get caught, to a fence about 20 yards away. There were many good tussles, all taken in good sport, but clothes often ripped in spite of it, to find the "gag". If "gag" got through to the fence, the boy would call out "Gag's Home". It was fun to watch as well as be in the tussle. This game was mostly played at the Boys' Central School in Nile Street. The lime trees are still growing which we used for "Gag's Home" and "Jump the Nag's Tail".

I remember when the grass in the Central School grounds was long and easy to loop together. How often we youngsters had a good chuckle when we saw a victim topple over, but this happened **once too often**. It was drill day and we were marching along with our uniforms on and side caps when over went dear old "Sos", our headmaster, arms outstretched. He came to his feet as red as an apple. Silence reigned supreme. Next day we were all told to undo those traps. It was no good asking who did it. No one would split anyhow.

"Sos" was our headmaster and a decent chap too. He used to take a mob of boys in the fifth and sixth classes tramping up Dun Mountain. We had to walk to the Reservoir, then up the long spur to the railway track and then through some lovely bush, carpeted with all kinds of ferns. Small streams crossed our path in many places before we reached "Third House" where we had our lunch, then on to the mineral belt where "Sos" really enjoyed a look around among the minerals. We all came home laden with small pieces. I found a fossil of sea shells which I kept for many years.

One sunny Saturday, Mr Gibbs (Sos) took a dozen or so of us up there again and just before we got to the mineral belt he told half of us to go on. We wandered along and then discovered snow on the track. What a surprise for us and a good chance for a snow fight. Sos knew it was there but we didn't. So when he and the rest of the boys came around the bend we let drive and had a good battle. "Oh", Sos called out after a while, "That's enough boys. You've had your revenge on the schoolmaster." We always liked him for that kind of thing. He was not married but was a jolly good teacher and friend.

Mr Worley, "Boop" as the boys called him, had the blow pipe class at school for sixth formers only and he and Sos were mad on minerals. Once a week a male teacher took the boys for a swim at Dennes Hole on the Maitai River and those who could not swim were taught to. A doctor's certificate had to be sent in if a boy was not allowed to go in the water. We had a day each year for swimming races. There were no bikes and we all had to use "Shanks's Pony". I remember us all



going up the Maitai with our towels and trucks around our necks when the large poplars on the side of the road had shed the fluffy white cottonlike flower and it lined the roadway for a long way. There was a deep hole at Dennes and we could swim over 50 yards without striking the ground. One event was diving for plates. Shiny pancake tins were thrown in, well spaced, and the diver had to take long breaths and pick up as many as possible, sometimes all fifteen which gained a special prize.

Overarm, trudge or crawl and side stroke were all allowed in the races. There was a race for back stroke and breast stroke, and diving was a must (so was backstroke) in a championship for the school.

In the early days of 1908, at Central School, Nelson, there were swimming races at Dennes Hole. Four boys were picked to represent the school at a championship arranged by the Nelson Amateur Swimming Club.

This was held at the Port between the wharves. The Anchor Company had a long wharf built 25 yards out from the main wharf just opposite the "Ship Hotel" near the Anchor Foundry Co. office. There was a ladder down to the water where a punt had been placed for the boys to use as a starting and finishing post. It was 50 yards to the breastwork where we had the races. On the eastern side was a breastwork wall of granite blocks on reclaimed land which was used for storing coal. This wall made a splendid grandstand for the races. The H.M.S. "Encounter" was out in the Bay that Saturday, so there were mobs of Bluejackets, boys and men, watching the races as well as a crowd of Nelson enthusiasts. During the Nelson Amateur Swimming Club events, the All Schools Races took place. The four finalists were all from Central School. They were Ken Robertson, Bert Warnock, Albert Sculley and Aubrey Spear. There were three races, 50 yds, 75 yds, and 100 yds. Each boy took his place on the punt, the shot went off, and away we went amidst the constant shouting of the crowd, which gave us lots of courage. Robbie (Ken Robertson) was the one I had never beaten and I made an all out bid right from the start. He was thick-set and red haired. I was long and thin in limbs. The roar from the crowd was good and I had come home first with Robbie close behind, it was a great thrill. We were hauled up on to the punt and handshakes were prevalent. We were given an orange and a good rub down ready for the next race. The sailor boys gave us a good spin, one group calling for "Ginger" (Robbie) and the other for me (Split Pin). Robbie won the next two races so got a gold medal. I got a silver and gold medal for second and Bert Warnock (Chuck) came third.

