

Branches would be invited to the Annual Ball in July.

Travel and accommodation expenses for one delegate would be paid by Wellington. Branches were also entitled to send a representative to the monthly Council Meetings but expenses would not be paid.

Capitation was to be paid for all members, not just those who had paid their subscription. Life subscriptions were to be held by Wellington.

The Bulletin cost 6d a copy. Branches were to be charged for the Bulletin, brochures and the Annual Report. Branch secretaries and their telephone numbers were to be published in the Bulletin.

Sub-Branches could be formed where there were at least 20 members. Boundaries would be decided by Wellington.

The Creed was to be printed at the top of the first page in the Bulletin and a large copy sent to each Branch to be framed, hung on the wall and recited at each function. *(I know that the Waikato Branch used to do this. I wonder if they still do. For new members, the Creed is on page 1 of this Bulletin.)*

The programme began at 9 a.m., with morning tea at 10.30, and a buffet luncheon at 12.30. The conference resumed at 2 p.m. and carried on until the end, with dinner at 6.45.

5. There were drinks before the dinner and white wine on the table. *A very similar programme to what happens today.*

The just completed painting of E.G. Wakefield by John Oakley was unveiled after the conference by Miss Irma O'Connor and a subscription list to pay for it started. The cost was £45.

The Waitangi Day function was held the next evening with the speaker, Mr Cheviot Bell, the first President. The next day, Sunday, a scenic tour and afternoon tea was offered to any delegates who were still in Wellington.

Dominion Conference (Council) 1959

Present - 13 Wellington members and two representatives from each of the six branches. There were fifteen suggestions from the branches.

Auckland suggested that Life Membership subscriptions be shared 4/5 to branches and 1/5 to Wellington, that branches be visited once a year by the President or a Council member, that all branches have a newsletter containing historical items and present and future activities, with a copy sent to all other branches, and that the Society's 21st birthday be commemorated by publishing a small book about its history.

Canterbury wanted Associate Members to either be full members or to only pay half the subscription, a separate Wellington Branch, the Secretary and Treasurer to be either Founders members or have no voting rights.

Auckland and the Bay of Plenty wanted the Society to be run by representatives from all the branches not just by Wellington.

Whanganui and the Bay of Plenty both wanted Founders to run a competition for Secondary Schools, for an essay or a pioneer story.

(Members will realise that few of these ideas have been carried out.)

Dominion Council (the new name for the Dominion Conference)

At first there were two meetings a year but many Branches could not attend both. From 1976 on there was only one and this was certainly cheaper. (There was an aberration in 1978-1980 when two were held.) These meetings gave Branches a chance to influence or change what was being done.

The following list is a summary of the more important decisions.

1960

Headquarters would pay travelling and overnight expenses to Branch Councillors for two meetings each year.

1968

Canterbury suggested a national project such as a Scholarship Fund, contributed to by all branches and offered for research on N Z history. The Research Award set up in 1980 is very similar to this early suggestion.

Auckland - That the Bulletin be paid for by the present capitation fees. Lost but achieved in 1987.

Mr Leo Fanning suggested (through the Chairman) a new National Song.

1968

Bay of Plenty - That one Council Meeting a year be held outside Wellington. The Executive Committee decided that 15 members would be entitled to go and want travel expenses which would cost too much.

1969

Auckland - That descendants of soldiers who arrived in 1852 be eligible as Associate Members. Carried.

Dominion Council - That a sub-committee be formed to deal with all negotiations on Wakefield House. Carried.

Taranaki - That a Badge of Merit be given to Honorary Life Members for Service. Approved.

A suggestion to set the maximum term of office for the Dominion President was not approved.

1971

It was agreed that Associate Members could hold office at Branch level but not Dominion Council level.

It was recommended that the word "National" be substituted for "Dominion" when applied to office bearers.

1972

The Capitation fee was raised to \$1 and the cost of the Bulletin raised to 20 cents per copy.

The Rules were being revised. Some changes were minor but the following were significant.

The word "Empire" was replaced by "Commonwealth."

"Vice-Patron" and "Vice-Presidents" were deleted and the two positions in the Society would no longer exist.

Members should take an active interest in Conservation, Environment and Development. This was added to the Aims and Objects of the Society.

1973

This was held at Mr Buick-Constable's home in Lowry Bay.

Auckland - That descendants of settlers who came to N.Z. in organised migrations to areas other than the six main centres be eligible as Associate Members. Carried. Four examples were given.

1. Helensville. Members of the MacLeod family arrived on the *Seagull* in 1862.

2. Puhoi settlers from Bohemia arrived on the *War Spirit* in 1863 and on the *Liverpool* in 1866.

3. Albertlanders. A British settlement at Kaipara. The settlers arrived on twelve different ships.

4. Hamilton was founded by soldiers of the Fourth Waikato Regiment.

1975

Executive Council - That the name New Zealand Day be changed back to Waitangi Day. Carried.

Bay of Plenty - That Associate Members be permitted to vote at branch meetings but not on matters concerning the Dominion Council. Carried.

1976

This was held at 4.30 p m on the same date as the AGM at 7.30 p.m. This has been the pattern ever since and has allowed delegates from Branches to attend both meetings. It is significant that almost all Branches have been represented at every Council meeting ever since 1976.

Auckland - Branches to research membership applications before sending application forms to the Dominion Secretary for a certificate. Approved.

That the Executive investigate forming a Wellington Branch.

1977

Auckland - That the Founders Badge be re-designed. 1. "Founders" to replace "N.Z.F.S". 2. Associate Members able to wear the badge. 3. Branch name included in a bar to the badge. 1 and 2 Carried. 3 Lost.

Discussion on having only one Dominion Council meeting a year. To be discussed with Branches. (All Branches except Auckland preferred two meetings.)

National Council 1978

Auckland - 1. That the Founders Badge be re-designed, to replace E.G. Wakefield with a sailing ship. Carried.

2. That Honorary Life Membership at 80 be preceded by 5 years paid membership or that an entrance fee be paid. Lost.

1979

The Auckland Branch had designed a new badge depicting a ship with the word "Founders" instead of N.Z.F.S. Branches would be asked to comment.

Auckland - That the For Service Badge be made of the same metal as the membership badge. Deferred.

That the rules be changed to include the eligibility of all areas of N.Z. for membership. Lost.

That there be only one Bulletin annually. Carried.

That the Executive Committee Minutes show an itemised list of accounts for payment. Carried.

Waikato - That a Trust Fund be established for an annual award for research on N.Z. history. To be investigated.

That Provincial Anniversary holidays be abolished and replaced by a National holiday on February 6th Lost.

Two National Council meetings a year preferred to one.

1980

Founders Badge. Branches, except Auckland, preferred E G Wakefield's head to a ship (partly because of cost) but the wording was changed to New Zealand Founders Society instead of N Z F S.

The Study Grant was approved.

1981

Hawkes Bay - That the National Council and AGM meetings be held in July or early August to help sheep farmers who are busy with lambing in August. Considered but not carried out.

Should Waitangi Day still be celebrated? Branches to decide.

Only one National Council meeting to be held each year.

1982

Auckland - Suggestion that the National Council meeting be in Auckland in 1990, the 150th anniversary of N.Z. colonisation. (*A vain hope.*)

1983

A souvenir tea towel and a souvenir teaspoon were suggested.

1984

Manawatu:- That Associate Membership in Manawatu be extended to 10 years after the founding which did not occur until about 1870. Carried.

Transfers of members (including paid Life Members) to another branch should be through the Executive Committee in Wellington.

1985

Annual Accounts to be divided into the Administration Account dealing mainly with Wakefield House and the Membership Account dealing with other matters. The criteria for awarding Hon. Life Membership for Service to be investigated.

Bulletin. Every member (or family) to have a copy paid for partly or wholly by the Society, and issued before 31st March each year to tie up with the Annual Accounts and be available for Branch Annual meetings.

1986

1. Change of Rules Any member aged 80, including Associate Members and those applying for membership, will be granted Honorary Life Membership.

Any member who has given distinguished service to New Zealand or the Society may be given Honorary Life Membership for Service and receive a "For Service" badge. Carried.

2. That membership be confined to descendants of persons who arrived in New Zealand before 1850 or within the following ten years. Lost.

3. That the National Council have the power to approve financial transactions rather than the AGM. Carried.

Bay of Plenty That the list of new members in the Bulletin be listed alphabetically by ancestor not by the member's name. Lost.

