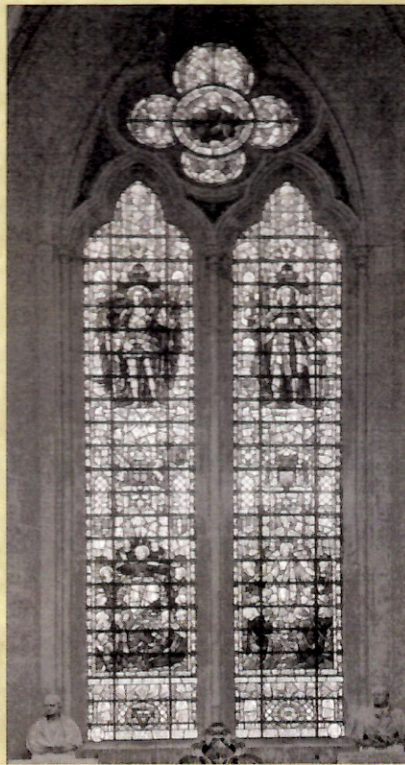


NZ Founders Society HB
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BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



Westminster Abbey Window

NUMBER 85 – REPORT FOR YEAR 2013

Pages 22 - 31 Financial Statements and Reports

FOUNDERS SOCIETY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS DURING 2013 AGM

In 2013 the New-Zealand Founders Society celebrated their 75th anniversary during the societies AGM on Monday 24th June held at the Services and Citizens Club, Essex St, Masterton. Delegates and members representing all North Island branches attended.

After lunch local Wairarapa archivist Gareth Winter spoke on the untold stories families can discover while researching their own origins. Members present then elected Waikato President Adrian Gover for the next term of office, replacing longtime Executive member and current retiring President, Glen Robertson.

Pictured is the 75th anniversary cake decorated in the Founders Society colours kindly presented to the members, by Bay of Plenty secretary, Audrey Henderson. Our thanks to Audrey and husband Ian, plus all those who travelled long distances to be with us.



Glen Robertson cutting the cake



Nanette Roberts

At the Societies AGM this year, Audrey & Ian Henderson donated a trophy to be awarded to the branch who had achieved the greatest membership growth during the year. This was awarded to the Hawkes Bay Branch and their Chairman, Nanette Roberts is shown here holding the trophy.

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Obituary

Delcie Charlotte Elizabeth Dodds (nee Codlin)

Founders No 6425

Born 18 April 1918 Died 6 July 2012 aged 94 Years

Delcie was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Founders Society, Waikato Branch in April 2012, for her outstanding contribution to the Branch. Delcie joined Founders on 18 July 1988 and was a very active member - she spent 19 years on the Committee with 1 year as Deputy Chairwoman in 1992 and 3 years as Chairwoman from 1995 to 1998. Delcie retired from the committee in April 2012.

Delcie was a sixth generation New Zealander - her Great-Great Great-Grandfather, John Leaf arrived in Hokianga in 1834 on the 'Brazille Packet' Delcie's Husband, Bill passed away in 1953 aged 42 years leaving Delcie as a widow with a daughter, at only 35 years of age. Delcie rejoined the work force as a Clerk at the Huntly Magistrates Court working her way up to Deputy Registrar. Delcie retired at the age of 65 in 1983. On the last day of her work at the Courthouse, Delcie registered the birth of her first Great-Grandchild.

Delcie was extremely proud and fond of her family and is survived by her Daughter, 3 Grandchildren, 4 Great-Grandchildren and 5 Great-Great Grandchildren. Delcies Great-Great Grandchildren are 10th Generation New Zealanders.

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Introduction to the 1960's.

These extracts come from the Founders Bulletins of the 1960s. The Bulletin, at this time, was produced quarto size, as a seven page issue, from early 1960 to February 1965. However, from the issue of July, 1965, it received a facelift in size and layout, decreasing in size to become almost the same size as our present issues, which resulted in extra pages for subsequent issues. It was also was issued three times a year. As with the previous "Turning Back the Pages"(Bulletin Number 83, 2011) of the 1950 Bulletins, some extracts may appear very dated, so again, adjust your reception to them and remember what those days were like.

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No.19, May 1960.

