



# Bulletin

## New Zealand Founders Society



Settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company

Number 72 - 2000

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Message from the Editor

This year I have had no input from Branches except for the Hawkes Bay 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebration. Apart from the usual lists of new members, various reports and the Financial Statement, I have written the whole Bulletin. This is also my last Bulletin, my seventh. I do hope that some-one will carry on. It does keep members aware of what the Executive Council and other Branches are doing, but also records some of our little known and untaught history. Over the years Wanganui has been greatly blessed by a number of amateur historians (at least nine of them are past or present Founders Society members) who have researched and published much of our local history in books and the newspapers. Other Branches must surely have some too that they can call on.

Founders members are not the only ones to receive the Bulletin. The University of Canterbury, the Hocken Library in Dunedin, the Massey University Library, the Auckland City Library, and the Alexander Library in Wanganui are all sent a copy annually. It is also obligatory to send three copies of all publications to the National Library in Wellington.

Joyce Mackenzie

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**THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND  
FOUNDERS SOCIETY PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

The commencement of the new millennium was heralded with a great deal of speculation. We were led to believe that computers would crash and that all manner of essential items, including domestic appliances (even toasters) would give up the ghost. It did not happen. Founders' members were, I hope, not too concerned about these dire predictions. One hundred and sixty years ago our forebears faced much greater hardships than an inoperative toaster. They faced the difficulties and survived and we are here today to pay a tribute to those ancestors. It is currently politically correct to put down these early settlers who founded the nation we know today. This is unfair - they were hardworking people who arrived here and got on with the job. They would find it hard to understand that we no longer award knighthoods. They believed in equality; that is why they left the northern hemisphere. However, they were prepared to recognise quality in people and their contribution to the community. Excellence will no longer be identified. We are having to settle for blandness and uniformity as the price of achieving equality.

Last year's Annual Report referred to the start made in setting up the Society's database. The job of loading the passenger list of the early ships continues. Our goal is that this data will be accessible on the internet. There is a massive volume of genealogical material available on the internet but basic historical data such as our passenger lists is by no means common.

In February it was my pleasure, accompanied by my wife and Immediate Past President, Ray Greville and his wife, to attend the annual luncheon of the Whanganui Branch. After lunch we were offered a tour of Moutoa Gardens under the informed guidance of Joyce Mackenzie, Whanganui Branch Secretary. The local Maori were in the process of setting up for the annual celebration of the occupation of the gardens. They paid no attention to us as we moved about the area. Much of the history is recorded on the stone structures in the gardens. It is only when you have the opportunity to see for yourself that you appreciate the complexity of the historical events, including local tribes who valiantly tried to protect the settlers from attack.

During the year there was concern that the Historic Places Trust was under threat. Its already inadequate government grant was cut further and the Trust's very existence seemed in jeopardy. The importance of preserving the buildings of our past goes without saying. Hopefully the new Government with a stated policy of support for heritage will put a stop to the cultural vandalism which included such other objectionable moves as the downgrading of the National Library and its central treasure house, the Turnbull Library.

Each year Commonwealth Day is celebrated in Wellington and Founders play their part. This year's service in St Paul's Cathedral had the added benefit of the Royal Marine Band from Portsmouth who were in the city to take part in the Edinburgh Tattoo. A team of trumpeters from the band played a fanfare from the balcony inside the Cathedral. This was truly stirring and was the highlight of the proceedings which included readings from non-Christian representatives of Commonwealth countries with Muslim, Hindu and Jewish backgrounds.

The Colonial Cottage Museum Society has been approved as an Associate Member of the New Zealand Founders Society.

The Society faces a number of problems. These include membership which is increasing in age but is declining in numbers. It has been suggested that a Young Founders Group should be established. Younger people have so many outlets for their energies that it will be difficult to enlist them to our cause. That does not mean that we should not try.

Mr W. Sheat, National President.

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**Membership at 31 March 2000 was:-**

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Auckland	104	84	85	83
Bay of Plenty	116	117	114	145
Canterbury	48	45	44	49
Hawkes Bay	247	244	244	209
Poverty Bay	45	40	37	41
Taranaki	98	77	83	82
Waikato	113	122	112	101
Wairarapa	160	168	161	136
Wellington	280	262	253	251
Whanganui	127	126	123	129
	<u>1367</u>	<u>1317</u>	<u>1285</u>	<u>1226</u>

**Status of Members**

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Hon. over 80	257	272	265	251
Life (Paid)	62	61	57	58
Senior	914	861	838	804
Junior	2	2	2	2
Associate	108	97	99	89
Hon. For Service	23	24	24	22
	<u>1367</u>	<u>1317</u>	<u>1285</u>	<u>1226</u>

## BRANCH REPORTS

### Auckland

Between the 1999 AGM and this year we had a number of very interesting meetings covering such things as islands we had visited, pioneer life in Mt Albert, the fateful voyage of an emigrant ship and the life of epileptic Charles Lush. Besides these there were visits to National Archives and the Auckland Museum centre for military archives, "The Armoury". For a few there was also a visit to a magnificent garden tucked away in South Auckland and rightly named "The Quarter-Acre Paradise".

The major activity has been the writing and compiling of a book of our stories, past and present, about ourselves, parents, and grandparents. They are not the usual family histories but slices of life. The promotion and compiling has been entirely that of our secretary who has also been responsible for the final typing before publication. We invited our kindred society, the New Zealand Pioneer and Descendants Club, to join us in our venture and they will be assisting with the indexing and selling.

We are also pleased to report that one of our members was awarded a QSM in the 1999/2000 New Year Honours and that our oldest member will be turning 101 in August.

John Webster, Branch Chairman

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### Bay of Plenty

There were six well-attended meetings in 1999.

The AGM was held at the Lake Plaza in Rotorua on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The speaker, Mr Garland, spoke about his ancestor, the Reverend Nathaniel Turner.

The second meeting was held at Taupo on 18<sup>th</sup> April. Warwick Keys was the guest speaker whose subject was "Early Days in Taupo."

The next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June was at the Tauranga Community Village (Tauranga Historic Village). Duncan Webb spoke on the founding and history of Scott Base.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August the fourth meeting was held at the Te Puke Club in Te Puke. The speaker was Bill Ethern on his experiences in Nigeria when he worked for British Airways.

The next meeting was at "The Reef" in Whakatane on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Bryce Gow spoke on the "Settlement of the Rangitaika Plains".

The final meeting for the year on 5<sup>th</sup> December was at the "Skyline Restaurant" in Rotorua. "Operation Nest Egg" was the subject of Helen McCormick's talk.

I would like to thank all those who have organised, assisted and contributed to our Branch. Membership was increased from 114 to 145, an increase of 31. In all there were 47 new members but 5 deaths and 11 resignations (some because they were moving) reduced the numbers.

G R Mathieson, Chairman

### Canterbury

Because of health reasons, Mavis Mateer resigned as secretary and treasurer early this year. We are very pleased that she is now recovering strongly.

Our first function following the last AGM was lunch in an old hotel at Yaldhurst. This was followed by a visit to the Yaldhurst Transport and Science museum. As the weather was cold and wet, we welcomed the cover in the range of buildings with vehicles and many different exhibits including a working printing shop.

Our mid-winter function was lunch at Mona Vale Homestead, Fendalton, a beautiful venue on the banks of the Avon River in the heart of Christchurch.

In September we travelled through the tunnel under the Port Hills to Lyttelton. After another lunch with the harbour just a few metres away, we undertook a guided walking tour of this town to see the historic and preserved buildings and hear some of the stories behind them.

To provide variety, a number of members attended a performance of "Rush", in the Theatre Royal. This is a historical musical from the gold rush days of central Otago.

Our Christmas function was lunch at the historic Cust Hotel, followed by a tour of the museum and the largest (over two hectares) rose nursery and display in Canterbury.

On Canterbury Anniversary day (16 December) we attended a memorial service at Holy Trinity Church in Lyttelton, followed by a short walk to the "Rock" memorial marking the original landing site of the first four ships at Lyttelton.

All our functions were well attended and subsidised from our funds.

We are now making an annual commitment of \$600 to support a Christchurch school with its outdoor education programme costs. The first recipient was for Central New Brighton School to attend their programme at Hamner Springs in 1999.

John McSweeney, Branch Chairman

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### Hawkes Bay

This year we have approximately 250 members and two members of the next generation have just joined.

#### Outings

A Havelock North bus tour with historian Mervyn Harper. This included lunch at the historic homestead Keirunga Gardens and afternoon tea at Te Mata Peak House.

A weekend trip to Wairarapa where we were welcomed by members of the branch who joined us on our tour to Cape Palliser. Mr Roger Hunter gave a very informative commentary of the district.

