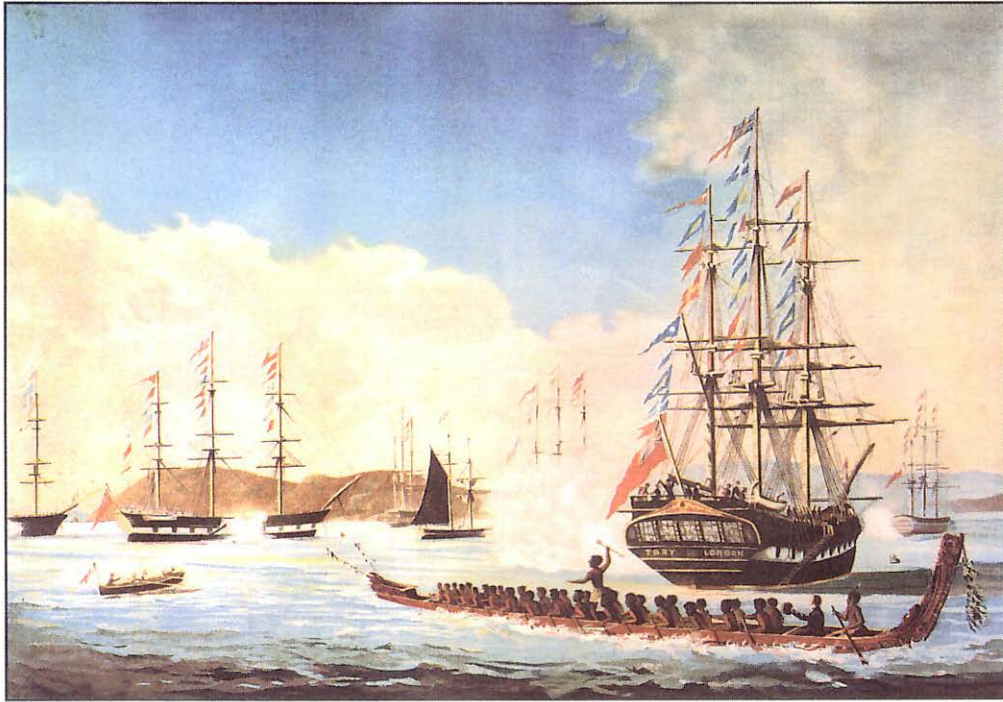




Bulletin

New Zealand Founders Society



Settlement of Wellington by the New Zealand Company

Number ⁷⁴~~73~~ - Report for Year 2001²

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS' SOCIETY INC
ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR 2002
 Covering Society Activities in 2001

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The Society's grateful thanks is extended to branch representatives, who so generously gave their time to compile this 2002 Bulletin. We look forward to an even wider contribution for the next edition. A special acknowledgement is given to the national secretary Janet Robinson, and our Wanganui team, editorial assistant Letitia Hudson, proof reader Heather Glengarry and layout contributor Nygllhuw Morris. To others, who contributed manuscripts and photographs—thanks a lot.

Jack Glengarry Bulletin Editor

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS' SOCIETY INC OFFICERS 2002

(as from June 2002)

National President

Mrs N. Beres

National Deputy President

Mr P.M. McCaw

National Immediate Past President

Mr W.N. Sheat

National Councillors

Mr K. Seagar (National Executive) Mr R. Hurst (National Executive)
Mr G. and Mrs B. Robertson (National Executive)
Mr J Mathieson (Bay of Plenty) Mr J P Webster (Auckland)
Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury) Mrs N Roberts (Hawkes Bay)
Mrs B Currie (Poverty Bay) Mr T Bright (Taranaki)
Mrs L. Hyams, (Waikato) Mr M. Watson (Wairarapa)
Mr J Glengarry (Wanganui) Mr R.L. Greville*(Wellington)
*Former National President

National Secretary/Treasurer:

Mrs Janet Robinson

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BRANCH CHAIRMEN, SECRETARIES & NATIONAL COUNCILLORS 2001/02

<u>Branch</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>National Councillor</u>
<i>Auckland</i>	Mr John Webster 2/4 Ngaio Street Takapuna, AUCKLAND 1 Tel: 09/379-0202	Mrs Carolyn Rhodes 193 Princes St East Otahuhu, AUCKLAND 6 Tel: 09/ 276-5532	Mr John Webster
<i>Bay of Plenty</i>	Mr John Mathieson 6 Cathray Place Matua, Tauranga Tel: 07/576-4787	Mrs Andrea Hart 111 Maxwell Road Otumoetai, Tauranga	Mr John Mathieson
<i>Canterbury</i>	Mr John McSweeney 25 Hawthornden Road Hyde Park, Christchurch Tel:	Mrs M. McSweeney PO Box 49, Hororata Canterbury Tel:	Mr J. McSweeney
<i>Hawkes Bay</i>	Mrs Nanette Roberts 708 Sylvan Road Hastings Tel: 06/878-5674	Mr J. Garland PO Box 220 Napier Tel: 06/835-4549	Mrs N. Roberts
<i>Poverty Bay</i>	Mrs Beryl Currie 33 Murphy Road, Wainui, Gisborne Tel: 06/867-5184	Mrs B. Currie	
<i>Taranaki</i>	Mr Trevor Bright 5B Webster Street New Plymouth	Mr Murray Moorhead 12 Kauri Street New Plymouth Tel: 06/758-8387	Mr Trevor Bright

<i>Waikato</i>	Mr Peter Hyams 6 Bryce Place Tel: 07/823-1383	Mrs June Johansen Cambridge HAMILTON	Mrs Lynley Hyams No 1 RD
<i>Wairarapa</i>	Mrs P. Yerex Moreton Road Carterton Tel: 06/379-7835 Enrolment Officer: Mrs Lesley Keil, 85 Church Street, Masterton	Mrs Joan Dickens The Maples, RD5 Masterton Tel: 06/378-9334	Mr Maurice Watson 35 Renall Street Masterton Tel: 06/377-3127
<i>Wanganui</i>	Mr Jack Glengarry PO Box 885, Wanganui Tel: 06/343-8170	Mrs Letitia Hudson Box 885, Wanganui Tel: 06/343 8170	Mr J R Glengarry
<i>Wellington</i>	Mr Ray Greville Wellington Tel: 04/970-7176	Mrs Janet Robinson PO Box 10290, Wellington, Tel: 04/472-4282	Mrs Neni Beres

National Office: Open Monday & Tuesday 9.30-2.30, and Thursday 9.30-3.30. Fax. 04 499-3967

THE NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS' SOCIETY HISTORY

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

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

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

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

Mr Hope-Johnston was made an Honorary Life Member. Apparently at this meeting all those present were asked to sign a piece of blotting paper. A photostat copy was later made and then framed. (Where is it?)

There 55 people present for a second meeting two weeks later at which a committee of six men and two women was elected:- Mrs D Bradshaw, Mr D Bryan, Mr K Calders, Mr J Carr, Mrs P Foster, Mr P Foster, Mr L Palmer, Mr F Stafford. Four more Vice-Presidents were elected making eight in all. As an afterthought three women were added making eleven, one of them being the oldest known member of the Society (90). Mr Ward then read the revised Rules which were adopted and it was agreed that the Founders become an Incorporated Society. This was achieved on June 6, 1941.

Also elected was an Historical Sub-Committee of three men to investigate the eligibility of applicants for membership. A constitution and rules were to be formulated. Authority was given to open a bank account "with the oldest established bank now operating in New Zealand." This proved to be the Union Bank of Australia.

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

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

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

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

Mr D Riddiford	1954-1955
Mr R Greenwood	1955-1956
Mr M Wall	1956-1958
Mr A Macandrew	1958-1962
Mr E Benseman	1962-1963
Mr R Mansford	1963-1964
Mr L Pollock	1964-1966
Mr A Diamond	1966-1969
Mr L Buick-Constable	1969-1973
Mr I Cameron	1973-1976
Mr S Moses	1976-1979
Mr G Bridge	1979-1982
Mr D Harper	1982-1985
Mrs H Olsen	1985-1989
<i>(Mrs Olsen was the first woman president)</i>	
Mr R Ward	1989-1992
Mr R Garrod	1992-1995
Sir John Mowbray	July 1995-1997
Mr R Greville	June 1997-1999
Mr W Sheat	June 1999-2002
Mrs N Beres	June 2002

Mr I Cameron 1973-1976 was from the Wairarapa Branch. In 1945 it was decided that the Immediate Past President should remain on the committee for another year to retain continuity and in 1980 that the president should chair only AGM, National Council and Executive Committee meetings.

SECRETARIES

Mr D Ward	1939 <i>(two months). Also the first Solicitor.</i>
Mr D Bryan	1939-1941
Mrs B Claydon	1941-1944
<i>(Just as a matter of interest, Mrs Claydon resigned in October 1944 and in March 1945 gave birth to twin boys.)</i>	
Mr J Andrew	1944-1954
Miss S Helkwell	1955-1957

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

Mrs E Anderson	1957-1992
----------------	-----------

On retirement in 1992 Mrs Anderson was given flowers, a microwave oven, Honorary Life Membership for Service and a month's salary.

Mrs L Prosser	1992 (eight months)
Mrs H Kelly	1992-1997

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

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

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

Treasurer

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

From 1961 on the Secretary also dealt with finance under the management of the Executive Committee. Longest-serving Hon Auditor:- Mr I Fanselow 1950-1973

RETIRING NATIONAL PRESIDENT BILL SHEAT'S FINAL REPORT 2002 Major Challenges Face the New Zealand Founders' Society

The year under review has been an eventful one ending as it did with a change of premises. For a good number of years the Society has sub-leased offices from the Bexhill Funding Group Limited. This had been an harmonious situation as Mrs Beryl Gentleman of Bexhill is one of the enthusiastic members of Wellington s Branch. The move to new premises in the old James Smith s Building in Cuba Street, marks a move away from The Terrace where the Society had long been based in Wakefield House with its association with the Wakefield Family.

As this is my last report as National President, one would have liked to go out on a high note but regretfully, the future of the Founders is by no means secure. As can be seen from the accounts, a loss has been sustained once again. This cannot continue indefinitely and will inevitably lead to the Society having to close down.

What remedies are available? An increase in revenue is the obvious answer - but how is that to be achieved? Increased membership is one answer but we are not attracting new members. A family membership scheme designed to strengthen membership has not been taken up with enthusiasm by Branches.

A lot of work was put into this by a Past President, Mr Robin Ward, but it remains on the shelf as it were. There are signs that perhaps one Branch is implementing a family membership proposal.

The Society s membership problems are not peculiar to the Founders. Two kindred societies, the Victoria League and Royal Over-Seas League, who used our premises and paid a modest rent, are both virtually deferred, certainly in Wellington. On the other hand, the Genealogical Society is thriving, catering as they do for the increasing interest in tracing family origins.

