



# **Bulletin**

## **New Zealand Founders Society**



Gladstone Church – Wairarapa

**Number 75 - Report for Year  
2003**

# New Zealand Founders Society Inc Annual Bulletin for 2003

## Covering Society Activities

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We celebrate fifty years of the "Bulletin" with this edition. The first "News-Letter" was published in December 1953 and was a modest four page edition. It included the Presidents message and also a full account of a "Historic View of Waitangi" which contained an account of "a very eloquent and dramatic address" by Mr. Cheviot Bell, the first President of the New Zealand Founders Society who spoke of the events of that historic day in February 1840. His address concluded with these words -

*"Truly New Zealand's genesis dates from that moment. How right therefore is the Founder's Society insistent urge that the 6<sup>th</sup> of February should be proclaimed and recognized as New Zealand Day and how glad I am to be able to inform you that when at your request, I made that submission to the Waitangi National Trust Board, the Board adopted unanimously a confirmatory resolution"*

The remainder of that first publication contained some notes about the Society's activities, some obituaries and a list of new members.

Mr. Duff Daysh, President at this time commented that he hoped the newsletter would prepare the way for a magazine when the Society's finances permitted. The annual subscription of 10/- (\$1.00) would need to be augmented by gifts to allow this and other initiatives to proceed. The total of 1400 members at that time was far short of the number desired.

The Newsletter continued in a slightly larger format and was renamed "The Bulletin" in the next issue in April 1954.



# New Zealand Founders Society Inc

National Council (as from June 2002)

## **National President**

Mrs N. Beres

## **National Deputy President**

Mr M. Watson

## **National Immediate Past President**

Mr W.N. Sheat

**National Secretary/Treasurer:** Mrs Janet Robinson

## **National Councillors**

Mr K. Seagar (National Executive) Mr R. & Mrs C Hurst (National Executive)

Mr G. and Mrs B. Robertson (National Executive)

Mr W. Matthewson (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

## **Branch Secretaries:**

### **Auckland**

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### **Wanganui**

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Wai-iti Farms, RD1  
Hastings.  
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### **Bay of Plenty**

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Mrs J Robinson  
PO Box 11-803  
Wellington

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PO Box 11-803, Wellington Tel 04 472-4282  
**Bulletin Editor:** Glen Robertson, Wellington.



The Sixty-fourth Annual Report of the  
New Zealand Founders Society  
Presented by the National President

This year has seen real challenges for the Society, both physical and non-physical. On the physical side we were invited to move our premises, expenses paid, from the James Smith Building to Level 2, Mibar Building, 85 Victoria Street, for the same rental. We agreed and will move on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The big advantage, apart from a more pleasant outlook, is the ability to sub-let, which will augment our income appreciably. Our over-riding concern is our library, which on the one hand is a valuable asset, and on the other an under-utilised white elephant. It must be housed in solid fire and earthquake-proof premises for insurance purposes. The question is should we drop the insurance altogether, as the contents are irreplaceable. There is also the possibility of relocating the library out of Wellington to one of the Branches. Wanganui has indicated it may be interested in such a move. This would enable the Executive to move to cheaper and more limited accommodation.

We are also considering changes in regard to our Research Grant Award. Publishing costs have escalated enormously and to make our grant have any credibility we will probably limit it to alternate years. Alison Wong, a Research Award recipient, was 2002 Burns Research Fellow at Otago University and is now at the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University.

It has been established that a Founders Domain name is available and we hope to register it and produce a web site. Advertising is the best means of informing people about Founders and we feel Internet advertising is the way to go.

Our pioneer ancestors had mainly physical dangers and obstacles to overcome. Today our problems and dangers are less physical but harder to combat. Our society is becoming increasingly multi-cultural and there is a real danger of the standards and values of our ancestors being eroded and their contribution to society marginalised or discounted. We must be vigilant and take a stand on matters we consider important. To this end we have written to government and councils on such matters such as the replacing of pioneer names with Maori ones

for some Wellington suburbs; the alteration to the Buckle Street War Memorial; the "Taleban" article by the Commissioner for Race Relations; and the re-naming of Somes and Ward Islands to name a few. The replies to such letters have been dismissively bland and politically correct. But we must persevere and make known our feelings on such subjects and our opposition to anything that denigrates the contribution of our founding fathers.

Looking at past Presidents' Reports I have a distinct feeling of déjà vu. All deprecate falling membership and give gloomy prognostics of the future. True we have ageing and fewer members but we are not alone in this. Most societies and service organisations are in the same boat. But what most do not have, and we do, is the family connection, and that is our greatest strength. We are composed of pioneer families who have a network of potential Founder members, and it is this network all of us must explore and exploit. If we could all recruit one more family member Founders would be in good shape.

One of the real pleasures of being National President is being invited to Branch AGM's. Regrettably I was unable to go to Taranaki but was privileged to attend AGM's in Wanganui and Hawkes Bay, each attended by over 60 Founders, and to meet their well-organised and dedicated committees. It is sad therefore to record the recent closure, we hope temporarily, of the Poverty Bay Branch.

Finally I would like to thank the Executive Committee for their support, constructive ideas, and enthusiasm. The President is just a figurehead and chairman of the meetings. Mrs Janet Robinson has carried out her duties as Founders' Secretary with care and attention. On behalf of the New Zealand Executive I thank Branch members for their support over the year.

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 2003 stood at:-

|                | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | <b>2003</b> |
|----------------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Honorary       | 251  | 254  | 284  | <b>286</b>  |
| Life           | 58   | 57   | 53   | <b>50</b>   |
| Senior         | 804  | 751  | 733  | <b>693</b>  |
| Junior         | 2    | 4    | 2    | <b>6</b>    |
| Associate      | 89   | 80   | 76   | <b>71</b>   |
| Hon'd for Serv | 24   | 22   | 23   | <b>21</b>   |

|        |      |      |      |             |
|--------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Totals | 1226 | 1168 | 1171 | <b>1127</b> |
|--------|------|------|------|-------------|

|               | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | <b>2003</b> |
|---------------|------|------|------|-------------|
| Auckland      | 83   | 72   | 70   | <b>74</b>   |
| Bay of Plenty | 145  | 148  | 151  | <b>147</b>  |
| Canterbury    | 44   | 49   | 50   | <b>52</b>   |
| Hawkes B      | 244  | 191  | 183  | <b>172</b>  |
| Northland     | 29   | -    | -    | -           |
| Poverty By    | 37   | 41   | 39   | <b>28</b>   |
| Taranaki      | 83   | 68   | 65   | <b>60</b>   |
| Waikato       | 112  | 103  | 102  | <b>90</b>   |
| Wairarapa     | 136  | 136  | 149  | <b>144</b>  |
| Wanganui      | 129  | 121  | 134  | <b>143</b>  |
| Wellington    | 251  | 239  | 228  | <b>217</b>  |
|               |      |      |      |             |
| Totals        | 1226 | 1168 | 1171 | <b>1127</b> |

Neni Beres  
National President



**(For your information the following letter was sent this year)**

11<sup>th</sup> February 2003

The Honourable Margaret Wilson  
Associate Minister of Justice  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Margaret Wilson,

In 2000 you wrote to the then-President of this Society assuring him that any education programme about the Treaty of Waitangi by the Government would be balanced. The Society's concern was that any such initiative should avoid being divisive.

In that context there was widespread concern amongst our members at the statements made by Mr Joris de Bres, Race Relations Commissioner, reported in the Dominion Post of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2003. Our members, who

are all descendants of people who arrived in New Zealand prior to 1865, took strong exception to the Commissioner insulting them by likening them all to the Taleban. The Society's members are proud of their heritage which Mr de Bres chooses to call "a sorry litany of cultural vandalism".

In an address last week given at the Victoria University Law School, Roslyn Noonan announced that the Human Rights Commission will be launching an education campaign about the Treaty of Waitangi specifically mentioning that "colonisation" will be one of the topics dealt with.

Mr de Bres' intemperate views and his influential position means that the "education" programme is tainted before it even begins. This will be an unfortunate start to a process which should be designed to be one of reconciliation not division.

Yours faithfully

National Executive Committee Members  
New Zealand Founders Society Inc.

**(And the response ...)**

Associate Minister of Justice  
Minita-Hono mo Nga Take Ture

5 Mar 2003

National Executive Committee Members  
New Zealand Founders Society Inc.  
PO Box 11-803  
WELLINGTON

Dear Executive Committee Members

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2003 expressing concern about a speech given by the Race Relations Commissioner in late 2002.



At the outset I should point out the Race Relations commissioner, as part of the Human Rights Commission, is an independent statutory officer. Given that independence of office, you will appreciate that it would be inappropriate for me as Associate Minister of Justice, to comment on the substance of the particular matter you have raised.

However, I do note, in terms of the particular speech you have referred to, one of the key issues stressed by the Race Relations Commissioner in the speech was respect, tolerance and understanding in relation to issues of spiritual and cultural difference.

You have also referred to the Commission's proposed "campaign" in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi. Section 5(2) (d) of the Amendment Act provides that one of the new functions of the Human Rights Commission is to promote by research, education and discussion a better understanding of the human rights dimensions of the Treaty of Waitangi and their relationship with domestic and international human rights law.

I understand that the Commission has already begun work in this regard. Information and discussion of the human rights dimensions of the Treaty is one of the streams of work the Commission proposes to advance in the context of the development of a National Plan of Action for Human Rights.

In particular, I understand that the Commission will be preparing information for distribution that is intended to support dialogue at the community level on the Treaty and its relationship to international and domestic human rights law. Accordingly, I am confident that there will be a full opportunity for all views on the issues to be put forward.