In September a journey to Takapau in Central Hawkes Bay to see the daffodils at "Taniwha". The proceeds from their sale goes to the Plunket Society. Then on to the Monastery at Kopua where we were shown and given a talk about the establishment.

A garden expo at Taradale "Tussie Mussie" followed by lunch at one of Taradale's parks.

Our Christmas gathering at Porangahau, the Holiday Park Open Garden with a picnic followed by petanque and croquet on the lawn.

Speakers at other meetings have included, John Garland on the pioneer missionary, Rev. Nathaniel Turner, and the Napier District Manager of Police, Inspector Kaffe.

I represented the Branch at the launching of the books, "Hey days and Dray Days" at Orlig Station and "The Story of Waipukurau" at Mount Vernon.

Nanette Roberts, Branch Chairman

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### Poverty Bay

In February 1999 we had a bus trip to Whangara, visited the marae and viewed a giant waka. We then toured the back country farmland while historian, Conway Seymour, gave a commentary on the local history.

Our AGM was in March. Keith Redstone spoke about his trip to South America with an insight into the living conditions and culture of the different people.

In May we had bus trip to Makaraka with Leith Wilson, with emphasis on the Te Kooti Massacre. We then visited the Matawhero Church and had a tiki-tour of Patutahi with a commentary about the local history by long-time resident, Jean Prebble.

Later that month Keith Redstone gave a talk about the Hawkes Bay Motor Company and the maintenance of the coaches, horses and "roads" which were used to begin with.

In June Vi Carruthers gave a talk about her recent trip to England and Scotland.

Our mid-winter "Christmas" dinner was held in July with a talk by Bob Scott about the early transport and roading in the district.

In August Tom Dominet told us about the history and functions of the Road Safety Board.

Village life in Spain was the subject of Lisset Mudge's talk in September.

An early Christmas dinner was held in November with a talk by Hal Andrew "From Message Boy to Store Manager in Gisborne".

Beryl Currie, Branch Secretary

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### Taranaki

This year on 28<sup>th</sup> March we welcomed the National President and Mrs Greville and Founders members from Wanganui, Waikato, Wellington and Feilding to our annual commemorative luncheon. Following that these visitors with 45 of our members joined the Mayor of New Plymouth, the Chairmen of Port Taranaki and the Taranaki Regional Council, kaumatua Ron Tapuke and members of the Ngati Te Whiti Hapu and members of the public (a gathering of about 120 persons in total).

This was for the rededication of the Pioneer Monument in its new park setting. Photos were taken of groups of the descendants of pioneers who arrived on the first six ships and Leo Carrington, a descendant of Wellington Carrington, N Z Company surveyor and pioneer settler, spoke most ably on behalf of the Founders Society.

At our May, June and July meetings we enjoyed speakers on the Active in Age movement, the life of a rural auctioneer and the work of the local museum archivist.

Then at each of the meetings that followed from August to November, many of our members presented brief biographies of their pioneer ancestors which have been typed and will be kept as a branch archival record.

In September ten members travelled by bus to Wanganui where they saw some historic sites, had lunch with the committee and joined other Wanganui members at the 100 year old Opera House where Deryk Matthews spoke about its history.

In October Ron Lambert, director of the Taranaki Museum showed the relics, artefacts, painting and original maps in the basement storage area.

There was our usual Christmas social in December.

Trevor Bright, Branch Chairman

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### Waikato

At the 1999 AGM Delcie Dodds retired as Branch Chairman and Peter Hyams took over the chair. During the past 12 months we have had a varied luncheon programme at our regular meeting place, the Kentucky Room at the Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton.

Dr Rufus Rogers, former Parliamentarian, held members enthralled with his talk on his families' long-time association in the Waikato.

Sir John Llewellyn spoke about the setting up of the Field Days and the continuing success of Mystery Creek.

Bruce Martin, former Editor of the Waikato Times gave a fascinating insight into the development of newspaper and his experiences with journalism over half a century from cub reporter to editor.

Lynley Hyams gave a short history of the N Z Founders Society, including a page from the "Freelance", reporting their first social meeting in 1939. This was followed by the family story of one of the members pictured in the "Freelance" report.

Evan Smith spoke about a Cornwall family history. He specialises in rescuing and cataloguing old family photographs of which he has over 5,000. His extensive report was held over two meetings.

Mrs Aubrey Sandford reinforced the fact that our Society members share a common creed but all have individual stories to tell. She then shared her very interesting family history with us.



We also enjoyed the Police Entertainment Group after our July luncheon and our Christmas luncheon, celebrated in November at the Glenview Hotel.

Peter Mowbray has resigned from the Committee. We all appreciate the effort Peter has afforded the Waikato Branch for many years.

Lynley Hyams, National Councillor

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### Wairarapa

At our 1999 AGM in March Judy Martin, a physiotherapist, described the complex requirements of the competing athletes for the Commonwealth Games.

In April the guest speaker, Alan Wallis, gave an address on the propagation of various species of orchids.

In May we once again visited Wellington, this time to see the restored St James Theatre. From there we went to the Ohiro Bay Marine Biology Centre. While we had lunch the curator and his wife talked about the marine life in Cook Strait. Our final visit was to the Wellington Cathedral where the verger showed us over the building. Of particular interest were the historic chair and lectern in the Lady Chapel, on permanent loan from the Founders Society.

At the June meeting, Coie O'Brien gave a talk about the O'Brien and Street families and we admired the collection of such items as old bookmarks and postcards brought along by members.



The Seddon Memorial at the Bolton Street cemetery.

Our mid-winter luncheon was held at Landsdowne House in July with entertainment by Peter Thomsen on his button accordion.

In August we viewed the large and valuable collection of medals brought along by a former Branch Chairman, Mr George Barr.

We travelled in September to the Gladstone Hotel for lunch and then proceeded to the Kourarau power station, now operated by remote control from Masterton.

We had lunch in Greytown in October followed by an address on the history of the street names in Greytown.

This was given by the local historian, Malcolm Sutherland.

November saw us travelling to Pahiatua to visit the Jestto-Dekala and the Twin Oaks Gardens. Members were amused by the tame eels that were fed cat food by the owner Marion Hunt using an old spoon.

Our Christmas dinner was again held at Landsdowne House with entertainment by the Masterton Savage Club.

On Waitangi Day we travelled to Wellington by bus where we visited the Bolton Street Chapel followed by a tour of the cemetery guided by Rodney Read, a former curator of the cemetery and now a landscape gardener in the Wairarapa. We walked through the cemetery up to the Lady Norwood Rose Garden and Begonia House where we had lunch. We then visited the Otari Bush Reserve.

Maurice Watson, Branch Chairman

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### Wellington

In April members were given a detailed talk on the preservation methods used on the remains of the ship *Inconstant* which was disabled entering Wellington Harbour in 1850. It was then used by John Plimmer as a bond store and became known as Noah's Ark. The remains of the ship were found during excavations for the refurbishment of the old BNZ building as a shopping arcade and a display of the remains has been mounted in the lower part of the arcade.

In July the Hon. Roger Sowry, MP, gave a talk on the history of Social Welfare.

The Bishop of Wellington, Dr J Brown spoke on the early years of his work within the church.

Kelvin Nelson, proprietor of McPhee's Celtic Heritage in Wellington, a Pipe Major in the Wellington Scottish Pipes and Drums and formerly a Pipe Major in the Wellington Regiment talked about Scottish emigration to New Zealand and the custom and culture they brought with them.

The Branch joined the Wellington Historical and Early Settlers Association for a Christmas luncheon in the newly-renovated Board Room of the old Maritime Museum now known as the Wellington City and Sea Museum.

In January we visited the Colonial Cottage in Nairn Street which has been restored to its original state. Afternoon tea of fresh scones and home-made jam followed. See page 13.

The AGM 2000 was at Premier House, used by the Premier from 1867 to 1935.

Wellington Branch and the National Executive committee attended the annual Commonwealth Day Service in the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

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### Whanganui

In March 1999 eleven Wanganui members attended the annual luncheon of the Taranaki Branch and the rededication of the Pioneer Memorial which had been moved to another site to make way for Port Taranaki developments.

In April we had an afternoon bus trip to Ngaturi on the Mangamahu Road. Margaret Campion gave a commentary on the way and Tim Wells showed us over a fruit-packing shed and a kiwi fruit orchard.

May saw us at the Davis Lecture Theatre for a talk by Hannah McIntyre about her family's attendance at Dunedin's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is descendant of Captain Cargill (the first leader of the settlement).

Val Cowan came in June and gave a talk about the books she has written.

Our mid-year luncheon was in July at St Peters Hall with entertainment by "The Highlanders".

A bus tour around the Waitotara area with a commentary by Anne Flutey took place in August. Afternoon tea was at Ashley Park where Ross Richardson gave a talk on the Wereroa Redoubt on his property.

