



Bulletin

Number 68 1997

New Zealand Founders Society Inc.



The Pioneer Monument in New Plymouth (see page 33)

Pages 23,24,25,26 contain AGM and Financial Reports only

Ewan Hay-Mackenzie was born in Wellington on 21 April 1916 and died on 4 July 1996. His principal Founder ancestors were Sara and Robert Cameron, a flour miller from England, who arrived on the "Himalaya" which landed in New Plymouth on 23.12.1843, Nelson, 12.1.1844 and Wellington, 1.2.1844.

Ewan commenced work in the Public Service in 1935 as an office boy for the DSIR physicist, Sir Ernest Marsden. In 1952 he joined the Audit Office and remained there until his retirement in 1976. He was the model Public Servant, responsible, dedicated, loyal and a stickler for detail and accuracy - definitely not of the "Gliding On" variety. From 1957 to 1961 he was the Audit Officer at the N.Z. High Commission in London.

From 1930 on Ewan lived in the Putman Street house that had been his parents' (in the Wellington suburb of Northland). His father, William Edward Hay-Mackenzie, was a 1901 All Black, and his uncle was the first husband of the famous Apia Hotelier, Aggie Gray. Ewan made regular trips for many years to Apia to attend Aggie Gray's birthday celebrations.

While a confirmed bachelor, Ewan was something of a paradox for he sought out human company, being active throughout his life within the local community. He was a member of the Northland Progressive Association and the Northland Memorial Community Centre, its treasurer and even its caretaker for many years. He was also a keen bowler to the last, and member of several local bowling clubs. He particularly relished social gatherings and functions.

He joined the Founders Society in 1953 and was a National Councillor from 1966 until 1994, being awarded Honorary Life Membership and a "For Service" medallion in 1981. He also became the honorary photographer and archivist for the Society, in particular recording the historical talks of guest speakers.

Those who knew Ewan, will recognise with fondness his gentlemanly ways, reminiscent of another era, as one who never forgot to open doors and tip his hat to the fairer sex, his relentless persistence in pursuit of "getting it right", his generous and approachable nature, and his harmless eccentricities in the form of collecting all manner of paper and printed matter. He was never one for throwing anything away, which made for increasingly cramped living quarters.

A RECORD FOR FOUNDERS' MEMBERS ?

Mr Dave Eden was born in Wanganui in 1906 and lived there until 1925 when he moved to Whangarei. He now lives in Tauranga where he is a member of the Bay of Plenty Branch. He was formerly a member of the Auckland and later, the Northland Branches. He is proud of the fact that he is a descendant of six different pioneer families and indeed a descendant of no fewer than twelve of our early settlers who were born in England and came to New Zealand at various times before 1865. He is thus eligible to be a member twelve times over.

The following is a list of these forebears, nine of them N.Z. Company emigrants.

On his father's side:-

His great-grandfather Thomas Eden and his great-grandmother Jane Ainsworth who both arrived in Nelson in 1843 (ship unknown) and who married there the same year.

His great-great-grandfather Thomas Lines and his great-grandfather John Lines who arrived in Nelson on the "Thomas Harrison" in 1842.

His great-great-grandparents George and Mary Holland and his great-grandmother Jane Holland who all arrived in Nelson on the "Bolton" in 1842. Jane married John Lines in 1849.

On his mother's side:-

His great-grandfather William Mickle (also spelt Mickell) who arrived in Nelson on the "Whitby" in 1841 and his great-grandmother Euphemia James who arrived in Nelson on the "Lloyds" in 1842. They later married.

His great-great-grandparents Alfred and Sarah Anthony who arrived in Nelson on the "Olympus" in 1842.

His great-grandfather Robert Talbot who arrived Nelson in 1856 and later married Elizabeth Anthony.

Can anyone beat this record?

SOME NOTES FROM THE WAIKATO BRANCH

P.S. RANGIRIRI

The "Rangiriri" plied the Waikato River from 1864 to around 1889. A stern wheeler, she was built in Sydney and shipped in sections for assembly at Port Waikato. Although ordered by the military for the 1863-64 Waikato Campaigns, she was not a gunboat but a mundane steam tug designed to tow barges.

Her links with Hamilton are strong, for it was the "Rangiriri" that on 24 August 1864 brought the first contingent of soldier/settlers to newly-established Hamilton. For many years after, she operated as a transporter, sinking and being raised on many occasions.

Eventually the "Rangiriri" went aground during high water and stuck fast. She was abandoned. In 1890 her machinery was removed to be placed in the P.S. Freetrader, a steamer that operated for many years into the 20th century.

During the summer of 1981, a team working under a Department of Labour work project scheme, excavated the hulk of the "Rangiriri". The detailed plans and sections that resulted from this excavation are an important record of the construction of this steam tug.

Using these plans, the Waikato Art Museum and the Recreation and Welfare Department of Hamilton City Council were able to develop a practical plan for the removal and preservation of this, probably the single most important tangible link with the Waikato Campaigns and the early European settlement of Hamilton.

The following typewritten letters were sent to the Waikato Branch by their oldest member, 99 year old Mrs Charity Hunt.

Dear Mr Mowbray,

Thank you for your invitation to the Garden Party for 2nd March. I am sure you will understand that I will regretfully not be able to attend. Due to my various misadventures during the last few months, I have become somewhat enfeebled - though I wouldn't want anyone else to call it that. AND next Friday (*2nd March*) is my 99th birthday. I live happily each day as it comes and find the typewriter a bridge between myself and my friends.