Yours sincerely

Hon Margaret Wilson  
Associate Minister of Justice





# **Bulletin**

## **New Zealand Founders Society**



Gladstone Church – Wairarapa

### **Number 75 - Report for Year 2003**

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Founders Society New Members in the Past  
Twelve Months

| Name            | Area      | Ship              | Date | Ancestor                   |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|------|----------------------------|
| <b>AUCKLAND</b> |           |                   |      |                            |
| Mrs L.A. Barr   | Lyttelton | Cressy            | 1850 | Moses & Eleanor<br>MOULDEY |
|                 | Auckland  | Tornado           | 1859 | John SCOTT                 |
|                 | Auckland  | Andrew<br>Jackson | 1865 | Sarah Ann DOBBS            |
|                 |           | Page 14           |      |                            |

|                           |                        |                   |        |                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Master J.W.Y. Martin-Chan | Wellington             | Bolton            | 1840   | Isaac & Elizabeth LOVELOCK      |
| Mrs V. Finch              | Auckland               | Ann               | 1848   | John Annesley HICKSON           |
| Mr R. Levinson            | Lyttelton              | Maori             | 1858   | Henry R.S. & Mary Ann PRATT     |
| Mr A.E. Walls             | Port Chalmers          | John Wickliffe    | 1848   | Thomas & Mary BREBNER           |
| <b>BAY OF PLENTY</b>      |                        |                   |        |                                 |
| Mr J.S. Sharp             | Kaeo                   | Victory           | 1822   | John Daly HAYES                 |
| Mr D.S. Munro             | Wellington             | Arab              | 1841   | Betsie GOODEN & Eliza DYSON     |
|                           | Wellington             | Olympus           | 1841   | John Douglas BENGE              |
|                           | Wellington             | Shepherdes        | 1853   | Richard Brignell HAYBITTLE      |
| Mr A.J. Ingram            | Auckland               | William Miles     | 1862   | Charlotte NEWBY                 |
| Mr J.G. Campbell          | Auckland               | Jane Gifford      | 1842   | Joseph CRAIG                    |
| Mr P.J. Evans-McLeod      | Dunedin                | Mooltan           | 1849   | John, George & Agnes DUNCAN     |
| Mrs Z.P. Graham           | Wellington             | ?                 | 1862   | Barney DOUGLAS                  |
| Mrs A.H. Richards         | Wellington             | Catherine Stewart | 1841   | Hannah Emily VAUDERVARD         |
|                           | Wellington             | Forbes            | 1841   | Barker Joseph BENSON            |
| Mr J. Gemming             | Associate              |                   |        |                                 |
| Mr B. Irvine              | Associate              |                   |        |                                 |
| Mr S. Southall            | Associate              |                   |        |                                 |
| Mrs V. Daysh              | Associate              |                   |        |                                 |
| <b>CANTERBURY</b>         |                        |                   |        |                                 |
| Mrs CES McCarthy-Marinus  | Nelson                 | Prince of Wales   | 1842   | Charles & Sarah STAGG           |
|                           | Wellington             | London            | 1842   | Jos & Mary Ann McCARTHY         |
| Mr S.C. Sibley            | Akaroa/Chatham Islands | Julianna          | 1842/3 | Johann Heinrick Christof BAUCKE |
| Mrs M.E. Prain            | Wellington             | Derwentwater      | 1860   | William James PEARCH            |
|                           |                        |                   |        |                                 |

|                    |               |                 |      |   |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------|---|
|                    | Port Chalmers | Electric        | 1863 | Daniel & Margaret Elizabeth GILCHRIST         |
|                    | Wellington    | Berar           | 1865 | Donald George CLARK                           |
| Mrs P. O'Connor    | Associate     |                 |      |   |
| <b>HAWKES BAY</b>  |               |                 |      |   |
| Mrs B.A. Reid      | Auckland      | Viola           | 1865 | Daniel & Janet McINTYRE                       |
|                    | Wellington    | Alma            | 1857 | Robert & Mary ROWE                            |
| Mr L.R. Reid       | Auckland      | Bombay          | 1865 | Jacob & Jane WRIGHT                           |
|                    | Auckland      | Excelsior       | 1859 | John Bawden ROOSE                             |
|                    | Auckland      | Ida Zeigler     | 1862 | David & Ellen STEVENSON                       |
| Mr I.F.E. Burson   | Lyttelton     | Chariot of Fame | 1863 | Albert & Emma BURSON                          |
| <b>POVERTY BAY</b> |               |                 |      |   |
| Mrs P.M O'Connor   | Associate     |                 |      |   |
| <b>TARANAKI</b>    |               |                 |      |   |
| Mr N.T. Clare      | New Plymouth  | Timandra        | 1842 | Charles & Hannah CLARE Charles & Mary SAMPSON |
| Mrs N.A.J. Lea     | Lyttelton     | Gloucester      | 1858 | Mary PARR                                     |
| Mr M.D. Harper     | Nelson        | Clifford        | 1842 | George & Sarah WRATT                          |
| Mrs B.E. Simmonds  | New Plymouth  | Blenheim        | 1842 | James Pickford SMART                          |
| 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*                         |
| <b>WAIKATO</b>     |               |                 |      |   |
| Mr B. Tucker       | New Plymouth  | William Bryan   | 1841 | Edward & Jane TUCKER                          |
| Mrs J.H.E. Tucker  | Auckland      | Diana           | 1840 | Robert WIGMORE                                |
|                    |               | Page 16         |      |   |

|                     |                |                   |      |                         |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------|-------------------------|
| Mrs K.M. Townsend   | Wellington     | Bengal Merchant   | 1840 | John & Mary NISBET      |
| <b>WAIRARAPA</b>    |                |                   |      |                         |
| Mrs V.E. Hutchings  | Petone         | Adelaide          | 1840 | Thomas KEMPTON          |
|                     | Petone         | Duke of Roxburgh  | 1840 | Hart UDY                |
|                     | Wellington     | Alma              | 1857 | James & Jane RIDGWAY    |
| Mrs V.E. Fellingham | Wellington     | London            | 1842 | Charles DIXON           |
| Mrs A. Merriman     | Petone         | Bengal Merchant   | 1840 | Thomas DORREEN          |
|                     | Port Chalmers  | Arima             | 1863 | James GRAY              |
| Mr C.T. Styles      | Port Chalmers  | Ajax              | 1849 | John STYLES             |
| <b>WANGANUI</b>     |                |                   |      |                         |
| Mrs P. Baxter       | Auckland       | Simlah            | 1853 | Anne & James SHEPHERD   |
| Mrs J.M. Bryce      | Port Underwood | Hope              | 1840 | Mary Ann BEARD          |
|                     | ?              | ?                 | ?    | James HOGAN             |
| Mrs H. Duck         | Lyttelton      | Randolph          | 1850 | John & Mary STANLEY     |
|                     | Timaru         | Strathallan       | 1858 | Robert & Isabella McKAY |
| Mrs S.M. Millward   | Lyttelton      | Lancashire Witch  | 1863 | James & Isabella ROBBIE |
| Mr C.L. Riddet      | Auckland       | Ellen Lewis       | 1860 | John & Mary McLEAN      |
| Mrs E. Hickey       | Auckland       | Minerva           | 1847 | Eliza HIBBERT           |
| Mrs K.M. Davidson   | Hokianga       | Jane              | 1829 | Thomas & Ann McDONNELL  |
|                     | Wellington     | Berar             | 1865 | Thomas STEPHENS         |
|                     | Wellington     | Duke of Roxburgh  | 1840 | Stephen & Mary HARTLEY  |
|                     | Wellington     | Clifton           | 1842 | John & Elizabeth HOWE   |
| Miss L.A. Fowler    | Auckland       | Helvellyn         | 1863 | Nathaniel FOWLER        |
|                     | Wellington     | Viscount Sandon   | 1860 | Mr, Mrs & Martha JOHNS  |
|                     | Auckland       | Gertrude          | 1863 | John CHOAT              |
| Miss D. Pickford    | Auckland       | British Sovereign | 1845 | John ROBOTTON           |
|                     |                | Page 17           |      |                         |

|                       |              |                    |      |                                       |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Mrs J.F. Withers      | Lyttelton    | Sir George Seymour | 1850 | Henry & Amelia RICHARDS               |
| Mr J.P.C. Watt        | Auckland     | Catherine Johnston | 1841 | William Hogg WATT                     |
| <b>WELLINGTON</b>     |              |                    |      |                                       |
| Miss L.A. Prendergast | Nelson       | Cornwall           | 1851 | John & Elizabeth SQUIRE William SOPER |
| Mr B. Robinson        | Nelson       | Bombay             | 1842 | Jonathon & Elizabeth ROBINSON         |
|                       | Nelson       | Whitby             | 1841 | Henry LUNN                            |
|                       | Nelson       | Mary Ann           | 1842 | John & Mary Ann CLARK                 |
|                       | Nelson       | Phoebe             | 1843 | George RUTHERFORD                     |
| Miss V.L. Winton      | Nelson       | Lady Nugent        | 1850 | Arthur & Lydia BRADLEY                |
|                       | Auckland     | Claremont          | 1863 | John & Ellen MORROW                   |
| Mr C.R. Hurst         | ?            | ?                  | ?    | Donald MANSON & Jane MCKOWEN          |
| Mr J.P. Hollings      | Wellington   | London             | 1842 | Charles & Mary DIXON                  |
|                       | New Plymouth | Amelia Thompson    | 1841 | Walter PERRY                          |
| Mrs J. Jury           | New Plymouth | William Bryan      | 1841 | Justinian & Jesse JURY                |
| Mrs Y.H. Lawrie       | Wellington   | London*            | 1842 | William & Maria WATSON                |



## Around the Branches

## ***Auckland Branch***

Auckland Branch continues to hold regular luncheon meetings with a speaker. In June a "Jubilee" Party was held to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee with a "show and tell" feature. Members brought "Royal" souvenirs and gave a talk on their souvenir. In July a programme of published love letters drew admiration. John Webster, Chairman, described the visit to Auckland of the French actress, Sarah Bernhardt at the August meeting. Family Connections was the subject of the September meeting and members were amazed to discover the number of ships or settlements they had in common. A summer picnic on the lawn of Kinder House, Parnell, was held in 2003. Carolyn Rhodes (Secretary) told of life in Victorian New Zealand as experienced by an Italian Franciscan and a French Marist priest, particularly during the Taranaki Wars. In April a member told how he had commissioned a local artist to depict his forebears' arrival in New Zealand using photographs of ancestors and of the ship taken from a painting held by the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. The entire process of gathering information and painting took more than two years but very worthwhile. John Webster gave an address on Mary Ruddock, a dressmaker and specialist in children's clothing in May.