Money was often given at the swimming races, so the prize winners could buy what they fancied. My brother Cyril Spear won a gold watch for Harriers in New Plymouth and another brother, Elliott, who was the Nelson Swimming Champion, won, at various races, a gold medal, gold watch and chain, a set of hair brushes, clothes brushes, a walking stick, silver jam dish and spoon and other table articles. The jewellers often gave trophies in those days and my sister, Effie, who was the Women's Champion of Nelson for a number of years, got some lovely things, including a pair of opera glasses and a gold chain bangle.

I was the eleventh child of the family and all but one, the eldest, Kate, were good swimmers. My sister, Effie, won many events, particularly breast-stroke. She was a well-built girl and could stand up to the others well. Gertie and Rachel also won school races in their time. Of the seven sons, I only remember the three older than myself as far as swimming goes., Cyril, Howard and Elliott. The latter was Champion of the Nelson A.S.C. Club and won a gold medal and a silver cup for diving at Sunday Hole, just above the bridge where there was a deep hole and a good place for races, I can recall the names of some who swam in Nelson at this time; Harold Dodson, Bert and Sid, his brothers, Putty Hurst, Ben Sowman, Darkie Batchelor, Sid Sherwood, Jack Richards, Hugh Hamilton and George Cornes. Lottie Leggate, daughter of Dr Leggate, was also a powerful swimmer.

It would be of interest to see if the race records of the early Nelson Amateur Swimming Club were kept.

My brother, Howard, had a good chase of a duck, let go at a swimming race near the Nelson slip at the Port in 1906., during the A.S.C. races. A yacht was anchored some distance out and the duck flew a short way and then dived under the yacht, Howard after it. He caught it just as it surfaced (poor thing). He brought it home and fed it up ready for Easter dinner. It must have had a weak heart and not used to so much excitement and food, for it was found dead in its pen the day it was to have had its head chopped off. So it was a "duck" after all!

**EVERY FOUNDER SHOULD ENCOURAGE  
EVERY MEMBER OF THEIR FAMILY TO JOIN**

*especially since the eligibility date is NOW 31st December, 1865!*

On page 11 of the 1986/87 Vol 23 No. 61 Bulletin, I was interested to read a letter regarding a first generation link with the Martha Ridgeway, from Joan Goodin. On the Kempton family tree we have one such descendant aged 97 and living in Whangarei. Her name is Winifred Florance and it was her grandfather and my husband's great-great-grandfather, Thomas Kempton Snr, who came to New Zealand on the Adelaide - arriving in Wellington in March 1840.

Aboard that vessel were Mary Ann and Thomas Kempton Sen., and their two children, Thomas and Odenay. Two daughters were born in Wellington - one Emily Jane in 1840 or 1841, and the other Sarah Ann in 1844. This Sarah Ann was later to marry Edward Dunn of Greytown and they reared a family of 10, of which Winifred Gertrude was the youngest (born 1889) and is now the sole living descendant on this generation line.

Enclosed are some writings I have compiled about her. As to the idea of a get-together of our pioneer sons and daughters - it would be lovely but I know she wouldn't be able to travel any distance now.

Hoping this may be of interest.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Kempton

P.S. Aunty Win is not a Founders' Society member as she feels she is too old!! - is this so or could I fill in forms to get her name included on your membership lists?

Also, thanks for your magazine - I find it enthralling as I dig into our Kempton past.