Colenso's Mission Bell is again heard at Waitangi, Hawke's Bay : The notes of William Colenso's century-old bell sent seabirds wheeling and brought memories crowding for 200 people gathered on the sunlit foreshore at Waitangi (Hawke's Bay), on the morning of November 15th. A memorial to the early Hawke's Bay settler, teacher, scholar and printer was unveiled by the Bishop of Waiapu, the Rt. Rev. N.A.Lesser. On this Waitangi site, five miles south-east of Napier, Colenso established his mission in 1844. ... [he] was New Zealand's first trained printer...[coming] to the colony in 1834...With his young wife, formerly Elizabeth Fairburn, Colenso came to Napier to establish the Waitangi mission station...After the mission burned down in 1853, Colenso stayed on in Hawke's Bay...In 1899 at the age of 88, Colenso died in his small house in what is now Colenso Avenue, Napier.

Card Evenings: Card evenings will be held at Wakefield House on the fourth Monday of each month from April to September, commencing at 7.30 p.m.; subscription, 2/6 each evening. Any member wishing to attend is invited to contact Miss J. Sellar.

Tuesday Afternoon Teas: The Clubroom is open every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and tea is served from 2.30 p.m. at a charge of 1s 3d. Members are invited to attend themselves, and bring their friends if they wish.

Mr Busby's "Manual" on Vineyards: Mr Gilbert Mair, a member of the historic North Auckland family...has written to the Editor...RE Bulletin of August 18, 1959 and the mention of James Busby's Manual...I presume this is the book recorded recently as selling for £40. I have since given my copy of the same book to the Auckland Reference Library. The reading matter is intact though the cover is rather dilapidated.

Miss O'Connor's Visit: A recent visitor to Christchurch was Miss Irma O'Connor, secretary of the Auckland Branch. As Miss O'Connor was working to a very tight business schedule she was unable to meet members at an evening function, but Mrs J.F.Skedden managed to make at very short notice, arrangements for an afternoon tea which was attended by some of the members.

Dominion Treasurer Resigns after 16 years of Service: The clubrooms at Wakefield House, Wellington were attractively decorated with mixed bowls of flowers recently on the occasion of a dinner organized by the council of the New Zealand Founders' Society in honour of Mr. J.M.Andrew, who has resigned from the position of Dominion Treasurer after 16 years service. The Dominion President (Mr.A.H.Macandrew) praised the work that Mr. Andrew had rendered and stated that he had been elected an honorary life member. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew were presented with a silver coffee service and tray by Mrs. Macandrew on behalf of the Society.

Late Lord Bledisloe: On an occasion such as the one being celebrated some reference must be made to Lord Bledisloe, said Sir Arthur Tyndall, when speaking at a function of the Society to celebrate Waitangi Day, at Wakefield House. "I propose to coin a new word in regard to him," said Sir Arthur. "He was the greatest 'New Zeaophile' ever to visit this country. While Lord Bledisloe had certain qualities and vulgar appellations - he was often called Chattering Charlie for being so verbose - Lord Bledisloe was a very great man. He would be remembered for his desire to implant a sense of history in this country." After congratulating the Society on being the only body in Wellington which saw fit to celebrate Waitangi Day, Sir Arthur recalled that it was 120 years ago that the treaty was signed.

Waitangi Ceremony: Miss Irma O'Connor, who was attending it in a private capacity, acted also as the Society's representative. It was a lovely day,

hot, sunny and cloudless. A very large crowd assembled on the lawns under the trees around the Treaty House...After the challenge and chant of welcome and a number of speeches interspersed with Maori songs and dances, the guests were entertained at a buffet luncheon in the old Busby home.

Maori Memorial: At Devonport, a fine memorial to the Maoris who arrived in the Tainui canoe 600 years ago, was recently unveiled. The Mayor kindly invited members of your committee to be present, and as your chairman I was included in those chosen to speak to the public. [*Note: This committee and chairman was of the Auckland Branch, not the Dominion/National office.*]

Mastertonian's Research in London Record Office as to Early Settlers: Iris Tankersley while in London took the opportunity to undertake a little research. "Before I left New Zealand I had been advised to go to the Museum of Archives, Record Office, London and search for possible additional information concerning the crew of the "Tory" and passengers by the "Aurora"... I was shown to a seat at a large table, and various packages and books were brought to me. Some were quickly laid aside...but one strongly bound book contained copies of letters written in 1839 by the Secretary of the New Zealand Company to agents... [*Later*] Away in the heart of Yorkshire is a little parish church - it is the church of St. Peter, Tankersley. There are no Tankersleys living there now...Two of the early priests had borne the name and the Tankersley coat of arms is seen in three places in the church...Postcards of the church were on sale...so I was able to send members of my family a card with the postmark "Tankersley"...[*Later in Plymouth*] Close beside is something of interest to members of the Founders - a plaque commemorating the sailing of the 'Tory' in May 1839, and a stone in the pavement with 'Tory 1839' carved on it. I was sorry I had no camera, so could not bring back a picture. "

