



Bulletin

New Zealand Founders Society



Settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company

Number 71 - 2000

"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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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Producing this account of the 60 years of the Founders Society has involved reducing the 720 (at least) Minutes of the Executive Committee in Wellington to 62 pages. The Minutes up to 1986 are ensconced in six large, very heavy books, 14 x 9 x 4 inches (39 x 23 x 16 cms). Obviously I have had to omit many interesting features that I would like to have included. A few articles have been transferred to the regular Bulletin. I regret that there are not more photographs. Although the minutes refer to many photographs being taken, they do not seem able to be found today and the five that I have included were among the pile of papers given to me by Mr Buick-Constable. Everything in italics is my own comment which I could not resist making. I have omitted most references to finance which might have been confidential. Joyce Mackenzie

Cover "The Settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company" a painting by Thomas Matthew Clayton (Negative No:- C-033.005).
 Acknowledgement to the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand, Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa for permission to use it.

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THE HISTORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The inaugural meeting of the New Zealand Founders Society was held in the Board Room at the offices of Messrs. Clarke, Menzies, Griffen and Co, 102 Featherston Street, Wellington on Wednesday, March 1st 1939 at 8 p.m. The convenor was Mr D. Hope-Johnston who had previously sent a letter to the newspapers, setting out the objects of the proposed society and also a notice convening the meeting. There were about 50 people present.

Mr Hope-Johnston proposed that Mr C Bell take the chair and that Mr D Ward act as secretary. He then explained the value and desirability of the proposed society and after some discussion moved that the N.Z. Founders Society be formed. This was seconded by Mr Daysh and carried. It was then moved and carried that membership be open to both men and women who were descendants of persons who arrived in any of the six original provinces of New Zealand within ten years of the founding of the official settlement in that province.

It was agreed that the Committee of the Society consist of five men and four women (any five present at a meeting to form a quorum), and that the annual subscription be 10/6d. The following officers were then elected:-

<u>President</u>	Mr C Bell	<u>Vice-Presidents</u>
<u>Deputy President</u>	Mr Justice Johnston	Mr L Tripp
<u>Deputy Hon Secretary</u>	Mr D Ward	Mr E Riddiford
<u>Hon Treasurer</u>	Mr D Menzies	Major P Brandon
		Major A Brandon

Mr Hope-Johnston was made an Honorary Life Member.

Apparently at this meeting all those present were asked to sign a piece of blotting paper. A photostat copy was later made and then framed. (*Where is it?*)

55 people attended a second meeting two weeks later at which a committee of six men and two women was elected:- Mrs D Bradshaw, Mr D Bryan, Mr K Calders, Mr J Carr, Mrs P Foster, Mr P Foster, Mr L Palmer, Mr F Stafford. Four more Vice-Presidents were elected making eight in all. As an afterthought three women were added making eleven, one of them being the oldest known member of the Society (90). Mr Ward then read the revised Rules which were adopted and it was agreed that the Founders become an Incorporated Society. This was achieved on 6 June 1941. Also elected was a Historical Sub-Committee of three men to investigate the eligibility of applicants for membership. A constitution and rules were to be formulated. Authority was given to open a bank account "with the oldest established bank now operating in New Zealand." This proved to be the Union Bank of Australia.

A safe deposit box was to be rented at the bank for the custody of historical records and a P.O. box rented for mail delivery. Mr Hope Johnston was to visit both Christchurch and Otago to try to raise interest in forming branches there. A letter was received from the President of the Australasian Pioneers Club of Sydney congratulating the Society on its formation.

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

Mr C Bell	July 1939-1943
Major P Brandon	Sept 1943-1945
Mr H Johnston	Sept. 1945-1947
Mr A Seed	June 1947-1950
Mr J Carr	Sept 1950-1951
Mr A Cooper	June 1951-1952
Mr D Daysh	July 1952-1954

All AGMs were held in August from this date on until 1995.

Mr D Riddiford	1954-1955
Mr R Greenwood	1955-1956
Mr M Wall	1956-1958
Mr A Macandrew	1958-1962
Mr E Benseman	1962-1963
Mr R Mansford	1963-1964
Mr L Pollock	1964-1966
Mr A Diamond	1966-1969
Mr L Buick-Constable	1969 -1973
Mr I Cameron	1973-1976
Mr S Moses	1976-1979
Mr G Bridge	1979-1982
Mr D Harper	1982-1985
Mrs H Olsen	1985-1989
Mr R Ward	1989-1992
Mr R Garrod	1992-1995
Sir John Mowbray	July 1995-1997
Mr R Greville	June 1997-1999
Mr W Sheat	June 1999-



Mrs Olsen is the only woman President in the 60 year history of the Founders Society.

I have not given the titles or the awards of the Presidents as many were given after their term of office. Bulletin No 68 (1997) has a full list with titles and awards.

Mr I Cameron 1973-1976 was from the Wairarapa Branch.

In 1945 it was decided that the Immediate Past President should remain on the Committee for another year to retain continuity and in 1980 that the President should chair only AGM, National Council and Executive Committee meetings.

SECRETARIES

Mr D Ward 1939 (two months). Also the first Solicitor.

Mr D Bryan 1939-1941

Mrs B Claydon 1941-1944

(Just as a matter of interest, Mrs Claydon resigned in October 1944 and in March 1945 gave birth to twin boys.)

Mr J Andrew 1944-1954

Miss S Helliwell 1955-1957 This resignation followed a number of complaints by the Executive Committee. Another secretary, Mrs Rita Hollings, was appointed in April but she resigned after only two months. Mr Ross Gore was appointed in July as secretary and also as Bulletin Editor, but he resigned in November from both.

Mrs E Anderson 1957-1992 33 years

When she retired in 1992 she was given flowers, a microwave oven, Honorary Life Membership for Service and a month's salary.

Mrs L Prosser 1992 (eight months)

Mrs H Kelly 1992-1997

Both of these secretaries had previously been assistants to Mrs Anderson. The present secretary is Mrs J Robinson who was appointed in March 1997.

A list of the secretary's duties is given in 1955:- Membership, Branches, Subscriptions, Circulars, Correspondence, Minutes, Meetings, Social Functions.

With comparatively small numbers at first, the Secretary wrote personal letters to members if they were ill, if a member of the family died, on their marriage, for birthdays over 76 years and if they were overseas on military service. By 1953 only members celebrating their 90th birthday were sent a letter. Today it is left to Branches to write letters when considered necessary. Most of the secretaries did some work for other organisations as well and were paid extra by them. Assistant secretaries were appointed when it was considered necessary.

In 1994 it became obvious that a computer was needed for the secretary and it was bought and installed in 1995 for \$4,500. It has since been replaced, as more memory is required for entering a database of ships that arrived in New Zealand before 1865 and their passenger lists. The database was designed by two university students and was ready for use in 1998. Information is now being entered on the computer. This is a time-consuming task and volunteers are welcomed. Requests for a passenger list will be charged at \$2.

<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr D Menzies	1939 (two months)
	Mr D Bryan	1939-1940
	Miss A Arbon	1940-1943
	Mrs B Claydon	1943-1944
	Mr J Andrew	1944-1959

From 1961 on the Secretary also dealt with finance under the management of the Executive Committee.

Longest-serving Hon Auditor:- Mr I Fanselow 1950-1973

In September 1941 Mr D Bryan, the secretary for the previous two years, resigned because of pressure of work. His letter of resignation includes the following:-

“I have formed the opinion that no very satisfactory achievement of our aims is possible, unless means can be found to employ at adequate remuneration the right permanent help. Although full acknowledgement is made of the generous and willing assistance rendered by so many members, the Society cannot expect to establish a reputation for complete and accurate genealogical and historical data unless it can enlist or train a specialist to set a standard and to supervise and co-ordinate voluntary endeavour.