The New Plymouth Branch visited us in September and the Committee entertained them to lunch after which they joined us at our Royal Opera House where Deryk Matthews gave a talk on its history.

The October trip to Woodville had to be cancelled through lack of support.

In early December we had a bus tour to five Rangitikei and Marton gardens and houses and St Stephens church, all with Christmas floral decorations.

In January we had a trip upriver on the reconstructed riverboat, "Waimarie".

February 27<sup>th</sup> saw us at lunch at the Racecourse Function Centre, commemorating the 159<sup>th</sup> year since the first settlers arrived in Wanganui. The Founders President Mr W Sheat, Immediate Past President Mr R Greville and Mrs V Cowan whose latest book was subsidised by the Founders Society's Research Award were guests.

During the year "Where Did They Go? Book 2" was published and distributed to members.

Frank Guy, Branch Chairman

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### **THE HISTORIC PLACES TRUST**

*The speaker at the 1999 AGM was Mr Stephen Rainbow from the Historic Places Trust. This is a precis of his talk.*

Prior to today's announcement appointing Marie Hasler as Minister for Culture and Heritage, heritage has suffered from not having direct access to a government minister. The government, representing taxpayers, queried what accountability and value taxpayers were getting for their money. To date, heritage has not been asked to account for money spent but this has all changed.

There has been criticism that there has been a failure to protect Maori heritage sites. The new ministry appears to take away regulatory powers from the Historic Places Trust and the Trust's role will become more advocacy such as the role of the Forest and Bird Society. The Trust's funding will become zero-based and will be contestable - from July 50% next year and 100% the year after.

The role of local government is to carry out, under the Resource Management Act, protection of those buildings deemed to be of historical and social significance. Local government should be more pro-active. An Act will be introduced requiring local government to take into account cultural and heritage concerns when issuing building consents. It is interesting to note how little importance local government place on heritage in that out of 74 local government agencies only three have heritage staff – Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The recommendation is to play down regulation and promote advocacy and education. Many old buildings have been successfully converted into shops, cafes and offices, for example in Blair and Allen Streets in Wellington. The buildings are upgraded and maintained and everybody can enjoy them. Unfortunately it is an expensive process upgrading an old building and owners may require financial assistance. Who pays? Local councils operate a scheme which provides assistance to owners of heritage buildings to upgrade and maintain them in good order. In the past many heritage buildings were demolished because they had been allowed to deteriorate beyond the point where it was feasible to preserve them.

Most landscapes of prominence have been brought into public ownership – but what about the townscape – the city streets? How do we protect an area? One example is that new buildings in Thorndon are required to be built in keeping with the surrounding area.

Can New Zealand afford to have so many properties in government ownership, under different departments and subject to different conditions? There needs to be a rationalisation of property management skills and the specialised skill necessary to maintain old buildings. We need to continue to provide convincing evidence to Government of the economic advantages heritage brings to the economy. Heritage continues to make a significant contribution to the industry and the tourism and culture industry of New Zealand. It is estimated that between \$200-500 million comes from the historic heritage sector. Most of the major building works occurring in Wellington today are based on heritage buildings. Heritage also provides New Zealand with an identity. Both central and local government have to make a commitment to protecting our heritage.

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In the booklet on the Founders History there is a list of For Service Awards. Some names have no reasons given for making the award, because I could not find the information at the time. However I have now found it as follows.

Taranaki Mr W. Faull:- Committee, Vice-Chairman, or Chairman for 34 years.

Mr M. Standish:- Committee, Vice-Chairman or Chairman 22 years.

Mr C. Putt:- 30 years Hon. Auditor.

## THE 21<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE HAWKES BAY BRANCH



On N Z Founders Day, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2000, 110 members and guests of the Hawkes Bay Branch celebrated their 21 years membership of the Founders Society. Photographs of past trips and outings, memorabilia of the past and the listing of members ancestors and the dates and ships in which they arrived in New Zealand (the earliest being 1827) were displayed. The minutes of the first meeting were read and charter members present were acknowledged. Mr Peter Harding, the first chairman, a position he held for 17 years, spoke on the formation of the branch and its of early beginnings. The speaker for the evening was Dr Joan Wiffen, a Hawkes Bay housewife who has been recognised and honoured for her discoveries and research which has proved conclusively that dinosaurs had once lived in New Zealand.

*Above:-Mrs Nanoya Smith, a former Vice-chairman and very active member, cutting the birthday cake. Mrs Smith was a pioneer woman pilot and member of the International "99s". Sadly she passed away very shortly after this function at the age of 92 years. The evening concluded with the singing of a song written especially for the branch by the late Mrs Hilda Bradley.*

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### HISTORICAL NOTES FROM WELLINGTON

*I have gleaned these notes from the Wellington Newsletters. -Editor*

#### Anglican Church in Wellington

The first St Paul's was built in 1846 and situated in what are now the grounds of Parliament. It was capable of seating 230 people. In 1858 a new diocese of Wellington was created and Charles John Abraham was consecrated the first Bishop of Wellington.

In 1859 the Bishop spoke of constructing a larger church to allow for the growth in his congregation but building did not commence until 1864. Sir George Grey laid the foundation stone in 1865 and the new church was consecrated in 1866 by Bishop Abraham. The first St Paul's was dismantled, some of its timbers being re-assembled as the chapel for the Bolton Street Cemetery. The architect of the cathedral church was Rev. Frederick Thatcher, vicar of the parish from 1861 to 1864. The style of architecture used was late Early English Gothic.

An inspection in 1955 found the original foundation blocks were natural rounds of totara of about 20 inch diameter, at about 5 foot centres. The ground plates and stringers were of matai and totara, the floor joists mainly heart rimu. The flooring was mostly matai with some totara. The framing about the floor level including the roof trusses was rimu of which about 80% was heartwood. The exterior and interior sheathings were totara, the sarking was kauri and the seats rimu and kauri.

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### The Colonial Cottage

This cottage at 68 Nairn Street was built by William Wallis, a carpenter, who arrived in New Zealand on the *Southern Cross* in September 1857 with his wife Catherine. They raised ten children in the cottage and in the two -storey house he later built next door. William and Catherine are buried in the Bolton Street Cemetery. The cottage is a good example of construction techniques of the 1850s with pegged mortise and tenon joints used for framing. The verandah was added in 1870.

A grand-daughter Winifred Turner in her eighties was still living in the cottage in 1977 and strongly resisted selling it but eventually it was bought by the City Council and she was rehoused in a new flat. The Cottage Museum Society was formed and restored the cottage to its 1870 appearance to become a local Colonial Museum. It was furnished with the furniture and belongings typical of a working-class family home in the colonial era. The items were lent or donated and included a few Wallis family objects that had remained in the cottage. The Museum was opened in 1980.

The Colonial Cottage Museum Society was administered with a grant from the Wellington City Council sufficient to pay the salary of a manager and maintain the premises. Since the beginning of 1998 the cottage has been managed by the Wellington Museums Trust. It is building an Interpretation Centre next door which will free the main bedroom of the cottage to be furnished like the rest of the cottage instead of serving as an office. The Colonial Cottage Museum Society will become Friends of the Cottage when the Museums Trust takes over completely. They have formed an association with the Founders Society.

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**I feel that I have to point out to Branch Chairmen that there is no such thing as a Branch President in the Founders Society and never has been. Editor**

### **Premier House**

This has been the home of many of New Zealand's prime ministers since 1865. It has its origins in a small cottage built by early Wellington merchant, Nathaniel Levin, in 1843. The land was bought by Richard Collins and the house extended before it was sold to the Crown in 1865 for use as the Premier's residence. According to the Wellington City Council Rate Books, the first Premier to live there was Sir E.W. Stafford from 1867-1868.

There have been numerous additions and alterations during the building's history from the original single-storey cottage to the present two-storey residence. In 1935 the Labour Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage refused to live in such a grand house and it was converted for use as a children's dental clinic capable of seating 50 children. The nickname of "The Murder House" was given to it (*by the children I guess*). In 1989 the Department of Internal Affairs arranged to have the building completely restored, using a grant from the N.Z. Lottery Grants Board to the people of New Zealand.

### **Museum of Wellington, City and Sea**

This museum was opened in November 1999 in one of Wellington's oldest buildings. The Bond Store was built in 1892 by the Wellington Harbour Board as a warehouse to house goods until duty was paid. It held everything from whisky and corsets to coffee and gunpowder. Designed by the well-known architect, Frederick de Jersey Clere, it was ahead of its time in its pioneering use of concrete for construction. It was also home to the Wellington Harbour Board and a symbol of the booming shipping trade and Wellington's successful port. Today it is the second oldest structure on the waterfront.

