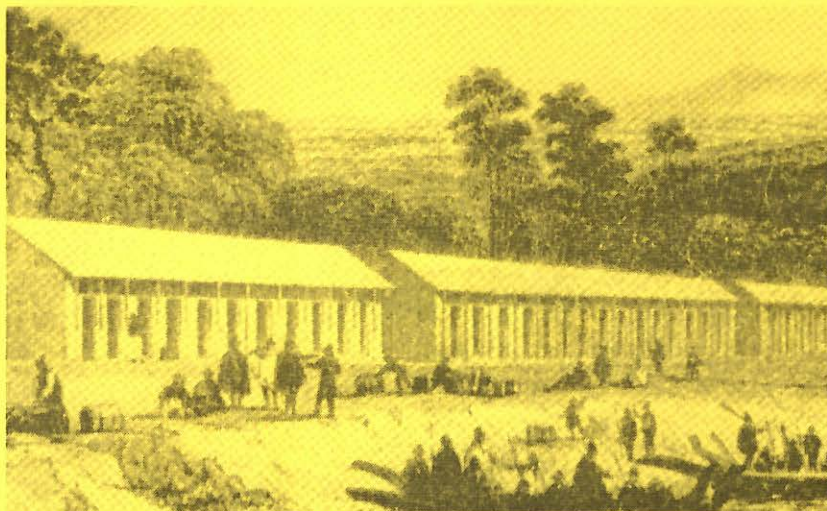




NZ Founders Society HB
PO Box 8556
Havelock North 4157

Bulletin

New Zealand Founders Society



The Ngamotu Beach Whares as depicted by an
over-imaginative
English newspaper

Number 76 - Report for Year 2004

ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR 2004

Covering Society Activities

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G.H. FOULDS
A USHERWOOD CRES
HASTINGS

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC
NATIONAL COUNCIL (AS FROM JUNE 2003)

National President

Mrs N. Beres

National Deputy President

Mr M. Watson

National Immediate Past President

Mr W.N. Sheat

National Councillors

Mr K. Seagar (National Executive)

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

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

Mr J. Matthieson (Bay of Plenty)

Mr J P Webster (Auckland)

Mr J McSweeney (Canterbury)

Mr Mel Harper (Taranaki)

Mrs L. Hyams, (Waikato)

Mr M. Watson (Wairarapa)

Mr J Glengarry (Wanganui)

Mrs B. Seymour (Wellington)

Branch Secretaries

Auckland

Mrs C Rhodes

193 Princes Street

Otahuhu, Auckland 6

Tel: 09/489-3760

Wanganui

Mrs S. Norris

10 Hillside Terrace

Wanganui

Tel: 06/348-8401

Canterbury

Mrs S. Ward

6/324 Stanmore Rd

Christchurch

Taranaki

Mr M Moorhead

12 Kauri Street

New Plymouth

Tel: 06/758-8387

Waikato

Mrs J Johansen

No 1 RD

Hamilton

Tel: 07/824-3775

Wairarapa

Mrs A. Woodley

43 Irons Street

Masterton

Tel 06/377-1524

Hawkes Bay

Mrs J Graham

Wai-iti Farms, RD1

Hastings.

Tel: 06/879-7951

Bay of Plenty

Mrs A Henderson

10 Park Rd

Rotorua

Tel: 07/348-1471

Wellington

Mrs J Robinson

PO Box 11-803

Wellington

Tel:04/472-4282

National Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs Janet Robinson,
email: nzfounders@paradise.net.nz

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

2004 has been a positive year in many ways for the Society. We have settled into our new premises, Level 2, Mibar Building, 85 Victoria Street, and have been heartened by approval from many sources. Our rooms are much more versatile, the Library has its own space apart from the meeting room, which is much more satisfactory, and we have a tiny kitchen making it possible to offer hospitality and host activities.

June is Heritage Month and for our contribution as a Heritage Organisation we are opening our Library to the general public on Tuesday mornings in June and will provide tea or coffee for droppers-in, hoping to encourage interest in and knowledge of the Society.

We live in an increasingly technological age and we must adapt or see Founders fade away as several kindred societies have already done. We now have a fax, thanks to the generosity of Jack Glengarry of the Wanganui Branch, and thanks to the efforts of Glen Robertson an email address plus Glen is working on a website for us. This will provide information about the Society and advertise us more widely. I still feel however, that any solid growth in membership must come from inside the ranks of Founders. Individually we are not doing enough to encourage members of our families and others we know are potential Founders to join us. As I wrote last year, if every Founder enlisted just one more person our membership would be in great shape, so I exhort all members to be proactive.

This year our Research Grant has been awarded to Ian Dougherty of Dunedin whose topic is The Vauxhall Gardens, Dunedin. It should give a very intriguing picture of a colourful chapter in New Zealand's history and we are looking forward to our publication copy. Our focus has imperceptibly changed in recent times. At the Wellington AGM, Doctor Bill Tramosch, Chief Executive Officer of the Historic Places Trust, spoke feelingly of Founders' work and influence in the setting-up of the Trust. It is now well established, as is the Nairn Street Cottage Museum, the purchase and furnishing of which was initiated by the Young Founders' Group. These were major projects brought to a successful conclusion. So what are our goals now? I see our future more as an important member of heritage societies, dedicated to preserving what our ancestors established, and keeping a watchful eye on attempts to erode or denigrate what we hold to be important. One has only to mention our flag, our National anthem, changed place names, the eradication of important memorials and our relationship to Great Britain, to know we have plenty of work ahead of us. In unity is strength and closer links with other heritage groups will give us a greater voice on issues.

I have been encouraged greatly by the vibrancy of our Branches. Last year visiting Wanganui and Hawkes Bay, and this year in New Plymouth, I attended a lunch and moving memorial service to Taranaki Founders and joined Wairarapa to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Masterton. While we have staunch people at the helm in our Branches, Founders will survive.

I would like to thank them all and our excellent Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work. My special appreciation and thanks must go to our secretary, Mrs Janet Robinson, who works consistently above and beyond the call of duty.