As distinct from most other Clubs and Societies, ours is one which, apart from its social aspects, finds its justification entirely in the building of records and more records and unless its archives will bear examination, it fails in its first and only worthwhile purpose. In consequence the work must grow and grow and much of it cannot be done by enthusiastic amateurs.

(I agree entirely with this. I am appalled by the mistakes and omissions on some Membership Certificates going right back sometimes to the earliest members.)

FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING

This was held on March 16th and was followed by eight more meetings in 1939 (one each month) to discuss how the Society was to function. A crest (depicting the head of Edward Gibbon Wakefield) and a motto (The First Ten Years) was designed by Mrs J Fitzgerald for three guineas. Letterheads, envelopes and application forms using this crest were ordered, to be printed in blue ink. A photograph of the first committee was taken in May.

A copy of the Australasian Pioneers Club constitution and rules was received and a sub-committee of Mr Hope Johnston and Mr K Calders was set up to prepare the Founders Society's Constitution. Mr Ward was appointed as Hon. Solicitor to help. Other sub-committees followed:- in May the Social Sub-Committee to organise functions; in June the Membership and Publicity Sub-Committee and in September the Centennial Exhibition Sub-Committee.

This last one was soon disbanded when war broke out as the Founders focused on other matters. Most of the sub-committees had three or four members, usually chosen from the Executive Committee. The Wellington Early Settlers Association was reported as considering amalgamation with the Founders but this did not eventuate.

APPLICATION FORMS

I have not been able to find what the original forms were like but it seems they required little more than the name and address of the applicant. About 1941 it was realised that application forms needed to have more detail, and that detail had to be verified. New application forms were therefore printed much the same as today's, requiring the name of the ancestor and the ship with the date of arrival and the port. This led to two problems. First, it proved difficult to get members who had already joined the Society to complete these forms and second, it required much more time for the Membership Committee to check the forms. A new form was printed in 1948 but there were quickly complaints about giving the date of birth and the secretary had to get a rubber stamp to add "optional" on that line. There have been a number of other changes over the years. In 1950 the Wanganui Branch suggested giving new members a Certificate of Membership. The first certificate arrived in Wanganui in May 1951. In 1952 another suggestion was to make the certificate suitable for framing.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were set at 10/6 for ordinary members and a year later reduced to 10/-. The first mention of capitation was made in December 1940 when a sub-committee was set up to investigate it. In May 1942 it was decided that for the next year Wairarapa Branch (the only one at the time) should pay 2/6 per member to Headquarters. Apparently the subscription had been retained by Wairarapa until then. In 1952 it was decided that the annual subscription for all branches covered 1st January to 31st December with some leeway for those joining near the closing date. The subscription was raised in 1955 to £1 with capitation to Wellington 5/-. Auckland complained later that 5/- was too much considering how little Wellington did for the Auckland Branch.

In answer to questions about how capitation was used the following was given:- research on members' eligibility, updating the register of members, correspondence, taking and processing all the minutes of meetings. Other expenses were printing annual reports and application forms, subscriptions to other organisations, Dominion Council expenses, and the Presidents' visits to Branches. Capitation increased to \$1 in 1971, \$1 50 in 1979, \$2 in 1981, \$4 in 1988, \$5 in 1990, \$7 in 1992 and \$10 in 1994 where hopefully it will remain.

After the 1994 increase to \$10, five members of the Northland Branch including the Chairman, resigned in protest.

Corporate Membership was set at \$25 in 1977, the first time it had been requested. Branches could set their own subscriptions as long as they covered capitation to Wellington.

The subscription for Wellington Members increased to \$6 in 1976, \$8 in 1977, \$9 in 1979, \$12 in 1982, \$15 in 1986, \$16.50 (with GST added) in 1987, \$19.50 in 1988, \$25 in 1990, \$27 in 1991 and \$30 today.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

To begin with, the only categories were Member and Honorary Life Member. In a few months it was suggested that husbands and/or wives of members should be Honorary Members but this was not agreed to.

At the first Dominion Conference in 1940, Junior Membership was approved. The subscription to be:- under 16 years $\frac{1}{4}$ rate, 16-21 years $\frac{1}{2}$ rate. In 1963 it was asked if Chatham Islanders were eligible. They are if they arrived within ten years of the settlement date. In 1981 for the first time, the question of Maori eligibility was asked. Again all Maori are eligible. The monthly Minutes usually included a list of the names of new members but in 1951 there was a big improvement when the ship, port and date of arrival were also included, at least sometimes.

In 1987 it was decided that the membership list for each Branch should be sent to every Branch and that each Branch should up-date its list when the names of new members were published in the Minutes or the Bulletin.

Associate Membership was approved in 1940 as long as it was “administered with discretion.” This actually meant that if a person had given some form of personal service to the Society or if one of their ancestors had been of service in the history or development of New Zealand, they could be made Associate Members. For example, the two first Associate Members were admitted in 1941 because their great-grandmother’s uncle was a director of the N.Z. Company and their great-grandmother’s brother had operated the first flour mill in Wellington. Both had arrived on the Oriental in 1840.

It was not until 1947 that the spouse of a member was able to be an Associate Member. They were not supposed to hold any office on Branch Committees but this was modified in 1959 so that they could serve on a committee but could not vote. In 1952 it was decided that descendants of emigrants from Nova Scotia (arrival date 1851-1856) and in 1953 that adopted children were both eligible, but both were rescinded at the next meeting. They and the Waipu Settlers arriving before 1860, could only be Associate Members.

Honorary Life Members for Service

- Mr D Hope-Johnston 1939. Founder of the Founders Society.
Lord and Lady Bledisloe 1940. Governor-General 1930-1935.
Mr C Bell 1941. First President of the Founders Society.
Mr D Ward 1941. First Secretary and Solicitor.
Mr W Jordan 1946. High Commissioner for N Z in London 1936-1951.
Miss L Wakefield 1949. Grand-daughter of E G Wakefield). Died 1951.
Lord Kilbracken 1950. Grandson of J R Godley, founder of Canterbury.
Miss I O'Connor 1953. Great-grand-daughter of E G Wakefield. *
Mr J Andrews 1960. Founders Society Treasurer 16 years, Secretary 9 years.
Mr R Jamieson 1961. Taranaki Chairman & Secretary. *
Miss C Gillespie 1961. Wellington. Many years service to Founders Society.
Mrs I Ball 1964. Wairarapa. Many years of Service.
Mr A Macandrew 1965. Wellington. National President for four years. *
Mr A Oakes 1967. Canterbury. Service to the Branch. *
Mr L Nutt 1968. Taranaki Chairman.

From this time on Honorary Life Membership also included the For Service

Badge.

* above means For Service Badge in 1970.

- Mrs M Jones 1969. Canterbury Secretary for 18 years.
Sir Keith Holyoake. 1971. Prime Minister of New Zealand.
Mrs F Spurdle 1971. Wanganui Chairman for 13 years.
Mr A Diamond 1971. Wellington. National President.
Mr L Pollock 1971. Wellington. National President.
Mr V Davies 1971. Taranaki. Service to the Society.
Mr L Buick-Constable 1973. Wellington. National President 1969-1973.
Mr T Bishop 1973. Auckland. Service to the Society.
Mr R Wynyard 1974. Auckland. First Chairman.
Mrs D Ward 1976. Wellington. Many years interest in the Society.
Dame Te Ata Irangi Kaahu 1977. Waikato. Service to New Zealand.
Mr I Cameron 1977. Wairarapa. National President. Dominion Councillor.
Mrs J Tattersfield 1977. Auckland Secretary for 10 years. Helped to found the Waikato and Northland Branches.
Miss A Burnett 1978. Wellington. Service to the Society.
Mrs H Olsen 1978. Wellington. Service to the Society. Later, National President 1985-1989.
Mr S Moses 1978. Wellington. Service to the Society. Current National President 1976-1979.
Mr G Bridge 1978. Wellington. Service to the Society. Later, National President 1979-1982.
Mr R Lawrence 1979. Wellington. Service to the Society.
Mrs H Wills 1979. Wellington. Service to the Society.