**(Bulletin Editor's Note:** Your interesting item "A Most Remarkable Lady" will be published in the next Bulletin. Please send actual photographs - photostat copies will not reproduce. Thankyou.)  
New application forms will be sent.

#### WELLINGTON ACTIVITIES 1986-87

The functions for the year under review were as follows: **September 1986:** 5th - Morning Tea; Speaker - Mr Richard Nansen, Director of Parks & Reserves for the Wellington City Council. Well attended and well received. 29th - Luncheon; Speaker - Mr Bill Russell, who entitled his address "One Man's View of China". Mr Russell was a recent visitor to China under a Rotary Exchange Scheme and he was able to give a fascinating insight into modern developments in the world's most populous country. **October:** 20th - This was an evening meeting held at the National Archives. Those able to attend very much enjoyed the opportunity of seeing some of the interesting memorabilia held in storage for the nation. **December:** The annual Christmas function on the 1st was as usual most successful. The speaker was the Head of the Anglican City Mission, the Rev. John Bowles, who appropriately reminded members of the position in respect of some of our less fortunate citizens. The Children's Christmas Party was again organized by Mrs Beth Wills whose work brings pleasure to our future members every year. The special entertainment was in the form of a puppet show and Father Christmas (impersonated by Lindsay Buick-Constable) made his usual visit to the delight of the children. **February 1987:** Founders Day was marked on the 9th by a 5.30pm function at which former City Councillor Keith Spry was the speaker. He spoke on the exciting plans for the Development of Wellington's Harbour. **March:** The annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Edward Gibbon Wakefield's grave was supported by the Society. Arrangements each year are in the hands of the City Council. This year's Commonwealth Day celebrations were the responsibility of our society and were capably handled by our President Mrs Hilary Olsen. **April:** Luncheon this month was addressed by Mrs Ruth Gottlieb who spoke of her experiences in Rarotonga during and after the hurricane and then went on to draw possible analogies with Wellington and potential disaster scenarios. **May:** Luncheon was held on a Sunday at Gear Homestead overlooking Porirua Harbour. This was an interesting venue. The function was followed by an informal visit to Porirua Museum. **June:** Luncheon was favoured by a visit from Hon. Peter Tapsell, Minister of Internal Affairs. Mr Tapsell spoke on culture in the future development of our nation. **July:** The last luncheon of the year was an address by Ian Bowman of the Ministry of Works and Development. He talked on the problems, legal and structural, of preserving our historical buildings.

-C.A. Holloway, Convenor, Wgtn Activities Committee



**RECENT ARRIVALS into the membership ranks of the Founders Society ... The National Secretary and especially the National Registrar supplied the following listing of those new members who have joined since the last Bulletin and up until approximately the beginning of October 1987.**