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### **Walking between Wellington and Wanganui in 1841**

*John Nixon, one of the first settlers in Wanganui in 1841, arrived by coastal boat. The only other way was to walk and he also did this several times. He later wrote:*

"There was only a Maori pig track over the Pukerua Hill and down the Horokiwi valley. We had to swim or ford all the rivers on the coast, except the Manawatu, and camped on the beach at the river's mouth where wood was abundant for our fires. We had a nine mile walk on the rough track of Porirua Harbour up and down its rocky bays. All the bare hills were then a dense forest and the branches of the scrub and huge trees fringed the water all the way along so closely that the spring tides touched them. At the foot of the Paekakariki Hill a fellow called "Scotch Jack" for many years kept an accommodation house, a rough and ready raupo affair with a huge bush fire-place. Rough as it was, like himself and his Maori help, it was a great boon to us travellers to camp there under a roof and before a log fire and walk into damper and pork. There were no cattle or sheep or bakers and loaves in those days."

## RESEARCH AWARD

At the Wanganui Branch luncheon on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2000 to commemorate the arrival of the thirteen first settlers in Wanganui in 1841 were Mr Sheat, the President of the Founders Society and his wife, the Immediate Past President, Mr Greville and his wife and Mrs Val Cowan, the recipient of the 1999 Study Grant. Mrs Cowan's book, "Bridging the Centuries" records interviews with five people over the age of 100 who were born before 1900 and lived until 2000. One of them, Mrs Ingleby Morrison of Wanganui, was the grand-daughter of John Nixon and his wife who were two of those thirteen settlers. She was a member of the Founders Society, having joined in 1940 and celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on New Years Day, 2000. She was also at the launching of Mrs Cowan's book in March 2000, and died just a week later.



Ray Greville, Val Cowan of Wanganui and Bill Sheat.

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## EARLY AUCKLAND

*There has been very little in the Bulletin about the early history of Auckland and I think it is time to remedy that in a minor way. I am not an expert on the subject but I am interested because my own family were early settlers there.*

The founding date of Auckland is considered to be 18<sup>th</sup> September 1840 when the Governor, Captain Hobson, decided to move there with all his officials from Kororareka in the Bay of Islands, which had previously been the centre of government. Auckland was chosen because it was in a more central position, there was a good harbour, plenty of flat land for agriculture and at the time, fewer Maori likely to become troublesome as some of the northern ones were. Hobson was, of course, followed from the Bay of Islands by most of the other Europeans there.

The first two ships bringing immigrants from Britain to Auckland were the *Duke of Argyll* and the *Jane Gifford* which arrived in 1842 from Scotland. The third ship and the first from England was the *Westminster* with 221 emigrants (half of them children) mostly from Yorkshire and carefully chosen as craftsmen, labourers and agricultural workers. Among them was my great-grandfather, George Humphries, aged 21 who had come alone from Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. His father was a weaver but after the Industrial Revolution, such skilled workers were not needed. The *Westminster* reached Auckland on April 1<sup>st</sup> 1843 and the passengers disembarked at Mechanics Bay by boat or by struggling through the surf.

The only available accommodation for them was in raupo huts with fern on the floor. For four days they were provided with no food and had to rely on charity from the earlier settlers. At the time Auckland was suffering from a slump and they had a difficult time finding work. There was plenty to do:- building houses and wharves, filling swamps and growing food but there was little money to pay for such work. The going rate was 2/6 a day. Fortunately, the Maori provided fish and potatoes at a reasonable price. Road-making was another urgent job. A stream flowed down what is today Queen Street and it had to be channelled and covered. The roads were either dusty or muddy, according to the weather.

Churches were also being built, St Paul's Church of England in 1841, followed by a Wesleyan Chapel and a Roman Catholic Church. Many hotels, warehouses, schools, the first Government House, the courthouse, the jail and the barracks for the soldiers stationed there were also built. Fire was an ever-present danger. There was a disastrous one in 1858 which destroyed at least 40 buildings. There was little recreation for the ordinary settler and there seems to have been a great deal of drunkenness. The upper classes amused themselves with balls, musical evenings, dinners and an annual race meeting from 1842 on.

The first Wesleyan Chapel, a small wooden building was erected in High Street in 1842 and a second larger one, also of wood was built next to it the following year, the first one then being used as a Sunday school.

The second one was enlarged in 1844 but again was not adequate and in 1848 a brick chapel was opened on the same site, the original building being moved to Mechanics Bay. I like to think that George Humphries helped to build this Wesleyan Chapel because in 1849 he and Mary Phillips were married there. This chapel was also enlarged after a few years and it could then accommodate 1,000 people. In 1874 after the Pitt Street Church was opened, the High Street Chapel was sold to the Justice Department who remained the owners until 1979 when it was demolished as an earthquake risk.

Mary Phillips had arrived in New Plymouth on the *William Bryan*, the first ship to bring emigrants to Taranaki. She arrived with her widowed mother, three sisters and two brothers.

Ann the eldest (aged 20) was married to John James during the voyage and they were the only members of this family to remain in New Plymouth. By 1849 all the rest had left looking for greener pastures. The elder son, his mother and her new husband went to Australia.

The second daughter, Jane married James Climo and they lived in many newly-settled areas of New Zealand over the next 40 years, Kawhia, Auckland, back to New Plymouth until 1860, Marlborough Sounds and Ormond near Gisborne.

The second son did not marry and after serving in the 1860 Maori Wars in both Taranaki and Wanganui went to Havelock, Marlborough where he died in 1900. The third daughter, Emma married Edward Tucker and with her sister Mary moved to Auckland in 1848. There, my great-grandparents, Mary and George Humphries were married in 1849 with Emma and Edward Tucker as the witnesses. Neither they nor Mary could sign the Marriage Register, although George could. The others simply made a mark. The Tuckers did not stay long in Auckland. They went to Kaipara in 1854 and then to Clive in Hawkes Bay in 1863, their fourth newly-developed area and here they finally settled.

George and Mary lived in Auckland until 1855 when they moved to Onehunga and lived (I think) in a Fencible cottage. The Fencibles were retired British soldiers with 20 years service, but under the age of 48. They were brought to New Zealand to act as a garrison for Auckland in case of Maori troubles. They were given a pension, a uniform and half a cottage with one acre of land which became theirs after seven years service. After they were discharged, many left the area which allowed ordinary settlers to take over their cottages. There was a second Fencible settlement at Howick and today you can see a restored cottage there. Each half-cottage had two rooms and an attic.

Conditions for the whole of Onehunga were fairly primitive. A railway line to Auckland was opened in 1873. Water reticulation was not started until 1887 and gas lighting until 1885.

George and Mary's fifth child was drowned in a well aged three in 1860. However churches were early on the scene. St Peters Church of England was built in 1848 and a Methodist church in 1850. The vicar of St Peters, A G Purchas, was also a doctor and he started a school, a library, an orchestra and the Onehunga Institute which provided education for young men in the evenings. My grandmother was born in Onehunga in 1855 and when she was 15, she went to Clive to help her Aunt Emma with her increasing brood of children. She was later one of the first settlers in Hastings. The rest of the Humphries family, George and Mary, three sons and three daughters all went to Thames, yet another place where they were pioneers.

Joyce Mackenzie

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### **A Journey from New Plymouth to Wanganui in 1852**

*Emma Walker (nee Tuffin) wrote this account of the journey.*

We (*Emma and her husband George*) left New Plymouth with our two horses laden with our few personal belongings, food for the journey and our infant son, then barely three months old. For a short distance we were fortunate in having the company of the Rev. Mr Woon, then a missionary at Heretua, near Manaia.

Trouble was brewing with the Maoris and in fact, shortly after we left New Plymouth, several settlers were killed and war broke out. However, although we passed through some of the Maori pas, we were kindly treated. Our son was the object of much interest to the Maoris. Many had not seen a white child before and they insisted on a public exhibition of the little white curiosity. But, rather fearful, we thought it wise not to stay overnight at the pas. Instead we slept under flax bushes or on the edge of the forest. At Patea we lost one of our horses. From then on until we reached Wanganui, one of us had to walk.

### **Social Life in 1855**

*Martha King, one of the first thirteen Wanganui settlers wrote this in 1855. She was then living in New Plymouth. I had better add that she was a spinster.*

I saw all the literary bushmen at the Beach Cottage one evening about a fortnight ago. Julie Horn was quite as merry as ever and quite as ready to dance with the bushmen as with the military, though she must find in them less grace and abandon than in their red-coated rivals. And rivals they are:- tales of the dear officers and forthwith start up all the bristles of all the youths within hearing, bushmen make common cause against the enemy. Many of the Taranaki young ladies showed symptoms of scarlet fever the day after the red coats landed and the disease is making steady progress. Miss Alice Reynolds, the Misses Hammerton and Mrs Edmonds fell victims at once, to such an extent that all their kind sisters found it necessary to keep them at arm's length. Do you remember the Cuttress girls? One of them, Sophy is now Mrs White, married to Dr White of the 65<sup>th</sup>, a gentleman who had the reputation of being good-natured and fast in Wanganui.