Tawa's Tribute to Ethnologist Elsdon Best: A monument to Elsdon Best, Tawa's greatest son and New Zealand ethnologist, was unveiled at Grasslees, Tawa, on February 27 by the Prime Minister (Mr. Nash) ...The memorial, a 5ft-high slab of roughly hewn granite, stands on land which was part of the farm on which Best was born on the southern side of Kenepuru (or Porirua) Stream at the north end of Oxford Street, and

near the footbridge which is now being built....The granite weighing a ton bears the words "Elsdon Best", and is mounted on concrete steps bearing a bronze plaque with the emblem of the National Historic Places Trust and the words: "Nearby at Grasslees Farm, Elsdon Best, Maori Ethnologist was born on 30 April, 1856. His ashes lie here." [Note (2011): In 1966 the National Historic Places Trust changed its name to New Zealand Historic Places Trust.]

E.G. Wakefield still lacks a National Memorial : To ask any cross section of the New Zealand public when Edward Gibbon Wakefield died and where he lies buried would be to expose a surprising lack of knowledge of the man who spent so much time, thought, energy and even money, in an endeavour to bring about organized settlement in a new country....Both North and South Islands benefited from his work, so that he may well be regarded as a national figure, but no national recognition has ever been erected to his memory. (Extract from a newsletter of the Canterbury Branch.)

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No.21, March 1961

Membership Scope is again limited to first 10 years: After broadening the scope of its membership at its annual meeting last August, the New Zealand Founders Society, at a largely attended special meeting on Tuesday, January 31, in Wakefield House, reversed the decision. Membership is again restricted, as it had been throughout the Society's existence until last year...The rule was changed in August by a small majority in an endeavour to eliminate known anomalies...The January meeting, requisitioned by the Canterbury branch accepted the contention that the Society was intended to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the true founders of each province...Another change made ...provides for all members to have an opportunity to vote on amendments to the rules....Taranaki president, Mr. Jamieson, who sponsored the original change spoke strongly in favour of retaining it. Mr. Oakes, Canterbury president, whose branch requisitioned the special general meeting, claimed that a serious mistake had been made and it was not too late to make amends. Various speakers supported the motion, which was carried.

Society's Historical Exhibition: Amidst the entertainment and gaiety of Wellington's 1961 Festival, one corner of the City was devoted,...to considering what the place and the people were like as the earliest arrivals over 120 years ago settled down to life in their new country. In Wakefield House...the New Zealand Founders Society had gathered a unique historical display which it had assembled from the private treasures of Wellington homes, supplemented by material from the Dominion Museum and the Alexander Turnbull Library. Others who contributed...were the Police Department, the Army Department, Gallery 36, the Wellington Central Library, James Smith's Ltd, (for an eye-catching window display telling of the exhibition) and several Society members...The 'Evening Post' termed the exhibition "an enterprising peep into the past...opened by the Mayor (Mr. Frank Kitts) ...Mr Kitts said he hoped one day there would be established an early settlers museum...The Society's president (Mr.A.H.Macandrew) thanked the many people who had contributed to the exhibition, particularly those energetic members who had worked long hours over the weekend to ensure there would be no hitches in the Monday's opening.

Auckland Branch: - November: Mr. David Beattie, a leading barrister in Auckland, described most amusingly and informatively various aspects of a barrister's work. [*From a long list of speakers for the 1960 year.*]

Treaty On Display Permanently Now: The Treaty of Waitangi is now on permanent display at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington. It was unveiled by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Goetz, at a special ceremony marking the first public display of the Treaty which was signed 121 years ago. Representatives from the Historic Places Trust, the Founders Society, and other societies interested in its being placed on public display attended.

Saw Things For Herself: We should care more about our country, and its buildings; about appearances, taste, and beauty. This was the theme of an address given by Mrs. D.M.P.Hay at a luncheon given at Wakefield House. Comparisons between our country and California (founded about the same time as New Zealand) and which had comparable standard of living, should not be odious. We should be learning from them, continued Mrs. Hay, who visited America. The most unattractive features in the eyes of visiting

Americans and English are the lines of our uglier buildings. Parliament Buildings, the Turnbull Library, the National Party Headquarters, were some of our more beautiful buildings, she said. "She'll be right" a common attitude among New Zealanders was regrettable. "We don't have to accept such things as the less exciting 'carbohydrate' diet in hotel menus, and who is to stop us putting up ugly buildings in badly chosen colours?" A suggested remedy was to use the advice of specialists in those fields.