That an alphabetical list of all members in each branch be provided to all other branches annually. Carried. (*This was done once. Branches are supposed to update it annually from the New Members listed in the Minutes or the Bulletin.*)

Canterbury - That membership be extended to 15 years from the founding of each province. Lost.

1987

Change of Rules - Membership to be available to descendants of persons who arrived in N Z on or before 31 12 1865. This was presented by the Executive Committee, Wairarapa and Whanganui although Whanganui suggested 1860 not 1865. Carried.

1988

Waikato That the Founders Society express support to the National Superannuation Federation. Lost as it was too political.

After two years there would again be a charge for the Bulletin.

Finance After the situation was explained the following motion was passed. That the Society sell the 7th and 8th floors of Wakefield House.

1998

The end of the Financial year for Branches to be 31st December. Capitation due 31st March.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

For many years the AGM began with the National Anthem, God Save the King. Members were also asked to stand as a mark of respect for the members who had died the previous year. The English Speaking Union Room was the venue for all the AGMs until the eleventh in 1950.

I do not propose to go through all 60 AGMs but to point out some of the changes.

4th AGM 1943. Flight-Lieutenant Bell was elected President for the 4th time but as he was serving in Air Force, all meetings until the 5th AGM were chaired by Major P Brandon, a Vice-President.

10th AGM 1949. A rather strange remit was passed that the President should hold office for one year only. There were two nominations for President which required a ballot and Mr Seed was duly re-elected for his third term.

11th AGM 1950.

This was the first one held at Wakefield House. Subsequent AGMs were also held there and later at the second Wakefield House. Tribute was paid to Mr Seed whose term as President had been a momentous one which had seen the acquisition and alteration of Wakefield House, the doubling of the membership from 450 to about 900, his donation of the panelling in Wakefield House and earlier the efforts he put into obtaining the historic wood for the President's Chair.

17th AGM 1956. This is notable only because two days earlier it was decided that dinner suits would not be worn by executive officers at the AGM. Apparently they had been up till then.

18th AGM 1957. This was only the second time that two members were nominated as President. Again the current President was re-elected.

20th AGM 1959.

Several changes were made. The present Creed was adopted, and the Society decided to engage in Social Services to assist and provide entertainment for the elderly and the sick. Four Branches attended. Taranaki Branch suggested a registered tie for members. No action was taken (*at least not until 1998 when a tie was produced by the Wellington Branch*). Wellington agreed to make provision for housing historic objects and records lent by branches, to call a Dominion Conference and to produce a recruitment brochure.

21st AGM 1960.

The Wanganui, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Auckland Branches were now publishing Newsletters.

There were a number of changes to the Rules. The Dominion Council was renamed the Executive Committee which would meet monthly and conduct routine business. The new Dominion Council would meet twice a year and have twelve members plus one delegate from each Branch.

Recommendation from Whanganui. That the Founders advocate that the Government form a Nature Conservancy Board. This was rejected because "it was part of the National Party's Election Policy and it would be unwise to support it in case it was thought that the Society was taking sides politically." *This is the first example I have found of politics influencing the Founders Society.*

24th AGM 1963.

Taranaki asked if members, who cannot pay their subscription because of hardship but still want to be members, can retain their membership. The Branch can decide but capitation must still be paid.

25th AGM 1964.

Recommendation from Auckland. That if a member found ancestors later, who also arrived in New Zealand within the required period, the names be added to their Register Cards. Agreed.

30th AGM 1969.

Remit, Taranaki - That a Merit Badge be awarded to Honorary Life Members for Service. Carried. The first recipient was to be Mrs Jones the most recent Life Member for Service.

Members were not in favour of a suggested new National Song.

38th AGM 1977.

Amendments to Rules. 1. If a husband (dead or alive) is eligible for membership, his wife or widow is eligible for Associate Membership.

2. Wherever it appears in the Rules. "Dominion" to be changed to "National".

3. An organisation is also eligible for corporate membership.

41st AGM 1980.

The Annual Subscription for all classes of membership to be fixed by each Branch Committee. Subscriptions for the Wellington area to be determined by the Executive Committee.

49th AGM 1987.

The change of date of members' eligibility required changes to the Rules. From now on the eligibility for Founders Membership was "a descendant of any person who arrived in N Z on or before 31st December 1865."

55th AGM 1994.

This AGM was significant for three reasons. 1. It was only the third time that there were two nominations for President. A ballot was held which included proxy votes from Branch members. As usual, the current President was re-elected.

2. The number of members on the Executive Council was reduced to six instead of the usual twelve.

3. The revised Rules were adopted.

STUDY GRANT AWARD

This was approved in 1980 and rules made for the running of the Grant. A bank account was opened for all donations and the money invested in a secured debenture every time there was enough to do so. A Trust Deed was drawn up and an application made to the IRD for tax concessions which were granted. Applications were for New Zealanders and would be invited through the news media two months before 21st August and include references from three people. Research was to be in local and national history and be completed within a year. If published, acknowledgement was to be made to the Founders Society and a copy donated to the Society.

Fund raising went slowly at first, apart from \$1,000 donated by Mr Gilbert and \$500 by the Executive Committee. The Waikato Branch suggested \$5 from each member, later reduced to \$3. Canterbury achieved more than \$3 - \$251 from 75 members. Waikato raised \$410. Various charitable and philanthropic Trusts were approached but little resulted. By April 1982 the total had climbed with small donations to \$4,678. Then a letter to the Lottery Board resulted promptly in an offer of \$4,000.

An advertisement seeking applicants was placed in the "Listener" (cost \$176), in the four main newspapers in New Zealand and sent to University History Departments (cost nil). The rule that it was open only to New Zealanders was deleted. The Selection Committee of three were paid \$30 each for their services every year. In 1983 Mr Gilbert donated another \$1,000 to the Study Grant and the John Illot Trust, having donated \$700 in 1982, gave another \$700 in 1983. In 1984 the Turnbull Library asked for assistance in publishing "Victoria's Farthest Daughters." \$5,000 was given including another \$500 from Mr Gilbert.

The rules of the Grant were reviewed in 1985. Selection should take no longer than two or three weeks. Payment of \$1,000 would be made in three instalments, at the beginning, after one year and at the completion of the book. Acknowledgement of the Founders Society help was to be made in the front of the book and two free copies sent.

By 1988 the Study Grant's invested funds were \$24,000. The amount available to successful applicants was raised to \$1,500 in 1987 and to \$2,500 in 1999, but not all applicants received the full amount. In 1990 the name of the award was changed to Annual Research Grant Award. In 1993 the cost of advertising the Award in only two newspapers, the Listener and the Dominion Sunday Times was almost \$1,000 and it was decided to advertise only in the University Handbooks, but in 1998 the Listener was again used and also the Newsletter of the N.Z. Federation of Historical Societies.

Recipients of the Award

1982 30 applicants. Miss Janny Hammond, Auckland. New Zealand children. In spite of repeated requests this apparently was never finished.

1983 12 applicants. Mr William Main. "Historical Photography" Not published but a thesis received by the Founders Society.

1984 Rev J McKean, Dunedin. "Maori Schools in New Zealand 1930-45"

1985 6 applicants. Mr Eric Warr, Palmerston North. "From Bush Burn to Butter"

1986 7 applicants. Mrs Sheila Natusch. "William Swainson of Fern Grove"

1987 8 applicants. Mrs Ruth Fry, Sumner. "Maud and Amber Reeves"

1988 12 applicants. Mrs Margaret Stokes, Akaroa. "Janetta Margaret Cookson"

1989 Mr Dennis Fairfax, Lower Hutt. "N.Z. Naval History and Affairs"

1990 24 applicants. Mrs Julie Heraud, Whitianga. "Maude Sherwood" (artist) Her manuscript was sent to the Founders Society to be bound and kept in the library.

1991 16 applicants. Miss Jean Garner, Christchurch. "Sir John Hall, Pioneer, Pastoralist, Politician"

1992 19 applicants. Eastwoodhill Trust Board, Gisborne. "The Story of Eastwoodhill" by John Berry.

1993 8 applicants. Ms Nerida Campbell, Auckland. "The Reluctant Capital - The Fabrication of Colonial Auckland 1842-1852" A bound thesis received.

In 1994 and 1995 there were few applicants and none were considered "worthy" so no award was made.

1996 4 applicants. Miss A Wong, Wellington. A novel about the Chinese in early Wellington.