3rd March

Dear Mr Mowbray,

I was delighted to receive your greeting from yourself and the chairwoman on behalf of members of our Branch of the Founders Society for my birthday. It was indeed a pleasant occasion, conducted in visits of twos and threes and a small party, so that I could enjoy each and everyone. Beautiful flowers came too, altogether making a very happy birthday. Thirty-two cards have given me a chance to greet friends and relatives and I am getting near the end of the list which has delayed my acknowledgment to you, but please thank everyone.

Peter Mowbray comments that she is wonderful and as lively as a cricket, though deaf.



Photo, Joyce Mackenzie

The stained glass window in the entrance hall of the Bushy Park homestead

THE FAMILY RE-UNION (author unknown)

At this time of looking back and remembering the past,
If we compared the pioneers with us, we'd be outclassed.

The woman in particular deserves our great respect.

She travelled to a strange new land; what future could she expect?

The journey must have seemed so long with an ever-present fear
Of storms and sickness, even death, but her comfort was in prayer.

And when at last they landed out here so far away,

The climate wasn't suitable for the fashions of the day.

Imagine doing housework with legs and ankles covered
In the heat of our midsummer days. Oh, how she must have suffered!

Then when the day was over, and what lengthy days they were,

She bathed from jug and basin; no daily showers for her.

The next time that you start to moan about your busy life,

The meetings and commitments as a mother and a wife,
Spare a thought for the women who came here as pioneers.

I'm sure that you'll be grateful for the progress of the years.

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1939-1944 | Hon Cheviot Wellington Dillon Bell, BA |
| 1944-1945 | Major Percy de Bathe Brandon, OBE, VD, JP, FCSNZ |
| 1945-1947 | Hon Sir Harold Featherston Johnston, QC, BA |
| 1947-1950 | Arthur James Seed, FAIS |
| 1950-1951 | James William Carr |
| 1951-1952 | Arthur Ashley Cooper |
| 1952-1954 | Harry Edgar Duff Daysh, CBE |
| 1954-1955 | Hon Daniel Johnston Riddiford, MC, MP |
| 1955-1956 | Ronald David Greenwood |
| 1956-1958 | Maxwell Henry Wall |
| 1958-1962 | Alister Hunter Macandrew |
| 1962-1963 | Erle Lionel Benseman |
| 1963-1964 | R.A.H. Mansford |
| 1964-1966 | Lawrence Hollis Pollock |
| 1966-1969 | Alfred Butler Diamond |
| 1969-1973 | Lindsay Mostyn Buick-Constable, QSM, JP |
| 1973-1976 | Ian Donald Arthur Cameron, OBE, MBE |
| 1976-1979 | Sydney Lewis Moses, CBE |
| 1979-1982 | Gerald Hastings Bridge, JP |
| 1982-1985 | Donald Edward Harper |
| 1985-1989 | Hilary Prudence Mary Olsen (nee Hayhurst) |
| 1989-1992 | Robin Graeme Ward |
| 1992-1995 | Ronald Garrod |
| 1995-1997 | Sir John Mowbray, KT |

The First President of the N.Z. Founders Society

Cheviot Wellington Dillon Bell (1892-1959) was born in Wellington, the younger son of Rt Hon. Francis Bell P.C. He was educated at Christ's College, Christchurch and Trinity College, Cambridge. Later he became a solicitor with Bell, Gully, McKenzie and Evans. During the First World War he served in the 10th Royal Hussars and the Royal Flying Corps and in the Second, he was an instructor with the RNZAF at Woodbourne. Cheviot was also a former Vice-Consul for Spain and a member of the Waitangi Trust Board. Initially he lived at Lowry Bay (on Wellington Harbour) but later in life he resided at Rangitumau, Masterton.

His grandfather (Sir Francis Dillon Bell) was a New Zealand politician and N.Z. Agent-General in London for 11 years. His father (Sir Francis Henry Dillon Bell) was the country's first N.Z. born Prime Minister. This was for 16 days only after the death of William Massey in 1925. His elder brother (W.H.D. Bell) was also a Wellington M.P. Quite a proud record of community service for one family.

Sandra Clarke

AN HISTORIC CHAIR

In 1992 the Founders Society lent to the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul a lectern and a chair which had previously been given to the Society, but which were difficult to house after the move from Wakefield House. Members may view the chair in the Lady Chapel at the cathedral. It was donated to the Society by Mr J.D.G.Tripe in 1942 and was made from thirteen pieces of historic timber linked with early New Zealand. The following gives the history of the individual pieces.

1. Kauri, taken from a block beneath the stone doorway of the first European house in N.Z., built at Kerikeri, Northland, in 1815.
2. Part of the second bridge put across the Balclutha River, Otago, in 1880.
3. A piece of Australian hardwood from a log retrieved from the cargo of the brig "Boyd", burned and sunk by Maori in 1809 in Whangaroa Harbour.
4. A gatepost erected at the Church of England mission property at Tauranga in 1938.
5. Matai, sent by Mr W.B.Allen, Wairarapa. Part of a chest of drawers made in the Wairarapa 70 years ago by Mr Edwin Ticehurst. The wood in the chest was hand hewn from the log and then hand dressed down to the required thinness.
6. Kauri from a military blockhouse built near the mouth of the Waitara River, Taranaki, in 1860.
7. Kauri from the oldest existing building in Nelson, later to become part of the Art Gallery. Formerly it was known as Campbell's School, the foundation stone of which was laid by Sir William Fox on 14 February 1843.
8. Totara sent by Mr Tai Mitchell from Rotorua. It was from one of the three main carved pillars which supported the solid ridge of the meeting house of the Arawa Confederation of tribes, the tree itself being felled in 1866.
9. Part of the red beech weatherboard of a building erected in Lawrence, Otago, in 1867 and recently dismantled.
10. Honduras mahogany from a paychest of HMS Orpheus, wrecked on the Manakau Bar in 1863. A brass plate on the chest bore the date 1720.
11. English oak, from one of the largest English oaks in N.Z., planted at Tamahere, Hamilton in 1864. (Still growing in 1942 and 12 feet thick at the butt.)