Interesting Talk on European Trip: One of the best attendances for a social evening was when Miss. I. Tankersley entertained Wairarapa Branch members with a description of her trip to Europe, particularly to Denmark and Norway. She illustrated her talk with delightful coloured slides and took her audience all the way with her. Miss Tankersley was asked to repeat this talk for the benefit of members and friends at Tinui, but it has not been possible to arrange this on account of the farmers busy summer season.

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No.22 July 1961.

New Members Welcome Evening in Capital: The Society took a new step in Wellington recently when it held an evening in Wakefield House to welcome new members. Those who joined the society in recent months were specially invited and the total attendance of new and old members was well over 100. Identification tags helped to stimulate conversation and it was agreed, particularly by the guests, that the purpose of the evening was well served. It is almost certain to be repeated at regular intervals...During the evening Mrs. Audrey Heinsius sang several popular songs in which the attendance spontaneously joined.

New Feature to Interest the Children: A new feature in the next issue (September) of the Bulletin will be a Junior Section for contributions from members' children aged from eight to 15 years of age. Articles of from 100 to 250 words on subjects dealing with pioneer times or about places of early historical interest will be welcomed. The Society would appreciate the assistance of parents and branch committees in stimulating interest in this feature. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and sent to the Editor.

Gay Scene at Dinner-Dance to Mark Commonwealth Day: Some 250 guests, members of the six Commonwealth societies in Wellington, attended a dinner-dance to celebrate Commonwealth Day at the Majestic Cabaret, with the Governor-General (Lord Cobham) and Lady Cobham as guests-of-honour....Dinner was served at long tables spanning the carpeted dance floor which was later cleared for dancing, official guests being seated at a table on the south dais facing the assembly. Arrangements of rose-pink chrysanthemums, anemones, roses, violets and iris stylosis decorated the official table...Lord and Lady Cobham opened the dance by leading in the first waltz. Lady Cobham was wearing a full-skirted gown of gleaming green and gold lame, a pearl necklace and a large diamond brooch. Mrs. Holyoake's full-length gown was of pastel and silver patterned brocade worn with a matching stole. Mrs. Kitts wore a ballerina length dinner dress of green faille with matching velvet stole. The table decorations were the work of Mrs. A.C.Dickens and Miss. I Wearing.

President outlines new building plans to meeting: The April meeting of the Auckland Branch...unusually large attendance to the Victoria League rooms to welcome the Dominion President, Mr. A.H.Macandrew...after visiting the Society's branches at Wanganui, New Plymouth and Putaruru en route...He mentioned the likelihood that part of the old home of Edward Gibbon Wakefield would have to be demolished in the near future in view of the prospective further widening of The Terrace and outlined a proposal to erect a 10-storey building on the vacant area of the property at the back while retaining as much of the old house as possible. If the scheme should prove practicable, it was hoped at last to have fireproof accommodation to establish a sort of folk museum of pioneer relics to which a great many members of the Founders would be able and no doubt glad, to make contributions.

Taranaki Children at Commemoration: For the first time in the annual commemoration of Founders' Day by the Taranaki Branch ...in the Te Henui cemetery...there was an emphasis on youth expressed by the presence of pupils from the New Plymouth Boys' and Girls' High Schools and of girls from the Rangiatea Methodist Maori Girls' School. Another accent on youth was provided by the youngest member of one of Taranaki's oldest European families, seven-year-old Nigel Faull.

Blush of Shame Gone: Far too much had been said and written lately about what passed under the name of "juvenile delinquency", a term which suggested that the full responsibility for youthful excesses lay with the teenagers themselves. Dr.O.C.Mazengarb, Q.C., told a luncheon meeting...in Wakefield House...on June 14. "Parental delinquency is not much better," he added when talking on "Gone is the Blush of Shame". Citizens may pass resolutions of protest against the lawlessness of the young, Magistrates may breathe out threatening of heavier punishments, and the Justice Department may acquire new institutions and devise new methods of dealing with wrongdoers, he said, but nothing would be as effective as the restoration of that sense of shame which, in former years, was the best deterrent to wrongdoing. Dr. Mazengarb's extensive and timely address was appreciated by an attentive audience.

Pacific not forever "A Human Zoo": Pacific Islanders could not be expected to remain forever in "human zoos", The Chief of Naval Staff, Rear-Admiral P. Phipps, said to the NZ Founders Society luncheon recently. He said the "charming" people of the Islands would not be kept in the same primitive state of life as their ancestors. They were on the threshold of a way of life their ancestors had not fitted them for. New Zealand bore a large share of the responsibility of combating problems associated with this progress in the Pacific...The Islanders were looking more and more to us for help and guidance in their progress to independence...The new Polynesian wanted education, the opportunity to travel, and other benefits of civilization, not the prospect of spending his life fishing and remaining as his ancestors had been.