Our Society will have to give serious consideration to combining with other groups such as Early Settlers and local Historical Societies not only in joint activities but also, where appropriate, merging the organisations.

In an earlier Annual Report I referred to the possibility of the Government embarking on an education programme on the Treaty of Waitangi. This political brain-washing exercise has not happened. Examples of attacks on the efforts of our pioneer forebears continue to creep up.

I do not intend to read *Boundary Markers: Land Surveying and the Colonisation of New Zealand* (reviewed in the Listener, 20th April 2002). This book contains such absurdities as the assertion that surveyors fieldbooks are geographical narratives based on the rhetoric of imperial observation . . . Unfortunately, this kind of anti-colonial writing is likely to gain credibility simply because of its sheer volume and the fact that there is little attempt to refute it.

An ally has emerged in Dr Michael Bassett, a respected historian, former Cabinet Minister, and currently a member of the Waitangi Tribunal. He spoke on television of the anti-settler bias of the Tribunal staff. This provoked an attempt, through the Courts, to silence him. So much for free speech.

During the year we lost two stalwarts in the form of Past National Presidents Mr Lindsay Buick-Constable (president 1969-1973) and Sir John Mowbray (president 1985-1988). Both gave sterling service to the Founders. Mr Buick-Constable, in addition to being president was the Bulletin editor for many years. Sir John kept a close eye on our finances even after his term as president had come to an end.

During my three years as president I was served by a loyal and hardworking executive. Mrs Janet Robinson has carried out her duties as Founders secretary with care and attention. She bore the brunt of the change of premises and Founders owe her a particular debt of gratitude for that. On behalf of the New Zealand executive I thank branch members for their support over the year.

Nancy McDonald and Denise Greville will not be seeking re-election this year. Nancy has served on the National Executive from 1993, was librarian since 1996 and awarded Life Membership in 2000. We thank Nancy and Denise for their support and wish them well in their future endeavours. We also remember those society members who have passed away or resigned due to age or poor health during the year.

Membership as at 31 March 2002 stood at:-

	1999	2000	2001	2002		1999	2000	2001	2002
Honorary	265	251	254	284	Wellington	253	251	239	228
Life	57	58	57	53	Auckland	85	83	72	70
Senior	838	804	751	733	Wairarapa	161	136	136	149
Junior	2	2	4	2	Wanganui	123	129	121	134
Associate	99	89	80	76	Bay of Plenty	114	145	148	151
Hon. for Ser.	24	24	22	21	Taranaki	77	83	68	65
					Waikato	122	112	103	102
					Northland	32	29	-	
					Hawkes Bay	244	244	191	183
					Poverty Bay	40	37	41	39
					Canterbury	45	44	49	50
	1285	1226	1168	1171		1285	1226	1168	1171

NEW FOUNDERS' SOCIETY MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Name	Area	Ship	Date	Ancestor
AUCKLAND				
Mr G.G. Atkins	Wellington	Lady Nugent	1841	John & Elizabeth STOODLEY
	Wellington	Lady Nugent	1841	John & Sophia SOUTHEE
	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	William & Anne DEW
	Wellington	Tyne	1841	William & Elizabeth SUNNEX
Mrs V. Finch	Auckland	Ann	1848	John Annesley HICKSON
BAY OF PLENTY				
Ms S. Cooper	Wellington	Bolton	1840	William & Mary BANNISTER
	Wellington	Rose of Sharon	1857	John COOPER
	Wellington	Birman	1842	Thomas & Mary Ann MORGAN
	Auckland	Jane Gifford	1842	George DARROCH
Mrs J. Orchard	Port Chalmers	Philip Laing	1848	Thomas & Margaret BUCHANAN
	Port Chalmers	Philip Laing	1848	Andrew & Margaret DALZIEL
Mr N.D.J. Daysh	Wellington	Gertrude	1841	John & Eliza DAYSH
	Wellington	Blenheim	1840	Hugh & Catharine MCKENZIE
	Wellington	Flash	1854	Alexander & Mary MCKENZIE
	Wellington	Bengal Merchant	1840	Wm. & Elizabeth TANNAHILL
Mrs M. Jenkins	New Plymouth	Kelso	1849	John GILMOUR
	Nelson	Clifford	1842	Thomas & Mary VERRY
Mrs J.A. Plumpton	Mahurangi	Lord Ashley	1858	Aexander MELVILLE
Mrs B.A. Comiskey	Auckland	Joseph Fletcher	1859	Herbert William BRABANT
	Nelson	St Pauli	1843	Cordt Heinrich & Anne Rebecke BENSEMAN
Mr P.G. Comiskey	Associate			
Mr L.L. Bradley	Auckland	?	?	William Wyborn Lloyd BRADLY
	Auckland	Duchess of Argyle	1842	James & Elizabeth LOCHHEAD
	Auckland	Joseph Fletcher	1852	Henry Walter VERCOE
Mrs P. Bradley	Associate			
Mrs V.J. Phillips	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1858	William Arthur WRIGHT
	Lyttelton	British Crown	1863	Elizabeth Ann SIDEBOTHAM
Mrs J.F. Cummins	Port Chalmers	Mary	1849	Thomas & Sarah M A TAYLOR
	Port Chalmers	Mary	1849	Thomas KNEWSTUBB
Mr B.W. Cummins	Lyttelton	Cornwall	1851	William & Maria CUMMINS*
	Lyttelton	Cornwall	1851	Solomon & Selina STEPHENS*
	Lyttelton	Gananoque	1860	William & Lucy ROBERT
	Auckland	Alfred	1864	James & Eliza WARNES*
Mrs N.C. Adams	Manukau Harbour	Clara	1852	William & Elizabeth FOOTE
	Manukau Harbour ?		1852	John & Elizabeth GIBBONS
Mr B.M. Adams	Hokianga Harbour ?		1840	Eleanor BAKER
Mrs D.K. Pollard	Auckland	Queen of the North	1862	Thomas & Catherine MEIKLE
	Auckland	Indian Empire	1862	Henry Pullar FORD
Mrs J.D.B. Wake	Wellington	Royal Stewart	1855	John & Jane COMPTON
CANTERBURY				
Miss J.M. Bayley	?	?	?	John BAYLEY
Mr E.R. Hadfield	Lyttelton	Mersey	1862	Joseph HADFIELD
HAWKES BAY				
Mrs Y.K. Joblin	Auckland	War Spirit	1863	Cecil Albert de LATOUR
Mr L.A. Joblin	Lyttelton	Mystery	1862	George Russell & Sophia JOBLIN
Catherine J. Axford	Wellington	London	1840	Joseph LOWRIE
	Wellington	Arab	1841	Peter TUTCHEN
Mrs J.E. White	Auckland	Matilda Wattenbach	1862	George CALVERT
Miss J.A. Campbell	Lyttelton	Isabella Hercus	1851	William & Mary ALLOTT
Miss Z.K. Johnson	Lyttelton?			William John SMALE & Elizabeth DOWRICK
Mr M. de la cour Davies	Auckland	Sir John Falstaff	1841	Dr Richard MATTHEWS
Mrs A.S. Densham	New Plymouth	Joseph Fletcher	1852	William Bazire MESSENGER
	New Plymouth	St Michael	1852	Arabella MACE

Mrs N. Hinton	Nelson	London	1842	Thomas & Jane ALLPORT
	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	James & Betsy WILLS
Mr G.W. Bibby	Wellington	Albermarle	1862	Edward & Mary BIBBY
POVERTY BAY				
Mrs M. Gibson	Associate			
TARANAKI				
Mr E.A. Smart	New Plymouth	Blenheim	1842	James Pickford SMART Alfred James SMART
Mrs N.A.J. Lea	Lyttelton	Gloucester	1858	Mary PARR
Mrs J. Young	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	James & Maria MARSH
	Nelson	Indus	1843	Thomas & Mary LOCKE
	Lyttelton	Castle Eden	1851	Thomas & Mary COAD*
	Nelson	Sir Alan McNab	1855	Charles & Sarah LIMMER
	Auckland	Alice Cameron	1864	Henry & Sarah HINTON*
Mr M.D. Harper	Nelson	Clifford	1842	George & Sarah WRATT
Mrs B.E. Simmonds	New Plymouth	Blenheim	1842	James Pickford SMART
WAIKATO				
Mrs M.M. Clark	Nelson	Whitby	1841	John ARMSTRONG
	Nelson	Indus	1843	Anora ARMSTRONG
Mrs A.M. McDonald	Port Chalmers	Mary	1849	Thomas & Sarah TAYLOR
Mrs K.P. Hodson	Auckland	Nelson	1865	James & Mary SMITH
Mr V.J. Hodson	Wellington	Oriental	1840	Henry & Mary Ann MEECH
	Nelson	Skiold	1844	Carl Johan Heinrich & Caterina HAMMERICH
Mr M.J. Quirk	Nelson	Skiold	1844	Hans Heinrich BUSCH
	Lyttelton	Chariot of Fame	1863	George BURGESS
Mr R.C. Willson	Auckland	Robert Sale	1847	John FITZGERALD
WAIRARAPA:				
Mrs M. Nicol	Petone	Bolton	1840	Abraham & Sophia HARRIS
Mrs MM Sutherland	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Elizabeth INCH and Te Whiti o RONGOMAI
Mr T.W. Underhill	Wellington	Gertrude	1841	Jane JACKSON
	Wellington	Lord William Bentinck	1841	Richard & Margaret CLIFTON
Mr T.J. Cairns	Wellington	Triton	1862	William Henry ALLSWORTH*
	Wellington	Ann Wilson	1857	George & Mary MORRIS
	Wellington	Kinnaird	1859	George & Emma MORRIS*
Mrs P.W. Cairns	Petone	Catherine Stewart-Forbes	1841	Charles & Mary COTTLE
	Port Nicholson	Tory	1839	Thomas William TANKERSLEY
	?	Bree	1829	James Haymer JACKSON
Mrs J.M. Snow	Petone	Martha Ridgway	1840	William & Ann TAYLOR
Mr B.L. Woodley	Associate			
Mrs E.V. Walker	Wellington	Alma	1857	William & Phoebe ROSSITER
	Wellington	Alma	1857	James & Jane RIDGWAY
Mr R.W. Rossiter	Wellington	Alma	1857	William & Phoebe ROSSITER
	Wellington	Alma	1857	James & Jane RIDGWAY
WANGANUI				
Mrs H.E. Bryers	Hokianga	Sir George Murray	1829	Lt. Thomas McDONNELL, RN
Mr R.G. Handley	Nelson	Martha Ridgway	1842	John HANDLEY
	Nelson	Kelso	1849	Patrick & Anne O CONNOR
Mr H.D. Hammond	Wellington	George Fife	1842	Richard & Matthew HAMMOND
Mr B. Herlihy	Wellington	Martha Ridgway	1840	William & Anne JUDD
Mrs P.M. Hurley	Nelson	Martha Ridgway	1842	Thomas & Rebecca COLEMAN
	Nelson	Kelso	1849	Patrick & Anne O CONNOR
Mrs N.J. McCulloch	Dunedin	John Wickliffe	1848	Henry Fredrick BLATCH
Mr J.H. Marshall	Dunedin	Chile	1862	Elizabeth A.MONTGOMERIE
Mr M. J. Hunter	Port Chalmers	Young America	1860	Moore HUNTER
	Wellington	Bolton	1840	John T. & Emma WICKSTEED