12. Matai from St Johns Anglican Church, Te Awamutu, built from money raised in 1853.

13. Part of a ten foot pointed picket post from the stockade of the five-acre Tutakomoana Pa, used by Maori inhabitants in the Taupo district up to 1830.



Photo, Robin Ward

TARANAKI FOUNDERS DAY

March 31st 1997 was much like the same day 156 years ago when the first of the Plymouth Company pioneers stepped ashore on Ngamotu Beach from the barque "William Bryan". The weather on that occasion in 1841 was fine and warm, with just the hint of a breeze blowing off a mountain yet to receive its first winter snowfall.

Today a stone monument, (erected 31 March 1911) bearing the names of the Company's seven ships and their arrival dates, overlooks a beach that now bears no resemblance to that upon which those first settlers, almost 150 in number, made their landfall after 140 days crowded together aboard a ship of just 312 tons.

It was here that members of the Taranaki Branch of the Founders Society, along with five members from Whanganui and a number of members of the public, gathered on Easter Monday for a short commemorative service to their forebears led by Branch Chairman, Trevor Bright.

The inscription reads, "Erected to mark the locality where the Pioneer Settlers landed from the following vessels."

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Brougham | 14 February 1841 |
| William Bryan | 31 March 1841 |
| Amelia Thompson | 3 September 1841 |
| Regina | 3 October 1841 |
| Oriental | 7 November 1841 |
| Timandra | 24 February 1842 |
| Blenheim | 7 November 1842 |
| Essex | 23 January 1843 |

This gathering was preceded by the branch's annual luncheon at Club Taranaki. This club, incidentally, stands on a rise overlooking the coast immediately in front of the town where, apart from the "William Bryan" and the "Amelia Thompson" which had unloaded on Ngamotu Beach, all the other Plymouth Company ships and subsequent migrant vessels put their passengers ashore.

The guest speaker at the luncheon was the Deputy New Plymouth District Mayor, Brian Bellringer, who spoke on his own long-standing family stake in New Plymouth and of the District Council's approach to local heritage matters.

The luncheon is an annual affair for the Founders, but the gathering at the Pioneer Memorial has for many years been organised by the New Plymouth Historical Society. This body now having gone into recess, the Founders Society has taken it over, hopefully also as an annual feature.

Murray Moorhead, Taranaki Branch Secretary.

The New Zealand Founders Society was established in Wellington in 1939 by Mr D. Hope-Johnston, the founder of the Australasian Pioneers Club and a descendant of pioneers in both Australia and New Zealand. Lord Bledisloe of London, a former Governor-General was the Patron and the first president was Mr Cheviot Bell. Whanganui was the fifth branch to be formed, being preceded by Auckland, Wairarapa and Canterbury. There are now eleven branches.

1945-1954

The person who called the first meeting of this branch was Mr E.J. Burke, who had been a committee member of the Wairarapa Branch until he was transferred to the Post Office in Wanganui. He was asked by the Dominion Council to try to form a branch here and agreed to do so. There were already 17 members of the Founders Society in the district, seven in Wanganui, seven in Marton, two in Waverley and one in Hunterville. Letters were sent to them all to ask if they would like to transfer to the Whanganui Branch. Most responded affirmatively. One wrote, *"Old Wanganui people are very conservative. I think you will have an uphill job but you may get somewhere."* Mrs Ingleby Morrison who had joined the Wellington Branch in 1940 was one of the respondents. She wrote, *"When I first joined the Founders I was very interested, but there was no-one I was interested in when I went to the rooms in Wellington. I don't play bridge or anything, just knit, but I love dancing. Anyway I shall give you all the help I can."*

The first meeting took place at 5.30 p.m. on 26th September 1945 at Duigans Building, Ridgway Street and was attended by 13 people. A second meeting followed a week later, at which Mr W. Gilbert was elected chairman with Mr Burke as secretary and a committee of eight (a total of 5 men and 5 women!). A Post Office Savings Account was opened. The third meeting took place a month later. Expenses were already beginning, with room hire 10/-, Chronicle advertising 9/- and Herald advertising 6/-. A social meeting was planned for all members in November but was cancelled as no suitable room could be found.

The Branch got more into its stride during 1946. From this time on, about three committee meetings were held each year, nearly always at 5.30 in the museum office, in return for a donation. General meetings (at this time always called social gatherings which actually meant a speaker and some musical items) were held about two or three times a year including the AGM. One of the problems in the early days was the venue for meetings. In 1947 we read, *"Owing to the lack of any suitable room (I might say - or almost any room) we have not been able to arrange a social gathering."*

This was eventually solved and the main venue right up to 1960 was the Victoria League room and sometimes a member's home. There also seemed to be a problem of heating. The minutes record periodically, "*Mrs Spurdle (or someone else) offered to bring wood for the fire.*" Meetings were usually at night and sometimes finished very late. Several times the minutes record, "*The meeting concluded at 11.30 p.m.*" In 1947 the bank account yielded its first interest - exactly 8d. Two years later things were looking up. It was 2/9d.