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The Manchester Settlement

(Editors note -: The following is a reproduction of a poster printed in England in 1881 advertising the Manchester Special Settlement)

LAND IN NEW ZEALAND.

"MANCHESTER SPECIAL SETTLEMENT."

EMIGRANT AND COLONIST'S AID CORPORATION, (LIMITED.)

Directors in England.

His Grace THE DUKE OF MANCHESTER, K.P., *Chairman.*

THE EARL OF DENBIGH.

Major-General the Hon. WILLIAM FEILDING.

The Right Hon. SIR JAMES FERGUSSON, Bart.,
K.C.M.G. (late Governor of New Zealand.)

SIR CHARLES CLIFFORD (formerly Speaker of the
House of Representatives of New Zealand.)

H. G. ASHHURST, Esq., Colonial Merchant, London.
JOHN BALFOUR, Esq.

Directors in New Zealand.

E. PEARCE, Esq., Wellington.

W. H. LEVIN, Esq., Wellington.

Secretary—C. DUGALD BUCKLER, Esq.

Offices—25, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

Agent in New Zealand—D. H. MACARTHUR, Esq., Feilding.

In December 1871, Col. the Hon. W. Feilding as the representative of an English Company presided over by the Duke of Manchester, and called the Emigrant and Colonist's Aid Corporation, visited New Zealand, after going through the Australian Colonies; his object being to find a field for the commencement of colonizing operations. Finding in New Zealand a climate eminently suited to the English constitution, a soil abundantly fertile, internal communication fairly developed already, and rapidly progressive, and above all a Government anxious to foster any reasonable scheme for the settlement of people on its unoccupied territory, and having decided upon a suitable site, arrangements were concluded with the Government of the Colony for the purchase of the freehold of a block of Land containing an area of 106,000 acres, now known as the "*Manchester Special Settlement*" situation.

The land is situated in the Manawatu-Rangitikei district, about 80 miles north of the City of Wellington, 25 miles from the port of Foxton and 37 miles from the port of Wanganui. The block is 20 miles in length and about 8 miles in width and consists for the most part of very rich soil, a considerable portion is covered by timber of kinds valuable for building and other purposes, the climate is temperate and equable, and above all, the communications are convenient.

The district is well watered and the nature of the soil is considered rich throughout, and is being cultivated in wheat and pasture with very satisfactory results in both cases. It is heavily timbered in some parts, and in others very slightly. The size of the plots of Rural Land open for sale is from 10 acres upwards, without limit as to quantity.

The Settlement is intersected throughout by 80 miles of good Roads and the Railway lines to the ports of Foxton, and Wanganui *run through the entire length of the Block*, thus facilitating the means for transit of produce, &c. and creating a large demand for timber.

The Corporation has already settled three towns, viz., Feilding, Halcombe and Ashhurst, and there is now residing upon the Block nearly 3,000 people, the increase since 1878 being 67 per cent, and where in 1871 there was not half a dozen inhabitants. The fact of the Railway running through the Block and bringing it into easy communication with other centres of population is a great commercial advantage to residents upon the Settlement. Several old Colonists of good standing as well as small farmers and others from England have taken up land and are now residing on the Settlement, and the class of Settlers is far above the general run of Emigrants.

In each town the Company has erected several small well-built Cottages which can be purchased or rented at moderate cost, so that each Emigrant proceeding from England intimating to the Secretary in London the fact of his departure, will find upon his arrival at the Settlement a residence, temporary or otherwise for immediate occupation by himself and family; there is ample accommodation in Hotels and Cottages for people on arrival, pending on the erection of suitable houses upon the land they may select for purchase. The Settlement is well supplied with Schools, places of Worship and other public building's.

The Corporation has already sold about 52,000 acres of land, and has thus left for disposal about 54,000 acres.

The present price of Rural Land is from 50s. per acre, and its value is rapidly increasing now that its quality is become recognised, and the communications by good roads and railway are greatly improved.

The payment of the purchase-money for the Land might either be made at once, or 25 per cent, deposit paid, and the balance by such instalments as might be agreed upon, bearing interest at the rate of 7 per cent, on the amount from time to time remaining unpaid.