Name	Address	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Mrs B.M. Wood	Auckland	Associate		
Mrs M.L. Simpson	Auckland	Castle Eden	1851	George Edward Mason
Mrs S.A. Hawley	Auckland	Royal Sovereign	1845	Col. R.H. Wynard & wife
Mrs P. Velimirovic	Auckland		1836-38	John James Stanaway
Mr W.F. Liley	New Plymouth	St Pauli	1843	Sophia Sixtus
Mrs N.E. Liley	New Plymouth	Martha Ridgway	1840	George Joseph Whitley
			1848	Benjamin Gahagan
Mrs L.H. Greig	Masterton	Lady Nugent	1841	John Watterson
		London	1842	Henry & Mary Burling
Mrs J.J. Martelletti	Mania	William Bryan	1841	Richard Putt
Mrs M.M. Skeet	Masterton	Lady Nugent	1841	John & Frances Kilmister
Mrs M.E. Dyer	Hastings		1855	Benjamin Shadbolt
Mr R.E. Hales	Dannevirke	Associate		
Mrs N. Hales	Dannevirke	Associate		
Mrs S.M. Stoddart	Porangahau	Fifeshire	1842	John Kerr
Mr A.J. Stoddart	Porangahau	Associate		
Mrs A.H. Armstrong	Tauranga	Regina	1859	Joseph James & Eliza Wade
		Regina	1855	Samuel & Mary Butcher
Miss A.V. O'Rourke	Palmerston Nth	Clifton	1841	John Howe
		Lord Auckland	1842	Benjamin Lovell
Mrs N.R. Norman	Waipukurau	Canoe		Te Heu Heu 1st of Te Wharetoa of Taupo
Mrs M. Cameron	Rotorua	Associate		
Mr T.D. Lomax	Mamaku	Canoe		Ngapera Kou wife of Pene Tau
Mrs L.M. Teki	Wanganui	Slains Castle	1841	Henry Nathan
Mr J.M. Wilson	Wellington	Lady Nugent	1841	Elizabeth Wilkie
		Olympus	1841	George & Anne Wilkie
		Justine	1840	Thomas Freethy
Mrs A.M. Ringer	Matapouri	Oriental Queen	1847	Francis Caffery (37th Foot)
Mrs N.E. Lane	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	Charles & Hannah Clare
Mrs J.D. Gregory	Hamilton	Sir George Seymour	1847	Thomas Taylor
Mr G.S. Wright	Waipukurau	Orontes	1837	Thomas & Harriet Wright
Mrs M.N. Wright	Waipukurau	Associate		
Mr H.A. Nicoll	Whakatane	Associate		
Mrs M.O. Tapsell	Te Puke	Takitimu & Horuata Canoes	Approx. 1350	Makere Taratana (born NZ)
Mrs G.R. Smith	Auckland	Randolph	1850	James Lang
Mrs M.J. Carlson	New Plymouth	London	1842	Joseph & Sarah Bidmead
Miss F.D. Gaskin	Stratford	Catherine Stewart Forbes	1841	Matthew Gaskin
Mrs B.J. deWaard	New Plymouth	Essex	1843	Henry Nathaniel & Jane Rowe
Mrs R.I. Amor	New Plymouth	Essex	1843	Richard & Jane Old
Mr I.L. Renall	Waipukurau	Martha Ridgway	1840	Alfred William Renall
Mrs A. Renall	Waipukurau	Associate		
Mr G.A. Milham	Wanganui	William Bryan	1841	Jonathan Pearn
Mr F.H. Skipworth	Wanganui	Regina	1841	Cpt. Hannibal Marks
Mrs R. Lloyd	Raumati Beach	Timandra	1842	Joseph & Mary Hart
		Essex	1843	John & Mary Rogers
Mr P. Buddle	Whangaparoa	Triton	1840	Rev. Thomas & Sarah Buddle
Mrs J.F. Ellis	Wellington	London	1842	Richard Wallis
Mr R.J. Blackman	Plimmerton	Ann	1845	George & Abigail Ross
Mrs S.A. Mitchell	Masterton	Lady Nugent	1841	Robert & Ann Robinson