## MAJOR KEMP

Major Kemp or to give him his Maori name, Te Rangihwinui Kupa, was born in 1823, the son of Rere o Maki of Putiki, just across the river from Wanganui. She was a Maori woman of high birth, a sister of two Putiki chiefs and one of only three women to sign the Treaty of Waitangi.

His father was Tanguru Paki, a chief from Horowhenua, who came to live at Putiki after Te Rauparaha had defeated most of the west coast tribes of the North Island.

When he grew up Kemp served in the Police Force and then became a mail carrier between Wanganui and Wellington. In 1864 when the Maori Wars began he gained a commission as an ensign in the native contingent and took part in several battles on the west coast between Wanganui and New Plymouth, at Wereroa (near Waitotara) and Motoroa (near Waverley) and later in Southern Taranaki under Colonels McDonnell and Whitmore.



At the battle of Motoroa the British troops attacked a pa defended by Titokowaru and his warriors but were repulsed and retreated in disorder with many casualties. Kemp and his Maori contingent were in reserve and covered the retreat in good order and few casualties. Kemp was awarded the rare New Zealand Cross for his actions here. He next served at Opotiki after the murder of the Rev. Volkner and later against Te Kooti, notably at Tapapa where captured all of Te Kooti's horses, and at Pourere. After peace was restored Major Kemp was presented with one of Queen Victoria's Swords of Honour. After the wars he became a Government Land Purchase Officer in Wanganui but soon left.

He was troubled by the amount of land being lost by the Maori and told them many times in many ways, "If you sell your land you will become slaves." He set up a Land Trust under which no land inside the boundaries could belong to Europeans. This area was to have a series of poles marking the boundaries but only four were erected, at Kauarapaoa about 10 miles up the river from Wanganui, at Matemateonga (east of Patea), at Tokorangi (near Marton) and near Waiouru. The Trust did not last long and land continued to be sold.

Only the pole on the Wanganui River is still standing and is known as Kemp's Pole. It was erected in 1880 with much ceremony by a large gathering of Maori on an old pa site just where the road on the true right bank of the Wanganui river turns inland. It is 30 feet high, carved and painted red. It has twice been saved from decay by supportive Europeans. In 1911, T.W. Downes of the Wanganui River Trust set it on a concrete foundation and in 1976 the Historic Places Trust Wanganui Committee, with Maori permission had the pole taken to Wanganui, renovated, painted and then re-erected. It is only accessible by boat and at one time you could land and look at the pole closely but the local Maori will no longer allow visitors to land as it is a *wahi tapu* with still a few old graves on the site.

Major Kemp died in 1898 and was buried at Putiki. He had three wives but only one child, a daughter. There is a very high monument commemorating him in Moutoa Gardens, Wanganui. (*See photo on page 17*) At the top there is a statue of him in military uniform. Near the bottom are four plaques describing four of his battles, the night march and surprise attack at Pungarehu under Colonel McDonnell in 1866, the Battle of Motoroa under Colonel Whitmore in 1868, the attack on Te Kooti's pa at Pourere in 1869, and with Major Ropata at Maraetahi against Te Kooti in 1870.

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### KAPITI ISLAND

Maori legend mentions Kapiti Island as far back as the 12<sup>th</sup> century when the Maori explorers Toi and his grandson Whatonga both came separately to New Zealand, Toi trying to find his missing grandson and Whatonga trying to find his missing grandfather. Whatonga found Toi near Whakatane in the Bay of Plenty but decided to find another place to settle. From Mahia he sent his two sons, Tara and Taitokito find a good spot. Tara chose Wellington Harbour which explains why the Maori name for it was Te Whanganui o Tara, (the great harbour of Tara.). His people spread further to the west coast and to Kapiti Island, where both Whatonga and Tara are said to be buried.

Kapiti Island became prominent the 1820s when Te Rauparaha was forced out of his traditional land in the Kawhia area and with his whole tribe moved south defeating every tribe on the way. One of his relatives, Pehi Kepu defeated the Maori living on Kapiti Island and Te Rauparaha and his Ngati Toa tribe moved there. Fighting did not stop however. He next tackled the South Island and slaughtered many Maori, in particular at Kaikoura and Kaiapoi. By now it was 1840 and Te Rauparaha signed the Treaty of Waitangi. He also sold land to the New Zealand Company but obviously later changed his mind and obstructed the surveyors. In 1843 he was also obstructing surveyors in the South Island and this lead to the Wairau Incident where the surveyors were killed including Captain Wakefield.

Te Rauparaha returned to Otaki and under the influence of Rev. Hadfield, he gave up war and embraced Christianity. The Governor at the time, George Grey was obviously not convinced and he was arrested in 1846 and taken to Auckland. He was released in 1848 and returned to Otaki where he died the next year. He was buried in the churchyard there but tradition says his body was later removed and re-buried on Kapiti Island.



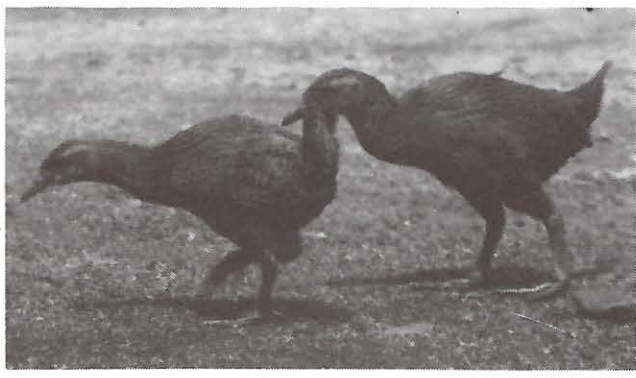
In the 1820-1840 period whalers were stationed all around the coasts of New Zealand, including Kapiti Island. Te Rauparaha did not object to them as they were undoubtedly very useful for trading. When you land at Kapiti Island today the first object you see is a huge try-pot on the beach where the whalers extracted the oil from the blubber. In Edward Jerningham Wakefield's book, "Adventure in New Zealand" there is a whole chapter about the whalers, their work and their life style, based on the many times he landed at Kapiti on his way from Wellington to Wanganui.

Kapiti Island is 3 miles from the mainland, 6 miles long and 1½ miles wide, containing 5,000 acres. The highest point 1,780 feet gives a wonderful view on a clear day of Cook Strait and the South Island. It was discovered in 1770 by Captain Cook who named it Entry Island. In 1839 617 acres were bought from the Maori by an American whaling captain and in 1844 this was taken over by Andrew Brown who cultivated parts of it.

In 1851 he was given a Crown Grant for the island. Sir George Grey also tried unsuccessfully to buy it that year for £5,000. For the next 40 years up to 600 acres of land were cultivated and crops such as potatoes grown. Cattle, sheep, pigs and goats were also introduced.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was much more interest in preserving native plants and birds than earlier, as it was obvious that some species were becoming extinct. In 1897 the government passed the Kapiti Island Public Reserve Act which made Kapiti Island a forest and bird reserve administered by the Lands and Survey Department. This was strengthened by the 1903 Scenery Preservation Act which made three New Zealand islands, Little Barrier, Resolution and Kapiti bird and plant sanctuaries. Even today only official visitors are allowed or those supervised by authorised guides. It is well worth a visit.

Most of it is covered by bush much thicker and higher than is obvious from the mainland. The bird life is diverse with even a takahe on display and one meets a weka at every turn of the bush track. This may not be so now as the Conservation Dept recently had a rat extermination drive which may have also killed wekas



although a number were moved temporarily to the mainland for safety. Today only 30 acres at the northern end remain in Maori hands although they are claiming the surrounding land as well. This claim has been lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal. The Maori area is the flattest part and also has a small lake and about five buildings. There are very few landing places on Kapiti, as the western coast consists of cliffs rising sheer from the waterline.

One man who changed the public attitude to preservation was Dr Leonard Cockayne. He had arrived in New Zealand in 1880 and became a self-taught botanist, studying native plants in many parts of New Zealand and on off-shore islands for about 40 years. He published a number of books on the subject which even today are considered the botanists' Bible. In 1907 he worked for the Department of Lands on Kapiti Island making a botanical survey. Wellington people will also know that he was the founder of the Otari Native Plant Museum of 143 acres in Wilton, Wellington.

## THE GILBERD FAMILY

William Gilbert came from Kingsbridge in Devon where he was a baker. With his wife (nee Jemima Browse) and his five sons, William, George, James, Henry, and Francis he arrived in Wellington in December 1840 on the *London*. He had been taught woodworking by his father and with his three elder sons he set up a joinery business near what is today Stewart Dawsons corner. However in 1841 the whole family travelled by sea to Auckland where there seemed to be better prospects. They established a temporary workshop at Official Bay but soon acquired six acres in Princes Street where they built a house, sawmill and carpenters' workshop. William gained a contract to build the Supreme Court and also helped to build St Paul's Church. He entered into a partnership with Captain James Derron and the firm employed up to 80 workers. Four of his sons also became builders. William died in 1849.