The cost of clearing the bush is from 30s. to 35s. per acre, the cost of grass seed and sowing is from 12s. to 15s. per acre, and the price of fencing is .£1 per chain or £80 per mile, one half of the latter expense being borne by the owner of the adjoining property, who is compelled by law to contribute his quota to the cost of the boundary fence when called upon to erect it.

Gentlemen who are sending their sons out to the Colony will find the "Manchester Special Settlement" a very suitable place for them to proceed to, and in these cases a Land Scrip Certificate issued in London would be of special advantage, because instead of young men taking out all their Capital and having it under their control, the parents can pay the money to the Corporation in instalments at convenient intervals in London and obtain a Land Scrip for the amount, which can be sent over to the Colony to be used by the son in payment for the land he has decided to take up.

The Officers of the Corporation in the Colony, all of whom are trustworthy and experienced Colonists, will afford Immigrants on arrival all the advice in their power as to the selection and cultivation of Land to enable them to become successful Settlers.

The cost of passage to New Zealand is per Steamer via Melbourne from £21 to £82, and by Sailing Ship direct from £16 to £52. The cost of transit from Wellington to Feilding is about £1 10s. first class and £1 third class.

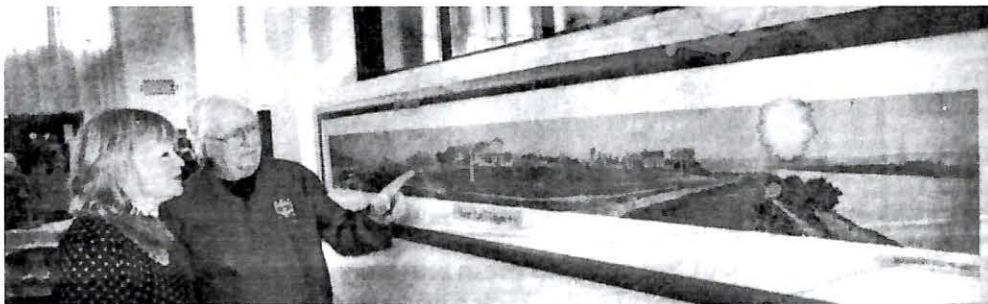
Plans of the Estate and any further information required will be furnished upon application to the Secretary.

September 1881

Editors Note : The company which promoted the Manchester Settlement was set up in 1869 to choose a suitable block of land in either Australia or New Zealand and to settle upon the block, suitable unemployed workers who were affected by the industrial revolution in Britain. Colonel William Feilding arrived in New Zealand in 1871 and negotiated the sale of land in the present day Manawatu area. Some of the land was in Palmerston North at Terrace End for the construction of an immigration depot. This ultimately became Palmerston North's first hospital (cnr of Ruahine & Main Streets). Supervised by Arthur Halcombe, in 1874, 614 settlers were in the Feilding area having come to New Zealand on the 'Salisbury', 'Ocean Mail', 'Mongol', 'La Hogue', 'Waikato' and 'Euterpe.' From Wellington, they landed at the mouth of the Manawatu river and travelled inland by bullock drays and horse drawn wagons. By the end of 1874, 50 cottages had been built.

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Gardens photo finds public home, 140 years on



WAY BACK WHEN Mayor Annette Main and Wanganui Founders Chairman, Michael Morris admire the 1874 photo of Moutoa Gardens at the Wanganui Alexander Library

(Extract from 'Wanganui Chronicle' by Anne-Marie Emerson)

Visitors to the Alexander Library are now greeted by a panoramic photo of Moutoa Gardens, taken in 1874. The photo was gifted to the library by the Wanganui branch of the New Zealand Founders Society at a special function, attended by Mayor Annette Main, at the library last week.

The photo, which is now hung in the entrance to the Alexander Library, shows a mostly bare piece of land on the corner of Somme Parade and Market Place, with a rough dirt road and the Whanganui River running alongside it. Founders Society chairman Michael Morris said the photo was taken by William Harding, who had a photographic studio in Ridgway St from 1856-1889.

"His work was studio portraits but his true interest was landscape photography" Mr Norris said. The photo was commissioned by former Major John Nixon. It was donated to the Founders Society by one of Mr Nixon's descendants in 1963, and in 2009 it was conserved and digitally scanned. Mr Norris said the society had two unframed copies of the photo to sell as a fundraiser. "We'd like to sell each one for \$200, which will help us to do more restoration and conservation work on other photographs such as this." Ms Main praised the society for their work in restoring the photo. "It's a magnificent piece of work, and I'm so happy to see it fit so well into the Alexander Library. Moutoa Gardens is one of my favourite places in Wanganui and it's fascinating to see how different it looked in 1874 compared to today."