## ***Waikato Branch***

The Branch held six luncheon meetings at the Te Rapa Racecourse in Hamilton. The following speakers addressed the meeting. June Johansen gave a talk on her great-great-great-grandparents; Ralph Evans on Modern Victoria Clubs; Moira Parker spoke about John White who emigrated to New Zealand in 1834. He published two historical novels as well as other work and his best-known work was the official collection of Maori historical traditions "The Ancient History of the Maori". Mrs Kay Hodson, dressed in period costume, continued her ancestors' story from last year, but moving on a generation.

## ***Bay of Plenty Branch***

The AGM was held at the Armitage Hotel, Tauranga, followed by a visit of the 'Treasures of the Elms' at Baycourt; an outstanding display of fragile textiles and garments. The second luncheon was held at the Te Ao Marama Church Hall,



Ohinemutu Marae, Rotorua, and the speaker was Jim Schuster, an Arawa descendant who described the historical settlement of the Arawa people at Ohinemutu. Following his address members were given an escorted tour of the marae and St Faith's Church. Mr John Phillip spoke to the meeting at the Katikati R.S.A. & Citizens Club of the landing and settlement of both of his parents' ancestors. The September luncheon was held at the Indian Star Reef Restaurant at Whakatane Heads which provided a magnificent view over the mouth of the river and entrance bar to the sea. Two speakers addressed the meeting: Lewis Bradley gave an account of the voyage to NZ and settlement of his forebears followed by Roger Hill who spoke about the settlement and early days in the Opouriau Valley.

In November the Branch met at the Te Puke Citizens Club where Dr & Mrs Rees described their experiences of working and living in the Solomon Islands from 1957-59.

### ***Poverty Bay Branch***

Speakers for the year were: Anita Raku Raku, from the Gisborne Court, outlined the duties of her position as Victim Support Adviser; Ben Tahata gave an account on the history and future of the Port Gisborne at the second meeting; Mr & Mrs Mudge's interesting account of their pilgrimage overseas.

Both the 'pot luck' luncheon and the Christmas BBQ were successful events.

### ***Taranaki Branch***

In February Murray Moorhead led a trip around historic sites in Western Taranaki, including Omata and Tataraimaka settlement districts of the 1840 and 1850s, Waireka 1860 battle site, graves of NZ Cross winners Francis Mace and Antonio Rodrigues, sites of Forts St Patrick, St Andrew and St George, the Omata Stockade, Lucy's Gully, the Tataraimaka early settlers' cemetery and Tataraimaka Pa.

At the March Founders' Commemorative Luncheon Ross Allen, Chairman of the Taranaki Regional Council outlined the progress of the region and the Rev. Tom Woods gave an inspiring address at the annual service at the Pioneer Monument.

Other speakers for the year were: Phyl Haarer on her visit to the UK in Jubilee Year; Maureen Lonsdale on diabetes education; Bryan Gould on future plans for Pukekura Park; Bill Bayfield on regional waterway conservation; and

Rodney Greensill on his work as Referee in the Small Claims Court. The Eltham Historical Society hosted members for a day visit. After a talk about Chew Chong, Taranaki's pioneer export dairy factory entrepreneur, lunch was served, followed by a tour of the redecorated Eltham Town Hall and Civic Chambers and other historical buildings.

## ***Hawkes Bay Branch***

The March AGM was held at Twyford where John Carrington spoke on the growth of the district.

A visit to Ahuriri, Port of Napier, including the Heritage Trail Drive and visit to the old Customs House in May was popular, requiring two buses to transport everybody. The Winter Luncheon in June was held in the historic Town Hall, Waipawa, where Sir Richard Harrison, ex MP, was the guest speaker.

An afternoon visit to Lindisfarne Boys' College with a guided tour of the buildings was much enjoyed in August.

In October, Rona Davidson, Hawkes Bay member, organised a visit to her family cemetery at Pendle Hill, Wakarara, and spoke of family home and station. This was followed by a conducted tour to the museum and township of Onga Onga.

A successful annual Founders Day Dinner was held at the Napier Golf Club in February. The speaker was Bill Wills, a Past President who spoke on the history of the 106 year old club.

At the Christmas luncheon entertainment was provided by six members of the Junior Brass Band and their tutor Clive Binell. A fascinating demonstration of the evolvement of some of the instruments was given.

In February Evan Smith described his endeavours to obtain family photos and details, and the thousands of photos he has copied.

At the AGM Mr Grant Thomas, former Member of Parliament, and now Deputy Mayor of Hamilton, spoke of his family who have an interesting background in the history of the area.

## ***Wairarapa Branch***

At the March AGM held in Masterton Art Club's Victoria Gallery, Diana Stidolph described her World Vision trip to Central and Southern America.

In May we visited the Porirua Police College Museum, followed by lunch. Our

next stop was the Pataka Museum of Arts and finally a guided tour of the Melody Farm Music Exhibition.

In August we had a tour of Aratoi, the new Art and History Centre in Masterton. Judy Cundy spoke to the meeting in September about her experience as a heart replacement recipient. In October Norma Ashworth described her visit to Wapping, the East End of London, her parents visit, and her lovely Georgian house. Christmas lunch was held in the Lansdowne House and entertainment was provided by the Waiohine Probus Singing Group. On Waitangi Day we visited Glenys Hansen's beautiful garden at Matahiwi followed by afternoon tea.

## ***Wellington Branch***



The AGM meeting was held at The Stables attached to The Grand, Courtenay Place, which in earlier times traded as the Beehive Bottling Company. The present owner, Stewart Thwaites, gave a talk about the refurbishment and upgrading of the building and arranged for a display of artefacts.

We joined the Wellington Historical & Early Settlers Assoc in their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations at the Town Hall hosted by the Mayor, Kerry Prendergast. Invited guests included Marian Hobbs, Wellington MP and Mr Bourke, Acting British High Commissioner. Ian and Beryl Gentleman hosted the Christmas Dinner at their home in Schnapper Point. Wellington members Natalie Duncan and Beverly Seymour described some of the Founders' social events they attended in their youth.

Lyn Squires gave a talk on early NZ food including Christmas fare at the December meeting. In March we visited Robert Orr House, Lower Hutt, to hear June Orr talk about the history of the house and its contents. The house is furnished with contributions from both Tom and June's families, including paintings by June's great-grandfather William Mein-Smith.

## ***Christchurch-Westland Branch***



Following the April 2002 AGM at Merchiston House St Martins, lunch was provided at The Booth, Lichfield Street, Christchurch. The following activities were arranged during the year: Lunch in the mid-Canterbury town of Cust followed by a visit to the Mill Creek

Clydesdale Horses where members enjoyed horse-rides, and saw the training and grooming of the animals followed by afternoon tea. The August luncheon was held at the Hoofbeats Restaurant in the historic Riccarton Racecourse Hotel. Afterwards we visited the Wigram Airforce Museum where a conducted tour of the museum and workshop facilities was provided. In October a visit was made to the Rossendale Winery, Banks Peninsular for a delightful lunch. A visit to Quail Island on the Lyttelton Ferry to inspect the many historical sites and enjoy the views was made in February. Canterbury Branch continues to sponsor Margaret Copeland who presents the life of an immigrant family arriving at Lyttelton to schools and community groups.



## The Napier Earthquake

Contributed by Barbara Robertson – Wellington Branch



*(The following letter was written by Gertrude Burnett who was living on Hospital Hill, Napier at the time of the Napier Earthquake in 1931. Her husband Eric was at sea at the time as an engineer on a coastal ship. A granddaughter of Lily and Charlie to whom the letter was sent in England managed to rescue it*

*from being burnt in a "clean-up" fire and it finally was returned to NZ in 2002  
Parts of the first page had been charred in the fire, hence the gaps.  
Gertrude and her three daughters were in Nelson with Eric's parents when she  
wrote the letter.)*

**GERTRUDE BURNETT'S LETTER WRITTEN TO HER SISTER  
SHORTLY AFTER THE NAPIER EARTHQUAKE FEB 1931**

Franklyn Rise  
Franklyn St  
Nelson

Teal Valley  
Hira  
Nelson

This will find me any time

My dear Lily & Charlie,

It does seem so nice to feel I can sit on a piece of ground & write again to you. I expect that Mother or Hilda have let you know we were all (well?) & safe & my dear we were wonderfully protected (?) .....that really & truly. The Eternal God .....refuge & underneath are His (?) everlasting arms for with death & desolation all round we were all safe & well & except for scratches & bruises, unharmed.

You will receive a paper, an Auckland Weekly, with a few pictures in it of the terrible havoc wrought. We spent one night on the Veronica, a war ship lying at the wharf. You will see how damaged it all looks & we were glad to get there. 2 or 3 of the men on the boat were special friends of the children. Pat had a right royal time & got very spoilt. They were very brave really & had to put up with sores & no water to wash in, very little to drink. We had to take care of every scrap of water we could scrape together.

I was not in the house at the time of the earthquake. My neighbour had come in to borrow some sugar & her little baby with her. We were admiring Moses, our cat, when he gave one howl & jumped clean out of my arms. I was just about to say "Look at Moses" when there came a great roaring & shaking ... & everything swayed. I clung to a bank & privet ..... which grows all down the steps & got bumped ..... great force against the bank. I am still shivering ..... All down that ..... Mrs Hall was sitting on our steps with the baby on her lap calling out "Mrs Burnett. This is the end. Where are you? Are you buried alive?"

Then I looked up & saw the Nurses' Home collapse like a pack of cards & heard

the dreadful screams of the nurses imprisoned. Then we managed to get to the road where the road seemed opening & shutting in front of our eyes. I did not know where to run - either for Babs or the children at school. My great fear was that the building would collapse on top of all of them, after seeing the Nurses' Home collapse. I felt anything might happen. I had decided to go to the school just when Mrs Blundell came up with Barbara yelling at top & bleeding from arm & knee. She & her little friend had been playing under a tank with 600 gallons of water in it When the quake came they all fell flat on their faces & then Mrs B looked up & saw the tank rocking & knew in a moment it would be over them

She crawled on her stomach & grabbed an arm of each & just as the tank came down on top of them. She did get badly cut about both legs & feet. Babs got a cut arm & leg which owing to being unable to get water & iodine to clean them they all turned septic & Pats also were the same. Monica had a bad place on her shoulder & I was bruised all over one side where I was banged against a hedge I clung to while the quake was on. It is all a ghastly nightmare. Our house left in Napier not knowing whether it is still up or whether it is down. Everything in the way of crockery jam etc smashed all over the floor. My poor ferns all over the floor & dead I expect. Books, toys, furniture everywhere & no one able to keep an eye on the things. Of course since we left there have been 2 or three nasty earthquakes & buildings have collapsed which were standing when we left.