We also remember those of us who have passed away or resigned because of age or poor health.

Mention must be made of Mrs Ida Piper who recently died; she served as secretary of Taranaki Branch for 36 years. The rest of us will hopefully continue to sustain and maintain the Founders Creed.

MEMBERSHIP AT 31 MARCH 2004 STOOD AT:-

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Honorary	254	284	286	293
Life	57	53	50	44
Senior	751	733	693	609
Junior	4	2	6	6
Associate	80	76	71	60
Hon. For Service	22	23	21	22
Totals	1168	1171	1127	1034

Auckland	72	70	74	63
Bay of Plenty	148	151	147	140
Canterbury	49	50	52	53
Hawkes Bay	191	183	172	162
Poverty Bay	41	39	28	-
Taranaki	68	65	60	64
Waikato	103	102	90	82
Wairarapa	136	149	144	126
Wanganui	121	134	143	146
Wellington	239	228	217	198
Totals	1168	1171	1127	1034

Neni Beres
National President
June 2004

NATIONAL COUNCIL RETIREMENTS

Trevor Bright, Taranaki Branch, 1997-2004
Jack Glengarry, Wanganui Branch, 2001-2994
John Mathieson, Bay of Plenty Branch, 2001-2004

The National Council was sorry to lose Trevor, Jack and John who retired from their Branch Chairmanships and also the National Council in 2004. Trevor Bright has served on the Council for seven years, Jack Glengarry for three years and John Mathieson also for three years. All three gentlemen were actively involved and made valuable contributions to the National Council's debates.

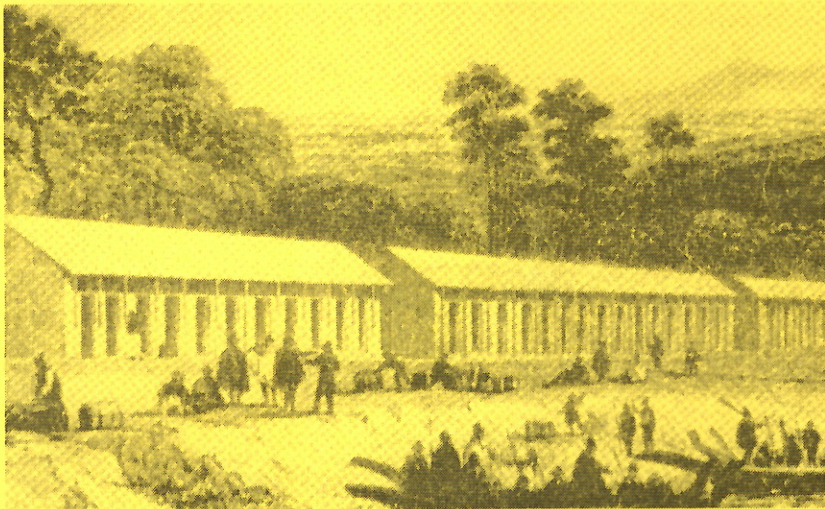
We thank them for their efforts and wish them well in their future endeavours. All have given years of service to their Branches and hopefully, will continue their interest and support.



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Pages 6-15 Financial statements

FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Name	Area	Ship	Date	Ancestor
AUCKLAND				
Mrs P.A. Hulse	Auckland	Endeavour	1824	Captain Ranulph DACRE
Mrs B.O. Verran	Auckland	Inchinnen	1852	James & Frances KELLY
	Auckland	Claramont	1863	John & Ann ISBISTER
	Auckland	Tyburnia	1863	William & Ann CHADWIN
	Auckland	Tyburnia	1863	William & Emma HUBAND
	Auckland	John Duncan	1864	Abel & Matilda WHITEHOUSE
BAY OF PLENTY				
Mr R.G. Burt	Petone	Bengal Merchant	1840	Alexander Robert YULE
Mrs F.H. Old	Auckland	Nelson	1865	James & Mary SMITH
	New Plym'th	Essex	1843	Richard & Jane OLD
Mrs F.I. Johnston	Wellington	Phoebe	1843	William Barton CORBETT
	Wellington	Tyne	1841	Simon & Susannah ROWE
Mrs G.E. Burt	Auckland	Hanover	1862	Joseph & Sophia WILKINS
Mrs B.J. Rowe	Lyttelton	Westminster	1856	Charles Basil MONTAGU
	Lyttelton	Caroline	1855	Christiana ELWOOD
		Agnes		
Mrs M.F. Bowater	Wellington	Clifton	1842	Henry & Martha LONDON
	Wellington	Birman	1841	John & Phoebe MONK
Mr R.I.B. Lusk	New Plym'th	Amelia	1841	Mr & Mrs James WEBSTER

		Thompson		
	Auckland	Thames	1849	Robert Baillie LUSK
	Bay of Isl'ds	Diana	1840	Captain William BUTLER
Mr J. Gemming	Associate			
CANTERBURY				
Mrs V.J. Allen	Akaroa	Compte de Paris	1840	Emery & Rose de MALMANCHE
	?	?	1856	William & Jane WARD
	Lyttelton	Regina	1859	Percival & Eliza PEARCE
	?	?	1861	Frederick LANE
	?	?	1863	Jane HOLLIDAY
Mr R.A. Allen	Lyttelton	Mersey	1862	Matthew & Jane ALLEN
	Lyttelton	Tiptree	1864	George READ
	?	?	1861	Daniel PANKHURST
	Lyttelton	Sir Edward Paget	1856	Samuel & Sara NEVILLE
	?	?	?	George CROCKETT
HAWKES BAY				
Mr D.H. Searle	Napier	Dundee Castle?	1824	John FARRELL
	Dunedin	?	1854	Joseph Henry SMALES
Mrs U.P. Searle	Associate			
Mrs E.G. Linyard	Lyttelton	Mary Ann	1859	John RODGERS
Mr B.G. Peploe	Nelson	Bolton	1842	James & Ann HARFORD
Mrs N. Reidy	Wellington	Bolton	1840	William & Anna HUNT
	Wellington	Lady Nugent	1841	Robert & Anne ROBINSON
	Wellington	Birman	1842	Andrew & Christy GILLESPIE
	Wellington	Alma	1857	Joseph & Sarah FLETCHER
Mrs P.E. Peploe	Associate			
Mr M. Reidy	Associate			
TARANAKI				
Mr R.G.S. Lea	Pt Chalmers	Gloucester	1858	Mary PARR
Mrs N.A.J. Lea	Pt Chalmers	Gloucester	1858	Mary PARR
Mrs H.M. Wicksteed	Pt Nicholson	London	1840	John Tylston & Emma WICKSTEED
Mr L.R. Silcock	Nelson	Sir Charles Forbes	1842	Simon Bonnet SILCOCK
	Nelson	Sir Charles Forbes	1842	William & Elizabeth FLOWER
Mrs E.M.J. Silcock	Pt Chalmers	Sevilla	1859	John & Margaret STRACHAN