Miss W.K. Pettigrew	Port Chalmers	Bruce	1860	John PATTERSON
Mrs R.L. Cameron	Wellington	Derwentwater	1860	Margaret McVICAR
	Dunedin	Electric	1863	William James PEARCE*
	Wellington	Berar	1865	Daniel & Margaret GILCHRIST
Mr P.M. Cameron	Wellington	Blenheim	1840	Donald George CLARKE
	Wellington	Bolton	1840	Capt. Moses & Jessie CAMPBELL
Mr J.A. Ross	Wellington	Berar	1865	John T. & Emma WICKSTEED
Miss J.A. Ross	Wellington	Berar	1865	Robert ROSS
Mrs H.L. Glengarry	Nelson	Bolton	1842	Robert ROSS
Mr R.S. Elliot	Lyttelton	Matoaka	1860	John & Amelia KIDSON
	Lyttelton	Accrington	1863	Stewart GIBB
	Lyttelton	Brisk	1862	Helen LINDSAY
	Lyttelton	British Empire	1864	Robert Morris ROBERTS*
Mrs K.M.E. Elliot	Auckland	Viola	1865	Sarah Elizabeth BAXTER
Mr E.H. Mason	Dunedin	Cheviot	1862	George & Grace BAIN
Mrs L. Mason	Lyttelton	Zealandia	1858	Archibald & Annie MASON
Mrs J.K. Crawley	Wanganui	Victory	1846	Alfred & Ann DRAYTON
				Captain John Paton WATT
WELLINGTON				
Mrs L.J. Graham	Wellington	London	1840	Margaret Cecelia GOUGH
Mrs G.D. Harris	Nelson	Martha Ridgway	1842	Charles INKERSELL
	Wellington	Gleaner	1857	John TOLLEY
Mr A. Nicholls	Wellington	Southern Cross	1857	William & Catherine WALLIS
Mr M.K. Bradley	Nelson	Lady Nugent	1850	Arthur & Lydia BRADLEY
	Auckland	Claremont	1863	John & Ellen MORROW

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT NENI BERES

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

And who tougher than our pioneers, the founders of New Zealand.

These are tough times for organisations such as Founders. We are not alone in facing an ageing membership, indifference, fewer people joining our ranks, and a lack of interest by our own children whom we trustingly saw as the next generation of Founders carrying on the beliefs and interests for which the society stands.

Many groups, and particularly heritage groups, are in the same boat. People are more stressed and vulnerable in their jobs and more reluctant to join organisations, which they perceive require a commitment of some sort. Many lead frenetic lives, juggling work and home in an increasingly competitive world, with both partners working, and time is always at a premium.

So what DO we do? Fold our arms, close our eyes piously and leave our future to chance? I don't think so. This is the time to dig in our toes and take a tough, pro-active stand. Founders is too important an organisation to be allowed to quietly dwindle away. And like so many things, the answer lies in the basics - the rank and file of our membership.

In our veins runs the blood of our pioneer ancestors. They didn't sit around waiting for manna to drop from heaven. They rolled up their sleeves, took a deep breath and got on with the jobs waiting to be done, and their stubborn diligence brought them their rewards.

Every single member is responsible for the continuation of the Founders Society. So what CAN we do?

As much as is possible in our individual situations. Participation and getting involved in our local branch activities is the first and most important step. Making friends and neighbours aware of the Society is next. Word of mouth is a powerful persuasive and many potential members are not even aware that the Society exists.

Recruiting new members is vital. A good place to start is within our own families. We can talk or write to relatives and gently persuade them to become full or associate members. From there we can move to our wider circle of friends and acquaintances. Often a word or encouragement is all that is needed. If every Founder recruited one new member we would be in a very healthy and stable position.

The Executive is in the process of registering a domain name for Founders and hopefully we will soon have a website which will, we trust, engender information about and interest in our Society, and lead to wider membership.

Finally, we must openly promulgate what we stand for. We live in an increasingly multicultural society and many of the values we have cherished for so long are in danger of being eroded. We owe it to our ancestors, as well as to our descendants to get tough and get to work. Remember the Founders Creed:

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

MEET YOUR NEW LEADER MRS NENI BERES



The New Zealand Founders Society new president Mrs Neni Beres (pictured) is no stranger to the organisation's administration.

Elected unopposed at the annual general meeting at Masterton in June, Mrs Beres began her association with the movement on the Wellington branch council before serving with the national executive for six years. She has also been on the committee of the Friends Of Nairn St Cottage Museum at Wellington and is the Founders representative on the Wellington Regional Heritage Council.

Mrs Beres has a classic colonial background allied with the Poverty Bay region. Her forebears were John and Elizabeth Tarr, who reached New Zealand aboard the London in 1841 under the Wakefield auspices. Very shortly afterwards they went on to Gisborne where they joined farmer Robert Espie. The property produced New Zealand's first wheat crop.

Our president attended Gisborne High School, was dux, and later graduated from Otago University with a master's degree with honours in English. Like her mother the former Ellen Gallagher of Patutahi, she began a teaching career and shortly afterwards went to Britain to further her professional experience.

During World War II many New Zealand schools adopted an English school and sent parcels of food and other scarce commodities to them. Gisborne High School's adopted school was Tottenham County Grammar in London and Neni was thrilled to get a teaching post there.

Mrs Beres has a rather unusual hobby. In her form class was Linda Nicholson, whose father Bill was the famous Spurs manager. With their help in acquiring tickets Neni was persuaded to go with her pupils to White Hart Lane. She had never previously witnessed a soccer game and was staggered when play began to see a round ball being used. Football in Gisborne was Rugby. But she became a fan that day and has retained her enthusiasm over the years, with the English Premier League her passion.

On returning to New Zealand Neni taught at Marsden Collegiate School, Wellington, and after raising her family joined the Wellington East Girls College staff for 19 years. Her husband Paul was a member of the under 21 Hungarian team but a possible soccer career was stopped by World War II.

In Wellington he pursued a keen interest in the code and was among the founders of the Hungarian team (later Mirimar Rangers). Now widowed, Mrs Beres has two adult sons, one of whom came home from Perth to watch the 2002 World d Cup with her and his brother.

SOME THOUGHTS FROM YOUR BULLETIN EDITOR JACK GLENGARRY

As our president Neni Beres so explicitly emphasised, our New Zealand Founders group needs ongoing membership increases in order to survive..

An important factor in this challenge is publicity, emanating from the branches to sustain a high profile for the movement. It is recommended that each branch should have a publicity officer to keep in touch with the local newspapers whether they are dailies or the community giveaways. Send in short, sharp reports on the branch monthly meetings and keep a keen constant lookout for photo opportunities. Coming to mind is a visit from our president Mrs Beres, a guest speaker with special significance or an appropriate ceremony or occasion involving the branch.

Letters to the editor on matters of the day and a media release on your provincial anniversary day are items to keep in mind. If your area has a radio station keep in contact with this news medium. The aim is to sustain a high public focus for the New Zealand Founders Society.

Out there are politically correct elements, who find any references dealing with matters British and colonial simply taboo. In too many instances our wonderful forebears are portrayed as the villains in New Zealand's colonial development. Our forefathers should be revered, idolised and given the highest profile possible for the hardships they endured travelling by sailing ship to reach the faraway colony. Then came the back breaking tasks to clear and utilise the landscape.

Their aims were very basic but so important. They left behind the horrors associated with a social order allied with the industrial revolution, especially in the British Isles, to start a new life in New Zealand. They made the change for themselves, their children and their descendants---that is us. Their values should still be pursued with dedication as we enter the new millennium.

Jack Glengarry

FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY... BRANCH REPORTS FOR THE PAST YEAR

These notes should prove extremely worthwhile for our branches. This is a chance to read what other groups undertake and could be inspirational for upcoming activities. Read on for the content is most illuminating

AUCKLAND

The Auckland branch has continued its well-proven method of having monthly luncheon meetings, with a speaker on a subject historical or otherwise. In fact, we keenly suggest to members that we want to hear from them of their stories and interests, and we have succeeded.

Many profess shyness in talking in front of other members, but that soon vanishes when they get a warm reception. When we have a special meeting we also encourage them to bring along some special treat to share with the other members — we have tried our special recipe for instance — and sampled same.

Last year we celebrated the success of our publication, which is an ongoing item, although easing down at present. We also had one of our meetings turned into a special to celebrate our 50th birthday. The extra food and treats drew an appreciative number of members. It has also to be acknowledged that our venue, Kinder House, Parnell, by its setting, ease of transport to and from, and smallness, contributes to the feeling that it is our place — we would be hard-put to find a better venue to cover our needs.

Besides the 50th birthday another memorable meeting was a parade of baby photos — these were of present members and were displayed without any caption of who it might be. It was then up to members to guess who was who. It was surprising how some had changed and yet with others you could still detect the features remaining. To coincide with this short report I will mention our last two meetings.

In May we heard from one of our members about his role in helping to maintain and restore the Army vehicles in Waiouru. This drew a lot of questions, perhaps more than the talk, but made for a great luncheon.

Recently we held a Jubilee Party — as the Queen had recently celebrated we thought we would, too, in our own way. We requested members to bring along some item or Royal souvenir for a Jubilee occasion. As a subject of the moment it caused a good deal of interest and almost every member displayed and spoke on their particular treasure.

The range of items cups, plates, books, etc. covered the monarchs from Victoria to the present, including Edward VIII. We have now set our programme for the rest of the year with enough interesting treats to satisfy 98% of members.

John Webster, Chairman, Auckland Branch.

BAY OF PLENTY

The year's programme involved six meetings, each held in a different centre of the district. These meetings were all capably organised by the various area representatives and their local members. The strength of this branch lies in rotating our meetings around the two cities and the other major centres of the district. Every meeting provided a social time, luncheon and speaker(s) on some historical and/or Founders topic. We continue to have exceptionally well-attended meetings.

The first luncheon meeting for the year was held at the R.S.A. Restaurant at Waihi Beach. On this occasion, the speaker was Mrs Doreen McCleod, P.R. Officer, Waihi Mines. She traced the history of gold-mining in Waihi and the enterprise now extracting gold in the area.

The second luncheon meeting was held in April at the Skippers Restaurant, Whakatane. The speaker was Mr David Kear, well-versed in local geology and vulcanology. His topic was the Origin of the Bay of Plenty.