Eric is still on his boat & he said they called at Napier but were not allowed ashore. There are men going about looting the houses which are left empty so I wonder will ours be left alone. There is not much of value in it except bedclothes & Eiderdowns etc & of course anyone can get away with those although they are doing their best to keep an eye on the houses left alone. Of course Eric locked up all the windows he could & doors & has the key so whoever gets in will have to break a window unless of course the earthquakes broke the house down further

Well Lily, I am glad I got your birthday present before the quake as I do not know when I will have any spare cash for some time. I may get help from the earthquake fund for the children need warm clothes for the winter coming on & I cannot get home to see to things. & no women & children allowed back to Napier until the earthquakes have ceased & drainage & water laid on. It was the fear of an epidemic which drove every one away - all those crowds of people in so small a space & no drainage etc. It was enough to bring on anything wasn't it!

Really Lily, sometimes I wonder why I seem to be the one in our family for all these sorts of excitements. I would not care for many such experiences altho, really, in a way it is only or very rarely that one has the opportunity of seeing the

waters of the sea roll away & leave dry land. Where we had been bathing only a week before was now dry land. It was awful & awesome. I cannot now realize how true it all is! One poor woman living in Vigor Brown St rushed in to get her crawling baby out of the bedroom & just saw a chest of drawers fall on it & it was dead when they got the drawers away. Then the poor woman rushed out to see to another who was at a store with a note for some things she had needed & got there in time to see them removing the verandah from the child who was still alive. She rushed up to the Hospital only to find that the Hospital was not & before she could find a Doctor the little one died. They made a little coffin & buried them themselves, together in one little grave. Poor poor parents, it makes ones blood run cold to even think of anything like it. Some people we knew quite well lost their young daughter & son in law. They were in a business House in Napier, she in the office & he behind the counter. They must have been buried under the buildings & got burnt to death if they were not killed. All the town was burnt out & half the Port Ahuriri, It was like Dante's Inferno to watch the fires as well as the ruins & hear explosions.

Well dears, you will get tired of all this horror. But thank God for his great mercy in sparing us all won't you.

Well, Lots of Love to you all

You Loving sister

Gertie



## GLADSTONE CHURCHES

(Contributed by Nola Jones Wairarapa Branch)

Religion was a very important part of our early ancestors lives and the settlers of Gladstone were no different. As early as 1843, at a meeting held in Wellington, a request was made that necessary steps be taken to render approachable and open for sale the district of the "Wydrop" (Wairarapa). Time passed and no progress had been made, so a number of Settlers eager to farm on the plains made their way into the valley and settled there.

In 1853 Governor Grey and Mr D. McLean made satisfactory arrangements with the natives for purchase of land in the South Wairarapa. Amongst the adventurous men was the founder of Gladstone, Mr Angus McMaster who in 1870 was largely responsible for the formation of the township. Sadly apart

from a cluster of buildings the township did not flourish, along with Alfredton, and some others, due to the proposed railway taking another route.

The early Settlers wanting a place of worship erected a small wooden Church in 1875. About 1888 it was felt they needed a larger Church, so the old building was gifted to the Maoris and in 1903 was removed to Hurunui-O-Rangi Pa where after little use, it eventually became derelict. Some years later the remains were shifted to Cole Street, Masterton and rebuilt, and is now being used by the Anglican Maori Pastorate.

The replacement for the first church was a picturesque roughcast construction gifted to the Presbyterian Church by Sir Walter Buchanan and dedicated in 1904. Again problems struck in the severe earthquake on 24th June 1942 when it was extensively damaged. The organ, pews and altar were removed to the District Hall and services held there until repairs could take place. World War II depleted the district of their men, as most served overseas, and it was not until 1955 that the present day timber church was built.

Gladstone District has always had a good relationship with the Maori people. Chief Hikoia, his wife and daughter, as a mark of respect and by their own request are buried in the same private cemetery at Tuhitarata, near Pirinoa, as Mr & Mrs Angus McMaster. What better testimony of a long and tried friendship of Maori and Pakeha. Today the Gladstone District has become popular for grape growing, and also olives are gaining an interest.

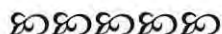
**Photographs:**

(1) The present day church (See front cover)



(2) Standing on the church steps when members of The Wairarapa Branch visited the Gladstone Church on Waitangi Day 2001 is from left: D. Henderson, Lesley Keil, Jean Stuart, Jean Gray, Maurice Watson, & Rosemary Christensen, photographed by Nola Jones. We were all very pleased to see the Church in such good care and being used regularly.

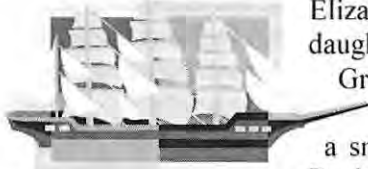
Recommended Reading: Gladstone, A History of Gladstone and surrounding Districts, by Kevin J. Fearon.





# The arrival of the Voller Family in NZ

(Contributed by Maurice Watson, Wairarapa Branch)



Elizabeth (31) and Abraham (32) Voller and their three daughters Elizabeth(13) Mary Ann (12) and Jane (7) left Gravesend on 27 July 1842 for Wellington and Nelson on the “Thomas Sparks” They came from a small brick making community Ore, near Hastings, England. The vessel had an eventful trip.

Extracts from “Pioneer Passengers” by June E Neals reads – *The voyage of the Thomas Sparks was a disgrace and emigrants on board were lucky to reach Nelson safely. On 3 October 1842 the ship was several miles off course. Undeterred Capt Sharp decided to sail into Capetown by night. At 9pm the barque struck Whale Rock off Penguin Island and water poured in. The pumps were manned all night and in the morning the badly damaged ship came off the rock and crept into Capetown for repairs. They stayed there until 4 December and the passengers spent the 2 months ashore. They finally arrived in Nelson on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1843.*

Shirley Turkington great great granddaughter of Elizabeth & Abraham discovered the original of the following handwritten receipt in the National Archives. It had been issued to Abraham Voller at the conclusion of the voyage by Capt Wakefield.

*Immigration Office*

*Nelson, March 3 1843.*

*I hereby certify that Abraham Voller, and George Miller, cook and cook's mate on board the “Thomas Sparks” have to the best of my knowledge and judgement faithfully discharged the duties of their office and are thereby entitled in terms of their appointment to receive in remuneration the sum of Six Pounds one & eight pence. Note Mrs Voller was appointed the female hospital mate during one month for which she is entitled to receive 10 shillings*

*Nelson March 4 1843. Received the above amount from Captain Wakefield for myself, George Miller and my wife  
Abraham Voller X mark.*

Extract from the “Nelson Examiner” 5 August 1843 *A list of the men who fought in the Wairau Massacre included the name Abraham Vollard. I have viewed the*

original report of the battle and the name and because of the way the reporter wrote, the name Voller has been mistaken for Vollard.

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## The story of Tapu on Rosewood (Contributed by Audrey Henderson, Sec Bay of Plenty Branch,)

*This snippet of history taken from notes written by Miriam Macgregor (Petticoat Pioneers) has always fascinated me. I trace my 'Founders' membership claim back to the Chamberlains and would be delighted to hear from any members who may also trace back to the same ancestors.*

From the 1860's until the 1870's the Hauhau rebels did their best to incite the local Maoris of various settlements to rise against the white people, and bands of them went roaming around the countryside with this purpose in view.

At Rosewood in Masterton, the Chamberlain women, by whom I mean Mrs E E Chamberlain and her mother-in-law, Mrs Thomas Chamberlain had formed the habit of taking food to elderly Maoris who had been put into little huts to die. This was in accordance with an ancient custom of the tribes. If a person died in the pa, the place became tapu, therefore an elderly person nearing death would be placed out in a small whare to finish their days. Very little food was given to

them as they were about to die in any case; but the sight of these poor souls was too much for the Chamberlain women and so food was taken to them. In many cases the sick person recovered.

When a band of Hauhaus neared Masterton for the purpose mentioned above, the local Maoris remembered the kindness shown to their old folk, so the local tohunga or priest put a tapu on the Rosewood Homestead.



### **Rosewood Homestead**

The Hauhaus would recognise this they declared and would keep away thus ensuring the safety of the people belonging to the homestead.

The tapu was on Rosewood for about ten years or more, until one morning the family arose to find several Maoris for the pa standing off at a discreet distance and watching the house. When asked if something was the matter, they explained

that one of heir number was inside and that he had gone mad otherwise he would not have gone into the tapu house. On investigation the man was found under Edward and Catherine's bed and had apparently been there all night. He had a weapon of sorts and they were afraid to approach him to get him out.

When the Maoris knew definitely he was there they sent for the tohunga from Papawai Pa at Greytown to come and officially lift the tapu. So that the locals could go in and get him out from under the bed.

*The story was given to Miriam Macgregor by her Aunt, Catherine Chamberlain, a daughter of Edmund E Chamberlain and verified by her sister, Adeline Macgregor, who was her mother-in-law. Miriam's all women cast one act play "Edward's House" is written around this story.*

Audrey Henderson, 10 Park Rd Rotorua.



## The sadness of war

(Contributed by Carolyn Johnston Rhodes, Auckland Branch)

My great uncle Private Gilbert Johnston of Auckland was aged thirty five, married with 5 children and serving in France with the Wellington Infantry when he sent this card to his mother dated 14 February 1917.

Part of the message reads *Dear Mum, I was looking in the window of one of the shops in the camp and I saw this PC. It is a nice one. I went and got three pence off someone and bought it t send to you.*

Sadly Gilbert's mother Sarah had died six months earlier in September 1916 and communications must have been so bad that her son still did not know. This makes the card and message all the more poignant.



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## ABSURD (GB) 1

(contributed by Jack Glengarry, Wanganui Branch.)



Absurd (Sundridge—Absurdity, by Melton)

1909 Horse By Sundridge- Absurdity, by Melton (from Jack Glengarry)

Speedy 1909 thoroughbred Absurd, a beautifully related English reject on the track and at stud, was to transfer to New Zealand where he achieved stardom as a champion sire. Bred by Mr. J B Joel, Absurd was a thoroughbred blueblood, who had failed to live up to his great heritage in the Old Country, but made

amends most emphatically when relocated in New Zealand.