Name	Address	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Mrs M.J. Cooper	Auckland	Whaler Mataatua Canoe	1833	John Les Faulkner Paternal Grandmother's ancestors
Mrs N.J. Arthur	Auckland	HMS Hazard Clara	1844 1850	Stephen Edward Hughes
Mrs M.J. McCormick	Auckland	Thames	1849	Archibald Clark
Mrs C.M. Geary	Feilding	Lady Nugent	1841	George & Susan Baker
Mrs T.C. Dram	Whangaparaoa	Active	1814	Rev. Thomas Kendall
Mrs G.J. Hayes	Levin	Gertrude	1841	William Pike
Mrs R.A. McLean	Tawa	Randolph	1850	William D. Wood
Miss F.J. Wilson	Wanganui	Associate		
Miss P. Lawless	Wanganui	Associate		
Mr M.T. Quinn	Carterton	Associate		
Mrs B. Vine	Wanganui	65th Regt	1847	Patrick Byrne
Mr H.J. Vine	Wanganui	London	1842	John Charles & Eliza James
Mrs K.M. Nichols	Waikanae	Duchess of Argyle	1842	James & Elizabeth Robertson
Mr M.D. King	Omarama	Cressy	1850	Charles & Martha King
Mrs J.F. Ross	Christchurch	Joseph Fletcher	1856	William Sears
Mrs A.S. Miller	Wellington	born in Wgtn	1844	Mary Ann Millner
Miss M.E. Horsfield	Havelock Nth	Timandra	1842	Daniel & Louisa Bishop
Mrs V.M. Lowe	Wellington	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	James Bryant
Mrs H.L. Blake	Levin	Lord William Bentinck	1841	David & Helen Speedy
Mr C.J. Blake	Levin	Catherine Stewart Forbes	1841	Richard & Elizabeth Blake
Mrs J.S. Lepper	Upper Hutt	Skiold	1844	Frederick John Lange Sophia Dorothea Schwass Johanna Amelia Treweek
Mr A.E. Lane	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	David & Louisa Bishop
Mrs D.J. Clarke	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	James & Betsy Wills
Mr A.F.C. Drake	Hawera	Aurora	1840	Thomas John Drake
Mr R.C. Marshall	Paraparaumu	Phillip Laing	1848	Francis & Margaret Marshall
Mrs M.O. Rule	Christchurch	Glentanner	1857	Benjamin Hardesta
		Strathallen	1857	Alfred & Charlotte Oakley
		Gannoque	1859	Mrs Mary Ann Peagram
Mr P.D. Wilson	Waipukurau	Sir George Seymour	1850	David Pollard
Mrs M.J. Harding	Waipukurau	Sir George Seymour	1850	David Pollard
Mrs J. Hewill	Waipukurau	Sir George Seymour	1850	David Pollard
Jeremy Clement	Hawera	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Robert & Charlotte Hopton
		Sir George Seymour	1847	Thomas & Jane Heath
		Osprey	1849	John Clement
Mrs H.J. McNicholl	Masterton	London	1842	Henry & Mary Burling
		Lady Nugent	1841	John & Mary Watterson
Mrs A.R. Somerville	Tirau	Lord William Bentinck	1841	George & Elizabeth Mexted
Mrs A.F. Cotter	Hamilton	Martha Ridgway	1842	Edmund & Mariann Perrin
Mrs M.J. Ellingford	Auckland	Birman	1842	Samuel & Eliza Crowther
Mrs D.E. Moon	Auckland	Maid of Erin	1848	William & Elizabeth Davies
Mr A.J. Bray	Auckland	William Bryan	1841	Thomas & Sarah Bray
Mrs J. Johnstone	Wanganui	Olympus	1841	Job & Rachel Mabey
Mrs A.M. Thomsen	Havelock Nth	Bengal Merchant	1840	Alexander & Robt Yule
Mr L.K. Thomsen	Havelock Nth	Associate		
Mr D.W. Dick	Napier	Bengal Merchant	1840	David Robert Dick
Mrs N.B. Cole	Waipukurau	Lord Auckland	1842	Matthew Prince
Mr M.A. Cole	Waipukurau	Associate		Hargreaves