William (junior) and his wife, George and his wife and Henry all left Auckland in 1850 to go to the Californian goldfields. They worked a claim near San Francisco and did fairly well but in 1852 they decided to go to the Bendigo goldfields in Victoria, Australia. However on the journey from Melbourne to Bendigo William took ill and died of pneumonia aged only 29. He left two young sons, James and Henry.

When he grew up James was a gold miner in Thames and then settled in Napier where he was Superintendent of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, owned a fire brigade equipment shop and a jewellery shop, headed a cordial manufacturing firm and was prominent in public affairs and sport. His brother Henry was a nurseryman in Taradale and later a well-driller.

William senior's second son, George carried on as a gold miner in California, Bendigo and Thames but eventually returned to Auckland. He died in 1875, leaving two surviving sons and a daughter.

James, the eldest began working at the Lord Nelson mine in Thames and also worked as a builder in Auckland but found his real calling in life when with his brother-in-law, Rev. James Saunders who had some knowledge of the process, he began a soap and candle-making business in Auckland. When the factory became too small they moved it to Port Ahuriri in Napier and continued to expand.

After trouble with another associate he sold the factory and moved to Wanganui where he bought a boarding house and the Parkvale Hotel, which his wife and daughters ran while he began another soap-making business. This prospered, a new factory was built at the port, Castlecliff, and his two sons, William and Edward were made partners in the firm, J.B. Gilbert and Sons.



His daughter, Jemima married Joseph Garibaldi Stevens. I am indebted to their son Hubert Garibaldi Stevens, who was a Whanganui Branch member, for this account of the Gilberd family. The name Garibaldi comes from his grandfather who was one of a group of English adventurers who served with Garibaldi and his 1000 Redshirts in the wars of liberation and unification in Italy in the 1860s.

The name Gilberd is well known in the Founders Society. James son, William, was the first Chairman of the Whanganui Branch and served on the committee for several years. The Edward (Ted) Gilberd who was such a benefactor of the Wellington Founders Society was the grandson of James through his other son, Edward. Ted also wrote a book "Across the Miles" a detailed history of the Gilberd family. He spent a great deal of time in the Founders Library compiling passenger lists of the early ships that arrived in Wellington.

Among the many donations that Ted Gilberd made to the Founders Society are the following:- \$250 for a painting of the second Wakefield House.

\$500 to the 1976 Bulletin to ensure that the opening of the new Wakefield House was well covered in the Bulletin.

A large number of books to the Founders library and \$1,000 for a bookcase to store them in. In 1991 the "Dictionary of N Z Biography 1769-1869".

\$500 to the Turnbull Library to help publish "Victoria's Farthest Daughters".

Of the other three sons of the William who came on the "Bolton", James remained in Auckland, continued to run the Gilberd building business, and was the first Superintendent of the Auckland Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Henry returned from Bendigo to Auckland, and started a painting and paperhanging business, but when it was destroyed by fire he went to Sydney where he remained for the rest of his life.

Francis became a carpenter and also went to Australia where he died.

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### **WILLIAM WAKEFIELD MEMORIAL**

William Wakefield was a younger brother of Edward Gibbon Wakefield and spent his early life in the British Army, serving mainly in Spain where he became a colonel. He arrived in Wellington on the Tory in 1839 having been appointed the principal agent of the N.Z. Company. His main job was to negotiate with the Maori for land to be sold to the settlers. In Wellington the Maori chief, Epuni was the main Maori negotiator. Later Colonel Wakefield also acquired land for the N.Z. Company in Wanganui and Nelson. Once the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, however, he had little real power and he died in 1848 aged 45. His only daughter, Emily married E.W. Stafford, one of the early Premiers of New Zealand.

*I felt that I had to include this article as the most frustrating case of procrastination by a Local Body Council that I have ever heard of. I gleaned it bit by bit from the Minutes of the Founders Society over a period of 44 years.*

The William Wakefield Memorial is situated in Dufferin Street just outside the Basin Reserve. There are eight columns supporting a cupola, with a drinking fountain in the middle. In 1947 the Founders Society wrote to the Mayor of Wellington to suggest that it be moved to a more suitable site, the corner of Taranaki and Wakefield Streets.

No progress had been made after three months and the Town Clerk was approached by the Founders. The City Council then deferred the matter until they had considered suitable memorials to the whole Wakefield family. Another three months later, the City Council deferred the matter again until they had considered a general scheme for re-siting memorials.

However it was suggested that the Founders Society could donate an appropriate plaque to be fixed to the memorial. Three months later again the memorial was referred to in the "Evening Post" as the Molesworth Memorial. Needless to say, this prompted a letter of correction from the Founders to the newspaper.

The 27<sup>th</sup> September 1848 was the centenary of the death of William Wakefield and the Founders Society planned to hold a service at his grave and place a wreath on it. They invited representatives of the Government, the City Council and several early Settlers Associations and advertised the occasion in the newspapers. This function was held but there is no indication of public support, although a question was raised as to whether 27<sup>th</sup> September 1848 was the correct date.

There is no further mention of the Wakefield Memorial until 1955 when the Turnbull Library asked the Founders about the provision of a name plate. The Founders Society decided to donate one and Mr Bell and Mr Riddiford were to prepare the wording. Then followed more endless delays. First the Mayor was consulted about the wording.

Then there was controversy about the date of Wakefield's birth. Six months later in 1956 the date was still not found and New Zealand House in London was asked to help, then Mr Hope Johnston, then the parish church where it was thought he was christened, then Mrs Williams, (a Wakefield descendant), then two churches in Westmoreland which were suggested by an former gardener on the Wakefield property, but all to no avail. Two years later at the end of 1957 it was decided to omit the date of birth from the plaque.

*The Encyclopaedia of New Zealand (published in 1966) gives his birth date as 1803 and his death as 19 September 1848.*

In 1960 a letter to the Founders Society from Mr Riddiford enclosed the proposed wording for the plaque. Apparently it was not acceptable and a committee of three was appointed to reword it. The inscription was then sent to the City Council. I can find no further reference to this subject until October 1964 when the Founders decided to investigate the delay (*four years!*). The Wellington Mayor then expressed doubt that the monument had been erected in honour of William Wakefield. (*Back to 1948!*). In April 1965 the Turnbull Library was consulted about the historical facts and a suitable inscription and in October the City Council finally approved of erecting the plaque on the William Wakefield Memorial.

But that is by no means the end of the saga. Six months later in 1966, the plaque had still not been erected. When the City Council was asked why, the reply was that "the matter was being looked into." It was being looked into for the rest of the year apparently, but in November the Council repeated what they had said a year earlier, that a plaque, suitably inscribed, would be placed on the memorial. There was no action from the City Council in 1967.

In January 1968 the plaque was finally approved but after inspecting the fountain at the Basin Reserve, the City Council declared it was in such a bad condition it was impossible to place the plaque there. After the Founders had inspected the fountain themselves, they agreed. In March they suggested putting it on the new pavilion at the Basin Reserve and renaming it the William Wakefield Pavilion. The Council did not agree. The Council then suggested Civic Square. The Founders agreed. There was no further action that year.

In 1970 the Historic Places Trust inspected the fountain and considered that it was repairable. The City Council then agreed to place the plaque there after restoration work had been done. The next reference to this fountain that I have been able to find in the Minutes is in 1991 (21 years later) when the City Council decided to move the memorial to the Botanical Gardens. Nothing further is in the Minutes.

*In 2000 I decided to go and look at this troublesome memorial. It is still in the same place looking quite derelict. There has been no restoration work. There is no plaque. There is no flat area on which to place a plaque. There is no drinking fountain. A tall weed is growing where the fountain once was. How about a bulldozer?*

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### WANGANUI ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

In September 1999 the Wanganui Branch and some of the Taranaki Branch visited the Opera House where Deryk Matthews gave a detailed account of its history and the later alterations and improvements. After that some members went above, below and behind the scenes to see how things worked.

This was the first municipal Opera House in New Zealand, built in 1899 by the Wanganui Borough Council because of public demand. After a competition, the design by George Stevenson of Wellington was accepted and it was built by Nicholas Meuli of Wanganui, formerly from Switzerland. The construction took only six months and cost £4,597. The Mayor at the time was Alexander Hatrick, the riverboat owner, and the building was opened by the New Zealand Premier, Richard Seddon in 1900.

It is constructed almost entirely of native timber, mainly rimu but with matai floors, making it one of the few wooden theatres of its size in the world. The workmanship cannot be faulted. Because of the lath and plaster walls the acoustics are considered almost perfect everywhere in the auditorium. It was the first theatre in the southern hemisphere and the fourth in the world to install electric lighting.