Mr E Burke 1980 Auckland. Principal Founder of the Wairarapa, Wanganui, Christchurch and Auckland Branches. 25 years Committee Member.
Mrs E Eccles 1980 Wairarapa. Help in founding Hawkes Bay Branch and reviving Manawatu Branch.
Mr E Hay-Mackenzie 1981. Wellington. National Council for 16 years.
Mr A Galpin 1981. Auckland and Northland. Service to the Society.
Mr E Gilberd 1983. Wellington. Dominion Council Member and benefactor .
Mrs I Piper 1983. Taranaki Secretary-Treasurer for 20 years.
Mr H Ross 1984. Wanganui Chairman for 13 years.
Mrs M Wharton 1985. Auckland Secretary for many years.
Mrs H Carr 1985. Auckland Treasurer for many years.
Mr D Harper 1986. Wellington. National President.
Mrs D Newberry 1986. Bay of Plenty. Service to the Branch.
Mrs D Marks 1989. Wanganui Secretary for 13 years, Chairman for 5 years.
Mr W Faull 1990. Taranaki. +
Mr C Putt 1990. Taranaki. +
Mr M Standish 1990. Taranaki. +
Mr P Mowbray 1990. Waikato. +
Mrs E Anderson 1992. Wellington. 33 years as National Secretary.
Mrs V McSweeney 1993. Canterbury. +
Mr L Prenderville 1993. Canterbury. +
Mr K Thwaites 1993. Canterbury. +
Mrs A Goodin 1993. Waikato. +
Mrs M Fergusson 1994. Hawkes Bay Secretary for 13 years.
Mr P Harding 1994. Hawkes Bay Chairman for 15 years.
From now on there were two separate awards. Honorary Life Membership and For Service Badge.

Honorary Life Membership

Mr R Ward Wellington. National President. National Executive for 20 years.

For Service Badge

Mrs M Higgie 1995. Wanganui. Committee Member, 36 years.
Mr G Barr 1996. Wairarapa. Chairman. +
Mrs N Jones 1996. Wairarapa. Secretary. +
Miss V Watson 1996 Wairarapa. Chairman and Secretary. +
Annette Fairweather 1998. Wellington. Service to the Founders Library.
Mr N Hollebhone 1998. Wellington. Inaugural Chairman of Branch.
Mrs B Walsh 1998. Northland Secretary for 18 years and current Chairman.
Joan Herdman 1999 Auckland. 46 years of service to the Branch.
Marguerite Joseph 1999 Auckland. 30 years membership.
Mr J Webster 1999 Auckland Chairman for 22 years.

+ above means no details of the service given are in the Minutes.

Honorary Empire Associate Member This was only used once or twice following the 2nd AGM. The first recipient was Sir Kelso King, the President of the Australasian Pioneer Club. After his death his successor was also given this membership.

Honorary Associate Life Membership for Service.

Mr Guy Scholefield 1947. Historical Research. Wellington.

Mr R Allen 1967. Director of the Taranaki Museum.

Mrs A Fitzwater 1968. Principal researcher for the Whanganui Branch's Biographical Index.

Honorary Life Membership for members over 80 years old.

This was introduced at the 8th AGM in 1947 following a remit to that effect. The first person to be granted this right was Mrs C. Allen aged 96 on 22 July 1947. She was the oldest member of the Early Settlers Association and it is not made clear whether she was also a member of the Founders Society. For many years after this, if an application was made to be an Honorary Life Member, proof of age also had to be submitted. Associate Members also become Honorary Life Members at 80.

Paid Life Membership. The first to pay the fee of £10.10 was Mr Ian Cameron of Mauriceville on 8 June 1943. This triggered a discussion of what percentage should be given to the Wairarapa Branch. In 1945 it was decided that Life Membership fees be treated not as income but as a capital receipt and that they be held in the building fund. This was emphasised in 1951 when it was declared that life membership fees were for the benefit of the Society as a whole, not for branches. Life Membership became quite popular. In the ten years 1943-1953, 53 members became Paid Life Members.

In 1954 there was another change when Branches were permitted to retain 75% of the £10.10 fee (£7.17.6) but it was to be credited to a Life Subscription Reserve and used only for capital expenditure. The rest was put in the Reserve Account in Wellington. In 1959 the rule was changed again and all Life Membership fees went to Wellington although branches could claim an amount for a specific purpose. In 1962 the rule was changed back to the 1954 position. In 1969 the Life Membership fee was £15.15 (\$30.50 metric) with £3.3 to Wellington, in 1977 it was \$50, in 1981 - \$70, and in 1982 - \$100 for members under 50 years, \$75 for 50-60 years, \$50 for over 60.

Paid Life Membership was abolished in 1992.

Friends of the Founders This was suggested in 1986 but rejected. It was approved in 1997. No capitation and no application or membership certificate is required for this category.

Vice-Presidents

Eleven were appointed at the two inaugural meetings. Later there were up to 20 Vice-Presidents. I cannot see why so many were needed or what the Vice-Presidents actually did. After their term of office most Presidents were made Vice-Presidents and it seems to have been more of a status symbol than anything else. It was not questioned until the 26th AGM in 1965 when Mr Bennetto gave notice to have the office of Vice-Presidents abolished but it was not until the Rules were revised in 1972 that the positions of Vice-Patron and Vice-President ceased.

Growth of the Society

The growth and decline of membership over the last 60 years in five-year intervals. The number in brackets shows the number of Branches at that time.

1940	389	(2)	1975	1,720	(10)
1945	430	(3)	1980	2,133	(11)
1950	900	(4)	1985	2,008	(11)
1955	1,449	(5)	1990	1,933	(12)
1960	1,464	(8)	1995	1,527	(11)
1965	1,782	(8)	2000	1,226	(10)
1970	1,777	(8)			

The peak year was actually 1981 with 2,187 members. Membership did not ever grow as fast as was hoped.

THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Three special committee meetings were held in July 1939 to discuss the draft constitution. The first meeting (nine members) lasted for three hours at which time only half the rules had been considered. One bone of contention was whether there should be an apostrophe after the word "Founders" when followed by "Society" The secretary was "to obtain expert opinion". (*I must admit that I have always wondered about that apostrophe myself.*)

The second meeting (seven members) lasted for 2½ hours and the third (six members) for nearly 3 hours. It was resolved that the expert "Dr Nicol be thanked for his very complete and carefully reasoned letter of advice with reference to the value of the apostrophe in the title of the Society. In view of Dr Nicol's advice (and subject to a further letter expected from Mr L. Palmer M.A. Dip.J.) it was decided not to introduce an apostrophe after the word Founders." After these three meetings the constitution was rewritten by a committee of three, including the solicitor Mr Ward, to incorporate the changes agreed to, and it was presented to the Dominion Conference on 7th February 1940. Since then there have been several revisions and various rule changes but fundamentally, much remains the same. If any member wants to consult the Rules, the Branch Secretary has a copy of the 1999 Rules.