1997 At least 4 applicants. Mr R Paterson, Hawkes Bay. "Hey Days and Dray Days" (Olrig Station)

1998 7 applicants. Dr Anne Beaglehole, Wellington. "A History of Eastbourne"

1999 9 applicants. Mrs Valerie Cowan, Wanganui. "Bridging the Centuries"

WAKEFIELD GRAVES

When Lord Bledisloe finished his term of office as Governor-General in 1935, he left a sum of money with the Wellington City Council to provide a wreath in May each year to be put on the grave of E.G. Wakefield in the Bolton Street Cemetery and to hold a short ceremony. In 1943 the Founders Society complained (twice) to the Town Clerk that it had not been invited to attend. In 1945 the Founders were invited but were not asked to speak. This led to another letter to the City Council asking that they take part in the ceremony, especially as Lord Bledisloe was their Patron. It was not until 1948 that the President was invited to take part in the ceremony and from that time on it was a regular event for the Founders. In 1964 it was suggested to the City Council that a guard of honour at the grave would be a good idea (which was not adopted.)

This ceremony was continued for many years but ceased in 1968. The Founders protested to the City Council about it for several years to no avail.

In 1977 Irma O'Connor wrote to the Wellington Mayor asking that the commemoration ceremony at E.G. Wakefield's grave be re-instated. The Mayor deferred it for a year but the next year agreed to do so. In 1978 the ceremony was attended by several Members of Parliament, the Deputy Mayor, Irma O'Connor, the Early Settlers Association and Mr Bridge from the Founders Society. The day was wet and the ceremony was held at Wakefield House where six speeches were made. Some of those present then went to the cemetery and laid the wreath.

In 1979 the weather was again "adverse" but the ceremony was held at the cemetery. About 50 people attended and there were the usual speeches. At the next Committee meeting Mr Tankersley made several complaints and suggested that the ceremony be held in March (E.G. Wakefield's birthday) when the weather was better, in a place where people were able to sit down and that there be only one speech. A letter was sent to the City Council with these suggestions which were adopted.

The 1980 ceremony was held on March 20th and only the Mayor and the Founders President gave a speech. In 1984 the main speaker was Sir Humphrey Wakefield, described as a Wakefield kinsman from England. The last wreath laying ceremony in 1990 was held in the cemetery chapel as again it was a wet day. In 1991 the City Council advised that there would be no more wreath laying ceremonies as the funds still left were insufficient. The remainder would be used to upgrade the stone and wrought iron work around the grave.

William Wakefield was also buried in the Bolton Street Cemetery and while headstones were being removed for the motorway, it was discovered that his was broken and also removed. It was replaced by a plain slab with a short inscription but it was also suggested that the original headstone be kept in the Bolton Street chapel that was being rebuilt. In 1978 a plaque with a copy of the original headstone was paid for by the Bolton Street Cemetery and the Founders Society and placed on the Wakefield grave. Another plaque was added underneath with the following, "The inscription from the original sandstone memorial to William Wakefield was composed by Alfred Domett, Poet and Colonial Secretary. The date of death should read 19th September 1848."

In 1989 the Founders decided that a statue of E.G. Wakefield in Wellington was long overdue. The Government, City Council, the Wakefield family and other groups were asked to donate funds. Internal Affairs offered \$20,000 and the Wakefield family in England \$30,000, only a quarter of the estimated cost.

It was then decided to erect a plaque instead and place it on the Memorial Wall in the Bolton Street Cemetery but the Cemetery Committee thought it should be in Wakefield House where he died. The plaque was finished in 1990 at a cost of \$600 and erected in the foyer of Wakefield House next to the bronze head of E.G. Wakefield which had been placed there earlier. The Founders Society also have an oil painting of E.G. Wakefield which was commissioned in 1956 to be done by Mr John Oakley of Christchurch.

THE FOUNDING OF OTHER BRANCHES

In March 1940 letters had been sent to people in Christchurch, Invercargill, Marton, Nelson, New Plymouth, Stratford and Wairarapa who were known to be interested in the Founders Society to ask for their help in forming a branch in their area. In 1941 other letters were sent to Auckland, North Auckland and Wanganui but only one branch resulted, Wairarapa, although a representative from Wellington did attend the Centennial celebrations in New Plymouth. In 1946 members from Wellington who were visiting Nelson, Blenheim Northland and Gisborne tried to form branches in those areas but none were successful. It was also suggested that Wellington should form a branch separate from headquarters but it was 1992 before that was achieved.

Wairarapa Branch

Mr Calders, a member of the Founders Committee attended the Masterton Centennial Week in March and took the opportunity to call a meeting on 21st March 1940 and attempt to form a branch there. This was successful and a provisional committee was set up with Mr Sykes the first Chairman. Reciprocal visits were regularly made between the two. Wairarapa members served on the Dominion Council at times and a representative from Wellington usually attended the Wairarapa AGM. In 1949 the Branch was extended to include Woodville members.

Whanganui Branch

Mr E Burke of the Wairarapa Branch worked for the Post Office and in 1945 was transferred to Wanganui. He was asked by the Dominion Council to try to form a Branch there. Already there were seventeen members of the Founders Society in the district and they were all notified by letter. The first meeting was held in September 1945 and a branch was duly formed with Mr W. Gilbert as Chairman and Mr Burke as Secretary.

Quote from their second AGM in 1947:-"In the opinion of the Whanganui Committee we do not approve of borrowing money with which to buy an elaborate headquarters in Wellington." (*What has changed?*)

Canterbury Branch

Although Mr Hope-Johnston had founded this Branch in 1939 with a President and Council, there was little liaison with Wellington. In 1942 application forms were sent to known members but only four were returned. In October 1948 Mr Cooper of the Research Committee offered to make another effort to form a branch, especially as the Christchurch Centenary was near. Letters were sent to present members there, a notice put in the local press, and a venue arranged. The Mayor was the chairman, 17 people attended and became an interim committee. No further action was taken by this committee and it was not until late in 1949 that the Branch was officially founded by Mr Burke. The first Chairman was forced to resign because it was found that he was not actually eligible. Canterbury was taken to task in 1950 for approving an over 80 year old as an Honorary Life Member and was informed "that such matters were dealt with only by the Dominion Council."

The Canterbury Centenary prompted a number of letters from the Founders Society to the Canterbury Branch. It was urged to make sure it was represented on special committees and took part in the ceremonies. One letter urged the Mayor of Christchurch to give full recognition to E.G. Wakefield as the Founder of Canterbury. In 1953 the members wanted to wind up the Branch but were told by telegram that the Dominion Council that it was to continue which it did. Later that year the Branch complained that because so many members had not paid their subscriptions, they had difficulty paying for postage, especially in sending out the circulars from Wellington and also in paying capitation to Wellington. The Dominion Council decided not to charge any capitation that year and told the Branch to remove those in arrears from their membership. The Canterbury Branch includes Westland.

Auckland Branch

There were a number of Founders members in Auckland and in July 1951 Mr E Burke and Miss Irma O'Connor were asked to organise an inaugural meeting. This was held on 3rd October with Mr Carr from the Dominion Council attending. Mr M Wynyard was elected as Chairman and Mr Burke as Secretary. This was the same Mr Burke who had been a member of the Wairarapa Branch and was instrumental in forming the Whanganui, Canterbury and now the Auckland Branch.

Even before the Branch was formed Mr Gilbert Mair asked for a separate badge for Auckland, as E.G. Wakefield depicted on the badge had nothing to do with the foundation of Auckland. Needless to say this was refused. It was decided that the Auckland Branch should include all members from the Auckland province except for the Gisborne area. The Branch also held an annual wreath-laying ceremony every September at the grave of Captain William Hobson, their Founder.

Taranaki Branch

In 1954 a letter from the New Plymouth Historical Society was received about the forming of a Branch of the Founders Society there. The next year Mr Lees who had moved to New Plymouth from Auckland was asked to get in touch with the Historical Society. The Branch was officially formed in May 1956 with Mr R Jamieson the first Chairman. Capitation was to be retained by the Branch for the first year and those who had already paid would have it returned.

Bay of Plenty Branch

This Branch was formed as a sub-branch of Auckland. The inaugural meeting, attended by Miss Irma O'Connor from Auckland and Mr Seed representing Wellington, was held in Rotorua in late May or early June 1955. The first Chairman was Mr K Buddle from Rotorua. Controversy seems to have developed from the beginning. In 1955 Auckland asked when and how a sub-branch became a full branch but Wellington replied that they did not know. In 1956 the Bay of Plenty Branch wanted representation on the Dominion Council. Auckland retorted that even they were not represented. Wellington assured them that they could both appoint a Wellington delegate to represent them or pay for one to travel to Wellington. Both would have voting powers. Full Branch Membership was granted to the Bay of Plenty in 1957. They had 90 members at that point.