In 1947 when Lord Bledisloe (the Patron) was about to visit Wanganui, it was decided he "*be respectfully asked if he could find it convenient to meet members.*" The Annual Report says, "*After considerable trouble we managed to meet Lord Bledisloe when he was here and now have his signature at the top of our visitors book.*" (Where is that book? Ed.)

Membership was slow to increase. It was also difficult to decide who was an official member until the Dominion Council in 1951 began giving a certificate of membership when the application was accepted. Year after year it was reported that there had been few new members, in spite of letters being sent to all known early settlers' families. In 1952 the chairman, Mr A.C. Nixon in his Annual Report said, "*It has been reported in higher circles that this Branch is dead, but we say, not dead but sleeping and we shall arise with fresh vigour during the coming year.*" Membership did reach 50 in 1954 and finally in 1957 the chairman, Mr Parkes could say, "*It is very pleasing to report that we have made a marked advance in a field which previously has remained rather dormant. This is in the increase in new members - for the year just ended there have been fifteen new members.*" Founders badges were available for members right from the start.

GOD DEFEND NEW ZEALAND

This is now regarded as our National Anthem but it was many years before it became accepted as such. The words were written by Thomas Bracken who in 1875 published the poem in his Dunedin newspaper, offering 10 guineas for the best music setting for it. This was won by John Woods, a school teacher in Lawrence. Although then published as New Zealand's National Anthem, it was mostly forgotten. In the 1930s James McDermott, a Post Office engineer, bought recordings of the song and gave them to radio stations to play and this made it well known. In 1939 the Centennial Council suggested that it become our national hymn and the Government bought the copyright. It has mainly become accepted through the Olympic and Commonwealth Games which needed a distinctive New Zealand song for medal ceremonies.

The following letter was found in an old photograph album at Awhitu on the south-western side of the Manukau Harbour 100 years after it was written. It appears that it was never posted.

My dear, dear, dear Mother,

We are having troubled times here. Five days ago we were hurriedly evacuated from our Crown Grant of land on the Manukau Harbour. We were not given time to collect blankets, clothing or food, as the powers that be had sent boats to collect us and take us to Onehunga Village, because it was reported the natives are on the warpath. We have not heard anything further about their advances. All the women and children from the upper reaches of the harbour were brought to the village and housed in a large shed by the beach, which had been built for customs duty. A brick haven is being built high on a hill here for occasions like this, but it is not nearly ready for occupation.

We are very cold, hungry and very miserable. The only fire we have is one outside, but there is scarcely anything to cook. Mrs Furley who keeps a store and inn in Princes Street allows me a loaf of bread a day which she trusts me to pay for when I can. (Such good bread it is too.) We will have John's 7/- per week when the pensions arrive from England. The 6d has been cut off as John and the soldiers do not go to church on Sunday parades any more. A Mrs George keeps a hotel across the road from our shed. She is a very handsome lady and as handsome as she looks. She gives us all a bowl of soup a day and has two rooms with fires going all the time and allows us to warm ourselves when we like.

The minister here is a Mr Purchas. He is also a doctor. He is always being called away to sick people. He is away now. When he returns Mrs George is going to ask him to call a public meeting to try and get us temporary aid. The children do need food and warm bedding so badly. We sleep on bare boards. Last night some fishermen stopped at the village well opposite our shed. They were drunk but sang very nicely,

"Backward, turn backward O tide of the year.

Make me a child again just for tonight."

Dear, dear, dear Mother, how I did wish I was a child again safe home in your arms. But no more of this. We are really alright. I trust you and father are both keeping well.

Your loving daughter, Martha Emma.

P.S. I will write another letter later to put in with this. I haven't the 6d for postage at present.

The following account is published with the permission of Nancy Bruce, a Wanganui writer, poet and playwright. Captain Bruce was her grandmother's uncle. Nancy wrote the article and Hamilton Bruce did much of the research.

CAPTAIN JAMES BRUCE

Born in Dundee, Scotland in 1806, Captain James Bruce followed the sea from his earliest years, serving his apprenticeship in the whaling fleets that worked the bleak and dangerous waters of the Arctic. Earliest records show that he was in Sydney in 1833 as master of a ship from England, and in 1834 he came to New Zealand in command of the "Caroline", a small sailing ship owned by Burn and Company of Sydney. He carried back to Sydney several passengers and a cargo of black oil, and reported severe weather which carried away his bulwarks and binnacles and stove in one of his boats.

For some years after this Captain Bruce commanded the ships of Johnny Jones, the Sydney waterman who had set up whaling stations in the south of New Zealand. First command was the schooner "Sydney Packet", fitted out as a whaler, and in her Captain Bruce plied between Sydney and the Otago whaling stations. Besides the oil, whalebone, sealskins, stores and passengers, he carried something of vital importance in those days before radio, telegraph or regular mails. He carried news:- concise, reliable reports on shipping movements, weather, Maori battles, and warnings to other shipmasters. He took to Sydney the first word of the seizure of the "Active" by the Maori of Port Nicholson, he reported the first American whaling and sealing vessels in N.Z. waters, the first French ships at South Cape and Otago, the news of the Enderby expedition at Chalky Inlet. He was the first master to provide cabin accommodation on a trans-Tasman ship.