Our third meeting for the year was held at the Lake Plaza Hotel, Rotorua. After a social time and luncheon, members were addressed by three speakers representing different age groups from the Rotorua Genealogical Society. They were Valerie Price, Joyce Morey and Sarah Matthews. They covered various things to do when researching your genealogy and the visual resources displayed were of considerable interest to our members.

The fourth meeting was held on August 26 at the Te Puke Citizens Club. Members were addressed by four society members. They were — Gwen Singleton (Te Puke), Owen Gwilliam (Tauranga), Marion Goodwin (Whakatane) and Thea Still (Katikati). Each provided an interesting outline of the arrival and history of their family Founders in New Zealand.

Our fifth luncheon meeting for the year was held in October at the Hotel Armitage in Tauranga. On this occasion the speaker was Mr Jack Ingram. Members valued the opportunity of having a speaker from a kindred organisation and hearing about the work/projects of the Tauranga Historical Society.

The final meeting for the year was held at the Katikati R.S.A. and Citizens Club on December 9. The speaker on this occasion was Audrey Wilson, a Katikati member, who provided an interesting and entertaining address on family history in the area.

It is pleasing to be able to report that our membership held up very well and ended with a slight increase over the previous year. While there were more than 10 losses through resignations, relocations and deaths, the deficit was exceeded by new members.

John Mathieson, Branch Chairman

CANTERBURY/WESTLAND

A broad range of functions and activities were held for members during the year and a special invitation was extended and is still open, to have friends or family who are not Founders members attend and participate in our functions. The committee valued the added company and interest shown by the guests. The functions were usually very well supported.

In April members enjoyed a trip on the historic Lyttelton steam tug (now retired from active work but used for tours) for several hours around the harbour.

Although the weather was cool, it was interesting for all age groups. There was plenty to see from a scenic or mechanical point of view or the opportunity to just peacefully contemplate the harbour and imagine what it must have been like for the settlers 150 years earlier on this same harbour. A number of members and guests met at the Royal Hotel before the tug trip to enjoy a hearty hot lunch in the historic Lyttelton township.

The mid-winter event was held at Cellinis Caf ,Sumner, in July. After a friendly lunch it was a short walk across the road to the historic brick building housing the Sumner Museum, especially opened for us by Topsy Rule.

Set up by an enthusiastic group of locals, it was full of interesting exhibits and a large archive of historical local documents. The main part of the museum is on the first floor and we noted the flood level of several feet up the walls from a flood of just a few years earlier.

The Canterbury Museum is of particular significance to the Canterbury/Westland Branch of NZ Founders as it holds and displays many of our Branch s artifacts. It also holds our own Branch records. Following the visit, member Prue Barker donated a child s hand made leather shoe (about 100 years old) that would have fitted a child aged about two years old.

In August we enjoyed lunch at the Pegasus Arms Restaurant. This building is situated on the banks of the Avon River and still retains the original historical fa ade of the building from its days as a doctor s rooms in early Christchurch. Prue Barker gave a very interesting talk about the times when her grandfather was the Doctor Barker in the building.

Our meeting in September was out-of-town and into North Canterbury for a lunch with a historical book review by Graham Tapper and then a trip about 10 km up the road to Waipara to visit the Country Fair incorporating the Steam and Vintage farm machinery festival. Unfortunately, due to the unseasonably cold and wet weather in November we had our first ever event cancellation involving an outdoor picnic in Rangiora.

Many members attended our Christmas luncheon held at the Elms Hotel in Papanui. We had a wonderful function in the Christmas spirit and as the price was a lot cheaper than we had been quoted, everyone was very pleased.

The New Year started with the return to the Riverview Restaurant, Kaiapoi, for lunch. We were not disappointed. More members and guests joined us after lunch for a trip on the restored river ship the Tuhoë. We enjoyed a beautiful day and a leisurely trip down the Kaiapoi River to the mouth and then return, viewing many sights not normally seen from a car. A fascinating old ship.

The Branch welcomed several new members, some reviving past membership and children of members joining in their own right.

Our financial position continues to remain strong as a legacy from previous members with significant income from our mortgage and deposit investments. Your committee has again continued with our philosophy of financial support for members functions and community sponsorship. Our total equity(worth) has increased over last year by \$2,500.00.

As indicated at our last AGM, a review of our community donation/sponsorship was undertaken by your committee. Many of you will be aware from advice at our members functions, that we have entered a sponsorship to contribute the amount of \$600 per year (reviewed annually) to Margaret Copeland (she presented at our 2001 AGM on the life of an immigrant family arriving at Lyttelton and moving to the Papanui area), to allow her to present her live story to school and community groups that could not otherwise afford to hear about a significant part of local Canterbury history in an interesting and realistic way.

The response has been overwhelming, both from Margaret s perspective as well as from the schools and groups , to which she has presented .. Our local history and community founding knowledge is being preserved, and communicated to a wider community base. Our Founders Society name as a helping and caring sponsor, is also being promoted in a meaningful way. This sponsorship is a practical commitment of your Society that you can all feel proud and privileged to be a part of. Your committee has resolved to continue the sponsorship this year.

It is with sympathy we note the death during 2001, of Sir John Mowbray, Executive Member of NZ Founders Society.

My most sincere thanks to the dedicated group of committee members. Your time and support has been very much appreciated. Each person has contributed to make our Society a continuing and vibrant organisation. We have all faced many personal challenges during this last year, but again thank you for your efforts and support.

Of particular note is the New Year s Honours recognition of Founders and committee member, Graham Tapper. We extend our congratulations to Graham, who was honoured for his dedication of many years of service to the community, assisting people and promoting improved facilities for those with disabilities.

Once again I am very pleased to report that your Branch is in very good heart. Thank you for your support of the functions, the dedicated committee and our commitment to community financial support. Each member may be truly proud that we are continuing to make a valuable, practical and visible contribution to the culture and education within our community.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Chairman and I trust you share with me the pride in being a member of Canterbury/Westland Branch of NZ Founders Society.

John McSweeney, Chairman

HAWKES BAY

We had some very interesting and enjoyable outings this year with emphasis on the historical highlights in the area. I wish to thank the members and committee who have helped make this possible. Matt and Val Forde of Matapiro Station and John and Pauline Campbell of the restored homestead Horonui welcomed us warmly and we were told the history of these old homes and properties and permitted to view the houses and gardens. It was a real privilege.

A bus trip was organised by our members Helen and Margaret, the Bibby sisters, to explore A Parish and its People covering the area from Waipawa through to Mangakuri returning via Porere and Omakare. A long day but enjoyed by everyone.

Our Winter Luncheon held at the Hawkes Bay Club gave us the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of this lovely old building and Guy Natusch, a former President, told us of the architecture and history of the Club.

Our December outing this year was a visit to the old picturesque church at Eskdale followed by a picnic lunch at Eskdale Park (bringing back childhood memories to many) and a visit to a lavender farm.

The highlight of our Founders Day Dinner was a spell-binding talk and reminiscences given us by Sir Rodney Gallen, a retired High Court Judge.

We warmly welcome the 11 new members who have joined us this year. Unfortunately their numbers are offset by transfers, resignations and death so please remember that word of mouth is one of the best methods of obtaining new members. Tell your friends and particularly your families of the opportunities there are to learn about the history and people of the district by being a member of the Society. A sub-committee has been set up to investigate ways of getting publicity through the media.

On behalf of myself and members of the Hawkes Bay Branch I wish to give thanks to our retiring Committee members Nell Fox and Nola Armstrong for their service over the years, also our retiring Treasurer and Secretary for the past three years, John Garland, who has been such a support and valuable officer to the Branch.

In conclusion I wish to thank all my committee for their continuing support and look forward to the participation of members in the interesting programme planned for this coming year and growth in the branch.

N.G. Roberts, Chairman

POVERTY BAY

We had an interesting year beginning with our bus trip to Te Karaka, Motu and Matawai with talks of local historical interest, followed by lunch in the garden of Raewyn and Wyn Hustler. Luncheon meetings included : Doug Kerr's humorous discourse on the origins of family names; Vivian McConnell on Clan Cameron; Colleen Bull on her book From Papa to Pumice and Back to Papa; and Dudley More from the Museum with video pictures of local interest. Our mid-winter dinner was held at the home of Bonnie Dwyer and our end of year BBQ lunch at Barbara Fisher's home.

In June, Beryl Currie represented the Branch as Councillor at the National Council and had morning tea at Government House with other members. We look forward to another year of enjoyable social activities.

TARANAKI

On April 1 this year we were particularly pleased that we were able to be joined by our National President, Bill Sheat and Mrs Sheat (ex Taranakians) at our annual commemorative luncheon and the associated visit to the Pioneer Memorial to honour our forebears. Over 40 members and guests attended both functions and particularly enjoyed the fascinating talk on Taranaki treasures given by our guest speaker, City Councillor Lyn Publitz.

The annual meeting was held on April 6. Whilst this Branch's own financial position is a sound one, we anticipated a possible rise in national capitation fees, so for the first time in seven years we opted for a modest increase in branch subscriptions. We did so also bearing in mind that when the opportunity arises, we will be hoping to cover the cost of some small project which will be able to suitably and specifically acknowledge Founders at the new Pukeariki Museum complex currently under construction.

We welcomed four new members during the year, and there are at least two applications known to be in the pipeline at the time this report was compiled. With similar losses we started the new year with a membership of about 70. Hopefully, with the advent of the proposed new family membership scheme, numbers will rise in 2002.

Our monthly meetings at the Beach Street Hall have been well supported, with some excellent speakers covering a wide range of topics.

They were: May — Brian Clark, liaison officer with the National Band on overseas trips; June — Kathy Ellison from the Hearing Association; July — Dr George Mason on his visit to the Silk Road in Asia; August — Ivor Wesley on his experiences as a former Fire Chief; September — Barry Hartley on the history of the Mokau River (with great slides); October — Reg Hull on touring Afghanistan before the Russian conflict. On November 1, 30 plus members and friends enjoyed a Thursday evening Christmas social. The guest speaker was Neil Watson, Taranaki Helicopter Trust.

Our branch acknowledged Egmont National Park's centennial year when, on February 18, members enjoyed a visit to the renewed visitor centre at North Egmont. This updated and extended facility, using Regional Authority and Department of Conservation funding, created a generally favourable impression, although overall the displays were not equal to the wider range and quality of subjects treated in the old visitor centre. A final thought: whilst the Branch is in good heart, it needs more new, younger members.

T. Bright, Chairman

WAIKATO BRANCH

During the past six months the Waikato Branch had six luncheons at the Te Rapa racecourse in Hamilton. At the April AGM Mrs Barbara Barclay retired as branch secretary and Mrs June Johansen assumed the role. Mrs Delcie Dodds continued the story of her colourful French and Maori ancestry.