Over the century there have been a number of fires but fortunately these have been extinguished before any major damage has been done. It now has a comprehensive sprinkler system and new fire doors. There have been many other renovations in the last few years, painting both outside and in, an enlarged stage, new toilets and better spaced seating. The Historic Places Trust has given it a Category One rating.

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The Opera House in Wanganui, visited by the Taranaki and Whanganui Branches.



### WELLINGTON IN 1840

*A letter from Emma Wicksteed, who arrived with her husband, John and two young sons on the Bolton in 1840. John Wicksteed came to New Zealand as agent of the Church Society to administer Church lands.*

My Dearest Mother,

We all reached this port safely on 12<sup>th</sup> of December making exactly four months from the time we came on board. On the 13<sup>th</sup> we formed a strong party and went to church which is at present little better than a shed, though the congregation was numerous and respectable. The voyage was a very safe one though we were in two or three gales, yet I cannot say I ever thought we were in danger. We had of course many disagreeables; the children and I all suffered a good deal from seasickness until we passed the Cape.

The first appearance of the town and place disappointed me a good deal, but by degrees the eye can become accustomed to look at objects and what at first appeared quite huts, by degrees assumed a rather better appearance and looked what they are, neat low cottages. The harbour is a very fine one. There were six ships in when we came and they say there are always as many. There have been 70 within the last six months. Whalers put in here and think nothing of spending £100 or so before they leave.

The natives are numerous and harmless and many of them are very picturesque in appearance. They all wear something, some more, some less. The sons of some of the chiefs we have seen dressed quite like Englishmen, while the old chiefs themselves have worn their mat or their blanket slung round the neck and tied on the shoulders. Many are in search of work but many are idle. They are generally very honest and well-behaved. We have no fear of them whatever. They are fine and sensible and look very intelligent.

We found there was very little accommodation on shore for newcomers except for the emigrants who have homes provided for them till they can get up their own, which does not take long as wood is so plentiful. Many brought tents, some houses and some nothing. Colonel Wakefield has chosen a lovely spot for us to put our house on. It is to be up on Wednesday or Thursday next.

From what we can learn, high winds seem the only difficulty we have to deal with, but we have had some lovely weather since we have been here. We made a pleasant excursion on Sunday with our Captain Shuttleworth, up the river Hutt and saw some lovely spots, visited Mr Molesworth and had Mr Petre to dinner. We like Colonel Wakefield very much.

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**NEW MEMBERS from June 1 1999 to October 10 2000**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
<b><u>Auckland</u></b>			
Mrs J Dwerryhouse	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	William THOMAS
	Kinnaird	1865	Henry ARCHER
Mrs C A Fraser	Prince of Wales	1842	John & Jane CURRIN
Mrs R C Greer	Claremont	1863	John & Ellen MORROW
	Rangoon	1864	George WINDUS
Mrs B Kemp	Jane Gifford	1842	John HILL
	Joseph Fletcher	1852	CLOW family
Mr W B Mackley	Ann	1848	John Annesley HICKSON
Miss H Martin-Chan	Bolton	1840	Isaac & E LOVELOCK
	Birman	1842	William & Jane TONKS
Miss M Martin-Chan	Bolton	1840	Isaac & E LOVELOCK
	Birman	1842	William & Jane TONKS
Ms J Mitchell	Pudsey Dawson	1854	Thomas Valentine ASTON
	Helvellyn	1863	George William JONES
	Bombay	1865	William SAWYER
	Lancashire Witch	1865	Thomas H TAYLOR
Mr P Nathan	Slains Castle	1841	Henry & Jane NATHAN
Mrs B I Roberts	Prince of Wales	1842	John & Jane CURRIN
Mrs J Still	Gertrude	1841	Francis WHITEMAN
	Clifford	1842	Edward & M BAIGENT
Mrs L J Toung	Claremont	1863	John & Ellen MORROW
	Rangoon	1864	George WINDUS
	Lancashire Witch	1865	Thomas H TAYLOR
Mrs B Winstone	Tyburnia	1863	Henry Bruce MORTON
<b><u>Bay of Plenty</u></b>			
Mrs P A Andrews	Catherine S	1841	Charles & P BENGE
	Forbes	1841	Charles & Mary COTTLE
Mrs M J Arbuckle	Duchess of Argyle	1842	Alexander & Mary MUIR
	St George	1842	John & Leah EMBLING
Mrs D Baranauskas	Sir George Pollock	1851	John THOMAS & Susanna GREEN
Mrs A Bird	Bengal Merchant	1840	Archibald ANDERSON
Mrs M J Bodmin	Avalanche	1858	Susannah ENNIS
	Matoaka	1859	Charles Henry SMITH
	Gala	1860	Robert & E McPHERSON
Mrs H K M Collins	General Gates	1819	William T FAIRBURN
	Blackbird	1834	William COLENZO

Name	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Mr J E Carter	?	1856	John Turnbull THOMSON
Mrs P Couch	?	1836	Benjamin Evans TURNER
Mrs P Chamberlain	Berkshire	1850	Thomas & Lydia WILSON
	Cresswell	1853	William PARSONS & Mary Ann COGSWELL
	Mariner	1859	John & H BLAYMIRE
Mrs J L Dent	Zealandia	1858	Mary & John RANBY
Mr P R Ellis	Whirlwind	1859	Oliver & Ellen ELLIS
Mrs M D Ellis	?	?	Dr John BOYD
Mrs M R Goodwin	?	1845	Alex. & M McMILLAN
	Highland Lass & Gazelle	1853	Christina FINLAYSON
	Resolute	1865	Robert & M STEWART
Mrs C M Gray	Duchess of Argyle	1842	A MUIR & M STEWART
	St George	1842	John & Lear EMBLING
	Empheus	1857	James & Mary TEBBETT
Mr E T Harris	Rebecca	1850	James & J JOHNSTONE
Mrs L Harris	Lady Grey	1855	William & E BRENT
	Pakeha	1864	George WHITEHOUSE & Martha BAGNALL
Mr J T Hewat	Bolina	1833	William POTTER
	North Star	1845	Ellen CUNNINGHAM
	Henrietta	1860	Robert & M HEWAT
Mr P Hickson	General Gates	1819	William FAIRBURN
	Ann	1848	John Annesley HICKSON
Mrs E B Hill	Labruan	1851	Richard WIGHT
	Samarang	1852	John MURRAY
Mrs R Hoogenboom	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Robert & Ann BOULD
	London	1842	William & M SAUNDERS
Mrs R M Irving	Tory	1839	Robert OLD
	May Queen	1841	Edith Emma ROBINS
	Westminster	1843	Elizabeth CONGDON
	Minerva	1847	William BROOMFIELD
Mr M I Knight	Samarang	1852	Richard KNIGHT
Mrs M Knight	Associate		
Mrs V McAree	Ann Wilson	1857	William John HOOPER
Mr G R Mock	?	?	George ANDERSON
		1843	Julia LYNCH
Mr D Morrison	Roehampton	1858	William WIDDOWSON

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Mrs F J Old	Mary Ann	1842	Lawrence & M LYFORD
	Ivanhoe	1864	Archibald McNAE
Mrs M Oppenhuis	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	Hart & Jane UDY
	Indian Queen	1857	William & H PARKER
Mr J R Pearson	Cecelia	1864	Naylor HILLARY
Mrs L C Pearson	Olympus	1841	Mrs Nancye GRAHAM
	?	1856	Nicholas & C GEMMING
	?	?	George & M TURNER
Mr M J Persey	Catherine S Forbes	1841	David & Sarah BENGE
Mr F M Ramson	Amelia Thompson	1841	Josias & E HOSKIN
Mrs N J Ramson	Mystery	1862	Samuel & J MITCHELL
Mrs P Rendall	Java/Palmyra	1846	John DESMOND
Mr O E Richardson	Thomas Harrison	1842	Daniel RICHARDSON
Mrs J Robertson	Java/Palmyra	1846	John DESMOND
Mrs H J Scott	Novelty	1864	Neil BUCHANAN
Mr R J Scott	Associate		
Mr A R Shaw	Mystery	1859	Joseph SHAW
	Zealandia	1862	Samuel FINLAY
Mrs P D Shaw	Associate		
Mr J R Sherratt	Associate		
Mr G D Wagstaff	Martha Ridgway	1840	Joseph John JONES
Mr J E Western	Jane	1841	John Octavius WESTERN
	Cameo	1859	James WHITE
	Edward Thornhill	1862	John (Mc)MORRIN
Mrs A Wilson	Poitiers	1850	George HEPBURN
Mr G D Wilson	Jura	1862	Hector & J MORRISON
Mrs B Winstone	Tyburnia	1863	Henry Bruce MORTON
Mrs N M Wright	General Wyndham	1865	George Thomas FENWICK Mathilde Renee MAUDE
<b><u>Canterbury</u></b>			
Miss L M Buckley	William Bryan	1841	James CLIMO
	Timandra	1842	Richard Whiting POPE
	Ironsides	1864	Joseph BUCKLEY
Mrs L M Cropp	Castle Eden	1851	Samuel TRELEAVEN
Mrs M R Harrison	Associate		
Mr W J O Price	Bolton	1842	Ambrose & E RICKETTS
	Zealandia	1862	Samuel PRICE
	Ivanhoe	1864	Christian & Mary DITFORT
Mrs Z E B Price	Castle Eden	1851	Samuel TRELEAVEN