MR D HOPE JOHNSTON - FOUNDERS SOCIETY FOUNDER.

He was born in 1874 in "Thorndon House", Hobson Street. His Grandfather was Captain Charles Schultze who commanded a troop of cavalry for the defence of Wellington and was also a member of the first Wellington Provincial Parliament. Mr Hope Johnston left New Zealand when he was five and was educated in Sydney, Scotland and England. He qualified as a lawyer and practised in London for ten years, after which he returned to Australia for the next 30 years and then lived in England for the rest of his life. In Sydney he founded the Australasian Pioneers Club in 1910 and in 1929 the Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia.



He made several visits to New Zealand, the last in 1938-39. On this visit he organised the original meeting which led to the New Zealand Founders Society being formed. (*See page 2*)

After also visiting Christchurch and Dunedin to try to form societies there, he returned to England but never failed to keep in touch with the Founders. Right up to the time of his death in 1957 he wrote regular letters from London to the Founders Society giving advice about what Founders should do to increase membership or the policy they should follow. He was always thanked politely although the advice was not always taken. One of his suggestions was to recognise services to New Zealand by earlier or current notables by granting Honorary Membership to them, even if the person was not eligible to be a member. This was done with Lord and Lady Bledisloe and a number of others.

Quite a number of Founders Society members who were visiting London made a point of visiting Mr Hope Johnston and were given a warm welcome. At every AGM until his death, the following motion was passed,

“That a message of goodwill be forwarded from the Annual Meeting to the Founder of the Society, Mr Hope Johnston in London.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Committee usually met every month and was responsible for the ordinary running of the Society. It was later called the Dominion Council but in 1960 this was changed to Executive Committee and it is still known by that name. Up to 1994 there were about twelve members, plus the President, Immediate Past President and Deputy President. Now there about six plus the three Presidents. Meetings were usually held in the evening on a Monday. This continued until about 1974 when, still on a Monday, they were at 12 noon (for an hour) or late afternoon. This obviously was for the benefit of business people and continues to this day. Several sub-committees were also set up, usually with three to four members, mostly from those already on the Executive Committee.



Executive Committee 1989. 50th Anniversary function.

Back: F McBeth, E Hay-Mackenzie, R Ward, Mrs Buick-Constable, Mrs Holloway, Sandra Clarke, C Holloway, L Buick-Constable.

Front: H. Olsen, M de Raadt, J Gordon, E Anderson, A Burnett, Mrs Burleigh, C Burleigh.

Research Committee

Research actually meant investigating the eligibility of new members. Applications reached 40 in April 1939 and 260 by the end of the year. There was some delay in checking their eligibility as the Society had very few records to consult. Miss A Woodhouse, a Founders member and also on the staff of the Turnbull Library, was asked to help. She provided a list of all known sources for shipping arrivals. In 1946 the Otago Early Settlers Association sent the early passengers lists for Dunedin. The Auckland "Roll of Early Settlers" compiled in 1940, "The Establishment of the New Plymouth Settlement", "Old Colonist Passengers Lists" in Canterbury and the "Jubilee History of Nelson" were also acquired.

In 1945, 1946 and 1947 letters were sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs asking that all birth, death and marriage records held by churches in the years before compulsory registration, be recorded or transferred to safe custody. There was no response but the Registrar-General does now hold these records. In 1952 Mr Cooper was appointed the Honorary Historian, and responsible for verifying the eligibility of members. He resigned after 8 years service having checked 1,000 names.

In 1987 the Rules were changed to include descendants of settlers who arrived before 1866. It was difficult to find which ships had brought settlers from 1860-1865. This was the gold rush period and records of ships arrivals, especially those from Australia to the West Coast, were not well documented and, as the passengers were not from organised immigration schemes, some passenger lists were non-existent. Also, those checking applications forms complained that some were quoting four or more different ancestors and not enough information such as birth and death certificates and letters was given to check them properly. It was suggested that only one ancestor be given. (*That seems to me a retrograde step as surely the Society is trying to gain as much information as possible of the early settlers.*) Another suggestion was that a \$20 research fee be charged for new members, but of course this would have deterred a lot of people from even applying and was soundly defeated by Branches.

Sandra Clark can be thanked for the comprehensive and accurate lists of ships that she prepared in the late 1980s. Here I should add that she claimed \$18,000 for her work which the Executive contested. Both appointed solicitors to negotiate and court proceedings were threatened. After several years a confidential compromise was reached.

A recent suggestion was that the Society record the genealogical details of members in a book which would assist future research for applications for membership. (*I don't know if this was taken further but if not it should have been.*)

Historical Committee

This was once part of the Research Committee and is now part of the Library Committee. The first task this committee undertook was to make an inventory of the Society's Historical Records. Most of these were given to the Turnbull Library for sorting and filing. In 1959 Mr Bell was considering writing a history of the Founders Society and in 1960 Mr Andrew agreed to do so, but nothing seems to have eventuated. In 1962 the site of the early home of E.G. Wakefield in Tinakori Road was verified and it was suggested that a memorial be erected there but that has not been done. During Waitangi Week in 1964 a historical display was held at Wakefield House organised by the Dominion Museum and the Turnbull Library. There have been other displays but the Founders have actually done very little historical research.

Library Committee

At various times over the years various members were appointed to act as librarian and/or archivist but very little is mentioned of what they did. Certainly the number of books was increasing, with some donated and some bought. A glass-fronted cupboard for the books was acquired and in 1955 the archivist catalogued all the books and manuscripts. The library was open at various times for members. There are some rare books such as the "Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand", first published in 1847 and bought in 1968. In 1981 Mr Gilberd donated a large number of historical books and a bookcase to house them. In 1988 book plates, depicting the Coat of Arms of the N Z Company, were designed for use in the Founders Library books and also sent to Branches for their books. The book plate was also used for notelets which, with an envelope, were sold to members.

It was suggested that a scrapbook be made of all 1990 historical events published in the newspapers and this was done in Wellington (*and Whanganui*). During this decade an up-to-date list of all the books in the Library was made and in 1996 branches were offered the chance to borrow them. The real problem was the courier cost both ways to branches and that some books might not be returned. The rare books were never sent of course. A representative from the History Section of the Internal Affairs Department visited the Founders Library in 1995 and was quite impressed by it. Their History Section also has a Research Award. In 1996 ICI offered the Society the permanent loan of 50 books valued at \$16,000. This was accepted and another bookcase, paid for by the Trustbank Community Trust, was bought to house them.

Publicity Committee and Membership Committee

These two committees overlap in the work they do, the theory being "The more publicity, the more membership". This was attempted mainly through newspapers, advertising meetings, and publishing articles of historic significance. In June 1939 there was a radio broadcast through 2YA on the aims and objects of the Founders Society. A second broadcast in January 1940 was made by the President Mr Bell on similar lines. In 1945 the broadcasting authorities were asked to arrange short talks on early N.Z. history. A campaign to enrol junior members through the School Journal was also suggested but permission would never have been given. Mr Hope Johnston had another idea about schools:- to establish an "Empire Room" in secondary schools, presumably to make students proud of the British Empire. Mr Hope Johnston obviously did not understand how schools were run in New Zealand.

There have been numerous publicity drives from the 1940s on, one or two each decade. The methods used include:-

Brochures with information about the Society's aims and activities.

Members asked to recruit one new member each and sent an application form to be used for recruitment. Reports of functions and talks by speakers sent regularly to local and national newspapers.

Articles about the Society supplied to the Woman's Weekly and the Weekly News.

Advertisements on Radio Windy.

Known descendants of early settlers asked to join or provide a list of their eligible relatives.