Hawkes Bay Branch

In 1956 Miss Woodhouse, who was now living in Hawkes Bay, wrote suggesting a branch be formed in Napier but was told that the qualification for membership was confined to descendants of persons who arrived in the original six provinces. *(Members will realise that this was a ridiculous answer. There are hundreds of people in Hawkes Bay who are descendants of early settlers from the original provinces.)*

In 1965 she again offered to form a branch. She was thanked and a list of existing members in Hawkes Bay sent to her. These members were also sent a letter asking for their co-operation. In September several people who were known to be eligible were invited to join the Society. The next reference to this subject is in April 1966 when it was agreed that some action should be taken. In May the "action" was to decide that steps be taken to call a meeting in Hawkes Bay. In June the intention was to find the nucleus of a committee in Hawkes Bay. In July Mr Sykes from Hawkes Bay offered to contact the present members to try to call a meeting. There was no word from him until October when he asked about the objects of the Society and the type of meetings held. There was no further progress that year. In 1967 Mr Sykes travelled to Wellington and spoke to the secretary about the difficulties of forming a branch.

Another letter was sent to existing Founders members in Hawkes Bay asking them to work with Mr Sykes in calling a meeting of up to 50 people which would also be attended by the Wellington President and Secretary. Other people wrote pointing out the difficulties and an eligible member wrote who had a list of other eligible members, but the year passed with no branch formed.

Twelve years later in February 1979 Mrs Eccles of the Wairarapa Branch arranged a meeting in Waipukurau to try and form a Hawkes Bay Branch. Mr Tankersley represented the Executive. Six existing Hawkes Bay members were appointed to call an inaugural meeting. This was held on 24th April and Mr P Harding was elected Chairman.

Manawatu Branch

Mr Greenwood the President was mainly responsible for forming this Branch on 19th August 1956. Again no capitation was required for the first year. The first President was Mr Buick-Constable who was destined to have a big impact on the whole Founders Society. At the beginning of 1958, the Dominion Council became concerned at the lack of contact with the Branch. Several letters were sent but no reply was received. In July the Manawatu Secretary resigned and sent the books to Wellington. In August Mrs Guerin from Shannon offered to help and was sent a list of Manawatu members. In December a letter was sent to all 56 members asking for help to re-form the Branch but by February only seven members had replied in the affirmative.

It was decided that the Council take over the Branch in the meantime, that all members be asked to pay the 1959 subscription and all other unpaid subs be cancelled. By June 26 members had re-joined and paid the subscription. But again interest lagged and there was little activity. In 1971 another attempt was made for the re-formation of the Branch but little action.

Mrs Eccles from the Wairarapa Branch, having succeeded in Hawkes Bay, then turned her attention to the defunct Manawatu Branch, and organised a meeting on 22nd March 1978. This was again successful with Mr A Clarke elected Chairman. However by 1990 it was reported that there was little interest shown by members and despite attempts by the National Council and some members in Manawatu, the Branch simply faded away.

Waikato Branch

In 1971 the Auckland Branch decided to try to form a sub-branch in Hamilton. The Waikato Sub-Branch was set up on 26th July 1972 and gained full status in 1974. The first Chairman was Mr A Baigent. The Branch promptly asked why the head of E.G. Wakefield was on the letterhead.

After some research the Branch was informed that this was decided in April 1939 on the motion of the Founder, Mr Hope-Johnston. (*which was not really the answer they wanted at all.*)

Northland Branch

In 1973 the Auckland Branch decided to try to form another sub-branch in Whangarei. The Northland Sub-Branch was set up on 7th April in Whangarei with Mr Galpin as Chairman. It gained full status in 1975. Unfortunately after 26 years of worthwhile membership, the original members growing old and new members hard to recruit, it was decided to close the Branch in 1999.

Poverty Bay

In 1982 Mr Harding from Hawkes Bay was asked to try forming a Branch in the Gisborne area. He did try over the years but it was not until 1988 that a branch seemed likely. It was established in January 1989 with Mrs L Hyams as the first Chairman.

Wellington

The subject of a separate branch for Wellington was raised several times over 50 years but always rejected or deferred. The first real step was taken in 1991 when Wellington accounts were separated from National accounts. In March 1992 Wellington members decided they wanted a separate branch and at the next National Council meeting this was approved, with \$300 given from the Executive for start-up expenses. The first Chairman was Neil Hollebhone.

Other Branches

Although Mr Hope Johnston visited Dunedin in 1939 to try and form an Otago branch of the Founders Society, there was little chance of succeeding as the Early Settlers Association was already well established there. When the Centenary of Otago was celebrated in 1948, the Founders Society received an invitation from the Association to attend. Two women members represented the society and a telegram of congratulations to the Early Settlers Association was also sent.

Several attempts were made over many years to form a branch in Nelson and Marlborough but without success. In 1960 there was a positive blitz on Nelson. Letters were sent to all known eligible people. A Council member visiting Nelson telephoned all these people and contacted the local Press who promised support if a meeting was held. Nothing happened.

In 1976 an offer to try and form a branch in Invercargill was made. Wellington replied that 20 members was the minimum for a branch and as Southland was not one of the six original provinces it would have to be an Otago Branch or a sub-Branch of the Canterbury Branch. (*Strange.*)

Visits by the National President to Branches

Most of the Presidents visited some of the Branches and some of the Presidents, especially if they served for a longer term, visited all of them, in some cases more than once if they happened to be in the vicinity. Sometimes the President was invited because the Branch was having a special event or in order to present awards to Branch members. There are far too many to list all the visits but one in particular has significance. This was in 1962 when the President Mr Benseman and his wife took Mrs Priscilla Williams, the owner of the old Wakefield House, to most of the Branches to try and persuade her to agree to the Founders Society leasing the property. This she eventually did but it was not until 1988 that she agreed to sell the freehold of the land.

Communication with other Similar Organisations

The Australasian Pioneers Club, based in Sydney, kept in touch with the Founders Society for a number of years, mostly through letters but also by Founders Society members visiting Sydney. In May 1940 the President, Sir Kelso King, sent an airmail letter to Wellington to mark the inauguration of an Airmail service between the two countries.

Letters were also exchanged with the Women's Pioneer Society in Sydney, the Mayflower Society in the USA, the Canadian Empire Loyalists in Canada and the Memorial Settlers Association, Capetown.

In New Zealand invitations were exchanged with the Royal Society of St George, the English Speaking Union, the Welsh Society, the Scottish Societies, the Ulster Union, the N.Z. Pioneers and Descendants Club and after the war, the United Nations Association.

There was some liaison with the Early Settlers Association. The two groups were generally friendly, although there was disappointment when the Early Settlers had a dinner to commemorate the arrival of the "Tory" in 1839 but did not invite the Founders Society to join them. In 1965 the Association had a commemoration on the Petone foreshore to mark the 125th anniversary of the arrival of the first ships. This triggered the feeling that the two groups should have some combined functions which they did occasionally. The Early Settlers Association disbanded in 1996 and the Founders hoped some of them might join the Society but none are reported.

VENUES FOR MEETINGS.

In the early days this was always a problem and there were several different rooms hired in the first year. By July 1939 an office (also used a committee room) was rented in the Southern Cross Building, Brandon Street. In August 1940 the venue was changed to the Women's Club Rooms in Harcourt Chambers, Panama Street.

In 1945 the venue changed to the 4th Floor of the Colonial Mutual Life Building but much of the furniture and other effects of the Society had to be stored in various other places. The Women's Committee venue was the home of Miss Gillespie, the first secretary of the committee. It was then decided that a suitable building in Wellington should be bought. A building in Willis Street for £10,000 was considered seriously but withdrawn from sale and then a nine-roomed house in Boulcott Terrace was available for leasing but considered too expensive.

Three months later (October 1947) the perfect solution turned up – E G Wakefield's house at 90 The Terrace, known as Wakefield Residential Flats. It was a leasehold property but the lease was available for purchase. This was known as a Glasgow lease. The ground still belonged to the owner but the building to the lessee with perpetual right of renewal.