In June, Mrs Honour Walker, who has achieved great results from many years of family research and travel to the U.K., spoke about her grandfather, James Henry. He was a bank accountant from Huntly, Aberdeen, Scotland, who came to the Thames Goldfields in 1856 and then settled, farming in the area now known as Huntly. James was at one time postmaster and as the area had a long Maori name, he was asked to come up with an English name. He decided on Huntly, his old hometown. Today, Huntly still carries his name with James Henry Crescent.

At the August meeting Kate Hodson, dressed accordingly, delighted members with her grandmother's story, starting as a bobbin-winder and meeting her husband, a lace designer, born in France. Due to the industrial revolution and machinery development, their skills were no longer appreciated and they sailed for New Zealand on the Nelson, arriving in Auckland in 1856.

Our October guest speaker was Linda Wigley, the new director of the Waikato Coalfield Museum, who moved from the United Kingdom to take up this position. She has worked in museums for 18 years including the London Science Museum and the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester. Linda relaunched the Bath Royal Literacy and Scientific Institution and set up both the Trowbridge Museum (focusing on the woollen industry) and the Radstock Museum for Mining in North Somerset. In 1991 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to study traditional textiles in Guatemala and Mexico. She also received fellowships to study textiles in Romania, Israel and Belgium.

At our Christmas Luncheon we were entertained by Eureka — an excellent Barber Shop Quartet. February's speaker was one of our own members, Mrs Peggy Clark, who told us of her great-grandparents John and Ann Armstrong, who emigrated from Slough to Nelson. John came as one of Wakefield's New Zealand Company men on the Whitby, Ann following on a later ship. John founded a carrying business, which went on to prosper under his eldest son, James.

Mrs Clarke spoke of Te Rauparaha and the Wairau Massacre. She was told of her own father, Leonard Armstrong, who lost his first two wives to childbirth. Peggy was a daughter of the third wife.

Lynley Hyams, National Councillor

WAIRARAPA

In March our A.G.M. was held at the Masterton Art Club followed by afternoon tea provided by the Art Club. In April we travelled by bus to Wanganui for a splendid trip on the recently restored paddle-steamer Waimaire.

Our members enjoyed the day: We all agreed on how muddy the river is now. In May we travelled by bus to Wellington's historic Wright's Hill Fortress, built during the Second World War, with tunnels, gun emplacements, and steps to different levels, all underground. The view of Wellington when we reached the top was spectacular.



On the Wairarapa branch visit to Carterton Adele Graham (at right) shows the Clareville Cemetery records to visitors Beth and Barry Hall.

The bus trip in September was to Dannevirke to see the Fantasy-Land Caves, then to Woodville to the Landauer Studio. This trip was much enjoyed by the members. In July, member Norrie Miller entertained us with a very interesting talk about the South Island goldmines at the South Wairarapa Working Men's Club.

In December, lunch was a lovely meal at Lansdowne House, after which we were entertained by the Waiohine Probus singing group. At the luncheon we stood in memory of Sally Wyeth, our secretary, who had died a few days prior to the meeting. Sadly, we have lost several valued members during the year.

Waitangi Day was celebrated with a visit to the Carterton Railway Station which is

being restored. About 30 members were taken for a conducted tour around the Railway Museum. Kath and Ken O'Reilly spoke about the battle to preserve the signalling and other machinery together with the well-known crockery.

We walked up Broadway to the Carterton Historical Society for a tour led by our member Adele Graham, of the various items from the permanent and loan collection, and then afternoon tea.

The Settlers Reserve, at the corner of Worksof Road and Dixon Street is nearly complete. I suggest you take a look and have a sit on the garden seats donated by the Dixon family and the Wairarapa Founders Society. While the traffic zooms around the roundabout, have a quiet thought about our settlers. Maurice Watson is to be congratulated on organising the Settlers Reserve, with the financial help of grants from the Masterton Licensing Trust, Trustlands Trust, and Eastern & Central Community Trust, as well as electricity by the Masterton Council in perpetuity, to light the lamp.

I thank the committee for all their help during my first year in the chair, with special thanks to Joan Dickens who has been co-opted as secretary, and who will be a splendid addition to our committee.

Pauline Yerex, Chairperson.

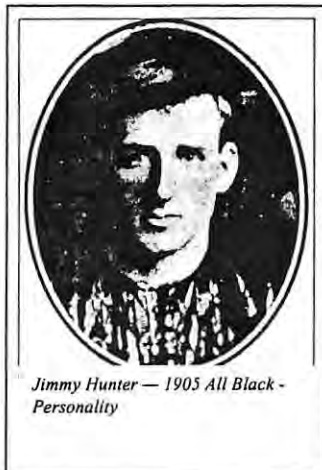
WANGANUI

The Wanganui branch experienced a busy and somewhat exciting year for the term ending December 31, 2001. There was a big change in the administration with retirement involving the stalwarts Frank Guy (branch chairman), Joyce Mackenzie (secretary) and Beth Pratt (treasurer). After experiencing some growing pains the new guard soon settled into an active mode. We are blessed with many knowledgeable and well-informed members on colonial history, in particular, the greater Wanganui area.

During the year there were 17 people involved as speakers or artists at our monthly meetings and all but five came from within our own ranks. The finances are in a sound if not spectacular situation. This was probably due to a charge being made on our 2001 report booklet. Traditionally, this had been distributed at no charge.

We made an impact on the New Zealand scenario in two areas. With something like 22 new members registered, we became the fastest-growing branch in the country; and we also registered a notable first when our meeting based on the 1905 All Blacks was screened on a Sky Sport channel.

Sadly this was on pay TV and not all our members were able to view the programme. A new member Moore Hunter had a close affinity with the 1905 tourists as his father Jimmy Hunter was the leading try scorer on tour.



Jimmy Hunter — 1905 All Black - Personality

We worked hard to have The Boulder resited after it was withdrawn by the District Council during the Moutoa Gardens affair. The Boulder commemorates the arrival of Wanganui's first European settlers on 27 February, 1841. A programme is afoot to erect a plaque giving details of those hardy souls. Retrieving The Boulder had rather sensitive overtones at Wanganui and our thanks go to District Council Officer Clive Aim and Councillor Don McGregor for their caring influence.

The branch has focused on sustaining an awareness of the hardships our colonial forebears had to overcome in reaching New Zealand on an arduous sea journey. Then through sheer hard work and determination they had to clear the often inhospitable landscape. Eventually they were able to begin a new life for themselves and for their descendants, who are with us at this annual meeting today.

We are blessed with a hardworking and dedicated committee, who have shared the administrative load in our activities during 2001. We learned considerably from publishing the first branch report by your new executive.

We would urge members with human interest items on colonial and pioneering personalities to write these down for use in our 2002 issue. In the coming term the NZ Founders Society Bulletin will be published from Wanganui. The past 12 months has been a fun occasion and we hope it continues in 2002.

Jack Glengarry, Chairman.

WELLINGTON

The AGM was held at Vogel House, Lower Hutt, the home of the deputy prime minister, Mr Jim Anderton on Monday, April, 30. Mr Mike Oates, Curator of Wellington Botanical Gardens, gave an interesting talk about the history of the gardens.

The branch presented a donation to Mike Oates towards the restoration of the Founders Gates at the main entrance to the Botanical Gardens in Glenmore Street, Wellington.

In June the Wellington branch mounted an exhibition in the Central Library of artifacts, memorabilia, etc for its contribution to Heritage Month, organised by the Wellington Regional Heritage Promotion Council. The theme for 2001 was Heritage and Communication. Our exhibition featured the Founders map and information about our organisation and generated a great deal of interest.

In August the Branch had a tour of the St James Theatre followed by lunch, which was well supported. Unfortunately bad weather forced the cancellation of a visit to the Truby King House and garden in November.

A combined Christmas Luncheon was held with the Early Settlers & Historical Society members at the Museum of City and Sea where Richard Switzer gave an interesting talk on his work at Government House.

The Branch records with regret the following deaths of Mr L. Buick-Constable, past National President 1969-73, Honorary Life Membership for Service and Editor of the Bulletin for 20 years, and Sir John Mowbray, past National President 1995-98, National Council Member, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Neil Hollebhone, Chairman

FRANCIS ALEXANDER MOLESWORTH (1821- 1847)

An amazing factor among early New Zealand colonial pioneers was the youthfulness among the settlers. Adventurous young men and women, virtually just teenagers, braved a four-month sea voyage to start life afresh . With amazing enthusiasm , grit and grim determination many became well established and highly successful operators with their new found freedom.

Indicative among these wonderful young people was Francis Alexander Molesworth (pictured right).

Admittedly privileged and affluent, but a forerunner among the colonial entrepreneurs. Francis left the Old Country aged 19 and in six or so years before a tragic accident ended a promising career, he had made a big impact on the Wellington scene. The Founders Society had a more recent Molesworth revival when a family member William Gerard (Bill) Tolhurst addressed the Wanganui branch during 2002. Bill Tolhurst spent his career in accountancy, public life and sporting activity at Wanganui but in semi retirement is now based at Taupo.



Bill Tolhurst s grandfather George E Tolhurst married Elizabeth Molesworth at Melbourne during the 1860 s. Granddad Tolhurst , born 1840, migrated to Australia aged 17 and was to become highly profiled banker . Irish born Grandma Molesworth had an illustrious father , who was knighted for his services to Australian mining and was later a Supreme Court Judge. So on breeding our Bill Tolhurst was certainly eligible for the human Stud Book.

The Kiwi pioneer Francis Molesworth had an illustrious older brother Sir William Molesworth Bart, who was allied with the Molesworth Committee under prime minister Sir Robert Peel. This group was in the forefront in abolishing the convict transportation to Australia. Sir William was subsequently the English colonial secretary but died aged 45 after 24 years as a radical M P. years.

Sir William was an Edward Gibbon Wakefield confidante and was active in supporting the Wakefel in supporting the colonisation system. He was behind William Wakefield s departure for the Antipodes to establish the New Zealand Company settlement at Wellington.

Enter young Francis Molesworth. It must be recalled that Francis was from privileged circumstances. The departure from Gravesend on the Oriental was an adventure in the making. For the migrants fighting poverty, depression and the Napoleonic War and industrial revolution aftermath, the venture was far more rigorous. Young Molesworth, Edward Hopper and Henry Petre went to New Zealand geared to enter business.

They outlaid 1500 sovs (an amazing sum at the time) to bring out on board the Oriental a 20 hp motor, on which they planned to begin a mill, maybe in flour or timber. Imagine how every inch on the vessel was packed with passengers, their wares, their animals and their implements.

At long last they reached New Zealand and were faced with finding a base and then clearing the land. They were introduced to the ethnic people, whom young Molesworth held in high regard as an intelligent people far superior to many Europeans he had known but particularly cunning , especially when trading.



A Molesworth decendent,
Bill Tolhurst.

Life wasn't easy at Pit One with its rigorous southerly winds, earthquakes, and flooding on the Hutt River. There was always a fire risk, too.