Stationery and envelopes with the Founders crest on.

The sale of Christmas cards. This was done in the 1940s and the 1990s.

The sale of teaspoons with the Founders crest on.

A brochure giving details of the facilities available in Wakefield House.

A talk on Radio Pacific in 1997 about early settlers and an article about the Founders Society in the "N Z Womens Day" magazine in 1998 attracted a number of enquiries and some new members.

Membership Committee

All members who applied for membership before 31st December 1939 were to be designated Foundation Members. Mr Ward, the Hon. Solicitor established a record for membership in 1940 when he enrolled his daughter aged 12 hours as a Junior Member.

After the 1993 AGM a sub-committee was set up to suggest changes to the Society to suit the changing community and increase membership. Mr Greenwood prepared a list of questions for branches to comment on. This became known as the Greenwood Report and branches were asked to respond by March 1995.

The following May Mr Greenwood thought the whole thing should be dropped as there had been little positive response or support from Branches.

The Executive Committee however decided to discuss it at the next National Council meeting. At this meeting it was agreed that "at a rate of \$10,000 a year for the next five years the Society engage in a public relations programme." (*I doubt that anyone would have agreed to this, with the benefit of hindsight.*) The Sigma Group were chosen for this task. In 1996 a representative visited five branches when a meeting was being held and after a brief talk distributed questionnaires to 20 members who were willing to answer them. When the questionnaires were returned to Sigma the answers were listed and recommendations made for action. The Sigma Group cost the Society \$9,000 and only very minor changes were made following the Report. A new application form was prepared and membership extended to a category of "Friends of the Founders" but not to Family Membership. It was decided that \$50,000 should still be spent on Public Relations but not in the time frame of five years. (*What has been done since then?*)

Finance Committee Also named Organisation, or Administration and Executive at various times.

Finance has always been a problem. The only revenue to begin with was the annual subscription of 10/6. In August, when the secretary-treasurer's honorarium was raised to £50 p.a., the President offered to pay half if there were not enough funds! A typewriter was bought in October 1939 but had to be paid for in instalments. A building fund was started to provide a permanent venue for the Society's meetings and all donations to it were kept in a separate account. One donation in 1945 was from the sale of wool!

The Finance Committee was not set up until 1947 when buying a property was being negotiated. Its main work however, has been first the financing of the purchase of Wakefield House and its maintenance and then the financing of the second Wakefield House, its maintenance and the eventual sale of the building and the property.

Women's Committee Later Social Services Committee

The Women's Committee was set up in February 1940 with Mrs Burnard as chairman and Miss Gillespie as secretary. It had a separate POSB account until 1961 when the fund was transferred to the Society's bank account. The chairman and secretary were entitled to attend General Committee Meetings as observers. Until 1946 it was engaged almost completely in its war efforts. (see page 20) In 1946 an Arts and Crafts Circle was set up and met fortnightly and in 1947 a Toy-making Circle was started. Bridge and card evenings were also held regularly. Once Wakefield House was in use, the Clubrooms were open on Tuesday afternoons for members to drop in for a cup of tea and a talk.

For several years the Social Services Committee provided help to older members who needed transport or company and the hospital was asked if any patients there required help. Mrs Burnard remained as Chairman until 1956. She was also one of the Vice-Presidents for many years.

Visitors such as Irma O'Connor were often entertained by the Women's Committee and in 1948 the Rev. A Hobson, a grand-nephew of Captain Hobson, (of Treaty of Waitangi fame) was a guest of the Women's Committee for afternoon tea. In 1962 all members of the Women's Committee resigned and from then on the Committee was appointed by the Executive Committee as all the other Sub-Committees were. They now worked in collaboration with the Entertainment Committee and when functions were held were expected to provide the flowers, a hostess, the food and the washing up. Eventually the Women's Committee ceased as an entity although women members of the Society still did the same jobs.

Junior Committee Later the Younger Founders

This was established in 1948 to cater for the entertainment of the younger members, with an age limit of 35 years. Five members were appointed to the committee and £5 was given to them to start up, but they were expected to be self-supporting. Stationery was provided free. Their first function was a social and film evening which was attended by 70 people. From 1949 there was a Junior representative on the Dominion Council, the first being Miss S Helliwell. In 1950 it was decided to change the name to Younger Founders.

Other activities were tea dances, organising the children's annual Christmas Party, barbecues, picnics, table tennis, games evenings, competitions, talks, a Halloween evening, a floral arrangement demonstration, a car rally, musical items, attending plays, and a cocktail party. In 1958 the Younger Founders went into recess as not enough members were attending their activities. In 1960 they began organising functions again with help from the Entertainment Committee. During the 1970s the Younger Founders had good support from its members but then faded again. They eventually ceased to function and in 1978 the \$217 remaining in their bank account was donated to the restoration of the Colonial Cottage Museum in Nairn Street. Some Younger Founders had also helped in its restoration.

Social Committee. Later Entertainment Committee

The first Social Committee had four members. The first function they organised was held in May 1939 and was described as a "Promenade Concert or to be exact, a conversazione interspersed with about eight items." It was quite formal. 300 printed invitations were posted and the Pioneer Club room hired. Admission was 2/- which included supper. About 180 attended.

There was one other social event in 1939, on 16th December. This was a dinner at the Centennial Exhibition restaurant, followed by a social with items which necessitated hiring a piano and transporting it there and back. This was well attended by about 350, and cost 3/6 a person.

Over the years various other committees were set up to deal with a particular matter but they were short-lived.

Clubrooms Committee This was set up in 1950 after Wakefield House had been opened, with two members from the Dominion Council, one from the Women's Committee and one from the Younger Founders Committee. It dealt with all matters to do with the furnishing of the Clubrooms including the donations of articles. By 1954 it was decided that this committee was no longer necessary and the supervision of Wakefield House was taken over by the Executive Committee.

THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

A week after war was declared on 3rd September 1939 the Founders Society passed the following motion:-

“This Society, mindful of the spirit which has inspired New Zealand for almost a century, expresses its unqualified loyalty to King and Empire; and offers its wholehearted support to the Government in all measures designed to give full and unconditional assistance to Great Britain in men, money and goods, and urges the necessity for national discipline, and stresses the need for the equitable sharing of personal service and sacrifice by every citizen.”

A social “At Home” planned for 15th September was cancelled and all sub-committee activities put in abeyance so that members could concentrate on “war work”. (*As might be expected, most sub-committees resumed work quite soon.*) Nothing further was done about a display for the Centennial Exhibition but the Secretary and his wife did attend the official opening of the Exhibition. A deputation from the Founders also approached the Mayor and offered the services of the Society for patriotic work. The only regular social function during the war was the one on Waitangi Day.

The war began to make an impact in 1940. Some Committee members resigned because of military duties but usually they were granted leave of absence instead. It was decided that all members on military service should not be levied for subscriptions. The first Founders member to be killed in the War was Pilot-Officer J Fleming of the RAF. By the end of 1941, 17 Founders members were overseas and there had been two deaths. The second was Sgt. N. Boyle RAF. There was a third, Private M Parker in 1942. The deaths of relatives of members on war service were also listed.

In 1942 four members were reported to be prisoners of war and there were two women members overseas, one a nurse and the other an ambulance driver. Even in New Zealand there were many apologies for not attending committee meetings because of war work such as the Home Guard and EPS Warden. Mr Ward, the Solicitor, was granted leave of absence because of the pressure of war work and Captain D Bryan, the Secretary, resigned because of military duties. At the 4th AGM in 1943 Mr Bell, the President, was named Flight-Lieutenant Bell and after that, was apparently also away on war work. He chaired no more meetings.