WAIKATO

Mrs C.A. Smith	Auckland	Commodore Perry	1860	Samuel & Eliza KING
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WAIRARAPA:

Mr C.R. Tilson	Pt Nicholson	Slain's Castle	1841	John HODGE
Mr R.K. Smith	Lyttelton	Rebecca	1850	James & Janet JOHNSTONE

WANGANUI

Miss H.K. Ammundsen	Wellington	Rose of Sharon	1857	Edward & Mary CARTER
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Mrs I. Alexander	Pt Chalmers	Philip Laing	1848	Thomas ROBERTSON
Mr J.G. Richards	Pt Nicholson	Slains Castle	1841	Joseph Immanuel RICHARDS

Mrs M.G. Wall	Nelson	Clifford	1842	Thomas & Mary VERRY
	New Plym'th	Oriental	1841	Richard & Louisa LETHBRIDGE

Mr R.J. Wall	Pt Nicholson	Slains Castle	1852	Rev. David HOGG
Miss A.M. Cave	Wellington	Mandarin	1841	John Alexander GILLFILLAN

Mr M. Goldsbury	Petone	Duke of	1840	James & Mary Ann BRYANT
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Miss C. Gifford-Moore	Pt Chalmers	Roxburgh		
	Pt Chalmers	Chile	1864	James & Sophie LEES
		Celeano	1864	Charles GIFFORD-MOORE

	Lyttelton	Queen of the Mersey	1862	James Blackwood MOLES
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	Lyttelton	Greyhound	1866	Kate CAMPBELL
--	-----------	-----------	------	---------------

WELLINGTON

Mrs H.B. Klissock	Pt Chalmers	Thomas	1857	William STRACHAN
Miss V. Ellen	Lyttelton	Matoaka	1862	William & Susanna ELLEN

DEATH OF TARANAKI BRANCH STALWART

The New Zealand Founders Society and the Taranaki Branch in particular lost a tireless worker, mentor and valued member with the death of Mrs Ida Ethel Piper on 29 March this year at the good age of ninety-four.

Mrs Piper became the Taranaki Branch's secretary/treasurer in 1962, four years before becoming a member in her own right. She served the Society in that capacity for an impressive 31 years before retiring in April 1993. Her work was recognised with awards of Life Member of NZ Founders Society and a *For Service* badge.

Her initial application for Founders membership was based on her descent from John & Ann McCartney who arrived in Nelson in 1842 on the ship *New Zealand*. She later also included an earlier ancestor to her list of pioneer forebears – her grandfather, David McNeish who had settled in the Bay of Islands in the 1830's.

Following her retirement, and for the ensuing nine years, Mrs Piper maintained her close association with the Taranaki Branch as its elected Patron

AROUND THE BRANCHES

AUCKLAND BRANCH

2003 started with a picnic on the lawn of Kinder House, Parnell, in February. Carolyn Rhodes, Auckland Branch Secretary, retold the stories of an Italian Franciscan and French Marist priest in Victorian New Zealand, with particular points made about the Taranaki Wars at our March meeting.

At the April meeting Ralph Levinson displayed a large painting he had commissioned depicting the arrival of his ancestors, which made the painting very personal. Extensive research was carried out on the ship.

John Webster, Auckland Branch Chairman, talked about the life of Mary Ruddock, a children's clothing specialist at the May meeting. This talk was also delivered by John at the National AGM.

An amusing "Mad-Hatters-Tea-Party" was held in June.

In July tapes about historic Russell and Port Arthur in Tasmania were shown. A quiz to stir memories was enjoyed. Questions such as, "*Where were you when Hillary climbed Everest?*" brought many memories and interesting side issues. In September a video on the history of Onehunga received a good response and discussion as some members remembered the sites and events. Mr Graham Perkins told the October meeting about a Second World War secondment to the Marlborough Sounds and of the interaction

between the soldiers and citizens of Picton. (*A piece of "modern" history.*) The Christmas Party was held in December and well attended.

WAIKATO

BRANCH

As has been the custom, the Waikato Branch had six luncheons at the Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton, during the year. Our membership no longer sufficiently supports outings. Following on from the 2003 AGM in April, at which former MP and City Councillor, Grant Themes spoke, we had a 'Show and Tell' meeting in June which created a lot of interest with members showing family heirlooms and treasures as well as talking about them and their history. In August, Delcie Dodds, former Waikato Branch Chairman, and Huntly Court Registrar was our speaker. Mrs Geraldine Scott, Justice of the Peace, talked mainly about her court work at the October meeting. In November we enjoyed an excellent luncheon and entertainment from a barbershop quartet for our Christmas meeting.

Waikato Branch members were invited to join in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Waikato Historic Society which consisted of a Garden Party at historic Greenslade House on a beautiful, sunny day. This home is probably Hamilton's most well-known historic house with a distinctive tower that can be seen from the Waikato River. (*See later article*) At the February meeting the subject was Christmas holiday memories, traditions and highlights. In March two of the committee attended the Bay of Plenty Founders AGM lunch in Rotorua. At our AGM in April 2004, Don Fergusson was our guest speaker. He spoke about his cattle-breeding and showing, eventually becoming an international judge. Of great interest to the members was his association with the Queen and his work at Windsor.