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The YMCA

(contributed by Adele Petoney-Graham, Wairarapa Branch)

The magnificent stained glass window, *(reproduced on front cover)* is in Westminster Abbey. I have been granted permission to use it (thank you to Dean and Chapter of the Abbey)... no its not New Zealand, but it is with a twist, it is the wonderful memorial for

Y.M.C.A. and its founder, Sir George Williams. George was born in 1821 in Dulverton, Somerset where his family had a farm. When George left home, back in mid 1800s, he went to work in London with a draper, (which was later to be known as Hitchcock Williams & Co. Ltd.) in St Pauls Churchyard, next to the St Pauls Cathedral. George who had wanted to work in the Drapery business, hence off to London, where he was appalled at the way young men were looked after, so he started a small Christian Group, and his employer, Mr Hitchcock, also attended the meetings. George died in 1905. The Y.M.C.A. has grown over the years.

Back in WW1, at Featherston Military Camp, they had an Office there where the soldiers could relax and write letters home using the Y.M.C.A. letter head... George married (Helen Jane Maunder Hitchcock) the daughter of his employer, and then the firm became Hitchcock Williams. I remember it well, (since closed down), as my mother in London used it as one of the Buying Offices for her small business. George was knighted by Queen Victoria for his work with YMCA - wouldn't he be proud today and possibly surprised as to how it has circled the world... and it's still going strong...I could write a lot on this organisation, but that takes time and effort and I want to include a message about Featherston's WW1 soldiers, who I am also researching into their background. 150 died of Influenza in 1918 and are buried at Featherston, others died from 1916 to 1918 with other ailments, suicide, accidents etc and are remembered on Anzac Day when I lay a Wreath there in their memory. I have had wonderful feed back already on many soldiers, sons of early settlers, like Holes, Williams, Cunliffe (Dick Seddon family!) King, (Gt Grandson of John King, 1814 one of the First Missionaries to NZ). Edric, Beetham, Williams.. so many names.. Benson, Wyman, C. Lumley, nurse, (trying to find anything on her, she was from England

it is believed). Mabel Whishaw.... there is a soldier with the surname Hitchcock, don't think it's connected, but I do know some of the Hitchcocks left London for Australia. If anyone would like a photograph of a headstone at the Featherston Cemetery, they are all on computer, also Auckland War Memorial has them. I am getting through the research into Carterton early settlers and burials, oh so interesting, anyone any history for me please??? Thank you,
Adele Petony-Graham.

(Clareville Cemetery Taphophile, now see what that means.. Taphophile!!!)

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MY MOTHER'S JOURNEY

(Contributed by Ashly Braggins - Wairarapa Branch)

A chance meeting with a first cousin of my mothers, whom I knew of but up until then, had never met, started me on a journey of discovery about the life of my late mother Joyce Rona Braggins (nee Bishop) and my Bishop forebears.

The story really starts with the words "four Bishop brothers came to Taranaki from the Timandra". "four brothers" sure but what handwritten Bishop family England in 1841 on Quite who all the were, we are still not followed was a account of the generations starting with immigrants, and my forebears, Daniel and Louisa Bishop from Stoke in Dorset and their 11 children born in England. They were William, Ann, Walter (my Great Great Grandfather born in 1832), Mary, Hannah, Martha, and John (born on board ship). They arrived on board the "Timandra" (one of the ships chartered by the



Plymouth Company) at New Plymouth on 22 February 1842 after leaving Plymouth, England on 2 November 1841. Four further children were born in New Zealand. They were Daniel, Louisa, Henry and Eliza Bishop.

My Great Great Grandfather Walter Bishop married Margaret Hall on 20 October 1857 and they had 4 sons and 5 daughters. Their first born son was William Henry Bishop (my Great Grandfather) who married Elizabeth Ann Cole on 14 May 1887. They remained living in the Taranaki area and I have visited their grave at the St Luke's cemetery at Bell Block.

My Grandmother, Louisa Evelyn Bishop, was the 6th child of 11 born to William and Elizabeth Bishop. I believe she lived most of her life in the Taranaki area and is buried at the St. Luke's cemetery at Bell Block. Her daughter, Rona Joyce Bishop (my mother) was born on 14 February 1921.

With much help from many agencies, churches, schools and the court, I have been able to research the early life of my mother. I discovered a rather sad story of a little girl who was abandoned and who was sent from "pillar to post" until ending up at an orphanage from where she was adopted by a Masterton family. As Joyce Rona Rolph she later married my father, Ralph Braggins and had 5 children of which I am proud to be one.