Representing the great No 1g female tail line in the Bobinski notation, Absurd had not lived up to these delightful credentials and was put up for auction as a five-year-old in 1914.

A New Zealand grazier, Mr. George Moore Currie from the Koatanui Stud near Wanganui, was active breeding and selling thoroughbred stock especially in Sydney, Australia.

After a bountiful 1913 sale, Mr. Currie elected to import stock from Britain. Working through the British Bloodstock Agency, Mr. Currie obtained several quotes and elected to purchase Absurd.

There was some change left over from the transaction and he was able to purchase a young mare, the 1911 product Eulogy and the pair left for New Zealand by steamer. On reaching their new home, they traveled by rail to the rural railway siding at Kai Iwi, outside Wanganui and then walked for 19 miles to their new base at Koatanui.

Absurd and Eulogy had a superb breeding brief and gained ultimate stardom with their progeny. Eulogy was possibly the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most influential southern hemisphere broodmare with several outstanding gallopers being sired by her traveling companion Absurd.

The first Absurd youngsters hit the racetracks in 1919-1920 and were quickly making their presence felt. His freshman triumph was Humbug (ex Eulogy), who won six times, including the Great Northern Foal Stakes and Champagne Stakes at Ellerslie (Auckland).

Absurd was 24<sup>th</sup> on the New Zealand stallion premiership in his first season and climbed to third with two crops racing. With three batches, he annexed his first New Zealand premiership, a ranking he was to sustain five times in the next six seasons.

Till just after World War I the Koatanui Stud held its own yearling sales. The initial demand for Absurd stock was rather modest as the sire was considered vulnerable with his penchant to leave early comers. However, Absurd was to leave durable youngsters with a rugged racecourse determination and a flair to sustain form with age.

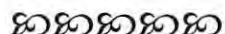
For instance juveniles like Mermin (ex Sea Elf, by Seaton Delaval) won eight times from nine appearances before being sold to Australia.

The Absurds developed remarkable sequences in prestige two-year-old races In the 1200m Great Northern Foal Stakes he produced Humbug (1919), Mermin (1920), Epitaph ( ex Eulogy) 1921, Tukia ( ex Tahua) 1922, Motley ( ex the Eulogy daughter Pennon) 1923 and Lysander ( ex Pennon ) 1925. The prestige Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes went to Absurd runners over five consecutive years through Absurdum, The Dunce (ex Graduate by Harrow), Tukia, Motley and Lady Cavendish, raced by the Currie neighbour and relative G F Moore of Bushy Park fame.

Many Absurd runners starred with age with Tamatete (ex Tahua) winning four 1200m Palmerston North Stakes renewals and Motley taking a fifth the following year. Tamatete won 24 from 46 appearances for Wanganui owner Mr. W McA Duncan

Thespian was a colourful Absurd representative surprisingly beating the champion Gloaming in the 1921 Islington Plate at Ellerslie. Had Thespian (ex Leta, by Ayr Laddie) not imposed, Gloaming would have gone on to win 28 consecutive races.

On the original voyage from England Absurd became unwell and a troublesome paralysis eventually led to his demise in 1921. With nine crops to race he had become a foremost speed source in New Zealand and Australia. Quite an amazing record for a “drop out” from the Old Country.



## The Gospel according to Captain Marsland (Contributed by Murray Moorehead, Taranaki Branch)

When it came to the important task of allocating place names to streets and geographical features in and around New Plymouth, Taranaki's founding fathers did what most people would agree was quite a reasonable job.

Although names of city streets which perpetuate the names of long dead directors, officers, sponsors and supporters of the Plymouth Company would mean little to most modern residents, they were still an important pointer to New Plymouth's origins and its 162-year-old links with Devon and Cornwall.

Of course, the names chosen by the founding fathers represented only a tiny dipping from a great pool of potential immortals, and there may have been some Company bigwigs back in England feeling a bit miffed that the likes of Buller, Pendarves, Leach, Courtney and Woolcombe were honoured in perpetuity while they, the Tuckwell's, Cookworthy's, Williams' etc were doomed only to live on as names in history books that are now scarcely opened.

Similarly those who arrived in one of the original Plymouth Company ships and were as proud of “their” ships as of their own British origins, must have felt something lacking in a system of street naming that honoured only the survey ship *Brougham* and borrowed half the name *William Bryan* to identify (as Mount Bryan) an obscure hummock on the edge of town.

In time – a time well beyond the life spans of all the original pioneers- four more of the Company's ships – *Timandra*, *Essex*, *Oriental* and *Blenheim* would appear

on New Plymouth street maps. But there was and still is one notable omission. The people who arrived on the *Amelia Thompson*, which most of them referred to as the most important of the Company's chartered vessels, must have wondered why, with so many landmarks around the settlement needing to be given some identification had in fact been named after a certain person whose acquaintances might have been counted on the left hand of a blind right handed cabbage shredder.

In 1915 a query was made by a reader of the *Taranaki Herald* about the origin of the name of Marsland Hill, a quite spectacularly dominant feature which forms the backdrop to most photographs of Old New Plymouth. And which from 1855 until near the end of the century housed the aerie-like military stockade and barracks.

Strangely, though the question was asked only 74 years after the hill had been given its name, the newspaper query elicited no answers from among its local readers. It was not until some months had passed that the editor had received a letter from a Captain Ashurst Marsland of Bournemouth, England providing what seems to have been gratefully accepted as the definitive origin of the hills name, even though some of the information offered was disputed.

When the first settlers arrived to found New Plymouth, the hill in question was designated by local Maori as Pukaka. It was then a distinctively peak-topped hill whose terraced sides pointed to an earlier role as a strongly defended pa site. Chief surveyor Frederick Carrington set the whole hill aside on his original maps as a town burial site, although, in the years that followed, the various churches preferred to establish their own separate cemeteries in various other parts of the town. In the end only the famous Charles Armitage Brown, the friend of John Keats and a great literary figure in his own right, came to be buried on Pukaka after his death in 1843.

In 1855 work began on the clearance of the vegetation and the levelling of the top of the hill to accommodate barracks for the housing of British troops. By that time not only had the hill lost all its physical beauty, but it also lost its lyrical Maori name.

According to Ashurst Marsland, in the latter part of 1841 the Plymouth Company's resident agent, Captain Liardet R N, approached Carrington's brother Octavius with a request that he be allowed the opportunity to honour the name of an old friend in England, John Marsland MP for Stockton in Cheshire. Liardet specifically requested that his friends name be bestowed on something that would be there in perpetuity. Carrington offered Pukaka and so, just as casually as that, the prominent feature became renamed Marsland Hill. Did any residents question that decision? Who knows?



**Marsland Hill c 1870**

(Puke Ariki photograph Ref. 2001.28 – reproduced with permission)

Ashurst Marsland claimed to have visited New Plymouth in person during the latter part of the 1860's as an officer of the 18<sup>th</sup> (Royal Irish) Regiment and to have actually housed for a time in the Marsland Hill Barracks. He did not say in his letter whether or not he was aware at that time of the family connection with the hill. If he was aware then it was equally strange that he did not make his connection known to the townspeople. If he was not aware then it is equally strange that neither he nor any local made the effort to question the coincidence. Had that happened all the head scratching of 1915 need not have taken place.

For what it's worth Ashurst Marsland's letter to the *Herald* contained information which at least one old town identity felt compelled to shoot down in flames in a follow-up letter to the editor. The discrepancies in time scales and interpretations of events in New Plymouth around that time were rather too great to have been attributed to the memory failures of an old man. Rather, they were more attributable to someone cobbling together a story from a mixture of hearsay and pure invention.

The refuting of so many details of Marsland's story did not elicit any further information from him, or from anyone else for that matter. Public interest in the story soon died away and rightly or wrongly, the story put forward by Ashurst Marsland was quietly allowed to become established as a statement of fact.

No corroboration was ever found of Liardet's alleged agreement with Octavius Carrington and neither has anyone come up with any alternative suggestions about the origin of the name. So for better or for worse, New Plymouth is stuck



with what is still a very prominent city landmark whose name remains something of a mystery?

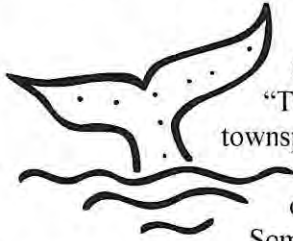
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## Death of a local hero

(Contributed by Murray Moorehead, Taranaki Branch)

What a thrill it would be for modern residents of New Plymouth to be able to stand at the waters edge and watch groups of migrating whales passing by close enough that they could almost literally see the “whites of their eyes”

Once upon a time, back in the years of New Plymouth’s infancy, passing whales were a common seasonal sight, enough of them coming close enough in to the beach to warrant two rival shore-based whaling companies, led respectively by Richard (Dicky) Barrett and Richard Brown.



Common sight though they may have been, the cry of “The whalers are putting out!” was enough to send townspeople rushing in droves to one of the coastal high points to watch the playing out of one of the most competitive business rivalries anywhere in the colony.

Sometimes if there was more than one whale passing within hunting range, the spirit of the competition lay in the respective captain’s ability to assess and go for the biggest whale. If there was only one, then it came down to a test of sheer physical oar-pulling strength and boatmanship.

The rivalry was fierce as it had to be. For the loser of the race, or for the crew that failed to achieve the kill, it could mean a long period of economic hardship until the next opportunity came along. It was only in the first year or two of settlement that the whalers who missed out one day could be reasonably assured of getting another chance within the next few days at least. After that the general decline of whale populations right around New Zealand became such that during the 1847 season just one whale, and a small one at that, came close enough to the New Plymouth shore to be caught – by Brown on this occasion.

That fact would have made the 1847 season memorable enough but history remembers it instead for the tragedy that drew down the curtain, not just on a

great business rivalry, but on an industry whose very existence in the initially exclusive hands of Barrett and John Love had been a factor in the decision on where to site the settlement of New Plymouth.

The season was well advanced and so starved were the townspeople of their favourite diversion of watching the whalers at work that when the cry of "Whale ho!" was heard one September day, there would hardly have been a single citizen who did not drop everything and join the scramble for the best vantage points.