The end of the war in Europe was greeted with jubilation and another resolution. "The Council of the N.Z. Founders Society desires to record profound thankfulness that under the Divine Guidance of Almighty God the war in Europe has resulted in complete victory for the Allied Forces. Especially are we mindful of those of our N.Z. sons and daughters who have so nobly sustained the traditions of their ancestors who founded this Dominion. The fact that over 10,000 of them suffered or died in the fight for liberty will be an imperishable memory for ourselves and future generations."

The Women's Committee in 1939 immediately embarked on war work beginning with providing Sunday tea at the YMCA on some Sunday evenings. The Army, Navy and Air Force Club and the United Services Club were also assisted. The Women's Committee attended meetings with the Mayoress, Mrs Hislop, to discuss the formation of the Lady Galway Patriotic Guild and the Women's War Service Auxiliary, and also helped in fund raising for the Metropolitan Patriotic Committee at Street Day Appeals and raffles.

During the first year, a Knitting and Sewing Circle was formed which made articles for servicemen using wool supplied by the Patriotic Committee. A Spinning Circle was started later. For the Red Cross, articles were collected or made and sent to Great Britain for refugees. For the Mission to Seamen, gramophones, records, books, magazines, playing cards and knitted articles were collected and packages distributed to the Merchant Navy and Mine Sweepers. Air Force Relations was another recipient.

In 1943 the total number of articles sent to these organisations since 1940 was 2,675. In 1940, 45 gift parcels were sent to members or relatives of members who were serving in the Armed Forces overseas. In 1943 it was reported that in total 224 parcels for soldiers had been sent. The money to pay for all this was raised by donations, home and bridge parties, and bring and buy evenings. At the end of the war there was still £92 in the bank. A sewing machine was bought in 1945 to replace the borrowed one.

The end of the war did not stop their good works as they now began sewing for the UNRRA (refugees) clothing appeal and assisting with meals at the RSA and the ANA Clubs. Great Britain was still struggling to get back to prosperity after the war and in 1947 it was decided to send food parcels to Mr Hope Johnston to use as he wished. During the Korean War 1950-53, the Women's Committee again sent parcels to N.Z. troops serving there, mainly in 1951. Their aim was to send 60 parcels every three months which meant raising quite large sums of money as each parcel cost over £1 each. They did send well over 100, and eventually there were letters of thanks from the padre and some of the recipients.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Waitangi Day

From the beginning the 6th February was an important day for the Founders. In 1940 the first commemoration set the pattern for the succeeding ones. It was the day before the first Dominion Conference and four meetings were called to organise both days, with three extra members assisting the secretary. On the 6th a reception was held at the Majestic Cabaret, attended by 112 people. The Women's Committee arranged the flowers and decorations. There were three speakers, the President, the Mayor of Wellington, and the Trade Commissioner for Great Britain. There were three items during the evening followed by supper, dancing and ice creams. A photographer was also present

For the next 10 years the reception was similar with a written invitation to most people of status in Wellington, up to three speakers, musical items and supper. It was the only social function for the Society during the war. In 1950 there was a dinner instead of an evening function, an elaborate affair costing 12/6 each with the men in dinner suits and the women in evening dress, a printed menu and toast list, with sherry, beer and lemonade, a guest speaker and two vocal items. Unfortunately it made a substantial loss and it was decided to go back to the usual evening function.

Efforts were made to have both a European and a Maori speaker who were well known or important in their field. Needless to say most of them spoke about the Treaty of Waitangi. Many of these speeches were printed in the Bulletin. Not two speakers had the same conception of what the Treaty of Waitangi meant and how it should be treated in the future. In 1963 it was pointed out that the National Anthem should have been sung at the Waitangi Day function and indeed at other functions. In 1964 there was a special celebration for some reason. It was held at the Students Union building which was decorated with flowers, a special menu was printed, and there were 13 invited guests, including the speakers, Maori Sir Tui Carroll, and non-Maori Mr Justice McCarthy.

At the same time there was a historical display at Wakefield House set up by the Turnbull Library and the Dominion Museum. On the next Sunday evening there was a special church service at St Pauls Cathedral. The Rev. Ihaka preached the sermon and the Prime Minister Mr Holyoake read the lesson. In 1965 the Founders Society again attended a church service at St Pauls on the Sunday after Waitangi Day at which Rev. Marsden, a descendant of Samuel Marsden preached the sermon. Members were invited back to Wakefield House after the service for supper to meet the Rev. Marsden.

At the 1966 dinner there were 12 Maori entertainers and this became the usual pattern for a number of years. In 1975 for instance there was a Maori welcome to the guest speaker and also Maori entertainment. By 1976 Founders members seem to have become disillusioned about Waitangi day and the commemoration was quite different. There was a family day at the Lady Norwood garden and then historical walks, with drinks at Wakefield House to finish. In 1980 the function was held at the Beehive and included a tour of the building and in 1983 it was held in the newly completed Michael Fowler Centre.

Christmas Party

The first one, held in December 1945 was a get-together with drinks, a Christmas cake and items. It was an annual event from this time on, with Christmas carols and sometimes a speaker or films or competitions. From 1948 everyone was asked to bring a gift worth 2/6 which were all put together and re-distributed.

Annual Ball

In 1946 it was decided to hold a "Victory Dance" in the Roseland Cabaret. Invitations were sent to the Mayor and High Commissioners. Supper and the orchestra were included in the price. Evening dress was not essential for men but I presume it was for women. Actually a loss was made but recouped by donations and as a bonus several new members joined.

From this time on an Annual Ball was held for many years usually at the Majestic Cabaret. In 1948 it was decided to have no newspaper advertisements, which limited the ball to members only except for the usual invited guests. There were no items during the evening except for a mannequin parade of ten period gowns. E.G. Wakefield's portrait and the names of early ships were used for decorations, along with coloured lights, flowers, flags and balloons. There was also a rather strange display for a ball, a set of 1840 surgical instruments! Other decorations at later balls included bunting and tree ferns.

The 1950 Ball was a special event preceded by a cocktail party at the newly acquired Wakefield House. Arrangements began in March for the August Ball. Once again there was a mannequin parade of 19th century gowns. Massive publicity was given, including advertisements in eight newspapers, one being the Free Lance with photographs of the mannequins and a page write-up, a display of some of the gowns in the D.I.C. windows, and a 15 minute session on radio by Lyall Boyes. Instead of the Wakefield portrait being displayed, this time it was the Wakefield House photograph. Invitations included the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and the Mayor, with their wives, but there is no record of who attended.

In 1951 the entertainment at the Ball was variously described as “a feature about E.G. Wakefield’s arrival,” “a floor show with an excellent script by Mr Perry” and “A Historical Interlude”.

In 1953 (Coronation Year) a special effort was again made. A demonstration of the Coronation waltz and the Queen Elizabeth waltz was given by two professionals. Decorations included a framed copy of the Treaty of Waitangi and a plaque showing the Founders Badge. Two gross of balloons were purchased and a compressor hired to inflate them.

The 1954 Ball had a floor show entitled the “Signing of the Treaty” written by Mr C. Bell and including five principals, (Hobson, Busby, Shortland, Williams and Colenso), Maori men and women, two sailors and three women. The costumes presented some problems but were finally obtained from Trentham and the Repertory Theatre. It was later described as the most successful yet, probably because an £80 profit was made.

In 1955 the floor show was a parade of period and modern children’s costumes. Five children ranging in age from four to fourteen years were the mannequins. This was advertised beforehand as a “delightful, entirely unique floor show”. The children were each given a box of chocolates for their efforts.