In 1841 Captain Bruce made his headquarters at Akaroa and purchased "The Brothers", a small schooner in which he traded round the coast of New Zealand and across to Australia, carrying whalebone, oil and other cargoes. In the following year, however, "The Brothers" was caught in a sudden squall and sank in Akaroa Harbour. But for the courageous action of a Maori woman on board, Captain Bruce would have gone down with her. He was ever mindful of his debt, providing for his rescuer to the end of her days and sending her daughter north to be educated. Three hundred golden sovereigns went down with "The Brothers", together with the deeds to Captain Bruce's lands, including over 500 acres at Preservation Inlet, some property in Sydney and a small island somewhere off New Zealand's west coast.

Also on board the schooner was the N. Z. Land Company's surveyor, Captain Mein Smith, who was probably New Zealand's first artist. (Some of his work is preserved in the Turnbull Library and the Otago Early Settlers Museum.) Many of his pictures were lost in the wreck, together with his surveyor's instruments.

At the time of the wreck, a French warship was in the harbour at Akaroa, and her sailors fastened chains to the schooner's masts and partially raised her. Captain Bruce, aware of the stress on the masts, urged the French captain to undergird the ship, but an argument blew up between them and in the heat of the moment the Frenchman cast off and let "The Brothers" sink again, this time for ever.

In 1842 Captain Bruce, having swallowed the anchor, settled down in the place that called him most and opened the inn, ancestor of the present Bruce Hotel. Bruce Creek still chuckles under the stone bridge and the descendants of the old captain still live there in the Akaroa he loved. Bruce Bay on the West Coast also bears his name, but which was his "small island" whose deeds lie so deep we shall probably never know.

Captain Bruce was popular alike with sailors and settlers and ever ready to welcome newcomers after their months at sea en route from the old land. When the "Monarch", bound from England to Auckland in 1850, was driven off course and put into Akaroa, he went out himself in a small boat to welcome her and pilot her in. The record adds that most of the 52 passengers destined for Auckland fell so in love with Akaroa that they remained to settle there instead.

As the earliest direct importer of goods, it was Captain Bruce who applied to Sir George Grey to have Akaroa made a port of entry, and the old custom house that was then erected is still used today as a Borough Council storehouse. Agent as well as trader, he carried out a number of land transactions, and was one of the signatories to "Kemp's Deed", covering the purchase of the land between Nelson and the Otago blocks, some 20 million acres.

Captain Bruce died in 1858.

PASSENGER SHIPPING LISTS

On page 33 of the Sigma Report it was suggested that the Founders Society "obtain catalogued data on all ships arrivals and their passenger lists for the last century." If only such a thing was possible!

Unfortunately no organisation in New Zealand or elsewhere, including the Government, has such a list, and it is actually impossible to discover a great deal of such information for the following reasons.

1. Before 1840 many ships from Australia and elsewhere brought people to N.Z. particularly to the northern part, but no official record was kept.
2. The same is true of the goldrush period in Otago and Westland from 1860 on. Many little boats brought gold seekers from Melbourne. At the moment embarkation lists in Melbourne for this period are being indexed and this should help with the problem.
3. Many trading ships (as distinct from passenger ships) did not have a passenger list and if they did, it may not have survived.
- 4 Names of passengers on recently arrived ships were sometimes published in the local newspaper but these were often only the few cabin passengers (i.e. first class) not the bulk of the immigrants (steerage).
5. Some records were deliberately destroyed. I paraphrase from a leaflet from the Otago Early Settlers Museum - "Between 1850 and 1861 there were about 10,000 immigrants who came to Otago, a large proportion of them assisted or guaranteed, on vessels chartered by the Otago Provincial Government. There was considerable official documentation on these immigrants but most of this material was apparently destroyed in the 1890s."
6. Crew members who jumped ship or escaped convicts are not documented anywhere.

Fortunately most of the passenger lists of the first ships to reach the main ports, especially N.Z. Company immigrants, do still exist and are held by the library or museum at that port. (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, New Plymouth and Nelson). Many are also in the National Library or at National Archives in Wellington. Some other libraries in New Zealand have some lists of passengers but most are not comprehensive or complete.

To emphasise the size of the problem, the Founders Society does have a list of 849 ships which arrived in N.Z. before 31 December 1865. It includes the port and date of arrival. This was prepared a few years ago by Sandra Clarke and each branch has a copy should you wish to see it, but, for many of these ships, the passenger lists are no longer in existence. 40

The following article was given to the previous Bulletin Editor in 1989 by the Bay of Plenty Branch who found it among some of their papers. They do not know when or how they received it. The author was Mr W. Hammond of Thames, who was 93 when he sent this article to the person who then sent it to the Bay of Plenty Branch. As he would have been about 20 in 1886, it must have been originally sent about 1960. Any information about Mr Hammond would be welcome. (Editor)

AN EARLY TRIP TO ROTORUA 1886

About 1884 or 1885 Messrs McAndrew, Chappel and Ledguard, Thames carpenters, were building the bath houses for the Lake Hotel, Ohinemutu. A school mate of mine, James McAndrew, the son of one of the builders, spent his Christmas holidays at Rotorua and during that holiday had paid a visit to the Pink and White Terraces. When he returned to Thames, he suggested that we should both spend our next Christmas vacation seeing the wonders of the thermal region in 1886.

I had just been appointed as pupil teacher at a Thames school and as my salary was then the princely sum of £30 per annum, I could not afford to pay the coach fare to Tauranga, the coach from Tauranga to Rotorua, and the fees at the Terraces and so it was arranged that we do the journey on foot. We bought a 6 x 8 tent, made oiled calico ground sheets, and made all the preparations for our tour. Unfortunately on 10th June came the Tarawera eruption. All chances of seeing the Terraces were gone. However we decided to still make the trip.