Given the unthinkable financial outlook for the loser, this promised to be the greatest contest of all times. Adding to the spectacular interest on this occasion was the fact that the solitary dawdling whale was a big one that had chosen to disport himself unusually close to the shore.

Cheers were soon ringing out when, within a few minutes of launching, it became clear that Barrett's four boats with Barrett himself commanding the leading one were going to win the race. At the same moment there was sympathetic applause for Richard Brown who graciously pulled away to allow his rival an unobstructed field. Rivals they may have been, but the two were good friends and very fair competitors. As was the common practice on such occasions as this, the loser stood his boats off ready should he be asked, to help Barrett's men haul their catch to the beach.

For a time the battle with the whale went as others had gone before, the boats circling, jockeying for position, ready to lunge in as soon as an opportunity presented itself or the harpooners to drive their weapons home. The beginning of the end came quickly once one harpoon after another found its mark. Then it was the turn of Barrett himself, to whom fell the honour of delivering the coup-de-grace, using a small bladed lance with which to strike a blow to the heart by means of a physical thrust rather than the throw of the harpoons.

The cheering stopped as Barrett inched his boat ever closer to the heaving black body, seeking a clear view of the small vital target spot. An audible gasp went up each time the whale heaved, rolled or thrashed the water with its great tail, seeming always to miss the nimble little boat by a hair's breadth.

Suddenly the gasps gave way to a cry of anguish as in the blinking of an eye, Barrett's boatmanship skills failed him. This time as the massive tail rose and fell, his oarsmen were not quick enough to dodge out of the way. The tail crashed down across the boat which disappeared in a welter of churning water. It popped

up again a moment later, seemingly empty of crew, damaged but still able to float. Heads bobbed in the water, and then, one by one, the whalers were seen scrambling back into their boat.

There were sighs of sympathy as the watchers saw the crews of the other three boats cutting their quarry loose from the harpoon ropes while Barrett's own crew began nursing their listing and wallowing boat back to shore. The sighs became groans as the boat was dragged up onto the sand and those looking down from the high banks could see the inert figure of Dicky Barrett lying crumpled in the bottom.

He was lifted out, still alive but unconscious. A doctor examined him on the spot and could find no obvious signs of injury. Among the most anxious for Barrett was his friend Richard Brown. As soon as he was able to be moved, Brown had him carried to his own house which was nearby.

Just what happened to Barrett in that split second when the whale's tail came down right on top of his boat was never able to be ascertained given the scant medical facilities of the day. It was thought the butt end of an oar might have been rammed into his body inflicting some sort of internal injury. Whatever happened, Barrett was never the same again. He was described as being in what appeared to be a perpetual state of shock.

He never went to sea again. Although he was only 40 years of age, in the weeks following his accident he is said to have aged at an alarmingly accelerated rate until his death just five months later on 23 February 1848.



**A visit from Rangihaeata**  
**Contributed by Thea Still, Bay of Plenty Branch**

Resident Magistrates Court  
*(Port Nicholson)*

Transcript of copy of statement made by Andrew Brown 20 April 1847

Andrew Brown being sworn states I am a settler and reside at Kapiti in the district of Port Nicholson. On Sunday morning the 18<sup>th</sup> instant I was aroused out of my sleep by my son calling me by name. When I awoke I saw the native rebel Rangihaeata standing over me with a tomahawk. He told me that he had come with a "taua" to kill me and take everything I had. I told him he might as well kill me in bed at once, he bade me get up and dress myself, he said he had learned that I had a quantity of powder, and that he had come to take it away.

When I had dressed myself I locked the outer door of the house. There were a great number of natives outside my house. I should say between thirty and forty, all armed to the teeth. I went from my house to the store which is adjoining to it. Rangihaeata and the other natives followed me. I had a half cask of gunpowder in the store and a few canisters beside for my private use. There were three or four canisters in all, each containing about one pound. There must have been about fifty pounds of gunpowder in the cask.



Rangihaeata told his men to search everywhere for the powder "above ground and underground and in all directions." They ransacked my store and afterwards broke into my house and plundered it of every portable article. They carried away the whole of my bedding, clothing, provisions, and even to the cooking utensils. They also took away six muskets, three double-barrelled guns, a brace of pistols and four other pistols together with four bags of shot, each about twenty-eight pounds weight, a quantity of lead, some bullet moulds, and a sword. They left me only the clothes I stood up in and they carried everything belonging to my two sons. The quantity of general merchandise and of artifices (sic) tools in the greatest variety which were carried away I can scarcely estimate. They loaded one of my boats and their canoe with these articles and carried them away.

They broke up my other boat. They were unable to stow the whole of the plunder in the boat and canoe. They therefore threw many of the articles overboard and left more useless lumber on the beach. I heard Rangihaeata say "now we begun we intend going on". They left my place to visit "Jillet's Station" at Long Point on Kapiti; but were evidently alarmed at detection, as I afterwards learned they did not go there – after the boat and canoe rounded the Rock I saw no more of them.

About three hours after Rangihaeata and his men left my place, one of my boats with my eldest son in it came from Port Nicholson. I left Kapiti about 7 hours

after my son arrived and came to Port Nicholson to give information of this robbery. I had no knowledge or intimation of any kind of Rangihaeata and his men paying me a visit.

My youngest son had gone out a little before daylight on Sunday morning for the purpose of shooting rabbits. He saw the natives coming up from the beach; they hailed him and demanded his gun. He hesitated giving it up but was told by one of the natives that he had better give it up quickly or they would kill him. The whole body then came up to my house with my son.

I remembered having seen four natives at my place at Kapiti three or four days previous to Sunday last. They approached my house in a direction different to what I had ever seen natives come from since I have resided on Kapiti. I have lived there upwards of seven years. I have always been on friendly terms with the natives – especially Rangihaeata and Rauparaha.

Rangihaeata on going away with his party on Sunday last, shook hands with me. I upbraided him and his party for plundering me. They replied that they were poor and wanted the things, that they had no animosity towards me and that they wanted powder.

I had forgotten to say that during the time the natives were searching for the powder, one of them seized me by the arm and held up a billhook observing that he was about to kill me as I had gunpowder and would not give it up. There were nineteen pounds, seventeen or eighteen shillings in money among the articles stolen from me by these natives.

(signed) Andrew Brown

sworn before me this  
twentieth day of April 1847

(Signed) Henry St Hill R.M.

A true copy  
Robt. Cheeseman

(Editors note: The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography carries the following comment – ...*Te Rangihaeata and his followers eventually settled in a defensible position in the Porou-ta-whao swamp near the coast south of the Manawatu River. ... and in the next few years his people suffered from starvation and want. In 1847 he raided Kapiti Island but otherwise remained quiescent in his swampy retreat.*)

*Daughter*      *Matilda (Brown) Symons*

*Daughter*      *Gladys (Whiteman) Baigent*

*Daughter*      *Thea Jane (Baigent) Still*



## Unearthing the bell

(Contributed by Keith Seagar, Wellington Branch)

*Extract from the New Zealand Mail August 5, 1871.*

A great deal has been said about the casting of the bell for the Wellington Fire Brigades and although the work is such a one as would not create any great wonderment at home, still we consider it of sufficient importance to justify us in speaking of it as one of great interest to a community such as ours, where the manufacturing industries may be said to be now undergoing transition from the most primitive stages.

Mr Mill and Mr Seagar have each turned out many large contracts, but their efforts have hitherto been confined to the iron line; therefore, the casting of a bell of such dimensions was looked upon as an interesting trial, not only on account of the novelty of the piece of work to be cast, but principally on account of the difficulties to be overcome in the preparation of the metal, the difficulty of fusing the component parts of the alloy being a matter requiring the special knowledge and dexterity of an expert.

A great many persons claiming a knowledge of such matters were firm in the opinion that after the metals were put into the furnace, the tin would be found to have entirely evaporated and that when the bell was taken out of the mould it would be found to be composed entirely of copper. On Monday the bell was released from its sandy coating, and being freed of all feculence presented a handsome appearance. The doubts and prognostications of the "quid nuncs" have been entirely scattered to the winds for the shading of the metal shows how correct were the proportions employed and how successful has been their fusion.

As a small memento Mr Mills has preserved a piece of the metal of which the

bell is composed; it has been polished, and shows a closeness of grain equal to jeweller's silver. In shape the bell has exceedingly graceful form. Its dimensions are – across the mouth, 3ft; 2ft 4in height to the crown and 2ft 9in to the top of the chapters. The lettering on the bell has been done with a precision of form that could hardly be expected, the words encircling the top being "Founded in Wellington New Zealand by the Wellington Fire Brigades, 1871, About the centre stands out in bold letters the word "Fire" and on the other side the name of the founder "E.W.Mills, Fecit" About twelve hundredweight of metal was put into the furnace for the casting, but this was not all used, the weight of the bell being half a ton. The metal employed was the best copper obtainable, and the finest Cornish tin. The clapper with the fittings weighs about 21lbs., the striking knob weighing 14lbs. The successful accomplishment of the work carries with it a greater significance than at first sight may appear.

Mr Mills has demonstrated to the whole colony the ability of colonial foundries to perform work of which they have hitherto thought incapable. We make this assertion because when the City Council of Christchurch were endeavouring to do what has now been done in Wellington, the question was asked whether a good alarm bell could be cast, and the result was the sending home for a gong, which after the trouble and expense of importation, turned out to be a miserable failure, and after some squabbling with a contractor who supplied it, the gong was taken down and heard of no more.

Mr Mills had the tone of the bell tested yesterday afternoon in our presence, and of course there being no escape for the volume of sound emitted, the effect was deafening; the test was sufficient to assure us that when erected its clangour will be heard in all parts of the city, but we repeat our reminder that its position will go a long way in rendering its notes effective. Mr Mills should be proud of being the employer of a staff who possess among them artisans of sufficient skill to turn out such a finished piece of work. There will now be no necessity to send our money out of the colony for anything of the kind required to be done in the future, because we feel sure, from an inspection of Mr Mills appliances and the class of workman employed, he can turn out castings and all descriptions of foundry work quite equal to home establishments, unless of course where the work required is of unusually large proportions. But for the ordinary requirements of the colony it is a suicidal course to send money away when we have at our doors a workshop capable of performing all that we can require for many years to come. Then, as to cost. we cannot think there can be any saving effected by sending to Australia or England for ironwork; surely the charges for freight, packing and incidentals would quite out-balance whatever amount our local founders might be in advance of the first cost of the English article. We are

speaking in entire ignorance of actual prices, but what we wish to convey to our town, and particularly our country readers, is that unless the difference in cost between the Colonial and English article is very great, it is their positive duty to support our local manufacturers.