The 1964 ball was cancelled because of insufficient interest and no more were held.

Other Social Functions

Once Wakefield House was opened, social events took on a regular routine. Every Tuesday afternoon the clubrooms were open for members (usually women) to drop in for afternoon tea and a chat, and sometimes to hear a speaker or a musician. During the winter there were weekly card afternoons and at one stage a monthly card evening.

Every month there was a buffet luncheon usually with a speaker. Sometimes it was a coffee morning or afternoon tea for a visitor.

Every second month there was a social evening, usually including a buffet tea or dinner with a speaker, film, or dance. Films usually meant going to the Shell Theatre. Wine and cheese evenings and Ships Evenings became popular later. This involved members giving information and describing incidents on the voyage of the ship their descendants had arrived on. One historical meeting a year was organised, i.e. a talk on a historical subject. (*Surely there should have been more.*) About 1952 these functions were usually named Sherry or Cocktail Parties, the favourite drinks of the time and in 1955 there was an objection to spirits being supplied at sherry parties.

In December there was a Christmas Party for the children. In 1953 the age for children to attend was limited to 10 years with only one adult accompanying each child and in 1957 the age limit was 12 years and restricted to members' children only. There were 93 present in 1966. The party often made a loss as there was no charge for the children to attend, only donations. There was a Christmas tree, balloons, Father Christmas, a present for the children and some entertainment like films. Most of the food was made or donated by women members. There was no party in 1973-1975 when the new Wakefield House was being built but they began again in 1976.

On Coronation Day 3rd June 1953 there was an extra celebration, a Sherry Party. Preparations were made early for the Queen's visit to Wellington at the end of the 1953. In June a supply of flags and bunting from the Works Dept was arranged. The minutes record, "In view of the forthcoming Royal Visit, the Dominion Council recommends to the AGM that Mr D Daysh be elected as Dominion President for a second term." It is therefore inexplicable that in December it was "decided to take no action except to fly a flag at Wakefield House". After Wakefield House was demolished in 1973 it was difficult to find suitable venues for the various activities but once the new Wakefield House was opened most events were held there.

The Wellington Festival

The Founders Society usually took part in this. In 1974 and again in 1976 they organised a Garden Party assisted by the Younger Founders. Unfortunately the 1976 one had to be cancelled because of rain.

In 1979 a very different event was organised, an Edwardian picnic at Days Bay. Members were asked to wear the dress of 1902-1910 and take their lunch. Hot water and ice-cream were available there. Entertainment included donkey rides, children's races, vintage cars, boats for hire, croquet, tennis and bush walks. Transport was by the boat, *Te Aroha*, or by double-decker bus. The Pipe Band and a Hurdy Gurdy provided music.

OUTINGS

Most branches have regular outings to interesting places, and the first one undertaken by the Wellington Branch was to the Turnbull Library. Miss Woodhouse provided a list of other suitable visits that could be made and speakers that could be invited. The first real outing was a walk around historic sites in the city area. In 1968 a bus tour around Wellington was arranged to view historical sites and buildings and in 1969 there was a similar bus tour around the Hutt Valley with afternoon tea at the Blockhouse. For both of these trips four buses were required.

In 1970 members went further field to Otaki and its historical sites and another year, to the Wairarapa. However members were not keen on longer trips. A bus trip to the gardens at Cross Hills near Kimbolton was organised in 1985 but cancelled because only 10 members wanted to go. A trip in 1987 to Gear House near Porirua was well supported, as was another in 1988 to the Horowhenua District. It was suggested that more historical tours were needed but one a year seemed to be the limit. However over the years walks around different areas of Wellington became very popular.

In 1973 a joint venture with the Lions Club was organised at the James Cook Hotel to present an re-enactment of the bi-centenary of Captain Cook discovering Wellington Harbour.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAIR

This was first mentioned at the second AGM when Mr Tripe offered to donate a chair for the President made of various historic timbers. Mr A Seed, the Secretary of the Dominion Federated Sawmillers Association, found suitable timber after a search throughout New Zealand. The chair was formally presented at the third AGM (1942) and Mr Seed gave a full account of where all 13 pieces of historic timber had come from. In 1992 the chair and lectern were given on permanent loan to the Wellington cathedral and placed in the Lady Chapel.

A description of the chair may be read in Bulletin No 68 (1997).

Extract from Bulletin No 46 1971

Waitangi Day function at Wakefield House and the presentation of Honorary Life Membership with a For Service Badge to Sir Keith Holyoake.

"Uninvited guests there were too in the shape of an unmistakable group protesting our wish to recognise distinguished service to N.Z. by one of our own members, Sir Keith Holyoake. The group's protest culminated in tossing a smoke-bomb through the street window of our Committee Room which, apart from burning a circle in our new carpet and filling one or more of our rooms with acrid smoke, passed little heeded in the friendly conversation packed atmosphere."

DONATIONS

Many members made donations of books, (the first being Ward's "Early Wellington"), maps, paintings, pictures, a diary, furniture, an antique mirror, a deeds box, the 1849 lease of the first brewery in Wellington and many other items of historical interest.

The following are some of the larger donations.

1940 - Mr Ward - 9 historical books and two pamphlets.

1942 - Mr Tripe - a chair made from 13 pieces of historic timber linked with early New Zealand.

1945 - a 200 year old tapestry screen, which was framed and then displayed.

1946 - two facsimiles of Lieut. Governor Hobson's 1840 Proclamation. These were framed.

1947 - Mr Riddiford - a portrait of E.G. Wakefield.

1951 - a facsimile of the Treaty of Waitangi. This was also framed.

1951 - Mr and Mrs Cooper - Two paintings, one by John Gully and the other by M. Chevalier. They were hung in the Clubrooms. The John Gully painting and two Heaphy prints were insured because of their value.

1953 - The Havelock North Community Club - a painting by W G Baker.

1954 - A letter written by E G Wakefield in 1853 to W B Rhodes. This was to be framed. A copy of this letter is in the regular 2000 Bulletin.

1954 - Mr G. Mair - A 1843 letter from Wellington to Nelson expressing sympathy on Wairau Massacre.

1955 - Mrs Priscilla Williams - Documents and photographs, one of E.G. Wakefield (the last before his death) and the other of the original Wakefield House. The E.G. Wakefield one was enlarged and both were framed and hung in Wakefield House.

1963 - A Whaling Pot.

1963 - Turnbull Library - Three Heaphy prints.

1968 - A historic chair.

1981 - Six Victorian dresses. These were lent to the Museum for storage.

1998 - Mrs H Olsen - a chair for Wellington Cathedral with the name of the N.Z. Founders Society on the plaque.

In 1998 three paintings were sold. One, "Mount Egmont" by John Gully was sold to the Taranaki Savings Bank for \$35,000. This painting was also used on Founders Society greeting cards which are available at \$10 for five cards and envelopes. The second, sold for \$5000 was "The Upper Tairua River" by W G Baker. The third, sold for \$3000 was a Wairarapa scene by C D Barraud.

PATRONS

As agreed at the 1st Dominion Conference the President wrote to Lord Bledisloe in England to ask if he would become Patron of the Founders Society. Before the letter could possibly have reached England, Mr Hope Johnston also in England, reported that Lord Bledisloe would accept the office of Life Vice-Patron. The Committee was naturally annoyed that Mr Hope Johnston had taken this "precipitate and isolated action" and a letter was sent to him pointing out that it was not his place to offer the position. When Lord Bledisloe received the offer of Patron from Mr Bell he was happy to accept. Lady Bledisloe was made an Honorary Life Member at the same time. When Lord Bledisloe died in 1958 the Founders Society decided not to appoint another patron for life.