We had our Christmas dinner at home and on the following day set out on our long walk. We reached Waikino the first day after a walk of about 31 miles. The next day we walked to Katikati, a distance of about 26 miles. Katikati was then a very small settlement, one hotel (the Uretara), and a small store and post office combined. The following day we walked on to Tauranga. Before entering Tauranga we passed a small Maori settlement, Judea, where we saw a notice informing the public that anyone entering the village in an intoxicated state or carrying alcoholic liquor would be fined 5/-. We bathed in the Jordan River and entered Tauranga, then a very small town with all the business premises along what was called the Strand, on the sea front. The streets were paved with white shell. A small newspaper, the "Bay of Plenty Times", appeared twice a week.

On the day following we made an early start, had a cup of cocoa and a scone and walked on to Oropi, perhaps 12 miles, where we entered the Eighteen Mile Bush. Here about 8 a.m. we had our breakfast and then trudged on mile after mile over a dusty road through the bush.

At intervals there were road makers' huts, each with its small garden of maize and potatoes, all in splendid form. We had our midday meal in the Mangorewa Gorge, then mile after mile till we reached Rotorua. We could see the lights of the Palace Hotel, which then stood at the foot of Pukeroa Hill facing Ngongotaha and only a few yards from the Lake Hotel. We had a letter of introduction to Mrs Brent and thither we made our way. Our road led through ti-tree past what is now the Grand Hotel and when we arrived at Brent's we cut ti-tree poles for our tent and camped there for the night.

The following day was spent seeing the Sanatorium grounds and Ohinemutu. We bought a dozen Blue Bath tickets for 6/- and enjoyed swimming at the Blue Bath, then about 63 feet long, 20 feet wide and 4 feet in depth. Bathing costumes were not allowed. In the ti-tree close by the Blue Bath was a fine spring that supplied the Blue Bath. Around the edge of this spring were still to be seen the shells of the fresh water mussel, the kakahi, and quite a number of pig bristles where Maori a few years before must have scalded pigs. I filled a match box with these bristles to keep as a memento of ancient days. An Irishman, Jack Liston, who had been a great sufferer from rheumatism was the keeper of the Blue Bath.

The Sanatorium grounds were then for the most part in natural scrub, through which we made our way looking for new objects of interest. We visited the white muddy pool of bubbling clay, the Laughing Gas Pool, made our way to the lakeside and bathed in a very hot pool known as Stonewall Jackson, the sides of which were slabs of siliceous sinter.

Other pools were the Painkiller, the Priests and others. The original Mr and Mrs Brent kept a boarding house which then could accommodate about two dozen boarders. Along the southern side of Brents leading to the lake was a large area of stunted ti-tree growing among the slabs of sinter. We got a crowbar from Brents to overturn these slabs from under which we obtained fine sulphur crystals. The area was known as Sodom and Gomorrah.

Having seen the wonders of Ohinemutu, we decided to visit the ruins of Wairoa. With swags on our back and a few days provisions, we set out in the early morning. All the hills from Whakarewarewa towards Tikitere were white with volcanic mud through which the rains had cut deep channels. At Tikitere all bush had disappeared, dead trunks of tawa trees stood like masts, but there was no sign of living vegetation. The lake was milky white in colour and the surrounding hills bore a deep mantle of white mud like concrete. We entered what had been the village of Wairoa.

Again the same scene, surrounding hills stripped of all vegetation, the same concrete-like covering of volcanic mud apparently ejected from Rotomahana. A few old landmarks still remained, though badly damaged. The old flour mill was covered in mud, the upper portion of the wheel still showing. Sophia's whare had borne the full weight of the eruption and the roof still carried a foot or more of mud. Snow's Boarding House still stood up and so did McRae's Hotel. Haszards house however was a complete wreck. We made ourselves comfortable in a room of McRae's Hotel. An upright beam of wood kept the roof from collapsing. While having our midday meal, A. Warbrick entered and had a chat, giving us directions as to how we could reach Tarawera. We visited the old Maori meeting house. The approach to it was under a couple of feet of hard mud. A mast like pole supported the centre of the ridge pole and on this upright was carved in relief a double-headed lizard.

Leaving Wairoa we made our way along the shore of Rotokakahi. This lake could not now be called the Green Lake. Like Tikitapu it was devoid of all vegetation and bore a thick covering of the usual mud, cut into fissures by the recent rains. At times we had to abandon our track by the lakeside and ascend the hillside to avoid steep landslides. We came to the end of the lake where the village of Kaitereria had been. The great deposit of volcanic mud had caused the lake to rise several feet and only the roofs of some Maori whares appeared above the lake water. Walking a few miles further in the direction of Rotomahana over bare ash-covered country, we decided to make our camp for the night.

While I fixed the tent Mac, went for water but could find none. Far off we could see what looked like a shallow milky lake. Over deeply-furrowed, ash-covered country we made our way. The pool was shallow and we had to cautiously skim off the surface water. We retraced our steps with the precious water. We had almost reached our tent when Mac bumped into fissure and away went his can of water. However the billy I carried contained sufficient water for our evening meal.

On the following day we made an early start for Tarawera Mountain. Under a hot sun over the dazzling white ash field we walked till we found there was no chance of reaching Tarawera, so we returned to our tent where we found a party of several Maori. They suggested that we should go to their camp where there was good water. We took their advice and followed them for some distance in the direction of Waitapu. We came to land where no ash had reached the forest. A good stream made its way to a swampy place. A few recently made huts on the outskirts of the forest formed their camp.