The value of the lease was quoted at £14,500 which was thought to be too expensive but a recent valuation was less. In January 1948 a decision was made to buy. Mr Riddiford had worked out a plan for raising the money and an offer of £11,500 was made which included the furniture. The owners of the lease agreed to the price but the Land Sales Court still had to approve. The Court reduced the price, which was disputed, but the transaction was finalised in June 1949. The final cost including Stamp Duty and legal fees was £10,898. Of this £6,000 was from mortgages, £4,355 from debentures and £1,036 from donations to the Building Fund. Details of the terms for the debentures were, interest of 3% payable half-yearly, earliest redemption date 30th September 1953, and available to non-members. In 1954 when most of the debentures had been held for three years, some were repaid, some were renewed for a term of five years at 4% and some were issued to new applicants. The total debt had been reduced by almost £2,000. In 1959 at the end of the five years and again in 1964 the old debentures were cancelled and new ones issued at 5%.

WAKEFIELD HOUSE

The Official Opening by the Prime Minister, Mr Holland, was held on a Saturday 2nd September 1950 at 3 p.m. There were a number official guests invited including Miss Irma O'Connor, and six of them made a speech. This was followed by afternoon tea. About 200 people were catered for.

From this time on Wakefield House is seldom out of the minutes. There were already resident caretakers, Mr and Mrs Bloor, and they were retained. Only the Secretary was to deal with them. Mr Bloor died in 1954 and Mrs Bloor was forced to leave. Mr and Mrs J. Miller were appointed in their place and were given sole catering rights for weddings and other functions.

After her husband died in 1957, Mrs Miller employed another couple to assist her and paid by her. She resigned in 1958 as she was going to England. Mr and Mrs Hobbs were appointed as temporary caretakers but they remained until 1960 when they resigned. Mr and Mrs McPherson were appointed the following month. In 1962 Mr McPherson became too ill to work and his wife was made sole manager. New terms of employment were set out in 1964 listing in detail all the duties of the manager - cleaning the house and grounds, security, preparation for functions and catering. This was for seven days a week except for three weeks holiday a year. Apart from her salary she had a free flat, car park and telephone. In 1971 she was dismissed but no details are given, although there had been complaints. Mr and Mrs Robertson were the next caterers-managers and remained until Wakefield house was demolished.

The management of the property was to be by the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. One of the conditions of the mortgage was that the building had to be painted within a year. Flat 3 was empty and was kept for Founders use. Surplus furniture was sold. Plans were drawn up to convert Flats 3, 4 and 5 into club rooms for Founders functions and a builder was employed to do this. Three women from the Women's Committee were asked to deal with the curtains and furnishings. They purchased 117 yards of haircord carpet and 60 rimu chairs from the Disabled Soldiers Centre. Other chairs and a settee were re-upholstered. Mr Seed, the President, donated the new panelling for the walls. The Wairarapa Branch donated a writing desk and chair.

Other purchases over the years were a piano, two electric heaters, twelve smokers companions, a carpet sweeper, a window seat for the bay windows, a bookcase for the library, new power mains and switch board, an outside light, a name plate on the door, a notice board with the names of all the tenants, a display case, a new typewriter, a filing cabinet, a vacuum cleaner and a floor polisher. Mr Seed made another donation of a flagpole and Mr and Mrs Cooper a Union Jack. This was flown on Waitangi Day, the King's birthday and during daylight functions. A copy of the Treaty of Waitangi was obtained, framed and hung in the Clubroom. In 1954 the Women's committee donated a chiming clock for the clubroom, paid for by a legacy from Ida Bull. However later that year it was decided that "the chimes be discontinued." Apparently they were too distracting.

It was also agreed that the floor of the clubroom should be made suitable for dancing and linoleum was laid in the clubroom and supper room. A sub-committee, the House Committee, was set up to inspect the premises from time to time and list anything that needed attention and the probable cost. There were regular complaints about cleanliness and periodically a real spring-clean was given.

As time went on, the grounds around Wakefield House were improved. A sign in the front of the house was erected and two cabbage trees replaced by native shrubs. In 1954 the Shell Company damaged the retaining wall and sewer pipes on their common boundary and was forced to pay for the "extensive repairs." More compensation was sought from them in 1960 when their building operations caused damage. Also in 1954 there was a fall of earth from the Wakefield House property into the Wellington Club property next door. The Founders agreed to remove it and also to clear the gorse on their property. A concrete drive was laid in 1955. In 1958 the City Council built a retaining wall and fence at no cost to the Founders. In 1960 it was blackberry that the Wellington Club wanted removed and in 1967 the boundary between them was straightened. There were eight parking spaces and five garages at the back of the property, mainly used by the tenants with one reserved for the Founders Society.

The Wellington Bridge Club hired the clubrooms in 1952 for 70 nights and provided their own tables and chairs. Other organisations also hired them for meetings. The cost included lighting, heating, hot water and the use of crockery. Meetings were limited to 100 people and had to finish by 11 p.m. (later by midnight). The clubrooms were also available for wedding receptions but only to Founders members. The manager did all the catering and gave a percentage of the takings to the Founders.

Some organisations leased or rented a room or flat for their secretary's office and their meetings and were able to put their name plate on the notice board. Over the years some of these were the Royal Overseas League, the United Nations Association the Historic Places Trust, the NZ Society of Accountants and Manchester Unity. There were a number of business firms that also had rooms there and the office of the Founders Secretary was used by the Quantity Surveyors' Institute, the Wellington Lawn Tennis Association, the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Australian Association. Several flats for living in were also rented.

The first Founders meeting in Wakefield House was that of the Entertainment Committee on 15 August 1949. Once Wakefield House had been altered all meetings of Committees, the Dominion Council, the AGM, and most social functions were able to be held there.

One of the flats was set aside for the use of Founders Members who were visiting Wellington. The charge to begin with was £3.3 from Friday evening to Monday morning and two weeks was the longest anyone could stay. A wireless was donated for this flat in 1952. It was converted to clubrooms for members in 1963 and named the Bledisloe Room. It was open every day and on Tuesday afternoons there was a hostess on duty.

Tea, sugar and biscuits were available for 1/3d. Club night was on a Thursday from 5-7 p.m. It could be hired by members or other groups for small functions until 11 p.m. The manager could do the catering or those hiring could do it themselves. Liquor could be brought by members. There was a 10/- levy on all Wellington members for the extra facilities they had. However except for the opening night very little interest was shown in the Bledisloe Room and after a while the library was moved there.

In 1954 Mrs Williams wrote to the Founders giving the history of Wakefield House and how she came to be the owner. Just before E G Wakefield died he transferred the property to Angela Wakefield, the widow of his brother Daniel. From her it went to her son, Charles Wakefield, then to his wife Annette and then to their son, also Charles. Charles left the property to his wife Emily and then to his sister Angela. After both their deaths it was to go to his nephew Edward Wakefield and he left it to his sister Priscilla Williams in 1944. *See Bulletin No. 2.*

As early as 1956 the Founders Society wrote to Mrs Williams in England to ask that if she ever decided to sell the property, she would give the Society first refusal. She agreed but said it was unlikely in the near future. When the Society was considering another building at the back, for parking, a museum, a conference hall and office space, a letter was sent to her asking if she would sell the land and if not, for the right to erect a building. The next year Mrs Williams replied that she was coming to New Zealand to discuss the sale and asked the Society to contribute to her travelling expenses. £180 was granted.

A working bee was also organised to tidy the garden and surrounds before she arrived. She arrived in November 1962 and over the next month she was taken by the President, Mr Benseman and his wife to visit the Whanganui and Taranaki Branches. She later visited the Wairarapa, Canterbury and Auckland Branches. Mr Andrews, the former Treasurer, prepared a history of Wakefield house for her to study. The City Council was unlikely to allow sub-division of the property and so the negotiations were for buying the whole of the freehold, not just the back. After much discussion Mrs Williams gave the Founders a six month option to buy the property and then began a series of bargaining through their respective lawyers. After several years there was no agreement and the land value kept rising. Finally agreement to lease the land at \$5,000 per annum was settled.

Wakefield House always needed some maintenance. The rents for the flats were raised and this required court action to enforce. A hose reel in case of fire was bought for each floor. This also required a plumber. Later a fire alarm was installed.

Periodically, painting both the outside and the inside was needed and in 1961 and 1966 the more fundamental necessity of replacing piles, studs and shingles. Even after it had been decided to demolish Wakefield House, \$2,000 was spent on renovating the kitchen to satisfy the new caterers.

A bombshell fell in 1961 when it was learned that the City Council was going to widen the Terrace and the front part of Wakefield House would have to be removed. The Founders wanted compensation for the land, the value of the part of the house that had to be demolished, the loss of rents, the cost of demolition and alterations and the plans made by the Society's architects.