<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Mr G W Sibley	Julianna	1843	Johann H C BAUKE
Mr M U Sibley	Julianna	1843	Johann H C BAUKE
Mrs E M R Smith	Cressy	1850	Robert EVANS and wife
Mr A J A Thwaites	Zealandia	1859	Sarah RICKETTS
<b><u>Hawkes Bay</u></b>			
Miss R Bourgeois	England	1865	William FLEMING
Mr A R Davidson	Lady Nugent	1841	John & Sophia SOUTHEE
Mrs R A Davidson	Bolton	1840	William & Hannah HUNT
	Lady Nugent	1841	Robert & Anne ROBINSON
	Birman	1842	Andrew & C GILLESPIE
	Alma	1857	Sarah FLETCHER
Mrs B D Galloway	Bengal Merchant	1840	Joseph & Elizabeth LOMAS
	Randolph	1850	David & Anne GALLOWAY
Mr G K Natusch	?	?	Isaac & Mary PHILPOTT
Mrs M C Read	Lady Nugent	1850	Paul KINGDON
Mrs D M Thomason	Lord W Bentinck	1841	Nathaniel BEAMISH
Mr I M Weber	Marchioness	1854	Anthony WALL
<b><u>Poverty Bay</u></b>			
Mr J C Cameron	Chariot of Fame	1864	Donald & M McCORMICK
Mrs B Y Fisher	Lord W Bentinck	1841	Ewen CAMERON
<b><u>Taranaki</u></b>			
Mrs J W Gudopp	William Bryan	1841	George & E MEXTED
	Timandra	1842	William & M MARSHALL
	Castle Eden	1851	Nicholas & S PEPPERELL
	Prince of Wales	1842	James & Jane WARD
Mrs D C McKenzie	William Bryan	1841	Thomas & E WHEELER
Mr D B Sarten	Regina	1841	Charles & Sarah STAGG
	Blenheim	1842	Edmund & Lucy SARTEN
	Lord Worsley	1862	Richard COCK
	London	1842	Richard & E JULIAN
Mr G Williams			Phillip & Sarah MOON
			Samuel & E WHITEHEAD
<b><u>Waikato</u></b>			
Mrs N C Lewis	Bombay	1865	David & Eliza Williams
Mrs K F Konings	Mary Ann	1842	John & Susan GILLARD
	Ralph Bernal	1848	George & Helen McRAE
	?	1862	Alexander MOWAT
Miss T R Reilly	Tainui	?	Robert & M JOHNSTON
Mrs D Tranchand	Olympus	1841	Rangi Whakairi REHUA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Mr F D Wynyard	?	1845	Lt-Col Robert WYNYARD
<b><u>Wairarapa</u></b>			
Mrs G Boden	Lady Nugent	1841	John & M WATERSON
Mrs P M Chapman	Birman	1842	Richard & Mary STUART
Mrs D A Edlin	Associate		
Mr B J Nicol	Thomas Harrison	1842	Robert LUCAS
	Thomas Sparks	1843	Elizabeth VOLLER
	Canterbury	1851	Alfred SOWMAN
Mr R Scadden	Thomas Harrison	1842	James & Mary MARSHALL
Mrs R Scadden	Lady Egida	1861	David & Janet WRIGHT
Mrs P L Sinclair	Kingston	1858	Walter BROOKE-TAYLOR
	Wellington	1864	William Smart LOXLEY
Mrs A Woodley	Catherine S Forbes	1841	Charles & Mary COTTLE
Mr D C Yule	Cameo	1859	John & Mary KNOWLES
Mrs J E Stuart	Associate		
<b><u>Wellington</u></b>			
Mrs J Beauchamp	Charlotte Jane	1850	Charles MOUNTFORT
Mr P E Beres	London	1842	John and Elizabeth TARR
Mr P L Bicknell	Oliver Lang	1856	Thomas Joseph INGLEY
	Queen of the Avon	1859	Elizabeth INGLEY
Mrs S Des Tombe	Mary Ann	1842	George McRAE
Mrs N M Hotop	Oriental	1840	Charles & C RODGERS
	Gertrude	1841	Eliza COLE & Fanny SHOTTER
	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Joseph & M CORNFORD
	?	1857	Eliza GRENNAN
Mrs L Manson	Greyhound	1865	Rev A O'CALLAGHAN
Mary Nixon	Adelaide	1840	William & E LUXFORD
	Birman	1842	Thomas WATERS
Mrs D Offenberger	Agra	1852	Elizabeth BELL
	Caroline Agnes	1855	William & I BRUCE
	New Era	1855	Peter BELL
	Roman Emperor	1860	Robert & E NEWTON
Mr G S Robertson	Aurora	1840	Edwin H PETHERICK
Mrs B Robertson	Joseph Fletcher	1852	James BURNETT
Ms J C Seymour	Endeavour	1824	Ranulph DACRE
	Lady Nugent	1850	Arthur & L BRADLEY
Miss J A Russell	Mary Ann	1842	William WEST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ancestor</u>
Miss J A Russell	Kashmir?	1850	Elizabeth JENNINGS
			Christopher BENSON
			Catherine DONKIN
Mr R O Thomson	Isabella Hercus	1851	John OWEN
	Sir Edward Paget	1856	John & Will THOMSON
	Zealandia	1858	Robert GRIMWOOD
	Mary Ann	1859	Robert OSBORNE
Mr P Thorne-George	John Taylor	1853	Dr Burrell PARKERSON
Mrs M J Waddy	Titan	1851	Thomas HUNTER & Marion REYNOLDS

### Whanganui

Mr B T Attwell	Cresswell	1856	Rose Ellen MAXTED
Mrs J Comrie-Smith	Clifford	1842	David & E CLARKE
Mr N E Harris	Red Jacket	1860	Frederic & Anne UTTING
Mrs S W McGrath	Sir Robert Sale	1847	Denis COFFEY
	Ann	1848	Patrick McCRORY
Mrs D McMillan	Viola	1865	George & Grace BAIN
Mr M H Norris	Pekin	1850	George CURTIS & Edward CARTHEW
			Archibald & A MASON
Mrs S S Norris	Cheviot	1862	Alex & E MONTGOMERIE
	Chile	1862	Alexander GUNN
Mrs J D Rawstron	Lady Milton	1864	Thomas Alexander POTTS
	Jessie Gilbert	1865	
Mr H E Wynne	Associate		

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### Wellington in 1841

*The memories of John Waters as a child, written when he was an adult..*

There was a large Maori pa at Pipitea with a great number of natives living there and as we were being brought ashore, the Maori men came along and squatting on the ground seemed to be interested in watching us. We children were very frightened of them as they were all very much tattooed on their faces which made them look so different. When we came to Thorndon Flat it was such a pretty place. The flats were just like nice paddocks, covered in green grass. The stream from Karori ran in a gully in front of us and all the shrubbery growing over the stream was full of birds. All the Tinakori hills were covered with bush right down to what is Molesworth Street now and all the hills on the western side of the city were densely covered with bush but Mount Victoria, the peninsula and Mount Albert were free of bush, being covered with fern and flax with swamps in all the gullies. Te Aro Flat was very swampy. The big swamp extended from what is Kent Terrace right up to Newtown. There was a good-sized stream to cross at Tory Street.

# NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC.

National Council (as from June 1999)

## **National President**

Mr W N Sheat

## **National Deputy President**

Mr P M McCaw

## **National Immediate Past President**

Mr R L Greville

## **National Councillors**

Mrs N E Beres

Mrs N Roberts (Hawkes Bay)

Mr D M Kirkcaldie

Mrs B Currie (Poverty Bay)

Mrs N M McDonald

Mr T Bright (Taranaki)

Sir John Mowbray KT \*

Mrs L Hyams (Waikato)

Mr R G Ward \*

Mr M Watson (Wairarapa)

Mr J Webster (Auckland)

Mrs J Mackenzie (Whanganui)

Mr G Mathieson (Bay of Plenty)

Mrs N Beres (Wellington)

Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury)

\* *Former National President*

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# Founders Society Branches



**Pioneer Cottage**