Name	Address	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Mr W.L. Stoddart	Porangahau HB	Stately	1852	John & Elizabeth Reid Dempster
Mrs F.O. Stoddart	Porangahau HB	Associate		
Mrs U.L. McKay	Masterton	Arab	1841	John & Caroline Hooper
Miss S.E. Harkness	Aramaho		1854	Charles Mungo Harkness
Mrs O.M. Porteous	Wanganui	Elizabeth	1854	Thomas & Bridget Phillips
Mrs J.M. Macdonald	Auckland	Shamrock	1841	John Regan
		Sir George Seymour	1847	Peter Parker
Mr W.A. Macdonald	Auckland	Lady Nugent	1841	Robert & Ann Robinson
		Strathfieldsaye	1858	Thomas & Janet Hall
		Arab	1841	Charles & Ann Hollard
		Strathfieldsaye	1858	John Bowie
Mr R.C. LeGrice	Auckland	Sir George Seymour	1847	Elizabeth Lynch/Culbert
		Catherine Stewart Forbes	1852	John Crawshaw
Mr C.M. Wright	Wellington	Evening Star	1858	Henry Hawkes Wright
Mrs A.G. Butcher	Feilding	Bernica	1848	George & Hannah Bennett
Miss M.B. Butcher	Feilding	Bernica	1848	George & Hannah Bennett
Mr B.W. Turnbull	Rangiora		1854	George & Mary Ann Dement
Mr S.M. Rule	Christchurch	Westminster	1857	Albert Rule
		Canoe		Ngai Tahu Chief Tutekawa
Mr A.R. Bevin	Te Awamutu	Phoebe Dunbar	1850	Frank & Ellen Wills
Miss M.E. Harris	Hamilton	Ulcoats	1864	William Johns & Fanny (dr)
Miss E.E. Williamson	Hamilton	William Hyde	1851	Alexander Watt Williamson
Mr S.M. Hewitt	Waipukurau	Associate		
Mrs H.A. Acklin	Waipukurau	Ben Lomond	1863	David Whytock
Mr L. Gilmour	Putaruru	Susan	1837	John & Ann Hart
Mrs A.J. Gilmour	Putaruru	Associate		
Mrs V.I. Mooney	Masterton	Ann Wilson	1857	George & Mary Ann Morris
Mr J.H. Keedwell	Carterton	Nourmahal	1859	Michael Meredith
Mrs R. Keedwell	Carterton	Associate		
Mr C.A. Holloway	Wellington	Mystery	1863	Henry Somes Holloway

Despatch of Lieutenant-Governor Eyre, relative to the Earthquake at Wellington, Government House, Wellington, 19th October 1848.

Sir, - It is my most painful duty to inform your excellency that a terrible calamity has overtaken this province: an earthquake has occurred, and the town of Wellington is in ruins.

....

Under this awful visitation I deemed it my duty at once to summon my Executive Council, and, with their approval, to proclaim a day of public and solemn fast, prayer, and humiliation, in order that supplication may be offered up to Almighty God to avert the recurrence of any similar visitation, and Friday, the 20th of October, was appointed for this purpose.

I will not fail to communicate to your Excellency such further information and reports as it may be in my power from time to time render.

I have the honour to be, Sir

Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant

(Signed) E. Eyre

*(Now there's an idea on how to prevent earthquakes - stop eating.)*

- Extracted, as above, from a recent newsletter of the NZ Institute of Civil Defence.

## H.B. - ANOTHER POPULAR MYSTERY TRIP

The Hawkes Bay Branch of the Society recently held another of its very successful "mystery" trips by popular request. A full load of members from Napier, Hastings and Havelock North travelled from Havelock North to meet up with two well-filled buses at Waipukurau with passengers from Central and Southern Hawkes Bay. Destinations were kept a complete secret from the 120 members on the trip, these being known only to the President and the Secretary. These two people are to be congratulated on the hard work and organization which went into the planning. Many little friendly bets were taken as to the route to be taken and when the buses took the road up the hill through Waipukurau it was found that many had guessed right - first stop Porangahau on the coast. Before we took the road to the beach however, the party visited the historic little church on what had been the large Hunter Station. This church has recently been lovingly restored by a Trust formed by the Hunter family, and Mrs C. Hunter spoke to the assembled company and gave a brief outline on the history of the church as far as it is known. The church was built in 1878 of heart kauri timber from Northland, which was shipped ashore at Blackhead Point on rafts and brought to its present site by bullock drays. The altar, pulpit and seats were of rewarewa (native honeysuckle). The font, which is also the original one (origin unknown) was found lying out in the paddock around the church. Unfortunately no official records were ever made and we were grateful to Mrs Hunter for the notes she had made and the information collated. The church was never consecrated but services were held in it for the family and the station hands (there were approximately 40 staff on the station in the early days). William Colenso took services in it and the Rev. Simcox was the vicar for many years. It was also used for weddings and christenings and the late Lady Hunter was organist there at one time. Sir George Hunter died in 1930 and the church fell into disrepair during the slump years. It was used mainly for storing vegetable crops and hay, and some of the pews were sold for garden seats. When the station was sold in 1986, a Trust was set up to acquire a lease of the church and it was then restored. A family service and luncheon was held and sixteen of the seventeen grandchildren of the late Sir George and Lady Hunter, together with their families, were present. Coincidentally, it was a George Hunter who read the lesson, and, although not planned, the function was held on the 8th February 1987, exactly 147 years since the original George Hunter had landed at Petone.