An official trial of the soundness and other qualities of the bell was made on Tuesday by the judges appointed by the brigades to test its efficiency. The bell being brought outside the foundry, a pair of shears was erected and the bell hoisted clear. Its tone was tested and was very satisfactory to the judges, Beyond some trifling alterations, the bell is now fit to be handed over to the brigades.

As confirmation of the powerful tone given out on Tuesday, the sound of the strokes given was easily heard some distance toward Karori, so we have little doubt as to its adaptability to the purpose for which it was cast.



E W Mills Bell



## Pendle Hill

**(Contributed by Rona Davidson, Hawkes Bay Branch)**

Samuel Fletcher arrived in New Zealand with his family in 1857 aged 17 years. They came from Lancashire, England and sailed out on the "Alma" as assisted immigrants of the Wellington Provincial Government. Samuel worked for a



while around Wellington but very soon made his way up to Hawkes Bay, where he became a "bullocky" eventually owning a third share of a bullock team. In 1862 he was able to purchase 40 acres of bush-covered high country land. In 1866 he went back to Wellington to marry Harriet Lomas whom he met on the trip out from England. They came back to Port Ahuriri by boat then overland by bullock wagon, using the river beds and tracks used by local Maoris as roads.

The first few weeks were spent camping in a whare on what is now known as "Evertree". Each day Harriet went with Sam until at last the track was cleared sufficiently to enable them to make their way to their own piece of land. It was mutual agreement that they named their property "Pendle Hill" as the contour bore such a resemblance to Pendle Hill in England.

They slept that first night on a bed of dry ferns under the wagon with the tarpaulin as shelter walls. The following day they made a makeshift hut and from there with two pair of hands, a wheelbarrow, some primitive tools and with a great deal of faith and courage set about building a cosy dwelling with thick earthen walls, a thatched roof, and a clay chimney. This was always referred to in the family as the "clay house". They planted what they could to give their home a feeling of the old country. The bulbs they planted have multiplied and spread and many folk picnic there each year among the flowers.

It was from the Maori women that Harriet learned which bark and lichens to use for dying wool and calico. She in turn showed them how to bake bread from the coarsely ground home grown wheat the early settlers used. This family became self sufficient and lived almost entirely off the land with pigeon, quail, plenty of fresh water eel and sometimes wild pork. Mutton was out of the question until their flock had increased. A house cow supplied them with butter, milk and cheese. As their family increased so did their needs and later a delivery service was made once a year by way of bullock wagon coming up the Waipawa River.



Harriet went to Wellington for the birth of their first child but their following twelve children were born at the Clay House and all reached adulthood. As time went by Samuel and Harriet increased their land holding. A site was chosen and plans were made to build a larger house. Sadly Samuel died before it was accomplished. The older Fletcher sons built the house some years later, utilising parts of the joinery from the Clay House. In 1926 Harriet died. The homestead and 148 acres passed into the hands of Sarah Douglas, nee Fletcher and for a number of years was a gathering place for family and friends. In 1930 a swing bridge was constructed across the Waipawa River to Pendle Hill, partly financed with money set aside by Harriet for that purpose.

In 1953 Sarah Douglas died and the homestead and land became the property of Lilian Baker, nee Douglas. It was used then by the family as a holiday place. In 1946 the descendents of Harriet and Samuel had a reunion at the homestead to celebrate 100 years of Pendle Hill. After Lilian died the house fell into great disrepair. In 1980 Ian Schaw and his sons purchased the homestead and acres, his wife being a daughter of Lilian Baker. In June 1990 the Schaws gifted the homestead to the Dept of Conservation as they were looking for a building of historic significance to use as their Field Centre Office at Onga Onga. The middle portion only was removed. In February 1999 Dennis and Doug Schaw, title holders of 148 acres decided to sell by public tender. For many family members it was unthinkable that this piece of land should be lost for ever and permission needed to visit the cemetery which was founded in 1866.

A public meeting was arranged at Onga Onga where interested parties were invited to contribute \$100 per name per person. Not enough money was raised however before the tender closed. Not to be deterred, the successful tenderer was approached and agreed to sell the land from the stand of totara behind the cemetery to the road front. This included the cairn paddock, site of the Clay House which is the very heart of the property.

When Samuel Fletcher set foot in New Zealand he owed the Provincial Government £17. When Samuel died he left behind a wife, six sons, six daughters and an unborn child. Their heritage of over a thousand acres of fully stocked freehold land accumulated by his and Harriets hard work and faith in each other.



**Members outing to Pendle Hill Cemetery, Onga Onga  
Hawkes Bay Oct 20, 2002.**



**Nanette Roberts and Nene Beres at the Hawkes Bay Winter Luncheon 8<sup>th</sup> June in Havelock North**

**OBITUARY: DONALD EDWARD HARPER**

It is with regret that we advise that Don HARPER, born 27<sup>th</sup> February 1915, died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2002, aged 87 years. Don was educated at Wellington College, Victoria University graduating BCA to add to his FRSA (London). He joined Founders 15<sup>th</sup> February 1971 and his accounting skills were utilised long-serving member of the Finance Committee from 1981-1996 and chaired the committee from 1982.

Don's principal Founder Ancestor was David BERGE, one of the early settlers in Upper Hutt. David Benge was born in Marding Beach, Kent, England, arrived with wife Sarah and three children on the Catherine Stewart Forbes in June 1841. After clearing land at Taita, severe flooding by Hutt River saw the family move to Mangaroa to establish a saw mill.

Don began work in the Government Audit Office which included three years in Western Samoa. He later became an accountant in Lower Hutt. He served in 2<sup>nd</sup> NZEF in Egypt, North Africa, Italy and Syria returning as Lt. Colonel. He has spent some years in local body politics, including the Hutt Valley Energy Board. Don was involved with various charities and communities: Past Pres. Rotary Club of Hutt and long-serving Pres. Hutt Valley Horticultural Society.

Don was awarded the Society's Life Membership and For Service Medallion, and in 1990 he was the recipient of a Hutt Civic Award. Don married Elizabeth Rothschild.



## THE WILTON FAMILY

(Compiled by Janet Robinson, Wellington Branch)

**This is an account story of an ordinary, hard-working family who arrived in New Zealand, cleared their land and in so doing made a significant contribution to the growth of Wellington and the Wairarapa.**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1841, Robert Wilton, stonemason of Montacute, Somerset, England, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Denman) arrived in Wellington aboard the 506 ton barque *Oriental*, a New Zealand Shipping Company vessel, captained by William Wilson and carrying 191 passengers. Eight of their ten children accompanied them on the journey – Elijah 14 years; Charles and William 11 years; Thomas 9 years; Job 7 years and Frances 1 year. Nun 18 years, and Ann 16 years, remained in England.

The family settled in Thorndon, Wellington, where Robert found work as a labourer. In 1855 Wellington experienced a major earthquake and the family camped in tents on the site of the Thorndon Church until it was safe to return home. Records show that Robert and son William fought in the Maori Wars. In 1865 Robert leased land to farm sheep at Ohiro, Wellington, where he lived until he died on 23 July 1869 aged 73 years. Elizabeth had at least four more children in Wellington, of which two died in infancy. Elizabeth died at home on 19 September 1851, aged 46 years.

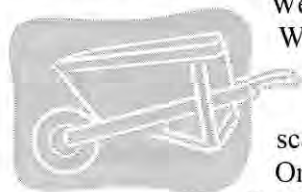
**Nun** was born 22 May 1822 and was the eldest son. He married Harriet Wilton on 5 September 1842. Nun, Harriet and eight children emigrated to New Zealand on the *Maori*, 799 tons with Captain Petheridge, arriving Wellington 13 August 1858. Nun originally took up land in Karori living in a two-storeyed house where the Karori Cemetery now stands. He later farmed land adjoining his brother Elijah's property in Morningson, Wellington. The combined properties, totalling about 300 acres, were sold to the South Wellington Land Company for a housing sub-division. In 1882 he is recorded as a farmer owning ten acres at Ohiro. Nun lived for some time in Berhampore and his original house was later incorporated into the Presbyterian Orphanage. Nun had a seedsman business on Lambton Quay for many years and was a well-known nurseryman in Britomart Street. He was one of the judges in the Horticultural Show on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1863. In his later years he resided at 48 Owen Street,.

Newtown, where he died on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1904 and is buried with his wife in the Karori Cemetery

**Elijah** was the third child and second son of Robert and Elizabeth, born 8 May 1826. Records show that in 1852 he had a butcher's shop on Lambton Quay. In the same year Elijah married Priscilla Ann Curtis on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Priscilla and Elijah had 15 children, eleven sons and four daughters.

Elijah became part-owner of the Galatea Hotel, which was sited on the corner of Hawkestone and Molesworth Streets. He continued with his butchery business until after 1865. Elijah bought land in Mornington for farming, where there was once a Wilton Road but this was later changed to avoid confusion with the existing Wilton Road in Wilton. Priscilla Crescent still remains in memory of this family. Elijah and his brother Nun sold their combined properties of 300 acres in Mornington to the South Wellington Land Company for a housing subdivision. Elijah also had land at Ohiro where he retired to sometime in the early 1870's. He is recorded as having 530 sheep in 1891 and 760 sheep in 1892 at Ohiro. Elijah died 25<sup>th</sup> April 1902, and Priscilla 24<sup>th</sup> March 1905, both are buried in Karori Cemetery.

**William** was the twin brother of Charles born 19 January 1829. William worked initially as a labourer then a plasterer and in 1855 is listed as living at Ohiro and later recorded as farming there. William also worked on building the Hutt Road. He apparently drove the first sheep through Masterton from East Cape to Wellington, and along with his father fought in the Maori Wars. He would tell of the time when he brought his provisions over the Rimutuka Range to Taratahi in a wheelbarrow when beef, mutton, butter, etc was scarce.