TARANAKI BRANCH

Our year commenced on Sunday, 30 March (the 31st being Taranaki's Founding Day) with the annual commemorative luncheon. Thirty-three members enjoyed this meeting at the Braemar, with the guests being the speaker, David Harrop and Mrs Harrop, and the Rev. Des Turnbull.

Later in the afternoon the Rev. Turnbull gave a very pertinent and moving address to those assembled at the Pioneer Monument at Moturoa.



At New Plymouth Founders Memorial Service

At our AGM in April, the incumbent officers were all re-elected, with the addition of Mel Harper as Vice-Chairman. Murray and I represented the Branch at a lively June National Council Meeting in Wellington.

We had a good range of speakers for our monthly meetings from May to October. Len Jury's address on Taranaki's postal history in August was a very enlightening one, with members not being aware of such things as Taranaki having had more than 130 post offices, with their own post marks, over its more than 160 history.



While our finances are sound, we convey our thanks to the TSB Community Trust for their continuing support with another \$250 grant. We have earmarked \$1000, along with matching donations from Mr and Mrs Len Jury and several smaller donations from members, to be put towards a project associated with Puke Ariki. Our intention is to support a proposed listening post system which will inform visitors, by means of a recorded commentary and sound

effects, about the pioneer period of our history. Murray and Mel have formed a sub-committee to monitor progress. In late November members and associates enjoyed a Christmas social evening, with Graham Lea speaking on his family ancestry.

BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH

The AGM was held at the Armitage Hotel, Tauranga, followed by an interesting talk given by Judy and Winstone Hall. Judy traced her ancestors and family history from 1066 until her forebear arrived in NZ in 1836. Winstone traced his family back to 1671. His great-grandfather came to NZ in 1842.

In May a luncheon meeting at the Centra Hotel, Rotorua, was followed by a talk from Mr Jack Stafford who recounted many of his war experiences as a pilot during the second World War. An excellent turn out of 67 members attended the luncheon.



The Katikati RSA and Citizens Club was the venue for the July luncheon meeting. Mr Bill Cleghorn, Regional Councillor, gave a thought-provoking address about the responsibilities of the Regional Council and its effect on the environment in the Bay of Plenty for its ratepayers and residents.

In September the Whakatane Motor Inn hosted a luncheon meeting followed by an entertaining talk from Mr David Dowd about the way settlers, since their arrive in NZ, have always been quick to accept new technologies.

John Mathieson, National Councillor, spoke on the National President's Report and gave his evaluation of the conference.

Copies of the conference report and minutes were circulated to all Branch members.

The final luncheon for 2003 was held at the Te Puke Club and Ray Toohey gave an interesting talk from the early days to recent times in Weipa, the Gulf of Carpentaria and Northern Queensland.

In an effort to keep all members informed it was agreed to enclose a copy of the minutes of the previous meeting with the next meeting notice.

Changes to the Holiday Act could result in increased luncheon costs.

It was agreed to make time available for new and joining members to give a brief talk about the arrival of their forebears in New Zealand, if they wished.

From the report it seems the Branch regularly has an excellent attendance of its luncheons of approximately 60 members.

HAWKES BAY BRANCH

In March the 25th AGM was held at St Lukes Church, Te Mata Road, Havelock North, followed by a talk Jenny Campbell, Church Archivist.

The historic homestead, Duart House, Havelock North, was the venue for our AGM in March followed by an entertaining speaker "The Gnome Lady".

In May members enjoyed a trip to Dannevirke CHB which included morning tea at the "Gumboot Café" Otane, lunch at the Dannevirke Citizens and Services Club and a visit to the "Fantasy Cave (presented on TV by Jim Hickey).

The National President, Mrs Neni Beres, addressed the Winter Luncheon in June and was warmly received by a large attendance of members. Mrs Beres spoke on the past and present aspirations of the Society.

A visit to the historic homestead Oruawharo in Takapu was arranged in September. The present owners plan to restore the house to its former glory. *(See later article)*



Oruawharo Homestead

In November members visited the Hawkes Bay Motor Car Club, Bridge Pa, which recently celebrated its 50th Jubilee. Mrs Lily Baker, patron, gave an interesting talk about the club's history and activities. Members then visited Orlig Station, home of early farming pioneer Hector W.P. Smith, who founded Orlig in 1859. Mr Dick Paterson, owner of Orlig, gave a talk on the farm and members saw a display of early photographs. The afternoon concluded with a lovely afternoon tea at member Mrs Jan Graham's home. Founders' Day in February was celebrated by a mid-day meal followed by an interesting talk on Early Aerial Photography by Mr Hugh van Asch.

WAIRARAPA BRANCH

The AGM in March 2003 was held at the Masterton Art Club Gallery where Joan Snow gave an amusing talk on early childhood experiences, stirring memories in those present.

It was unfortunate to read in the Wairarapa Time-Age that "Wairarapa offers nothing on Waitangi Day" as stated by Mayor Bob Francis and MP Georgina Beyer. Wairarapa Branch always celebrates Waitangi Day, usually with an outing which is advertised in the newspaper and on radio, public included.

On Waitangi Day forty-plus Wairarapa Branch members and friends enjoyed a picnic day visiting Ian Douglas of Mangapakeha to view unusual cold mud pools on an earthquake fault running through his property. After a picnic lunch we journeyed to Abbotsford to visit Taueru, home of Mr & Mrs Bunny where we learned the history of the homestead and enjoyed the gardens and nursery. In earlier times this property was owned by A.P. Whatman, an early benefactor of Masterton.

The mid-winter luncheon was held at the South Wairarapa Working Men's Club where Mrs Cecile Stout gave an interesting insight on her work on the Enigma Code Machines during war-time England.

At our May meeting, Mrs Cameron with her great knowledge of antiques, provided an enjoyable afternoon as she appraised members' treasures.