Time permitted only the briefest of visits to the beautiful Porangahau Beach before adjourning to the well-appointed Porangahau Country Club for a delicious home-made luncheon (the catering was undertaken by Club members - 120 attended).

Arrangements had been made for the party to visit the Mangaorapa Station between Porangahau and Waipukurau. Here the visitors were warmly received by the Mouat family, and after assembling on the beautifully kept lawns in the warm spring sunshine to hear a brief history of the station delivered by the owner, Mr Don Mouat. The party was then taken on a conducted tour of this prosperous and well-run property with its attractive homestead and other farm residences, spacious farm buildings and implement sheds and the model dairy for the small herd of pedigree cattle which is run in conjunction with the station's large sheep flock.

Before the party left the station, opportunity was taken to again unpack picnic baskets for a final cup of tea (after that lunch?) on a shady lawn on the property before reboarding the three buses for the run home through the green Hawkes Bay countryside. Waipukurau was home for two of the buses, while the third bus continued on back to its home base at Havelock.

The final run home is usually a rather subdued affair, it is always surprising how very weary everyone has so suddenly become, and how many legs are aching. But everyone most adamant that they wouldn't have missed it for the world, and all anxiously looking forward to the next time.

Hilda Bradley  
H.B. Contributor

**EVERY FOUNDER SHOULD ENCOURAGE  
EVERY MEMBER OF THEIR FAMILY TO JOIN**



## THE FOUNDERS CREED

We pledge ourselves to foster, promote and inculcate in rising generations that hardy will and spirit of enterprise, responsibility, work and faith so abundantly possessed by the actual founders, which has been so important a factor in the life and progress of New Zealand.

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*If you consider you would qualify for full membership of this Society, simply write to or phone the National Secretary (see details above) and/or to your nearest Branch Secretary (listed above) seeking an application form. Under the Society's recent date eligibility rule change - membership is available to: "descendants of persons who arrived in New Zealand on, or before 31st December, 1865."*

Printed by: HILLARY COURT PRINT LTD, Hawkins Street, Woburn.



**WILLIAM ADAMS**

*Story linked to the photograph  
on our cover*

## **MICHAEL DIXON, EMMA AND OTHER PIONEERS IN THE WAIRARAPA'S EARLIEST DAYS ...**

*The following is the story of Wairarapa pioneer, Michael Dixon, and some of his family. Written by his great-great-granddaughter, Margaret Millar.*

Michael Dixon left England on the "Arab" on 1 June, 1841, destined as he hoped, for pastures green in New Zealand. He was 30 years of age. With him were his wife, Sarah, three young sons, a daughter of 7 years and an infant daughter, Emma. The ship berthed at Port Nicholson on 16 October.

In his birthplace, Coventry, England, Michael was apprenticed at an early age, to the ribbon-weaving trade at which he was employed for several years. But his interests lay more in agriculture and this might have been a consideration in his selection for immigration.

In Wellington he was employed for a time as a warder at the Wellington Gaol. Later, he went into business at Karori as a milkman.

Bush fires at Karori caused considerable damage in 1851. In one of these fires Michael lost his house and contents. Shortly afterwards he turned his attention to the Wairarapa, then known as the Waidrap. He paid at least one reconnaissance trip over the Rimutakas and liked what he saw.