On 11 April 1853 William married Elizabeth Francis Burdett Jones, (daughter of Burdett Jones who arrived in Wellington on the *George Fyfe* in 1842) in Old St Paul's. (Elizabeth is the step-sister of Charles' wife Rosa Roberts.) William and Elizabeth moved to West Taratahi, Wairarapa, about 1862 where he took up 500 acres for farming.

William and Elizabeth had thirteen children – seven sons and six daughters, twelve of whom lived to be adults. William died 7 May 1902 and Elizabeth on 9 November 1919, both are buried in Masterton.

**Charles** born 19 January 1829, twin of William, is first mentioned in the 1852 Roberts in Old St Paul's on 11 May 1853, a month after his twin's marriage to

New Zealand Gazette as a butcher on Lambton Quay. The following year, 1853, he is recorded as a grocer with a household on Lambton Quay. He married Rosa Elizabeth Jones, step-sister of Rosa. Charles and Rosa had twelve children, six Sons and six daughters.

After the 1855 earthquake Charles, William and Thomas all moved to the Wairarapa. The 1872 electoral roll gives Charles' address as Taratahi West and the property is described as freehold – part section 202. The 1879-80 electoral roll shows Charles' address as Taratahi West and the property is described as freehold – part of acre 64. Charles died on 24 July 1912 and Rosa on 11 November 1904, both are buried in Masterton.

**Thomas** was the sixth child and fifth son, born 20 February 1832. Thomas is first mentioned as being a stock-keeper with a household at Hunters Farm, Ohiro. His father also leased land at Ohiro at this time. Thomas was one of the first to drive sheep around the coast from Wellington to Hawkes Bay. A hazardous journey on its own account but much more so when driving sheep and ensuring the sheep were not caught between the tides. At Porongahau there is a plaque in honour of “those brave people who suffered the hardships so the Hawkes Bay holdings could stock their properties with flocks of sheep”.



Thomas married Mary Bird, daughter of William and Elizabeth Bird who emigrated in 1842 on the *Clifton*, arriving Wellington on 18 January 1855. Thomas and Mary had ten children, four sons and six daughters. Thomas settled at Upper Plain, Masterton, where he had a carrying business. During the 1870's Thomas was the first storekeeper of Sykes Store at Fernridge, Wairarapa. Thomas died 21 September 1914 and Mary on 24 August 1895, both are buried in Masterton.

**Job** was the seventh child and sixth son born 4 October 1834. Initially he worked around his brother's farms. In 1861 Job sailed to Australia to pan for gold and found sufficient gold to have a wedding ring made in time for his wedding to Ellen Curtis, daughter of George and Priscilla Curtis who arrived at Petone on the *London* in 1840. Job and Ellen had eleven children, three daughters and eight sons.

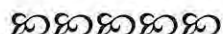
Job farmed at Flat Point Station, Wairarapa, prior to moving to Wilton's Bush, Wellington. He later purchased the following holdings in Wadestown,

Kaiwharawhara District. Wellington – 108 acres from Samuel Maxton on 17 August 1860, 20 acres from Joseph White on 18 January 1864, and a further 45 acres from R.D. Mangles on 28 November 1870

On taking possession of his land, Job located and cleared a site on which to build his first home of two rooms and in 1861 his wife and baby moved in. The timbers for the house were pit-sawn from trees felled on the site and still form an integral part of the home. In 1893 the house was enlarged to provide for the growing family. The land was steadily cleared and grassed to provide food for stock and vegetables for the family. Job cherished the bush and set aside 17 acres of bush alongside his homestead, enclosing it with fences to protect it from wandering stock and fern-gatherers. Job and the children regularly patrolled the bush. This stand of bush is the nucleus of today's "Wilton Bush." (now included in the Otari Scenic Reserve & Plant Museum)

In 1902 when Job retired from farming he formed the Wilton Estate to prepare the land for sale. Job died 23 November 1916 and Ellen in 1909, both are buried at Karori Cemetery. The farmhouse and remaining land were sold to Ellen's nephew, William Ernest Curtis and his wife Annie, and members of the Curtis family continue to live in the house at the present time.

I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Helen Waugh who made available to me an amazing amount of information on the Wilton family. I visited Helen at her home and was fortunate to be shown the parts of the original homestead and furniture incorporated in the house. There is also a dairy stall and cobblestone yard which have survived the passage of time.



### **TEN DAYS TO WOW THE VOTERS: A YOUNG FARMER STANDS FOR PARLIAMENT 1922 STYLE – SETON MONTGOMERIE**

In 1922 hill country farmers up the Parapara Road out of Wanganui were facing difficult times. They were getting very poor prices for their sheep and wool. In the story that follows I have gained information from my grandmother, Annie Montgomerie's diary and from the *Wanganui Chronicle*.

The family ran a 2,000 acre farm 24 miles out of Wanganui on steep papa country. There were two boys, Oswald and Seton, and by this time they had returned from service overseas in the Royal Flying Corps and were back home on the farm with their father Roger.

This gives the background to why a 24 year-old would be sufficiently moved to

stand for Parliament.

At that time the Reform Party, under leader William Massey, had been in power since 1912. The leader of the Liberal Opposition was Thomas Wilford. The Montgomerie family was very unhappy with the treatment the farmers were getting. In January 1922 Seton attended a farmers' meeting to talk about the producer's side. The wool returns that year were 'most unsatisfactory'. Again he addressed the farmers in May and June about the wool prices. That July a remit was passed at the sub-provincial section of the Farmers' Executive that he should speak on wool profits. Thomas Wilford had been in touch with Seton mid-year and he was asked to be the Liberal candidate for Rangitikei. For some reason, however, a Mr Burnett became the candidate until he stood down only ten days before the elections on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

This is where the story picks up pace – my father had ten days to make a big impact on the voters.

From Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, the whole family, including his two sisters, supported him by attending meetings in his bid for election.

On page 1 the *Wanganui Chronicle* reported that, "Rangitikei elected Mr H.S. Montgomerie as Liberal candidate."

*Annie's diary* says, "Seton's first speech was at Marton. Found Glenn and Brady at hotel who organised opposition against Seton, no one would take the chair, very rowdy meeting, but Seton scored against the dirty dogs." Here I must say that (Bill) Glenn was the Reform candidate (who also farmed on the Parapara) and Brady was the Labour candidate.



### SETON MONTGOMERIE

A newspaper front page advertisement for the meeting asked those interested to stay behind after the meeting and form a committee "in the time we have left". A meeting was held at Marton the next day and on 29<sup>th</sup> November there was a "good" meeting at the Wanganui East Town Hall.

*Quote from diary*, "Some opposition operating this morning over Seton's chairman. Mr Wilford rang up about mid-day and the mystery is explained. More Reform graft and intrigue. Tried Fred Allen for chairman, he obtained T.B. Williams. Mr Veitch (who was the Liberal candidate for Wanganui) also came and confirmed Seton as Liberal nominee. Good meeting and Seton squashed Brady and lot by reading telegram."



The *Wanganui Chronicle* gave a big report of the meeting at Wanganui East. The Mayor, Mr T.B. Williams presided. He said that the candidate was well-known to members of the community. The Montgomerie family had been known to him for many years and the candidate was the son of one of the oldest settlers in the district. Seton said he was a candidate at the eleventh hour and there was vigorous applause.

Mr Burnett had only decided to stand down on Saturday (it was then Wednesday). Seton said that seven years ago he went to war and no one said he was too young; now he wasn't too young to offer his services. He read a telegram from Mr Wilford to show he was the official candidate. Brady had sent a telegram questioning his candidacy and pointed out up till then the Montgomeries had been Reform supporters. Seton stated that there were lots of problems with maladministration. People were only receiving half the market values for products - they had a bad bargain. The Reform Party was part of vested interests. Massey had made no effort while on a recent trip to England to see about the price of products. Meanwhile New Zealanders were being fleeced in regard to prices.

Mr Veitch, the Liberal candidate for the Wanganui seat, spoke next.

*Item from diary dated 30<sup>th</sup> November:* "Meeting at Upokongaro. They tried to puzzle Seton with questions and got properly put down."

The next three days Seton spoke at meetings at Fordell, where they met in the schoolroom, at Kaitoke (only two men there) and Turakina and lastly Taihape where Oswald went with his brother.

*Diary entry,* "Apathy of Liberals was going to give Seton the hardest fight."

The *Wanganui Chronicle* reported on 5<sup>th</sup> December that Mr Glenn 'regretted exceedingly that Mr Montgomerie had come in to the fight at such a late hour. There was a rumour that Mr Glenn was behind his nomination but this was not so." (Sister Winifred and his Aunt Lizzie attended this meeting.)

Another paper report that day entitled, "Rangitikei Seat" said that the attendances had been large and there had been a surprising amount of interest in the candidate Mr Montgomerie. They have listened without interruption to the end and accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Had Mr Montgomerie been earlier in the field he would have had a good chance of election."

In the correspondence section on page 10, questions were put to Mr Montgomerie about people and their welfare and it showed he clearly believed in care for those in need.

*Diary* "Promised a rough house over the phone this morning. Seton had talks at East Town Workshops at mid-day, meeting at Durie Hill in the afternoon and

two meetings in Marton in the evening. The rough house was called off. We have good reason to think the Reformers were the instigators. Seton's meeting at Marton Junction was the largest held there this campaign. Very orderly and attentive audience."



*Diary for Election Day 7<sup>th</sup> December*, "Family went to Kakatahi to vote. Went to Marton to get results. Seton on list with 760 votes but some defeats are more honourable than

victory."

Footnote: Mr Glenn retained the seat by a thousand votes. The paper reported that "Mr Montgomerie made a plucky effort on behalf of the Liberal Party, but his late entry into the field obviously prevented any chance of success." One article said that Glenn claimed that the opposition wanted Bolshevik Rule.

*The diary tells us*, "Seton had a nice wire from Tom Wilford, it was said he did better than expected."

**Susanna Norris (Montgomerie) 20<sup>th</sup> September 2003**



## Acknowledgements

The Society's grateful thanks is extended to all our members from various branches who so willingly provided material and photographs for this 2003 Bulletin. Also thanks to Puke Ariki, New Plymouth for photograph on page 35. A special mention is made of the work done by the National Secretary, Janet Robinson and the editorial team of Barbara & Glen Robertson.

Thank you all.

## Storey locations