Among our Maori friends we noticed one who wore a head-dress of bird skins. He informed us that it was the skin of a huia and that he wore it as a sign of mourning for the loss of his two young sons on the night of June 10th. He described that tragic evening. When the eruption occurred he fled for safety to where there were buildings that might prove capable of sheltering him. In pitch darkness he struggled with his two young sons.

The roaring of the volcano was so great that he could not hear his own voice. The mud rained down upon them, sometimes knocking them down. They blindly staggered on. Another great fall of mud knocked him down. He struggled to his feet and groped round for his boys. He shouted, but vainly. He walked in circles and at last found himself touching the walls of a building. Here he found others who had gained shelter and here they were forced to remain for many hours until light again appeared. He never again saw his boys.

On another occasion we walked to Tikitere, halting on the way to call at what had been the old Mission Station at Te Ngae. Here the cherries were ripe. At Tikitere on the right hand was an old Maori whare leaning slightly as it still bore its weight of volcanic mud. In this we had just made ourselves comfortable for the night when a pakeha came in to warn us of the danger of the building collapsing. He could give us accommodation in a raupo whare just below at "two bob a time". He and his old Maori wife occupied the guest house. He was Paddy McCrory. We risked the threatened catastrophe and slept well under the mud-weighted roof.

Between Rotorua and Whakarewarewa the whole land was covered with stunted scrub and across the road ran a stream of water strongly impregnated with alum. A narrow bridge with hand rails crossed the Puarenga Stream. The geysers were showing great activity. The Waikite, now dormant, made a great show. Every 20 minutes it sent up its stream of boiling water and steam. On our return journey to Thames, we travelled past Ngongotaha to Tarukenga, through the forest-clad Mamaku and pitched our tent by a cold swiftly-flowing stream near what was called Oxford.

NEW MEMBERS FROM 1 JUNE 1996 TO 31 MAY 1997

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Branch</u> | <u>Ship</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Ancestor</u> |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mrs M Andrews | Auckland | William Bryan | 1841 | William BRAY |
| Mrs M L Karl | Waikato | Gertrude | 1856 | John MUNRO |
| Mrs M Campion | Whanganui | Bengal Merchant | 1840 | Elizabeth DUGALD William TANNAHILL |
| Mrs J I Tapper | Canterbury | William Bryan | 1841 | Valentine HARRISON |
| | | Timandra | 1842 | William HARRISON |
| Mr C E Norton | Canterbury | | By 1862 | John & Sarah NORTON |
| Mrs J M Hallett | Whanganui | Strathmore | 1856 | William & J NICHOL |
| Miss A Broady | Auckland | Claremont | 1863 | George WARBURTON |
| | | Andrew Jackson | 1865 | Margaret WARBURTON |
| Mrs Z Webster | Bay of Plenty | Lord William Bentinck | 1841 | George & E MAXTED |
| Mr R L Webster | Bay of Plenty | Associate | | |
| Mr R L Dixon | Wairarapa | London | 1842 | Charles & Mary DIXON |
| Mrs F D Dobos | Bay of Plenty | Duchess of Argyle | 1842 | Govan JAMIESON |
| | | Swiftsure | 1864 | Benjamin YOUNG |
| | | Excelsior | 1859 | Charles MORGAN |
| | | Emma | 1851 | Ann CARSON |
| Mrs G J Bell | Auckland | Bernicia | 1848 | Charles GREEN |
| | | Mary | 1849 | Samuel BERESFORD |
| | | Mermaid | 1859 | Hannah COUSENS |
| Mrs A A F Gill | Bay of Plenty | Agra | 1858 | George MURRAY |
| | | Robert Henderson | 1865 | Rev John & Jessie GOW |
| Mrs T C Irving | Whanganui | Oriental | 1840 | John GARNER |
| | | Birman | 1842 | Stephen PENFOLD |
| | | ? | 1862 | James WILSON |
| | | ? | 1864 | John William DAVIS |
| Mr D Schwass | Bay of Plenty | Skiold | 1844 | Christian SCHWASS |
| Mrs R J Bunn | Waikato | Minerva | 1847 | Charles & Hannah HARE |
| Mr C G Forbes | Hawkes Bay | Associate | | |
| Miss H Paterson | Wellington | Active | 1814 | Thomas HANSEN |
| Mrs J R Eddy | Bay of Plenty | Active | 1814 | Thomas HANSEN |
| Mr D Kibblewhite | Bay of Plenty | Clifton | 1842 | Richard KIBBLEWHITE |
| Mrs O Howard | Bay of Plenty | Frances Speight | 1835 | John MONK |
| | | Egmont | 1860 | Joseph James HOE |
| | | Gazelle | 1853 | Donald McDONALD |