In July Norma and husband Dr Ashworth, told of life in Oman and brought along some of the gifts presented to them after their tour of duty served there.



Members enjoyed the August outing to the "Pointon Collection" of vintage cars and clothes from yesteryear.

David Yerex gave a talk entitled "They came to Wydrop" at the September luncheon in The Masterton Club.

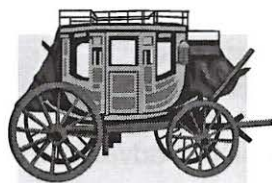
In October members enjoyed a fun day out visiting "Owlcatraz" and "Flaxville" in Shannon, the latter seeing many Wairarapa buildings preserved in miniature.

Allison Underhill's skills were demonstrated in her talk in November on early childhood clothing. Allison and husband Tom, have a small museum in Carterton, well worth a visit.

The Christmas luncheon was held in Solway Park owing to Lansdowne

House being closed for re-decoration.

WANGANUI BRANCH



In February retired newspaper executive Mr Alan Burnet told the meeting about the running of a newspaper organisation.

Members enjoyed a coach trip to Marton to visit St Stephen's Anglican Church hosted by the Rev. Wayne Bunny. The church was built in

1871 but the first Anglican service was held in 1863. Members then transferred to the Marton Club where Mr Paul Melody spoke on the busy beach traffic between Wellington and the Rangitikei River from 1849 onwards. The first arrivals travelled on foot but later wagons, packhorses and Cobb & Co. coaches were used. There were eleven rivers to cross which were hazardous at times.

The National President, Mrs Neni Beres, was the speaker at the AGM held in April. Mrs Beres lamented that so little NZ colonial history was taught in schools as too often New Zealanders "were woefully unaware of our past." She urged all Founders' members to take a higher profile in the community and strive to ensure our heritage was retained.

In May Mr Randal Springer told the meeting of the involvement the settlement had with the Imperial Troops stationed at Wanganui between 1846 and 1871, many of whose descendants reside in Wanganui today.

In June, Marion Donald, Ross Annabell and Susanna Norris described to members their six years of research, collating and

editing of the book *The Heart of the Parapara and Field's Track*. International cricket identity, Ian Colquhoun, gave Wanganui members an impromptu coaching demonstration on wicket-keeping at their monthly meeting in July. Ian was on the panel in The Tribute to Harry Cave with Harry's widow Mrs Vonnie Cave and Niv McDougall, Wanganui cricket statistician and historian.

Kerry Girdwood held her audience with an enthralling account of her very colourful forebear, Trisram Charles Sawyer Speedy at the August meeting.

The September meeting learned about Wanganui's soap-making industry which began in the early 1850's. Three generations of the Gilberd family

have been involved in the business.

Plans to lay a 1.5 metre track and run a restored tram as a tourist attraction were discussed by Rob Vinsen and Bill Graham at the October meeting. The cost of the project is about \$1.25 million.



The Christmas luncheon was held at the Racecourse Function Centre. Mrs Helen Gordon, a trained concert pianist, gave a recital which was enthusiastically received.

Meetings were well received by members with attendances of 50-60 members.

WELLINGTON BRANCH

In March we enjoyed lunch and a tour of the Robert Orr House and garden in Lower Hutt with its many interesting historical collections. A visit to the Wellington City Archives in April drew a large number of members.

In September the committee hosted a luncheon in our new premises in Mibar House, (previously known as The Racing Conference Building). Mr Bill Sheat talk on the refurbishing of the Embassy Theatre and I am sure he helped to attract the large turnout of members.

In December we joined the Early Settlers for a Christmas Luncheon. Thanks also go to Carol & Russell Hurst for donating a small stove for the kitchen.

During the year we had discussions with Mr Noel Christensen of the Botanical Gardens with a view to donating a bench seat along with a dedication plaque to be sited near the William Wakefield Grave in the Bolton Street Cemetery. However, the committee felt the cost of

approximately \$1,200.00 was too dear.

We have been advised by the Wellington City Council that they are hoping to have a project in the 2004/5 year to restore the William Wakefield Memorial at the Basic Reserve. Time will tell.

Because of his work commitments, Ray Greville will not be standing for committee this year, also Don and Margery Silver will not be seeking re-election. Mrs Beverly Seymour was elected chairman.



Wellington Branch AGM 2004 (Dr Bill Tramosch of NZ Historic Places Trust on left)

CANTERBURY-WESTLAND BRANCH

In April the AGM was held at the Garden Restaurant Shirley Lodge. The mid-year winter trip in June was to Tregetha House, Rangiora. This historic house, in the middle of town, is a quaint, compact home with small rooms and narrow stairs to the upper storey and still in use as a regular home.

The Dux de Lux Restaurant was the venue of the August luncheon. This restaurant is in the old Canterbury Student Building in the Arts Centre. Following lunch members visited the new Christchurch Art Gallery which one afternoon could not do justice to the artworks. A new-style printing font was commissioned for the exclusive use of the gallery which includes a distinctive swirl to each letter and has a

similarity to Maori art styles.

In October the members travelled to the Famous Grouse Hotel, Lincoln which was built in 1885. Following the luncheon the group toured historic Lipi Cottage built in 1875 for the local butcher's shop and family home. Again, a tiny and cramped home by modern standards. The cottage was moved to its present, but most appropriate site, in the early 1990's where it has been preserved in its original state as much as possible.

The Christmas lunch was held in the original caretaker's cottage in Christchurch Botanic Gardens; a distinguished and substantial house built in 1920. A large number of members, including two former chairmen, enjoyed the visit.

In February 2004 a ferry crossing on the Lyttelton Harbour for lunch at Godley House, proved an exhilarating outing. Members toured Godley House but the garden and visit to Margaret Stoddart cottage had to be abandoned.

The Branch arranged for a display at Avebury House during Heritage Week in October.