The next Patron was Sir Bernard Fergusson, the Governor-General 1962-1967. As far as I can find out, all the succeeding Governors-General have agreed to be the Patron for the term of their office. The only time I can find that the Founders Society hosted a Patron was in 1993 when Dame Catherine Tizard accepted a Founders Society invitation to attend a cocktail party.

MISS IRMA O'CONNOR

Miss O'Connor, a great-grand-daughter of Edward Gibbon Wakefield wrote to the Founders Society in 1940 seeking help to have a portrait of E.G. Wakefield in the Canterbury Museum transferred the National Gallery in Wellington. Miss O'Connor lived in Auckland where she joined the Founders Society. She made annual trips to Wellington and was usually entertained by the Women's Committee. Once Wakefield House was bought, she always stayed in the flat which was kept for Founders members.

In 1950 the Founders Society made her the official representative of the Wakefield family and asked that she be invited to the Canterbury Centennial celebrations, as the founding of Canterbury was probably the most successful of Wakefield's settlements. The Christchurch Mayor agreed to this and in 1951 she also gave a talk from 3YA about the Canterbury Centenary.

She was made an Honorary Life Member in 1952 and for 14 years was the Secretary of the Auckland Branch. She regularly went to the Waitangi Day function at Waitangi and in 1962 was appointed to the Waitangi National Trust Board after a letter from the Founders Society. Irma O'Connor died in 1988, the last direct descendant of E.G. Wakefield.

NEW ZEALAND DAY

Right from the beginning and for many years, the Founders tried to have 6th February named New Zealand Day not Waitangi Day and for it to be recognised as a National Day. This campaign was dropped during the war but revived in 1947. From then on the Founders referred to N.Z. Day not Waitangi Day when the usual evening function was held. The change, of course, had to be made by the Government and after three years of trying, a deputation of fourteen put their case to the Minister of Internal Affairs in 1950. A "sympathetic and cordial reception" was given but no action over the next five years, except that the Founders Society was invited to attend the Waitangi ceremony in 1955. No-one was prepared to go but a "telegram of good wishes" was sent. In 1955 another deputation of six, including Colonel Bennett, Professor Wilson and Mr Cheviot Bell was received by the Minister of Maori Affairs but led to no progress. The next suggestion was to have a Private Members Bill introduced. The M.P. asked to present it suggested a petition instead, with input from other historical organisations.

In July 1957 the petition was still being drafted before being sent to Branches and other Historical Organisations for support when the Government officially recognised Waitangi Day as a National Day but not N.Z. Day. Part of the battle was won. That year two members of the Auckland Branch went to the Waitangi ceremony on February 6th representing the Founders Society and in the following years there was usually some representative of the Society.

In 1958 a former Founders President, Mr Greenwood, invited the Founders Society to join the N.Z. Day Council which was just being formed by other interested organisations to take over the "perpetration and celebration" of 6th February. Surprisingly the Founders refused to join. There is little reference to it again until in 1974 it was decided to "take no part in the controversy going on in connection with the name of the day." In 1976 the day did become a public holiday and both names were in use depending on your point of view.

In 1984 the February function was again called the "New Zealand Day function." This sparked a complaint by an Executive Committee member that "Waitangi Day" should have been used. Certainly the Society wheels had turned a full circle. The Founders then decided to call the February function neither Waitangi Day nor New Zealand Day but N.Z. Founders Day. Another name, Aotearoa, came to the fore in 1988. The Founders made a complaint to the government about the use of the word. The reply was that Maori preferred that name and would use it, but there were no plans to change the name of New Zealand. In 1995 there was another turn around at the National Council meeting when Waitangi Day was no longer considered "appropriate" and New Zealand Day was more "suitable".

BADGES

As early as May 1939 it was decided to have a badge made for members to wear. The die was donated but it took a long time to decide on the design and colour. Once the war started the badge makers were too busy with work for the armed forces to do civilian work. In July 1940 final details were settled with the badge makers. It depicted the head of E.G. Wakefield and the words, "The First Ten Years". The badges were finally received in December 1940 and cost members 2/6 each. Badge No 1 was given to Mr Hope-Johnston and Badge No 2 to the first President, Mr Bell. Subsequent Presidents were also given a gold badge at the end of their term, but from 1951 it was presented when they were elected at the beginning.

In 1950 there was a ruling that badges could be worn only by Members, not by Associate Members. This has since been rescinded. The "For Service" badge is similar but inscribed with "For Service". A new badge, similar but with the words "The New Zealand Founders Society" instead of N.Z.F.S. was introduced in 1982 after five years discussion. When the date for eligibility was extended to 1865 instead of the first ten years of settlement, a new badge was needed. It was slightly larger with the words "The Founding Years". It is now \$5.

DOMINION CONFERENCE AND DOMINION COUNCIL.

The first Conference was on 7th February 1940 at 9.30 a.m. in the National Art Gallery and attended by 40 members. It was open to all members and so was the next in 1957. I don't think there have been any others. The conference minutes cover nine typewritten foolscap pages and begin with the President's Report, the Secretary's Report and the Draft Constitution. The rules of five different associations had been consulted before the draft was completed. It was read clause by clause to the members and a few minor amendments made. The Constitution was then referred to a revising committee of the President, Secretary, Hon. Solicitor and Mr Calders and submitted to the next AGM.

General Business

There was a discussion on whether books, relics etc should be kept in museums for safety or be available for free examination. It was hoped to have a Founders Library and Museum when funds permitted.

It was thought that New Zealand Day would only be achieved by legislation, but that it should not be advocated until after the war and when the Founders Society has a larger membership.

Remits

1. That a permanent Women's Committee be set up. Adopted
2. That each member's family be given a number to be used by all members of that family. Received.

3. That valuable books and relics should not be lent to members but kept in the Founders Library and a librarian be appointed. Referred to Executive.

4. That families who have resided in N.Z. for 100 years be recognised by a numbered certificate and granted a scroll, medallion or plaque or other emblem to be handed down from generation to generation. Referred to AGM.

5. That a social function be held in each of the six original provinces to try to form a branch there. Adopted

6. That the AGM be held in each of the original provinces in turn. Received

7. That the qualification for membership be the same year for all New Zealand. Received

(It should be pointed out that the qualification then was any person who arrived within ten years of the founding of that province. This meant that all six original provinces had a different date for eligibility. It is also worth noting that only Remits 1, 3 and eventually Remit 7, were adopted)

After lunch at 1 p.m. Mrs Halley (aged 89) talked about her early pioneering experiences in the Hutt Valley. Proceedings concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The Dominion Council

At this stage two meetings a year were held. They were the opportunity for Branches to have a say about the direction the Society was taking and the Wairarapa Branch especially usually had a one delegate or more to express their point of view. The Women's Committee also had two delegates and the Junior Committee had one after it was formed. The 1949 Minutes include a letter from Mr J Hart-Perry who claimed descent from William Shakespeare but also pointed out "the tendency for a Wellington outlook by the Society" an opinion probably echoed by all other branches even today.

In 1952 the Dominion Council made a change to the Constitution. Until that time each of the six original provinces in theory could act separately from Wellington. This was changed and the Society became a New Zealand wide organisation controlled by an elected Dominion Council with branch representation and an Annual General Meeting of all members.

Dominion Conference 1957

This was a rare occasion as two or three delegates from each of the six branches were present. Only the Taranaki Branch was missing. There were also two delegates from the Women's Committee and some Vice-presidents and Councillors, a total of 32. A number of decisions were made some of which still hold good today.

A conference was to be held annually, followed by the AGM.