| Name | Branch | Ship | Date | Ancestor |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr G I Johnston | Hawkes Bay | AmeliaThompson | 1841 | Leyson Hopkin DAVY |
| Mrs M Nuttall | Canterbury | Storm Cloud | 1861 | Joseph & Jane YOUNG |
| | | Egmont | 1855 | Benjamin & M HEALD |
| | | William Hyde | 1852 | Samuel & H BRADLEY |
| Miss D Parkins | Canterbury | William Hyde | 1852 | Alf. & M BRUNDELL |
| | | Egmont | 1855 | Benjamin & M HEALD |
| Mrs L'Huillier | Whanganui | Essex | 1843 | Rich. & M SCANDLYN |
| | | Timandra | 1842 | Jas. & M NORTHCOTT |
| Mrs B W Higgie | Whanganui | Kelso | 1849 | Hannah TAYLOR |
| Mrs J M Reeves | Taranaki | Oriental | 1841 | Captain Mathew JONAS |
| | | Cressy | 1850 | Joseph & A PATTRICK |
| Mrs J F Redit | Whanganui | Essex | 1843 | Charles ROWE |
| | | Emma Colvin | 1856 | Joseph & S FENEMOR |
| | | Southern Cross | 1857 | William WALLIS |
| Mrs M Everiss | Whanganui | Southern Cross | 1857 | William WALLIS |
| Mrs M R White | Bay of Plenty | William Bryan | 1841 | Edmund & L SARTEN |
| Mrs C A West | Wellington | Canterbury | 1864 | Catherine LYNCH |
| Mrs P Stenson | Bay of Plenty | Birman | 1842 | Thomas & M MORGAN |
| Mr G C Brabant | Bay of Plenty | St Pauli | 1843 | John A BENSEMANN |
| | | Joseph Fletcher | 1859 | Herbert W BRABANT |
| Mrs L N Tod | Bay of Plenty | Whitby | 1841 | John ARMSTRONG |
| Mrs B M Catt | Wairarapa | ? | 1861 | Robert GEORGE |
| Mrs J Thorp | Wairarapa | Associate | | |
| Mr G Mathieson | Bay of Plenty | Lord Worsley | 1859 | Alex. & S MATHIESON |
| Miss R V Owen | Wellington | Mariner | 1850 | Thomas & J TRUMBLE |
| Miss L Barker | Canterbury | Charlotte Jane | 1850 | Dr Alfred C BARKER |
| Mrs K Palatchie | Canterbury | ? | By 1864 | Edward & S NURSE |
| Mrs J W Tennet | Hawkes Bay | Oriental | 1841 | Robert & E WILTON |
| | | Maori | 1858 | Nun WILTON |
| Mr T McQuinn | Canterbury | Bengal Merchant | 1840 | Samuel BURNETT |
| Mrs M E Jones | Waikato | Cashmere | 1854 | George & M HONNOR |
| Mrs R E Cullen | Wellington | Clifton | 1842 | Luke & C HARRIS |
| | | London | 1842 | Joseph & Mary DIXON |
| | | Alma | 1857 | Abraham&A DOWSETT |
| Mrs J A Butler | Whanganui | Lord Auckland | 1842 | Catherine MAHER and John MAXWELL |
| Mrs P F Brown | Bay of Plenty | Indus | 1843 | William & E ASKEW |
| | | London | 1842 | David & S GOODALL |
| Mrs R Harpham | Bay of Plenty | Gananogue | 1860 | J KITCHINGMAN |
| | | Mirage | 1865 | William CHRISTIAN |

| Name | Branch | Ship | Date | Ancestor |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------|--|
| Mr McCoskery | Hawkes Bay | Bolton | 1842 | Thomas & Jane Hopgood |
| Mrs V Cullen | Bay of Plenty | Bernicia | 1848 | John George GREY |
| Mrs J Cameron | Wairarapa | Olympus | 1842 | Chas & E MATTHEWS |
| Mr R G Cullen | Wellington | Tyburnia | 1863 | John & S CULLEN |
| Mr R A Morris | Wairarapa | Associate | | |
| Mrs C White | Northland | Talbot | 1864 | Joseph & S BOWMAR |
| Mr G R C Lilley | Canterbury | Cressy | 1850 | William & H PARISH |
| Mrs E Fergusson | Hawkes Bay | Bombay | 1862 | James GILMORE |
| | | ? | 1865 | Alexander M BROWN |
| | | Don Pedro | 1861 | Jessie Ireland BROWN |
| Mrs L Palmer | Wellington | John Taylor | 1853 | Ingram SHRIMPTON |
| | | Charlotte Jane | 1850 | J & W SHRIMPTON |
| Mr E Palmer- Forbes | Bay of Plenty | Jane Gifford | 1842 | Alex. & I CROMWELL |
| Mr R Densem | Auckland | Thomas Harrison | 1842 | John & Mary RILEY |
| | | Bolton | 1842 | George & H OXLEY |
| Mr K F Dixon | Waikato | Cornwall | 1849 | Daniel DIXON |
| | | Sir George | 1850 | Richard WARNALL |
| | | Seymour | 1850 | Richard WARNALL |
| Mrs D Dixon | Waikato | Associate | | |
| Mr D F Ryan | Waikato | ? | 1861 | Daniel RYAN |
| Mr Y Garland | Bay of Plenty | Brompton | 1823 | Rev. Nathaniel TURNER & Ann SARGENT |
| Mrs Alefounder | Bay of Plenty | Maori | 1855 | Mary HAMMERICH |
| | | London | 1840 | Frederick & E BERRY |
| Mr D Charleton | Taranaki | Clyde | 1835 | Geo. & A CHARLETON |
| Dr J Thwaites | Canterbury | Zelandia | 1859 | Sarah RICKETTS |

O'BRIEN FAMILY REUNION

The Bulletin does not normally include accounts of families whose forebears arrived after 31.12.1865. As a one-off exception, here is a very abridged report.

Descendants of Patrick and Mary O'Brien held a reunion on 18.1.97 at Massey University to celebrate their arrival in 1876 from County Limerick, Ireland on the "Rangitikei". They settled first in Timaru and then Woodville. They had nine daughters and one son who was born after his father's death. The surnames of the eight married daughters were Marshall, Martin, Hobbs, Scadden, Wade, Smythe, Tierney and Susans. Contact address:-

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NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC.

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National Immediate Past President Mr R M Garrod

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