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Contributed by Audrey C. Henderson, Bay of Plenty Branch

It was my pleasure to travel to Hamilton on Saturday, 20th March 2004, to attend the annual conference of the NZ Federation of Historical Societies and represent NZ Founders Society. The conference was held in the beautiful historic Hockin House, Selwyn Road and was attended by delegates from historic societies and kindred bodies from as far south as Invercargill and to the north of Auckland. President, Robin Astridge, Q.S.M. was elected again as were the other officers, Vice-President Kenneth Stringer, Secretary Graham Watton, and Treasurer Noeline Shaw.

Delegates all presented a report of the activities of the Branch during the past year.

A South Island venue for the 2005 conference was suggested but it was decided to stay in the North Island next year with the probability of visiting the South Island in 2006 or 2007. The specific venue for

2005 will be organised by the Executive.

At the conclusion of the AGM Guest Speakers Greg Mason (a Planner) and Warwick Kellaway (Chairperson of the Waikato Branch of Historic Places Trust) spoke regarding Special Character Zones using Hayes Paddock, Hamilton as an example. We all had the opportunity to view this area later in the afternoon.

Most delegates attended the buffet meal, followed by the play "Hot Water" by Roger Hall at the Riverlea Theatre.

A Sunday morning visit to Robinson's Sports Museum, Matangi, proved an excellent finish to the activities.

CULTURE SHOCK FOR TARANAKI PIONEERS

By Murray Moorhead, Taranaki Branch

The artists of old have a lot to answer for, particularly those domiciled in England whose role in life it was to depict the colonial scene for the illustrated newspapers of the early 19th century. (see cover illustration)

Their depictions were often produced with the assistance of only minimum background information (if any at all), and with a full measure of the general ignorance, fertility of imagination and cavalier disregard for truth or accuracy that flourished so well in the Victoria era. The well-known (certainly in Taranaki) illustration, emanating from a London paper of the 1840s, purports to show the accommodations built by local Maori at the instigation of whaler, trader, and tribal member through marital ties, Richard "Dicky" Barrett, for the use of the Plymouth Company originals who landed at Moturoa from the ship *William Bryan* on 31st March 1841.

It is no reflection of the greatly admired building prowess of the Maori to suggest that the artist's rendering would have given the folks back home a bizarre view of what it was like to be an original arrival in Taranaki, or any other part of New Zealand.

Newspaper readers would never have known that, welcome though these huts at Moturoa were to the newcomers, they were certainly not the architecturally perfect and clearly commodious trio of neatly matched buildings dreamed up by the artist. The huts would have been the simplest of raupo shelters, too small and too few in number to accommodate even the women and children, who found them-

selves packed in so tightly that most found sleeping almost impossible.

Neither was there anything in the drawing to suggest the lot of the menfolk. They had to sleep on the beach, finding what shelter they could under upturned boats and sails draped over poles.

No drawing could even hint at the amount of tears that were shed during the first night on New Zealand soil as culture shock began to set in. For the first time since leaving England the emigrants now began to realise just how irrevocably committed they were to begin living the rest of their lives in a land that offered nothing in the way of the comforts of civilisation that had always been taken so much for granted, even in their most deprived circumstances, back in the old country.

It is not difficult to imagine that had the weather not been so benignly fine and warm at that critical time, there might well have been a mass re-occupation of the familiar and comfortable cabins of the *William Bryan*, and perhaps even a pioneers' revolt in favour of being taken somewhere else other than this savage spot.

As it turned out, Barrett's beach whares were to serve as home and shelter for the women and children for nearly a week, a period of time during which there was such a lack of privacy that few felt even able to change out of the clothes in which they had left their ship.

The accommodation woes were exacerbated by the fact that the town sections that the migrants had been promised were not available for anyone to begin building immediately. Indeed, there were few among them who would even have considered the fact, despite the knowledge that they were coming to settle in a new land, that there was not going to be a civilised community of some sort ready to receive them.

True, the Company's surveyors, who had preceded them by nearly eleven weeks to begin laying-out the town site some three kilometres away from the pioneers' landing spot, were quite a bit behind in their work, but even had they been right up to schedule, the discovery by the new arrivals that their town layout was nothing more than a few lines cut through the sea of fern and long grass would still have resulted in a mighty coming-down-to-earth for most of them.

However, for all the difficulties that had been encountered by the surveyors – not least some problems with local Maori over their realisation of what "ownership" of the land by Europeans actually

meant – the pioneers were not kept waiting too long at Moturoa. On 6th April the allocation began of 33 small sections in the town area known as Devonport which were to be made available to all newcomers for a maximum period of two years at a rental of sixpence per year. There they could erect such temporary accommodation, as their personal means would allow, to see them through until (in the case of land-owning migrants) the settlement's urban and rural sections were ready to be selected by ballot.

Unlike some later arrivals, none of the original settlers had been able to bring with them the immediate means of setting-up a house. Even the luxury of a tent was only for the privileged few. For the majority their first home at Devonport was yet another Maori-type whare, differing only from the accommodation at Moturoa in that they did not have to share it with anyone else.

Those able to get their whare built by one of the local Maori would have found it as dry and as comfortable as any such dwelling could possibly be. Those who could not afford to give away even the smallest item from their meagre possessions to pay for a hut to be built would, in most cases, soon have found themselves longing desperately for one of those Moturoa huts over which so many despairing tears had been shed at the outset.

The first rains and cool autumn breezes sound found out the amateur builders and mocked their feeble child's-play attempts to have done what their native hosts could achieve with perfection in a matter of a few hours. Responding to the draughts and leaks by simply piling on more thatch only increased the inevitability of a midnight or mid-storm collapse.

Even those who had quickly overcome their initial feelings of dismay and consoled themselves with the knowledge that once they had their permanent section they could soon look forward to having a proper house built, still had a few more lessons to learn of the facts-of-life pioneering in an untamed land.