Also in the 1960s the Ministry of Works required part of the property at the back for the new motorway. Eventually it paid \$50,000 for the leasehold of that area, which reduced the rent to be paid by the Founders by one third.

Once the \$50,000 was received, the Society had three options, to upgrade Wakefield House, to sell the lease and move elsewhere, or organise a new building on the site with one floor for the Founders Society. They decided to remain on the site for the present, to spend \$10,000 of the \$50,000 on paying the bank overdraft and upgrading Wakefield House, and to invest the \$40,000. It was now found that Mrs Williams had been paying Land Tax from 1948-1967 by mistake and the Founders Society was liable for \$2,083, 50% higher than if it was owned by a New Zealander. Eventually the debt was settled by paying \$1,686, that is minus the 50%.



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In July 1971 it was agreed that "Wakefield House had become an uneconomic proposition" and the lease should be sold to a property developer. The Society could have one to two floors in a new building. At the AGM there was general agreement. In 1972, after consulting valuers and the solicitor, an option was given to Hansen and Baigent developments to erect a 9-storey building with the Society having the first choice to select one or two floors. Before the old Wakefield House was demolished, an oil painting of it by Roger Harrison was commissioned for \$250, paid by Mr Gilberd. Mr Hay-Mackenzie took photographs of the outside and inside of the house and mounted them in an album. By July 1973 the Development Company had approved plans for the new building, arranged finance, found tenants for all of the floors, and agreed to buy the lease from the Founders Society. There was a group mortgage of the new building and the ownership was by way of shares. The Society moved out of the building on 1st August 1973 and found temporary premises for the office at Brandon House.

THE SECOND WAKEFIELD HOUSE

A great many of Society's possessions had to be stored elsewhere and several different venues for social events were used. The \$2,200 of debentures still held by the Founders were repaid in September. Plans for the layout of the top floor, the 8th, were the next job which was to have a Sitting Room, Board Room and a Conference Room all connected with folding doors to make one large room, and a kitchen for the caterers who were to be employed for the whole building. Tenants for the 7th floor were also to be sought and the partitions and fittings for both floors built. The "final" cost for the fittings of the two floors was \$80,000. The building was to be run by a company named Wakefield House Limited and the Founders had two directors on the Board. Some controversy occurred about whether the Company or Baigent Developments should get the compensation from the City Council for the area taken to widen the Terrace. After legal advice it went to Baigent Developments.

The Founders Society organised the official opening of the building which took place on 8th April, 1976. It was a cocktail party from 6-7 p.m. The following were invited:- all Founders members, the developer, Mr Baigent and any one else he wanted to ask, floor owners, representatives of all organisations which were leasing rooms and Sir Keith Holyoake who was to perform the opening ceremony. Mrs Williams who was actually still the owner of the land was also notified. On Waitangi Day 1977, a plaque of E G Wakefield by James Berry was unveiled in the foyer, along with framed details about him and Wakefield House and a photograph of the members of the Board. The Waikato Branch donated a painting of a Waikato Maori woman by a Waikato artist.

The City Council made a pedestrian sub-way under the Terrace in front of Wakefield House. Mrs Anderson, the Founders Secretary, succeeded Mr Baigent as the manager of Wakefield House.

Spending continued with the purchase of kitchen equipment including a cutting machine (\$862) and a thermo-wave oven (\$496), office desk, board-room tables, 80 extra chairs, a storage cupboard for use by several groups, new curtains, and a piano. It was also suggested that sound-proofing was needed between the kitchen and the adjoining room. There were complaints about the ventilation of the building right from the beginning and more frequent cleaning of the filters was advised. The architects were also blamed because the system had insufficient capacity. Air conditioners were installed but only decreased the problem. The caterers resigned in 1977 and were succeeded by Twylight Caterers and then Champagne Caterers. There was a small kitchen on the 8th floor used by groups who did not want to employ the caterers. The 8th floor was not as lucrative as hoped because of the high cost of running the building by Wakefield House Ltd.

All the floor owners of Wakefield House were in favour of having unit titles (ownership of their floor) instead of shares, but this was possible only if the land was freehold. They had all paid off the debt owing on the building by 1978. Offers to buy the freehold of the property were then made to Mrs Williams (now Mitchell) starting with \$150,000 and rising to \$5¼ million in 1988 which was finally accepted. (*It may have been more. The Minutes do not record all Financial transactions.*) Each floor owner paid in proportion, which meant the Founders paid two/ninths. Some floors had already been sold for over \$100,000. Floor 7 owned by the Founders Society was now vacant and up for sale. A Land Agent advised the Society to lease it rather than sell it but to remove all the partitions and replace the carpet first. He commented, "The purple carpet is calculated to offend 95% of the leasing market. Replace it by commercial quality carpet in a neutral colour." This was done but still no sale. Finally there was an offer to buy the 7th Floor for \$1¼ million. By 1989 both floors had been sold and buying the freehold went ahead. The Founders Society moved from Wakefield House in August 1989.

New premises were found at Wool House, Featherston St, with rent costing \$28,000 per annum. This was obviously too expensive and in 1992 Bexhill Financial Services offered to share their office space on the 8th floor of the National Mutual building at 93 The Terrace. This is still the home of the Founders Society. The two firms share cleaning arrangements, a workroom and a storeroom and the Founders have an office and a meeting room which also houses the library. This move triggered another sorting out of furniture and other surplus belongings which were sold.

Some archival material was offered to the National Library and National Archives and the rest stored in waxed boxes. Five complete sets of all the Bulletins were kept and some others were kept in the office for future requests. At the next National Council meeting spare photographs, pictures and garments were offered to branches.

Finance and particularly investment came to the fore in 1994, triggered off, I think, by a change to the Rules which gave the Finance Sub-Committee authority to arrange appropriate deposits into managed funds or investments. Nine months later the Wellington Branch made a complaint about most of the investments being in Sovereign Insurance. In 1995 the Finance Sub-Committee issued a report that current funds would be placed in a Cash Management Account. New investments were to be at 40% fixed interest, 40% equities and 20% property to spread the risk. In 1996 the IRD claimed GST on Branch subscriptions for the first time and was of course opposed. In 1997 the Society de-registered from GST. In 1999 the IRD granted the Society the status of a non-profit body for income tax which gave up to \$1000 tax exemption on its taxable income. The National Bank also agreed to exempt the Society from bank charges.

WIDER HORIZONS.

From 1946 on the Society began taking an interest in subjects other than the early settlers. One of the first examples was supporting the YMCA seeking "relief from taxation on donations to religious, educational and charitable institutions." First there was a submission to the Minister of Finance and then a delegation including Mr Seed from the Founders. *(I can find no further reference to this subject.)*

In 1947 the Forest and Bird Protection Society was seeking help to protect Waipoua Forest and two Founders members joined a deputation to the Minister of State Forests. Members also signed a petition being circulated by the Forest and Bird Society. This was successful. 4,000 acres of the forest was to be kept intact and 10,000 acres around it was to be a managed forest.

In 1948 it was suggested that the Founders Society should try to obtain a Royal Charter. Further information was sought from Mr Hope-Johnston and the British High Commissioner in Wellington. The replies, which included Lord Bledisloe's opinion, led to the matter being deferred. This matter arose again in 1951. It was investigated and there were four requisites before a charter could be obtained. The Society would have to be "eminent", of long standing, financially secure and have national, charitable or scientific objectives. A sub-committee was set up to prepare a claim. *(I think that none of the requisites actually applied to the Founders Society in 1948).*

There was a protest in 1948 to the Olympic and Empire Games Association for allocating the 1950 Empire Games to Auckland instead of Christchurch which was celebrating its centenary in 1950. The protest stresses "the great colonising genius of E G Wakefield", and Canterbury "may be regarded as his crowning achievement." Needless to say, the protest was ignored.

In 1949 complaints were made by the Wairarapa Branch about inaccurate information on a programme "Our Fathers Have Told Us" broadcast by 2ZB. The information had come from a recently published book in the Turnbull Library who explained this to the Wairarapa Branch who then asked Wellington to deal with it. So far this saga had taken five months. It may be significant that the Director of Broadcasting was the guest speaker at the Christmas Social. The matter was put to rest 15 months later when the Turnbull Library stopped the feature "owing to many complaints concerning inaccuracies."