Francis Molesworth first bought 100 acres just south from where Hutt City stands today. There was a second purchase upriver opposite where the turnoff to Plimmerton is seen today. Molesworth was into horticulture from the earliest times. Seed had been brought from Cornwall by James Bryant, a Molesworth employee from the family estates at Pencarrow in England. When the land was cleared they had 55 acres in crops and in the second year even exported 20 tons of produce to Australia.

Soon after the 1840 landing, settlement at Wellington found better favour with many Petone colonists. The area was better sheltered, boasted an improved harbour and was less wind prone. There were opportunities in real estate and when land became available the young Molesworth built town houses, which he was able to lease. All this at little more than aged 20 years !!

As a New Zealand Company director Francis Molesworth became involved in Wellington social activity and local politics and in October 1842 was elected an alderman for the Hutt. With partners Watts and Crawford he moved into farming on the 1800 acres at the Miramar Peninsula and they imported 1000 cattle in late 1840, developing the Tetcott property named after the family estate in Devonshire. This is still in the family to this day.

In January 1841, to celebrate the first settlers arrival, a race meeting was held at Te Aro, near today's Taranaki Street, site. Molesworth had imported the first thoroughbred into the colony Calmac Tartar and with Henry Petre the rider, Molesworth was the winning owner. Later Petone beach fixtures followed and the Molesworth fortunes continued to prosper at these more formal gallops.



30 MOLESWORTH'S FARM AT THE HUTT
This Photo Shows The Molesworth Farm In The Hutt

By this time the engine was operating and Molesworth, Hopper and Petre formed the settlement's first engineering and millwright factory at Petone. The firm repaired and built boats, stoves, grates; you name it. When Hopper died in a boating mishap the company was restructured with a Mr Ludlum they started the first flour mill in 1844..

With this engineering accessibility Molesworth built his own 16 ton vessel Sandfly, which was used to trade between Wellington and Taranaki where there are Molesworth and St Aubyn streets in New Plymouth. St Aubyn was a family name, resulting from inter marriage between the Molesworths and the St Michael's Mount owners in Cornwall

Money may have helped Molesworth with his colonial achievements but he was an ingenious and tireless worker for one so young. But his life was cut short when he was fatally injured in a tree felling mishap at age 26. His friend Petre was on hand to continue to sustain several Molesworth's business pursuits.

Sir Frederick Weld, who became premier in 1865 and transferred the central government to Wellington, was a large landholder. He had massive flocks and when the state took over a major run in the northern South Island, Weld named it Molesworth Station.

New Zealand was established by these high achieving young men in the Francis Molesworth mould. Their enterprise and initiative should be revered for all time by thinking New Zealanders. Respect for their achievements should be given by all of us. Sadly there are elements around us, who tend to denigrate these brave souls along with anything British and colonial, Bill Tolhurst told his audience.

"Pencarrow" A HOME OF SIGNIFICANCE TO FOUNDERS

Taranaki branch president Trevor Bright and his wife Peggy recently enjoyed a visit to "Pencarrow", the home of Sir John Molesworth, who belongs to the Molesworth family mentioned above.

This historic Georgian house with its fine listed garden is in Cornwall, situated approximately four miles north-west of Bodmin towards Wadebridge, and stands in five acres of woodland gardens. Its mile-long drive, which runs through an ancient British encampment, is flanked by more than 600 rhododendrons, hydrangeas and specimen conifers.

The Brights joined other members of the public and visited Pencarrow, which is still lived in by the Molesworth family. The property is open to the public during the summer months for house tours and visiting six major rooms, all beautifully furnished with antiques and paintings dating back 300 years.



Trevor Bright in front of the Molesworth family home, "Pencarrow"

In pride of place in the entrance hall is an oil painting depicting Wellington Harbour in the 1840s, produced by one of the Wakefields. Mr Bright understands that Pencarrow was the home of New Zealand Company director Sir William Molesworth, after whom streets in Wellington and New Plymouth are named. Along with the St Aubyn family from St Michaels Mount, (Edward St Aubyn was a Director of the Plymouth Company) and encouraged several agricultural and wine workers from their respective estates to emigrate from Cornwall to Wellington and New Plymouth in the 1840s.

Among those particular pioneer emigrants were a great many ancestors of Founders Society members, including Trevor Bright's own forebears, James and Jane Climo, who were among the first contingent of Plymouth Company settlers arriving on the William Bryan on March 31, 1841.

Contributed by Murray Moorhead, secretary Taranaki Branch,

LAST OF THE "WILLIAM BRYANITES" AT NEW PLYMOUTH)

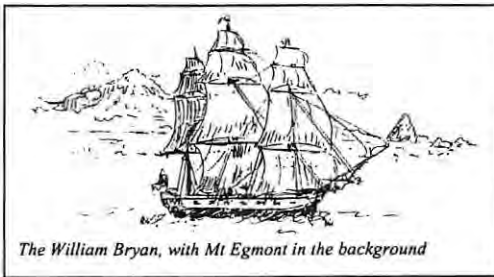
By The Taranaki Branch Archivist Murray Moorhead

On March 30, 1911, just one day short of 70 years after the Plymouth Company first pioneer contingent's arrival on the William Bryan, a large crowd gathered on the foreshore overlooking the New Plymouth port to witness the unveiling of the town's pioneer memorial.

This handsome stone obelisk, inscribed with the names and dates of arrival of the Company's six passenger ships and two small support vessels, was erected on high ground above Ngamotu Beach where the William Bryan and its immediate successor, the Amelia Thompson, had set their passengers ashore in 1841.

Among those gathered at Ngamotu that day was a select group of 45 original settlers, people who had arrived at New Plymouth on one of the ships listed on the monument. Among those originals, seven occupied a very special place of their own. They were the William Bryanites Mrs P Wood, Mrs J Smith, Messrs T Inch, E Lye, W Pearn, C Revell and S Marshall.

Another 22 years would pass before the last of those seven stood alone and treasured in the eyes of her fellow Taranakians, the last living link with New Plymouth's birth. In 1923, at the age of 92 and in the wake of the death of her only other fellow survivor, Charles Revell, Mrs Phillipa Wood agreed to an interview with noted Taranaki historian, Mr W H Skinner, and to the publication of her reminiscences in one of the local newspapers. Reading her story, it is clear that even after 82 years she still retained the sharpest memories of the voyage from Plymouth to Taranaki, and of her first impressions of the promised land, upon which she and her fellow migrants first set eyes on March 31, 1841.



The William Bryan, with Mt Egmont in the background

Phillipa was ten years old when she, her parents, Mr and Mrs Paul Inch, a sister and a brother, made the coach journey from Cornwall to Plymouth to board the little ship that was to carry them to the far side of the world. Ahead lay an adventure that must have filled older hearts with some trepidation, but to a child like Phillipa it meant nothing that their destination was a land known only to much of the British public as the home of headhunters and cannibals.

Far too well known for the good of some intending migrants was the story of the ship Boyd, of whose 70 or so passengers and crew, only two had escaped massacre in Whangaroa Harbour in 1809. And every museum in the country, it seemed, had become the proud owner and eager displayer of a range of preserved, tattooed heads from New Zealand. Aside from what might be awaiting them in New Zealand itself, a sea voyage in those days carried risks aplenty in the form of storms, fires, shoals, doldrums, sickness and mutiny.

For a ship about to be making sure a long voyage, the William Bryan was a far from impressive choice. At a mere 312 tons, and just 32 metres in length, she was of a size that most people today would think twice about boarding for even a relatively short sea voyage.

The William Bryan had been built to carry timber around the British coastline and on occasions as far a field as Scandinavia. She was built short and broad, with a very rounded bow, designed not one bit with passenger comfort in mind. The passenger berths and other accommodation needs, which were put in place after she had been chartered by the Plymouth Company, were simple and spartan in the extreme. There is no doubt that had the William Bryan not enjoyed such a remarkably straightforward and comfortable passage to New Zealand, those fittings would have been troublesome to say the least.

However once the voyage was over it was the jollity of life on board the William Bryan that everyone remembered. Mrs Wood recalled the twice-weekly dances. "They were the old country dances, not those ones that people go in for nowadays. We had such jolly times " She remembered, also with great affection, Captain McLean as "a big man with red hair and red whiskers and blue eyes; who used to have lolly scrambles on the deck for the children."

Unlike the five other Company ships, the William Bryan completed her voyage without touching land. They met only one other ship along the way, on which occasion both vessels hove to and celebrated the meeting with dances on their respective decks.

Mrs Wood recalled the food: "Our meals used to consist of preserved meat, pearl barley, plum pudding and pea soup, and we used to have lime juice twice a week. There was also a plentiful supply of beautiful ship's biscuits. The water lasted out the journey all right, but we used to boil it before using, and we used sea water for washing."

Enshrined in Taranaki legend is the story of Lucy Sarten, New Plymouth's equivalent of astronaut Neil Armstrong. She was the first of the William Bryan passengers to set foot ashore on Ngamotu Beach. Her feelings of fear on being carried ashore on the shoulders of tattooed Maori warriors and left alone on the beach, surrounded by curious Maori men, women and children, are understandable. But she was not alone in her trepidation. Phillipa Inch felt no better about things.

She recalled: "The Maoris were tattooed all over and had no clothing except little inats. I did not like being carried ashore by a big naked Maori, and kept saying , 'I'll go back to my mother.'" "I remember my mother saying when she saw Moturoa and the Maoris, 'If I'd known we were coming to a place like this I would never have come.

Of course, had Phillipa Inch not come, her family would not have achieved the honour of forming the last personal link with the William Bryan and neither would it have been their daughter, along with Jane Smith, who would share the special honour of unveiling the pioneer memorial 70 years later. Phillipa Inch married clockmaker and goldsmith Henry Wood in the 1850s. She died at the age of 97.

**ON BOARD THE WILLIAM BRYAN
EN ROUTE TO NEW PLYMOUTH
Excerpts From The Journal of Eliza Tucker
From Dawn Morrison (nee Tucker) On The Voyage from Plymouth**

November 1840.

We have been at sea now ten days and this is the first chance to write in my Diary. When you, Sarah dear, pressed the little book into my hands before we left Hampshire, I choked with welling tears, I could not contain myself. When finally we were under way, I was so fraught with fear and exhaustion I thought them to be my constant companions on this voyage.

It rained in torrents and the decks due to embarkation, were ankle deep in mud. Boats and barges arrived at the ship's side with the emigrants and their luggage, some poor souls in the most woeful plight.

We had to remain some days in the Sound, and experienced two dreadful November gales. The wind we were told later, blew away a house on the "Hoe". My fear of small places and of boats, and the sea, had combined to put my mind in the most terrible state, you would have been proud of my resolve, Father dear, as I fought so hard to keep in control for Edward and the children.