Builders and sawyers were few in number, and had no chance of meeting, let alone keeping up with, the demands on their skills. The immediate construction of private dwellings was not even on the list of priorities. Their initial – and mandatory – employment was in the building of the necessary Plymouth Company facilities. Besides that, the bushline was a good kilometre inland from the beach at its nearest point, and up to ten kilometres at the most, and anyone seeking timber would still have to venture some distance further into

the bush to find the best trees. Then it would take time to fell the trees and saw them up, and even more time to season the sawn timber enough for it to be used in anything other than temporary structural work. In other words, the appearance of anything like a reasonably permanent building in New Plymouth was months away. For most people, living at Devonport meant many months of a comparatively primitive and uncomfortable existence that would not have suggested itself even in their worst pre-emigration night-mares. It meant having to cook outside their tent or dangerously combustible whare no matter what the weather. It meant having to spend hour after hour plugging leaks when the rain fell and replacing raupo thatch when the wind blew. It meant learning to live with the ever-increasing numbers of fleas and rats that their presence began attracting from the very outset. Above all, it meant trying to maintain some semblance of family life in a dwelling that would probably been not even as big as the average modern single-car garage.

One New Plymouth settler, Richard Chilman, left a description of his first accommodation built for him and his wife by a local Maori, and Chilman was one of the better-off.

Chilman didn't say what it cost him, but he did intimate that the job was done by a single whare builder rather than by a certain enterprising group of Maori who were making quite a tidy living out of providing houses for harassed settlers. This particular group, described by Chilman as being from the Waikato (although what any Waikato would have been doing living and working in the midst of their deadliest enemies is hard to imagine), built houses on speculation, charging for an adjoining pair, a cost amounting to six pairs of blankets, a shotgun, six shirts, three caps, two pairs of trousers, a cloak some iron pots and assorted pieces of cloth.

What Chilman got for his outlay was a basic single-room raupo hut. He provided all the improvements himself, firstly by covering the doors and window openings with bed sheets for privacy and some protection from the weather, and then adding some inside partitions and a chimney. He wrote:

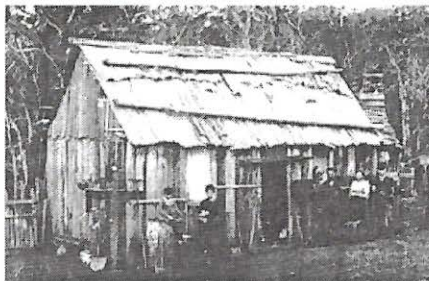
“The partitions are composed of the same materials as the sides of the house, that is, upright poles with small ones across, and covered with bulrushes. The chimney is made with supplejacks which are laced through upright poles, and is then plastered over with clay. We shall be exceedingly glad when we are able to have a fire inside the house, for we

have had a great deal of rain lately, and it has been a great nuisance having to cook in the open air."

Inconvenient though they were, for the 'William Bryanites' those initial raupo dwellings had to last for a much longer period than any would have imagined. It was not until 4th October, six months and one week after the arrival of that first ship, that the first land ballot was held, but then only for 50-acre suburban sections. These were of no interest to the small-time settlers and urban tradesmen who wanted only an ordinary little town section so they could begin building more permanent homes and business premises.

It was another six weeks (15th November) before the first draws were held for town sections.

But having a section might still not mean being able to obtain instant housing. The limited amount of timber that had been cut and prepared over the first winter was nowhere near enough to meet the demands of a population that had by now almost quadrupled with the arrivals of the *Amelia Thompson* on 3rd September and the *Oriental* on 7th November.



Only those who had some official status or who had a bankroll, could afford to buy the best of the available timber. Those at the bottom of the pecking order had to settle for bark slabs – if they could get them. If there were no slabs available, or if they couldn't afford to buy even those, a settlement had to be made on ponga logs for a first "permanent" home.

For many it would be a year or two before they were in a position to be able to rebuild in properly cured timber, to replace raupo with shingles, to cover mud floors with boards, and to fit proper doors, windows and shutters.

However, those living in town were to prove reasonably well off compared to farmers who moved straight from Devonport onto their first rural sections. The farmer's first accommodation would have to be another hastily built whare or tent, just enough to keep the rain out while he carried out the even more vitally important tasks of establishing a farm. After all, a planting season wouldn't wait and neither could livestock be kept standing around in uncut and unfenced fern while their owner spent time building a house!

But those were only the least of their worries. History tells us that hardly had this work got under way than Governor FitzRoy made his dramatic decision in 1844 to take back New Plymouth's rural blocks and return them to the Maori. For those so rudely dispossessed, it meant having to go back to town to lease a section or rent a vacated hut until the repurchase of the lost lands was able to get underway in 1847.

By 1860 New Plymouth's farming community was thriving and being paid back handsomely for the years of heartbreak and hard work. The original rural dwellers were now all living in substantial, properly-built houses and many were beginning to think in terms of their retirement and of passing those hard-won farms on to their children. That was when the war broke out. All the outlying districts of Bell Block, Omata, Mangorei, Hurworth and Tataraimaka were abandoned. Almost every farmhouse was put to the torch. Seedstocks, orchards, prized lines of livestock, wells, fences, farm machinery – the products of a decade and a half of expenditure in literal blood, sweat and tears were lost. Even some houses in what are now some of New Plymouth's inner suburbs were destroyed.

It was not until 1866 that the country dwellers were able to return their devastated farms to begin the task of restoring Taranaki's rural productivity.

JAMES AND JANE CLIMO, PLYMOUTH COMPANY ORIGINALS

By Murray Moorhead, Taranaki Branch

In his 1997 book, *“What Devon and Cornwall Did For the World”*, Plymouth journalist Reg Scott noted that some 415,000 emigrants sailed from the port of Plymouth during the 50-year period from 1840 to 1890. Roughly 26,000 went to Canada, 19,000 to South Africa, 3,000 (a very rough figure) to America, and 362,000 to Australia and New Zealand.

Not all of the 415,000 who left from Plymouth came from the south-western part of England, but a large percentage of them did. As the book

says, *“the West Country people have always been amongst the most migration prone people in Britain”*. Scott offers some food for thought about what this trend must have meant to what was

otherwise a deep-rooted, closely-knit and fiercely parochial population. On a March day in 1832 about 60 people left Appledore for New York and on another day in the 1840s, no fewer than 300 people left the Cornish town of St Just bound for the Antipodes!