In 1949 the following was resolved, "The Dominion Council of the N.Z. Founders Society strongly supports Compulsory Military Training and urges all men and women in New Zealand to record an affirmative vote in the referendum." This was also sent to the "Dominion" for publication.

In 1950 the Secretary was "to extend to the visiting British Isles Rugby team an appropriate welcome from the Dominion Council." *I wonder what the British rugby team thought of that! I suppose it was done because it was the first team to come after the War.*

Also in 1950 it was decided to approach the Minister of Internal Affairs and ask that the Society be represented at official Government functions. In 1951 the Society was put on the invitation list. When King George VI died in 1952, a letter of condolence was sent to the Governor-General and in due course a letter of acknowledgement was received from Buckingham Palace.

In 1953 the request to both the City Council and Internal Affairs that the Society be officially recognised during the Royal Visit in 1954 was also granted. During the Queen's visit in 1962 the President attended the Civic Reception for the Queen and the Investiture.

In 1951 Mr Seed, the Immediate Past President attended the unveiling of the Colenso Memorial which the Minutes describe as being near Taihape. (*This is something of an understatement. It is about 20 miles from Taihape on a narrow metalled road even today and 50 years ago it must have been quite a journey.*) There was a sequel to Mr Seed's attendance. Colenso's great-nephew and his wife visited the Founders Society in Wellington and were entertained to afternoon tea and a film evening.

In 1952 the Founders Society received a letter from Dr Falla, the Director of the Dominion Museum, asking for support to set up a National Council to deal with the preservation of historic buildings. The Society sent a delegate to the first meeting. At a later meeting up to 40 societies were represented as well as Government officials. It was reported that a National Trust Bill was being prepared by the Government which dealt with land issues as well. It was then decided that a Historic Places Bill would be introduced to Parliament. In 1955 it was suggested that the Founders put plaques on historic buildings, that the rules of the Historic Places Trust be put in the Bulletin and that the Founders apply for Corporate Membership. Branches were asked to nominate representatives for Regional Committees of the Trust. Seven of the nine members nominated by the Founders were accepted. The Trust rented a flat in Wakefield House as an office. In 1965 a letter was sent to the Trust asking for a Wellington Regional Committee to be established and one was formed in 1966 with a Founders member on the committee. In 1995 the Historic Places Trust and the Founders Society agreed to co-operate and suggested joint outings and local research. Both also have Research Awards. *(Has there been any co-operating?)*

In 1953 A letter from the Genealogical Society asked for co-operation with the Founders for genealogical information. The Founders secretary was to answer seeking their aims and their authenticity. 24 years later in 1977 the Founders Society joined the Genealogical Society, mainly I think to receive their monthly magazine.

In 1954 the Society for the Preservation of St Paul's Pro-Cathedral asked for support and this was "whole-heartedly" given.

In 1955 a Dominion Councillor represented the Founders Society at the Annual Conference of the United Nations Association.

Also in 1955 the Nan Kivell collection of paintings came to prominence. Rex Nan Kivell was born and educated in Christchurch but spent most of his life as an art dealer in London. There he assembled a large collection of early New Zealand and Australian paintings from 1770 to 1870. In the 1950s an exhibition of 200 of these pictures was held at the Dominion Museum in Wellington and Mr Kivell offered to sell them to New Zealand. This was rejected by the Government and in 1959 the collection was bought by the National Library of Australia for £70,000. While they were in New Zealand pressure was put on the Government by the Founders Society and other interested groups but to no avail. In 1990 74 of the paintings were borrowed from Australia and displayed at the National Library Gallery in Wellington.

In 1955 the Founders Society heard that St James Churchyard Cemetery in the Hutt Valley was being made into a lawn cemetery and that the tombstones were to be laid flat under the turf. This prompted a protest from the Founders Society which was amicably settled when the Founders were assured that tombstones of historic interest and the legible ones would be left upright.

In 1956 the first contact with the Victoria League was made when the secretary of the Founders Society attended their annual Empire Day celebration. From then on this was an annual event, usually a luncheon attended by two women members from the Founders. Empire Day was on 24th May and was originally Queen Victoria's birthday. In 1961 there was a formal dinner and dance at the Majestic Cabaret attended by the Governor-General Lord Cobham and his wife and in 1963 a dinner to welcome the new Governor-General, Sir Bernard Fergusson and his wife. At the end of his term the League donated £100 as a farewell gift. This was invested and the interest used for an annual prize for the best apprentice in the Maori Apprentice Scheme. Later Empire Day was called Commonwealth Day and was celebrated in March. The members of the Commonwealth and Kindred Societies were:-the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Victoria League, the Overseas League, the Royal Society of St George, the English Speaking Union, the Returned Services Association, the Australian Association and the Founders Society. Each society took turns to organise the Commonwealth Day function and most Governor-Generals agreed to be the Patron during their term of office.

In 1960 the Tawa Borough Council invited members to attend the unveiling of the Elsden Best memorial.

In 1961 the City Council organised a Festival of Wellington and the Founders had a historical display in Wakefield House as their contribution. This was opened by the Wellington Mayor, Mr Kitts, and about 1000 people attended over three days.

In 1963 the Antique Dealers Association were approached to provide a display in Wakefield House. Their Fair was held for a week in July. 2,000 invitations were sent out by the Antique Dealers and 1,000 by the Founders. A brochure was printed for sale during the Fair and 15 minutes of television coverage was arranged. The Founders made over £200 from this and for many years the Antique Dealers held their Fair in July at the same venue assisted by the Founders who provided coffee and sandwiches.

1965 marked the 100th anniversary of the first parliament to sit in Wellington The Founders Society was disappointed at the restricted functions organised by the Government to mark this event, and decided to organise an evening ceremony of its own on July 26th.

Mr Buick-Constable wrote a script re-enacting the events and speeches which took place at the opening of the first Parliament in Wellington. Bulletin No 33 gives an account of the first General Assembly and a list of all the Ministers and Members of the House of Representatives, compiled by J Hewland, a Dominion Councillor.

In 1965 a quiz on the history of Wellington was distributed to all Wellington schools. Prizes were offered for the winners. 152 papers were returned and £20 was allocated for book prizes. In 1969, 1978, 1982 and 1988 further quizzes were organised but none had such a large response as the first one. In 1988 there were 91 entries mostly from Forms 1 and 2 in two Wellington schools. Five of the prizes were given to this age group and only one to all the others.

In 1967 Miss Woodhouse complained that many street names in Wellington were wrongly spelt. She was in the process of writing a book, "The Streets of My City". The Founders were to ask the City Council to remedy this. (*Have they?*)

Also in 1967 Mr Buick-Constable moved "that the Founders Society regrets the decision of the NZBC to alter the pronunciation of Maori names without consulting the Maori authorities". (*It is not made clear whether the announcers were trying to use the correct pronunciation and failing or otherwise and who knows whether they had consulted Maori or not.*) This motion was passed and sent to the Press. It must have appeared in the newspapers as later, a letter was received from Mr Hohepa from the University of Auckland asking the Founders Society to make a verbal submission to the Maori Affairs Committee of the Government. (*Fortunately the Founders had enough sense to decline to take the matter further. They were away out of their depth.*)

When the new motorway in Wellington was built, an area of the Bolton Street Cemetery had to be cleared of graves. Many groups including the Founders Society protested but the motorway was unstoppable and was to bisect the cemetery. In 1964 a representative from the Founders Society attended a meeting to discuss what could be preserved. It was suggested that the headstones that had to be removed could be stored, preserved and re-erected in a different area once the motorway was finished. There were other meetings over the years. The Friends of the Bolton Street Cemetery was formed in 1976 and included Anne Burnett from the Founders Society. They organised regular working bees to keep the cemetery tidy. By 1979 all the headstones that had been removed were returned for repositioning. The Friends then began beautifying the Cemetery. Grass was sown and holes dug for trees and shrubs. The Founders planted a totara at the bottom of the foot-bridge near the Wakefield graves. The last major task to reconstruct the chapel and landscape Pioneer Park was completed in 1993.

The Bolton Street cemetery, high-rises buildings on the left, the motorway on the right and the headstones among the trees.



In 1975 the Founders Society joined the Federation of Historical Societies. Their AGM was held in a different town each year and a delegate from the nearest Founders Branch to the venue was appointed to represent the Society. Sixty-five societies are members of this organisation, all with some interest in history.