Edward is so enthusiastic about our new life. He makes light of every situation, even when he can see the children and I are near terrified.

Sunday 17 th.

Another gale, with vessels passing in a very dilapidated state. A schooner has lost her captain and boy, and a brig had two seamen washed overboard.

Tuesday 19th.

We saw the last of old England in the "Lizard Light" at approximately 6pm. The weather was raining and the land gradually faded into the mist. I cannot begin to explain my feeling, dear Sister, but returned to the cabin with Edward and the children and said some prayers. I fear what is to become of us, but Edward says such thoughts are only bad and we must look ahead with eagerness and hope.

Sunday 24 th.

We are obliged to "heave-to" off the coast of Ireland. For my part and the children I have had quite enough of the Bay of Biscay, the spray came rushing over the decks and down the hatch, alarming the women below. Edward Jnr. has made friends with other passengers and he is our source of news.

Wednesday 27th.

A beautiful day, everybody on deck, the sea is a rich blue. Dr. Weekes, our surgeon, tells us the passengers and crew are all in good health. A school is to be made ready on deck for the children. I feel better on hearing this. Emily and Sarah are pleased indeed and little Joseph says he means to go to school as well.

December. Wednesday 4th.

Edward tells me we ran 187 miles, a good run for two days and he hopes we will soon be in the Trade Winds. Another prayer meeting. which continued into a musical evening. Some of the emigrants are very musical, which is more than I can say for Edward, myself and Edward Jnr. although Sarah shows promise of a pretty voice. Mr. Harris plays the guitar and flute and his wife sings with good taste. The young men are mixing well and joining in happily. Only the other day a version of old King Cole, wafted up the hatchway to the accompaniment of much mirth.

Monday 16th.

A very calm day with beautiful weather. We are now I believe, and according to William, 12, in the North East Trade winds. School has begun and is most excellent, the boys and girls with slates and books, some of the girls though preferring their needlework. The nights are brighter than we have ever seen, with the stars in The Southern Sky just so brilliant. I feel we could touch them. Last night, once the children were asleep the adults danced on deck, our music being a fiddle, a flute and a copper kettle.

Friday 20th.

Still very little wind and the weather so warm; the cabin is hot and we sleep with only a sheet for a coverlet. No rain has fallen for a long time so we take all our meals on deck. On going to bed, we were much alarmed with an outcry from among the single women. All thought it to be a fire our worst fear, but it turned out to be a young woman suffering the vapours.

Wednesday 25th.

Christmas Day, the warmest, Father and Sister, that we have ever spent and despite all, a very pleasant day indeed. Not too much in the way of presents but your parcels on opening Sister, gave the children much pleasure. I confess to feeling homesick for snow and holly and fires, but when I look at the children, their faces and limbs all brown from the sun, I feel somewhat more at ease with our decision to come on this voyage.

January. Tuesday 4th.

We are making good progress towards the Southern Seas, the sun is travelling north and we south, as I explained to Emily and Sarah and the little boys, and we shall soon be out of the Tropics.

Saturday 8th.

We have been becalmed for 4 days, the boys and Edward with some other passengers were able to lower a boat, and row round the ship having a wonderful time. I must admit to feeling great relief when they clambered back on deck.

February. Thursday 18th.

The seas seem very bad, causing sickness among passengers and crew, thank goodness not us so far, though James, Joseph and Emily have each developed a nasty cough. Richard on the other hand seems bursting with health, and I declare nearly as tall as James.

Saturday 20th.

The seas seem heavy and the weather damp and we promenaded the deck in an effort to warm up. I must tell you of one great disappointment. That of the "Southern Cross". It looks as Edward says, more like a "diamond" and takes all one's imagination to see a cross about it! Sarah announced that the Moon's face was upside down and why was that so!

March. Tuesday 10th.

Captain McLean, a man of serious nature, tells us we are off Van Dieman's Land, but alas are too far south to see any part of it. Aurora Australis, the Southern Lights, have been playing beautifully during the evening, broad sheets of electricity flickering up from the south with bright yellow flashes.

Sunday 15th.

Too cold for a service on deck.

Mr Aubrey Jnr, drank too much punch last night and today feels a loss of appetite. We have kept up our Saturday nights with good spirits, singing at least three rounds of songs and afterwards a general chorus of "Green grow the rushes Oh" and "Rule Britannia". It with a great air of excitement that we open our eyes each day. Everyone on board is jubilant, our new home is now not far away.

Monday 17th,

"Land on the Starboard bow."

Day light was just beginning as we crowded the deck to sight our new home. A grey outline, barely visible against the dawn glow. Edward and I clutched our children to us on the deck of the "William Bryan" and wondered what is ahead.. I thank God for our safe and sure passage.

CHRISTMAS LETTER. TO LUEY, AGED 5 YEARS. ANOTHER DAWN MORRISON (NEE TUCKER) CONTRIBUTION

This is a story, I must tell you Luey, you and your cousins, because if I don't put it down on paper now, you may never know and that would be sad. I want to tell you about two of your great, great, great Grandmothers. My two Grandmothers, Julia Ambrosina Carmicheal and Margaret Jane Stuart.

They were born in the 1870's, Julia in Hobart, en route from Ireland, from the village of Downpatrick in County Down. It is not known if the ships with lots of other immigrants on board, stopped in Tasmania as a matter of course ---- I think not---- or that having seen the sights in Sydney, your great, great, great, Grandfather, James Carmichael, decided to seek his fortune in Tasmania. Alas no, it was to New Zealand that Jimmy Carmichael finally arrived with his wife and children to settle in the village of Havelock North in Hawkes Bay.

Margaret Jane Stewart, known as Maggie, was born in Dunedin of Scottish parents, who had settled in New Zealand among their kith and kin from the Borders in Scotland, their families before them fleeing that bloody and dreadful time in Scottish history.

Julia was to marry the dashing William Tucker, and Maggie, the handsome Richard Fleming. Well Lucy, I thought they were dashing and handsome these grandfathers of mine. As children, my cousins and I grew up with the feeling of utmost protection and love from our Grandparents. I remember holding Julia's hand as I crossed the street in Hastings, her soft kid gloves wrapped around my fingers. We would be going to Westerman's Department Store, to buy silk stockings, more gloves, lace handkerchiefs and treats for we children. After Westermans we made our way to the Hawkes Bay Farmers --- third floor--- to meet Grandfather Tucker for lunch, so formal, so grand, well that's how it seemed to me all those ages ago when I was hardly 10.

Maggie in Gisborne, so gentle and kind, always laughing and giving, her button draw was a joy to behold. I would spend hours sorting and playing. Her patience at teaching us cooking and our endless questions, all answered with thought and care.

Julia lived in style most of her life, but she had begun married life more simply. Later with three young children and a baby she lived in a tent at Tauwhareparae inland from Tolaga Bay. Arriving in Tokomaru Bay on board the coastal boat, they were slung overboard to a barge beneath in a large basket, then rode to shore to continue the journey by horse and cart. Julia had eleven children and my father, your great grandfather, the eldest, still remembered the basket and the boat when he was an old man.

Maggie went by horse and buggy also from Methven, via the Waikato, to Matawai to raise her three children, to save her husband from near drowning in a well on the farm, then to loose their home and all possessions to fire.

Christmas in Gisborne with Maggie and Richard, or in Clive, with Julla and Bill were great times. Plum puddings with threepences, Christmas trees as big as the rooms, songs and carols by the piano, such fun times.

These women, were strong and gentle, grey hair in buns at their necks, collars with lace trims and smelling of lavender water. I hope when you are older Lucy, you and your cousins will look back at me with love. If so I will have done my job. To Lucy, Ella and Greta. "The women coming next, from the women who have passed by."

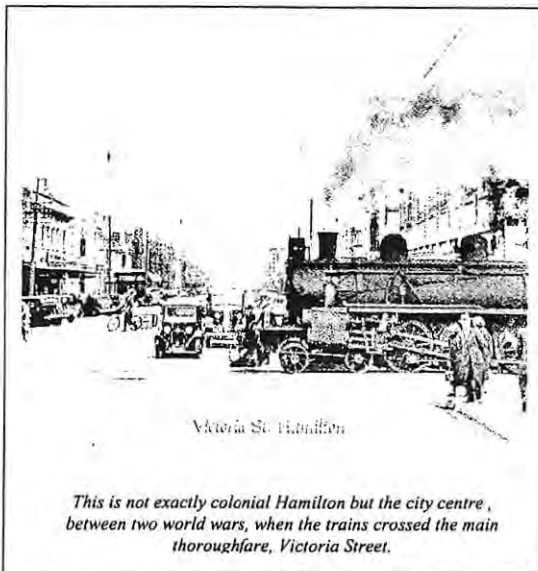
TIMES WERE REALLY RUGGED IN COLONIAL HAMILTON

A contribution from the Waikato Branch by Kaye P. Hodson, August 2002

"Hamilton was originally a Maori settlement called Kirikiriroa, which means "A Long Stretch of Gravel," and refers to the beach or landing place on the riverside. It first became a European settlement after the Kingite War, when a peace-keeping force known as the Waikato Militia was raised and settled in the Waikato."

The above quote is found in "The Companion Guide To the North Island of New Zealand" (1970) by Errol Brathwaite, which further explains that the militia was formed from recruits found in New Zealand and Australia, creating four battalions, which were settled throughout the region.

"The 4th Waikatos, most of whom were recruited in Australia, were shipped up the Waikato River in the gunboat Rangiriri and settled on the eastern and western banks of the river. The settlement was named by their Commanding Officer, Colonel Moule, in honour of Captain John Hamilton, Royal Navy, commanding officer of H.M.S. Esk during the native war. Captain Hamilton was killed leading the Naval Brigade at the Battle of Gate Pa, near Tauranga, in the Bay of Plenty."



A more detailed description is found in the authoritative Hamilton history produced by the Hamilton City Council in 1977 to commemorate the centenary of the borough. Entitled *Astride The River* and written by P.J. Gibbons, the first few chapters give a most interesting and easily-read account about the Waikato Basin in pre-European times and of the first forays of Europeans visiting the Maori settlement of Kirikiriroa.

The traders (1830s), were followed by the missionaries (1840s), the government agents (1850s), and then the soldiers and settlers in the 1860s.

It is impossible to delicately hedge around the fact that European settlement of the Waikato emerged from the bloodshed of war against the Maori Kingite Movement, and much of the land was confiscated from Maori who were vanquished. Both books deal with the political and military issues of that time and show the evidence of wide research - the substance of another story for the future, perhaps?

My mission here and, by co-incidence, written 138 years, to the month, following the arrival of the militia settlers at Hamilton, is to tell something of their story as given to us by Messrs Brathwaite and Gibbons.