In 1854, he and his daughter, Emma, set out on the dangerous and difficult journey, travelling with the first party of Small Farm Settlers. At least 19 river crossings had to be made before the little party reached the present site of Masterton on 21 May, 1854.

At Kuripuni, Michael built a whare and soon began a retail trade with the Maoris. The goods had to be brought from Wellington on one pack-horse, the load including the importer. When crossing a swollen river, Michael would dismount and the horse would swim across with its owner hanging onto its tail; an unusual but satisfactory mode of transit.

As the district grew, his circumstances improved. He acquired land and built a number of houses. His only troubles were matrimonial ones. When Sarah and the rest of his family came to the district is unclear, but it is known that Sarah eventually absconded taking her husband's only horse. Michael is not recorded as being saddened by the loss of his wife, but the loss of his horse was another matter. Filled with courage and perseverance of the pioneers, he walked to Wellington and found the horse at the New Zealander. Without further ado, he mounted and returned to Masterton.

Emma Dixon's future husband, William Adams, was already in Masterton, having come to New Zealand in 1846, on the "Java", with the 65th Regiment. He was born in County Derry, Ireland.

In 1850, William took his discharge in Wellington and moved to the lower valley of the Wairarapa, working on Tuhitarata station. Later he moved to his town acre in Masterton and built himself a whare. By that time he was working as a shepherd for Richard Collins. William Adams became the first white man to live in the future town area of Masterton.

During his time of employment with Collins, he and Emma Dixon were married. The ceremony was performed by Rev. T.B. Hutton, at Collins' Te Ore Ore residence, on 1 August, 1854. Williams was 14 years his wife's senior. Theirs was the first white wedding in Masterton.



Shortly after the marriage the whare was burnt down and William had a house built on his 80-acre Small Farm section at Lansdowne.

The property, originally covered in flax, ti-tree and bush, had become good agricultural and grazing land. At the request of William Adams, Joseph Masters named the house, "Mount Pleasant". The property was known as "Adamsville".

The couple had 8 sons and 8 daughters. William died in 1906 and his wife in 1918. He was of a quiet, retiring disposition and did not take part in public life.

In his old age, Emma's father, Michael Dixon, lived comfortably on his income from the sale of land, interest on money lent and the rents from his houses. At the time of his death in 1883, he was worth approximately £2,000 - a tidy sum in those days.

His only living children were Mrs Robert Allen and Mrs Adams. He willed a considerable part of his estate to his brothers and sisters in England.

Michael Street was named after him. It was originally called Michael Dixon Street.

## NEW ZEALAND LITERARY FIGURE DIES



**NZ Founder Cecilia Manson**

*A well-known historian and broadcaster, Mrs Cecilia Manson, has died, aged 79.*

*Mrs Manson, of Days Bay, Eastbourne, and her late husband, Mr Cecil Manson, were notable for their contribution to art and literature in New Zealand. Together they founded the Katherine Mansfield Fellowship, which allows New Zealand writers to travel to the south of France and work in Mansfield's house in Menton.*

*Mrs Manson, born in Masterton, wrote several fiction books based on historical fact. Several were written in collaboration with her late husband, Cecil Murray Manson. Mrs Manson's last work was The Widow of Thorndon Quay. Ill-health over the past six to eight years prevented her from writing more books. She has appeared in several editions of the NZ Founders Bulletin and numerous other NZ periodicals.*

*Mrs Manson was a fourth-generation New Zealander, her maternal great-grandfather having brought his family to New Zealand in his own ship two years before colonisation began. The account of her family past was well documented in her 1974 book "The Story of a New Zealand Family" which was published by Cape Catley Ltd of Whatamonga Bay, Queen Charlotte Sounds, Marlborough.*

*Mrs Manson became president of the New Zealand Womens Writers Society and was awarded the MBE in 1977. She is survived by her two sons, multi-media journalists Hugo and Bill Manson.*