In 1977 an old cottage in Nairn Street was no longer occupied and able to be developed as a Colonial Cottage Museum. The committee sought assistance. For the next several years Anne Burnett, a member of the Founders Executive Committee, worked with the Colonial Cottage Committee to renovate and refurbish the cottage. It was officially opened as a Museum in 1980. In 1999 the Friends of the Colonial Cottage joined the Founders Society as an Associate Member. A photograph of the cottage is in Bulletin No 68.

Also in 1977 a TV series was being made about Sir George Grey. Several Founders members took part in the filming as extras. When it was finished \$200 was given to the Society for their help.

In 1996 when it was discovered that a new Social Studies curriculum was being prepared, a submission was made to include more about emigration to New Zealand from Great Britain and other areas. Some success was achieved.

THE BULLETIN

The first mention of a magazine for members was made by Miss J Tunnicliffe of Tauranga in 1951. The usual way for the Dominion Council to communicate with members at that time was through a monthly circular sent to each Wellington member giving information of coming events, and a three-monthly one to all branches. It was decided to "call for historical pioneer notes suitable for insertion in a magazine" in the next circular. Two months later a sub-committee was set up to discuss the subject. Exactly two years later in September 1953, it was decided to produce a quarterly newsletter including "appropriate historical notes". All the branches supported this idea. Mr Leo Fanning was appointed the editor and the first newsletter duly arrived, dated December 1953. It was one sheet of paper 17 x 13½ inches folded in half. One and a half pages were a transcript of a speech on the Treaty of Waitangi given by the first President, Mr Cheviot Bell, one page was devoted to a list of new members, half a page to two comments by the President Mr Duff Daysh, an obituary and a note on the Auckland Branch and the back page to a short comment about E.G. Wakefield by Mr Daysh. All the following Bulletins until No 33 were a smaller size, 8 pages of 9½ x 7½ inches.

Mr Fanning produced 14 Bulletins at quarterly intervals, three in 1954, four in 1955 and 1956 and two in 1957. He was given 25 guineas in 1956 in appreciation of his work. He resigned in June 1957 at the age of 78. He then wrote the following letter to the Council which I think is worth publishing.

Mr Fanning writes, "Looking back on my editing run of 3½ years, I can state frankly that the result of appeals to Branches for suitable matter were usually disappointing, except Whanganui whose secretary (*Mr George Walker*) is a zealous worker for the Society's objects. I strove in difficult circumstances to make the Bulletin readable but I was far from satisfied with the result. An effort to draw interesting notes from members about ancestors was a failure. Only about four publishable reports came in.

The Dominion Conference of 9th February 1957 resolved that each branch should appoint a Publicity Officer whose duties would include the sending of reports of social functions and other matters of interest to the Dominion Secretary. The results have fallen far below expectations. In the March issue the quantity was little more than half a page. In the June issue 1957 the matter supplied by Branches filled two pages (Annual Reports, an historic article and the Taranaki Anniversary.) My belief is that unless inspiring quality can be assured for a quarterly Bulletin, the cost would not be justifiable. Such a publication must have features much more interesting than the usual kind in Branch reports."

(I agree absolutely with Mr Fanning)

The Auckland Branch complained in 1957 about the quantity of Bulletins in 1956-57. *(It is not clear whether there were too many or too few. There were four in 1956 and one in 1957 before the letter.)* However it triggered an angry response by Headquarters expressing "amazement at the unco-operative attitude by Auckland". The Bulletin cost 6d for each member.

Another editor Mr Ross Gore was appointed in 1957, but when he found that he did not have enough spare time to cope with the Bulletin he resigned. *(During this time when no Bulletins were being produced, the Wanganui Branch decided to publish its own Newsletter which has carried on without a break. Number 65 is due this year.)* Mr Eric Ramsden was appointed editor in 1958. The President stipulated that, before it was published, he wanted to view any matters dealing with the activities of the Founders Society. *(This is not on. Editors have to be given a certain amount of freedom in what they publish.)* Mr Ramsden's first Bulletin appeared in October that year. He suggested six-monthly Bulletins instead of three-monthly and said he would only continue if branches sent in articles. In 1959 three Bulletins were published although several complaints were made that each was later than had been promised. *(This seems to be rather unfair as delays are often caused by the printer rather than the editor.)* The first two had considerable historical information, proving, I think, that some members were sending worthwhile items in. The third reverts to mainly social events in Wellington. In 1960 there were only two Bulletins, both about current Founders activities. Before Mr Ramsden even completed the last one (his sixth), the Founders Society had appointed his successor, Mr Harfield.

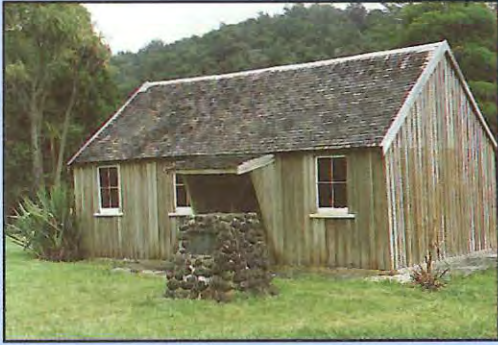
Eric Ramsden was a journalist for the Evening Post for 18 years but also specialised in Maori and Pacific history. He wrote about Samuel Marsden, James Busby, Sir Apirana Ngata and was writing the biography of Sir Peter Buck when he died in 1962 aged 63.

Mr Harfield was a reporter at the Evening Post. The Bulletin was now published on a more regular basis, three times a year for the next three years, then one in 1964 and his final one in 1965 (11 in all). It is interesting to skim through them in quick succession as the adjective "gay" is prominent in the headlines. We read about a "Gay Wellington Party", a "Gay Scene at the Dinner Dance", a "Gay Founders Ball", a "Gay Party for Founders' Children", a "Gay Setting for Annual Ball", a "Gay Family Party", a "Gay Carterton Fashion Show", and a "Gay Auckland Children's Party". Of course the word did not have the connotations that it has today. Most of his Bulletins are reports of branch activities although there are some interesting historical accounts, often sent in by Branches. A sub-committee was formed to try to obtain some historical articles, but there was no improvement.

The 4th Bulletin Editor was Mr L Buick-Constable. His first Bulletin appeared in 1965 and over the next 29 years he published 32 more. The size was changed to the same as the present one and from 1974 on glossy paper was used. The number of pages varied widely from 12 to 72 (once). There was a distinctive logo on all his Bulletins, a black square with a large capital F for Founders inside it. There was also a reproduction of the Founders badge depicting E G Wakefield, with the new badge used on his last Bulletin. The first photograph used was in Bulletin No 35 and from No 51 on, there was nearly always a photograph on the cover and several inside. The range of topics covered is quite large and includes old recipes, the script of several historical plays (one of them 13 pages long), letters to the Editor, the reporting of social activities, book reviews, a list of books in the Founders library, the questions and later the answers of the quizzes organised for Wellington schools, lists of new members with the names of the ancestor and ship of arrival and adequate historical information. The 72 page Bulletin No 64 (1991) was a special edition to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society. It has 22 pages listing all the National Council members and the Chairman and Secretary of all eleven branches, (38 people in all) with details of their ancestors, their occupations and their interests. Then there are 27 pages on the re-enactment of the arrival of the *Aurora*, the first ship bringing immigrants to Wellington in 1840. The script for this was written by Mr Buick-Constable. The cost of one copy of the Bulletin rose gradually from 6d to \$1 in 1981 and it was questioned whether two issues a year were needed. Apparently it was not realised that there had not been two issues a year since 1974 and in the last ten years, there had been four years with no Bulletin at all. The cost of the Bulletin in 1987 was nearly \$4000 (over three times as much as four years earlier) and it was realised that members would not pay that much. The Executive Committee therefore decided that it would be free to all financial members and it has remained free. His final Bulletin No 65 was published in 1994.

Joyce Mackenzie, Chairman of the Whanganui Branch, was appointed as Bulletin Editor in 1994 after a campaign to get an annual Bulletin that could be guaranteed to arrive before the annual National Council meeting and, as a means of saving money, to include the President's Annual Report and the Financial Statement which up until then had been printed and sent out separately. The only reason this did not work as it was intended was that the Financial Statement, except for the first year, was never audited in time. One year the Bulletin was just finished on the Friday before the National Council Monday meeting. I packed all 1,400 of them in boxes, took them to the meeting and delivered them in person to the delegates. I don't think they were very happy having to take a heavy box home with them. At least it saved courier charges. The real problem, of course, is the timing of the National Council Meeting which used to be in August and is now in June or July.

Founders Society Branches



Pioneer Cottage