A "name-dropper" could quote endlessly from lists of people with Devon and Cornwall roots who have featured in the modern halls of fame of every imaginable sphere of achievement, including Sir Robert Menzies, Governor William Hobson, Daniel Boone, Scott of the Antarctic, Elizabeth Arden and, of course, most of the great Sea Dogs of old, such as Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher and Cabot. However, it is the unheralded and largely unrecorded marks made on the world by the ordinary men and women emigrants from Devon and Cornwall that are of the greatest importance, particularly in places where they were the predominant settlers.

None of that region's rich and famous came to settle in Taranaki under the auspices of the Plymouth Company. The Company's pioneers were the most ordinary of the south-west country men and women whose only great attributes were the courage and confidence to replant a little bit of the Old Country in a strange new land.

Among the 160-odd people who first set foot on Taranaki soil on 31 March 1841 from the first of the company's six passenger ships, the *William Bryan*, were James and Jane Climo, aged 19 and 18 respectively, from Bodmin in Cornwall. The couple had married (Jane's maiden name was Phillips) just three weeks before their departure from Plymouth. James was a farm labourer whose future prospects had been all but eclipsed by the effects of the Industrial Revolution on the cottage industries that were so vital to Bodmin's existence, and which, in turn, had an equally dismal effect on those whose existence depended on Bodmin's viability as their market town.

Like most of the earliest settlers, James found employment with the Plymouth Company while awaiting his allocation of land. He worked as a chainman for the surveyors.

Survey compass

However, by late 1842, still not having received any land, and with 1,000 more settlers having arrived in the meantime, all wanting their share of the settlement's fast diminishing employment opportunities, James and Jane set out to walk the 150 miles to Kawhia in search of work. With them went their daughter Elizabeth - born on 15

November 1841, the first white child born in New Plymouth – who was carried most of the way on James' broad shoulders.

It was a bold journey, largely into the unknown, but greatly facilitated by the hospitality extended to them everywhere by local Maori. It helped immeasurably that James had already taken the trouble to make himself fluent in their language.

Work at Kawhia tided them over until 1852 when, their family now extended to three boys and two girls, they were at last able to take up their own piece of leasehold land – 223 bush-covered acres at Tataraimaka on Timaru Road.

By February 1860, after eight years of hard work by all the family and, early on, living in the roughest of conditions, the family had finally achieved their goal and established a successful self-supporting farm. They now had seven children. James had built his own house and barn. He had a horse and cart, three dairy cows, 10 young cattle, a flock of 96 sheep, some pigs and some chickens. He had 145 acres fenced and in grass, two acres each in turnips, potatoes and barley and three acres each in wheat and oats.

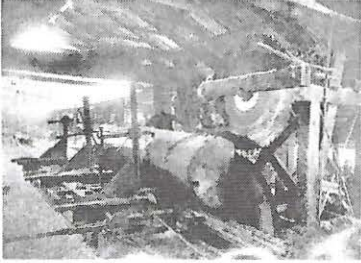
Then, disaster! The Land Wars broke out in March. The Climos, along with every other farm family from outside the New Plymouth urban environs, had to leave everything and seek shelter in the town.

James, as a member of the Taranaki Rifle Volunteer Corps, undertook full-time garrison duties. On 28th March 1860 the Corps sealed its place in military history by going into battle at Waireka, just outside New Plymouth, alongside the local militia and detachments of the 65th Regiment and sailors from the HMS Niger. For James Climo, Waireka meant more than just a battle honour to be shared with almost idolatrous pride by those who fought there, he was one of eight local men who were wounded in action. (A marine and a militia sergeant were killed.)

Those were just the beginnings of the family's misfortunes. Over the coming months, almost every outlying farmhouse was put to the torch. Tataraimaka was swept clean. Every house there was destroyed; even worse was the loss through looting or wanton destruction, of all their carefully husbanded livestock, their farm machinery, household possessions, seed stocks and mature fruit trees. Years later James Climo received his New Zealand War Medal and the princely sum of 30 pounds from the Crown by way of

compensation for his losses! Yet it was not even those devastating property losses that marked the nadir of the Climos' despair.

Wartime evacuations brought excessive overcrowding to New Plymouth, and with that came wave after wave of virulent epidemics which took a heavy toll, particularly among the young. An early victim was 14-months-old Ellen Climo. Jane and the remaining six children were evacuated to Nelson along with hundreds of other non-combatants. James had to stay behind until his wound had healed sufficiently for him to be able to join them.



After the wars James took up bush work, involving the felling and pit-sawing of timber, and taking on milling contracts in Taranaki and the Gisborne area. Jane died at Inglewood on 1 July 1884 after having lived in a succession of timber mill villages. James moved to Havelock in Marlborough where some

of his family was living, and where, in June 1885, he married Amelia Russell. James remained active in the sawmilling business until he was well into his eighties. In 1908, at the age of 88, and three years before his death, he recounted his experiences since arriving in New Zealand to the *Marlborough Express*.

One of his children, Samuel Samson Climo (born New Plymouth in 1854 and died Blenheim 1914) was the Great, Grandfather of just-retired Taranaki Branch president Trevor Bright. Samuel married Johanna Gallagher at Gisborne in 1879. They had eight children, one of whom, Mary Jane married Henry James Bright. Samuel followed in his father's footsteps into the milling business. Sawmilling cost him a leg, lost below the knee in an accident. He whittled and fitted his own peg-leg (no ACC or Social Security in those days!) which he used with such dexterity and versatility that it became an object of considerable mirth and wonder in his community.

The descendants of James and Jane Climo remain intensely proud of their Cornish roots about which they are all very much aware. Thanks to a 1975 issue of the journal "*Malrhogi en Clem*" which told the store of the "*Children of Clem (or Climo)*" they are able to trace their ancestors in Cornwall back through 14 generations to about 1535.