As a sideline note, I remember well the 1964 Centennial a re-enactment of the landing, which was staged on the western riverbank in front of a large crowd. As a girl of thirteen years, I was both amused and slightly horrified by the sight of a pink piglet, clutched in the arms of a costumed "soldier's wife", urinating down the front of her costume as she disembarked down the short gangplank from the boat to the shore! The woman carried off the mishap with dignity, and I remember thinking that the very same thing may well have happened on August 24, 1864 when the militia advance guard stepped ashore, although then it was on the river's eastern bank.

According to P.J. Gibbons in "*Astride the River*," they found comfortless surroundings. The country, said one man, wore a very unpromising aspect- it was wild and desolate, decided another. The river terraces were clean and cultivated, showing traces of potato, wheat and maize crops, with forlorn and deserted Maori huts still standing in places. From the river terraces the settlers could see some distance. Within the projected township site and beyond were clumps of forest, very wet underfoot, dominated by the tall kahikatea pine with its straight thick trunks barrelling upwards. There were considerable areas of fern and manuka scrub, but this larger vegetation was intermittent. Besides the terraces, deep and wide gullies marked the immediate landscape. The clearer places were bogs and swamps. The climate was mild and pleasant by day and cold at night."

The settlers had been preceded by surveyors, who had marked out one-acre township sites and set aside reserves.. Their presence was a reminder that Hamilton was an armed camp in still-disputed territory.. If the new arrivals spent much time contemplating the landscape and guessing where their future farms would be, they would also have been scanning southwards towards land they knew held hostile Maori people.

Redoubts had to be dug, on both the eastern side and western side of the river.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE FOUNDERS' SOCIETY?

If you are interested in history, especially with a New Zealand colonial bias, you'll find Founders' membership a sheer delight.

To qualify you need to descend from forebears, who settled here before December 31, 1865.

We'll help you find your predecessors and the ships, in which they travelled.

**See Page Two
For Branch Details**

"The earliest substantial buildings were for defence purposes, clustered around the redoubts. Early in 1865 16 timber huts for barrack-type accommodation and a few others for stores and medical facilities were completed. They were supplemented by tents, the number of which gradually diminished as more permanent structures were erected."

The small frontier settlement grew in stages decreed by military orders. Men were sent from their garrison posts in the South Auckland area to Hamilton in fits and starts, the first in August, many more in October and November, and continuing into 1865. The regiment included a high proportion of married men with some families containing several children. Many husbands and wives became separated for considerable periods. Nevertheless women could not go forward to their husbands until they were permitted by the army authorities to board the government steamers travelling up the river; There were no other means of transport to Hamilton."

The daily work pattern was primarily military, involving parades, sentry duty, cutting planks for building, forming roads, erecting huts, bridges and other main structures. After military tasks had been completed, the remaining bodily energy could be spent on improving the rudimentary accommodation and the cultivation of crops.

Under the terms of their recruitment, the men were each to be allocated a one acre town section and a fifty-acre farm section. Surveying of the town sections was completed in 1865 and were allocated. Each man was offered an amount of timber, which would build a very small house. The timber was expensive - it equalled three months of a private's pay, and could be paid for either in cash or by pay deductions.

Crops in small quantities were not difficult to grow in the areas of good alluvial soil, but seeds and plants were expensive and difficult to obtain. Frosts in winter and insect pests created their share of problems, but the vegetables and grain that survived to be eaten were a welcome addition to the essential army rations.

There was plenty of misery to cope with, such as mouldy hard biscuits in the army rations, and the poor accommodation - the little houses were barely an improvement on the original tents, being wooden shells with one or two rooms and earth floors. Firewood wasn't plentiful, as the scrubs and forest were on swampy ground and access to logs and branches was difficult. Winter made everything tougher, when vegetables grew slowly; it was cold with a lot of rain. The clay roads became impassable and the settlers' days became a time of candles, chilblains, dampness and an even more restricted diet.

Isolation became a depressing issue. The river was the road to the outside world and the government steamers made trips several times a week, bringing stores and new personnel but, except for those who had special leave, all militia men on full pay had to stay at the settlement, which was stuck in the middle of nowhere..

The fear of attack by the Maoris was an ever-present anxiety, and there were frequent alarms when the militia were stood-to, and the women and children were crammed into the redoubts for a fearful night. However, the attacks didn't come, and the settlers were able to put their energies into survival and a prolonged dispute with the government.

The expense of a war in New Zealand, in money, lives and expertise caused the British government to withdraw its support somewhat, and the colonial authorities had to fall back more and more on their own resources which had to be used carefully. It was deemed that operations in the Waikato could be run more cheaply.

"There, in various militia settlements, were hundreds of volunteers receiving army rations, doing no fighting, and due to go off full pay as soon as they were allocated the farm sections that were part of their recruitment contract. Now confiscation had been completed., militia should be provided with their farm properties from the confiscated lands immediately. The savings for the colonial treasury would be tremendous."

The government was determined that the balloting of farms should go ahead rapidly, although the surveying was not completed, and much of the land was unsuitable for cultivation, being swampy, or steep, or of sour soil away from the fertile riverbanks. There was great protest from the settlers, with the regimental commander, William Moule taking their complaints to higher quarters.

A few adjustments were made, but the government was committed to retrenchment rather than justice and the militia had to accept much unsatisfactory land.

Other problems arose once the militia settlers were officially "on their land" and off army pay. Many tried to farm but had no money* for seeds and plants, or for timber for building. Goods could only come to Hamilton by government steamer and the freight costs were very high.

Many other small and petty actions were taken against the settlers in the withdrawal of services and compensations, after going off pay, and a general expectation of jobs building government roads did not eventuate at that time. A few more affluent settlers hired labour, but there was virtually no way for the ordinary settler in the first two years to earn money regularly.

Two things kept the feeble settlement from collapsing. One was the determination of most militia settlers to hang on for three years from the date of enlistment, at which time they would receive full freehold title to their sodden little farm. It was this provision, as well as a small payment and ration of liquor, that maintained attendance at monthly parades and readiness to fight at the redoubts if needed. There were people who despaired and left from all the Waikato settlements, but only a few dozen did so from the Hamilton regiment.

The second thing was the free rations which carried the militia through the first winter and second summer, but by early autumn of 1866, that came to an end, and those remaining for the second winter faced slow starvation, as they had been unable to fulfil the government expectation that they would by then be living off their own crops. There was no government relief, and deprivation was real. Spring provided hope and crop growth, and at the end of the summer land titles were issued. The surviving settlers had their freehold land and very little else. Many settlers then sold their land, or abandoned it, and in April 1867 it was estimated that about eight families were leaving the regimental area every week, and in 1868 Hamilton township had less than 300 people in it, and more than one-third of them were children.

However, other people were coming to the area, more able and willing to farm the land, and people with commercial expertise, to develop further the original military facilities. The township developed two hubs right at the start, a centre of activity and enterprise on either side of the river, near to the two redoubts. For more than a dozen years there was no bridge. Communication between the two settlements was by canoe, then a punt ferry.

Based on the military system, the initial fundamentals of a civic and commercial establishment grew - including a hospital, school, bank, post office, hotels, churches, shops, businesses and clubs, and the formation of a constabulary, a court and local government bodies.

Throughout the late 1800s Hamilton was slowly emerging and spreading out from its beginnings on "a long stretch of gravel".

WHO FIRED THE FIRST SHOT AT WAIRAU ?
This is the manuscript used by guest speaker Heather Glengarry
at a Wanganui Founders' Society meeting in September 2001.

The Wairau Incident, which took place at Tuamarina just outside Blenheim on June 1843, was an horrific occasion. Known earlier as the Wairau Massacre at least 22 Europeans lost their lives as did five Maoris.

Two Wanganui Founders members, myself and Mrs Joyce Phillips, had forebears involved in the affray. My ancestor John (sometimes known as Jack) Kidson survived but Mrs Phillips' forebear Eli Cropper succumbed to a Maori tomahawk.



Te Rauparaha - thought the Europeans an easy take

This item recalls the occasion from an eyewitness account in a letter from John Kidson to his clergyman friend Dr Harry Dupuis back in England. Let's start with a backgrounder from the Joyce Phillips file.

In 1830, John Blenkinsopp, master of the whaling schooner *Caroline*, put into Cloudy Bay, saw the Wairau Valley, liked the look of it, and decided it would be a place in which to settle down. He made friends with the Maoris and married a daughter of Te Pehi, who, it will be remembered, had shown such determination to visit England. It will be recalled that Te Pehi was Te Rauparaha's uncle, and honest John Blenkinsopp, now a cousin of the great chief by marriage, felt himself safe from any attack by the Maoris of those parts.

Accordingly, he bartered his ship's guns with the chief in exchange for the Wairau Valley, had a deed of sale drawn up and signed, and went across to Sydney to round up a few settlers. New Zealand's reputation in Sydney in those days was not the best however, so Blenkinsopp did not find people very eager to go farming amongst the Maoris, and meantime, the old salt lost his life in a storm off the Australian coast.

For a time, the gun and the land it had purchased, or was supposed to have purchased, were forgotten, until the Wakefield's came to hear about the sale, and, it is said, bought the deed from Blenkinsopp's widow for £300. Thus it came about, on an autumn day in 1843, a party of about forty surveyors and assistants left Nelson for the Wairau, to make ready for the settlers to take up the land. On the other side of Cook Strait, Te Rauparaha heard about it, and decided that while he had no objection to his cousin's husband making his home in the valley, he was not going to have the land invaded by hundreds of Europeans.

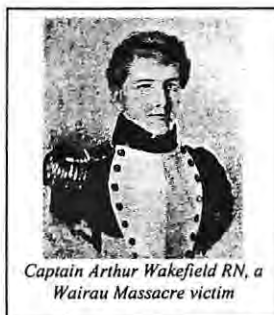
He at once crossed the Strait with some of his followers, watched the surveyors at work, burned their huts and pulled up their pegs, firstly removing their goods to a place of safety. The chief surveyor, John Tuckett, arrived on the scene and sent a message to Captain Wakefield in Nelson, telling him of the Maori interference. Wakefield reported it to the police magistrate and county judge Mr Thompson and it was decided to have Te Rauparaha arrested on a charge of burning the huts.

Captain Wakefield, Mr Thompson, another magistrate Captain England and a party of special constables and others set off at once for Wairau.

Let's revert to the John Kidson file. Here is the letter from John Kidson to the Rev Harry Dupuis, in England, August 31 1843

I have been in the company's boat looking about the coast for some time. A short time ago we were ordered to the Wairau with chief surveyor Mr Tuckett, known as 'foul weather Jack', as wherever he goes there is bad weather. We were nearly lost en route, the three-day trip taking eight days in the storm.

When we got there the Maoris had burned down the whares and taken the men prisoners. They ordered us away — they told us to get the harney. We stayed some time while Mr Tuckett went to a large valley of grassland. We were prisoners till he came back, though the natives were quite friendly. When Mr Tuckett returned, we started for home.



Captain Arthur Wakefield RN, a Wairau Massacre victim