This was quite a journey for me, my brothers and my sisters to take with feelings of sadness for the life our mother lived in her early years and of which she never told us.

Quite recently my wife and I took a trip to Taranaki to research the Bishop family further and were thrilled to discover so much information on the early Bishop families at both the Waitara Genealogy Branch and the wonderful Puke Ariki. I discovered that many family members are buried in the cemeteries at Te Henui and at the St Luke's Cemetery at Bell Block which we visited while there.

I am proud to be a Bishop descendant and a member of the New Zealand Founders Society. I would welcome contact from any Bishop family members - my address is 25 Stout Street, Masterton 5810 and Phone 06 378 2936.

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Matahiwi

(contributed by Susana David – Wairarapa Branch)

Some people are famous, some people deserve fame and some people have fame thrust upon them, some people become famous 100 years after their death.

Such is the way of my grandfather's brother who lived in the shadow of the Tararuas from 1865 until 1990 when he and his family returned to England (the old country) and never came back.

He left behind a legacy however. He and his brother had lived and loved on the farm at Matahiwi for twenty years. Although it could hardly be called farming, as the land was covered in bush - there was no road, access to his homestead was along the banks of the **Waingawa** by horse and cart, there was much clearing and burning of the bush and farming was attempted with cows and cattle and the first dairy factory was established.

John had a two daughters and one son, the son remained but not on the home farm, the two daughters married abroad and their children have returned to occupy the homestead.

This is where my treasure in the attic comes in. John and Harry's employees arranged to give John a grand send off (*prior to his departure for England in 1904*) and commissioned a Citation professionally written up as a scroll in gold letters.



The names of the employees are added at the bottom and miraculously a photograph accompanies the citation. John's son is recognisable in the photograph. Everyone is dressed in their Sunday best with hats to match. The children are scrubbed up for the photo and all facing the camera. It is a perfect gem of nineteenth century gentility and had been hidden away and gathered dust until it came to light in 2011, when I was researching "who do you think you are" type stuff. I had heard that there might be

something in the attic so I approached the occupier and asked to talk to him, it turned out that he was John Johns grandson and was farming the land once again which had been managed by a Manager all these past years. Down from the attic came a large framed picture, thick with dust and quite filthy - when put on the floor it fell apart and the glass fell out and broke. The wooden frame was riddled with borer and collapsed in a pile of dust. . Gold leaf glistened in the dust, I had found a gold nugget, the writing was completely legible and stated October 3rd 1904, "*Dear Sir on the eve of your departure to the Old Country the past and present employees of the Matahiwi station take the opportunity of expressing to yourself, Mrs Holmes and family there cordially appreciation of your uniform kindness and courtesy to all of whom you came in contact. May you experience a renewal of your wonted good health and receive much pleasure of revisiting the old familiar places of your youthful days.*" It is signed by four Bannisters, a Mr Beavenpost, two Evan's, three Field's, two Gills' and thirteen more names finishing with a Mr Snodgrass.



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Frances (Grandma) Nicolson
Of Clareville

(Contributed by Ian Renall - Wairarapa Branch)

Mrs Robyn Macgregor, nee Ray, has passed this lovely story on to me to use as of my monthly "Crier" contributions.

This story is part of the Ray family records. The Ray family were very early local pioneers who made major contributions to our early history. The Ray family and my Renal family both arrived in Wellington on 14 November 1840 on the ship *MARTHA RIDGWAY*. They settled here locally and my family went on to found Masterton.

Frances, or Grandma as she was known to many, was a real character in the district. She was born in London in 1845 and because her parents went to Australia while she was still a child, she was left to be raised by an uncle in Warwickshire. Her parents eventually took up a 60 acre block of land in Greytown. In December 1859, Frances set sail as a 14 year old on the sailing ship *MINERVA* to join them. She was accompanied by a Mrs Stevens. After arriving in Wellington following 4 months at sea, she was driven over the rough Rimutakas and spent the night in Greytown's

Kempton's Rising Sun Hotel. Eleven months after arriving here, Frances married Donald Nicolson, a young Scotsman who had been in New Zealand since 1850. Frances and Donald took up a 150 acre bush block in what we now know as Clareville. The bush was so thick they could not see the Tararuas unless they walked to Belvedere. Their home was a little whare with a clay floor and thatched roof. Their food was wheat, potatoes and wild pork. Access was

tracks, and bullock the only means of Social life was very "penny readings" were of entertainment. included scones, made of cooked potatoes by



and served at afternoon tea time. Frances admitted to shedding a few silent tears when she recalled some of the comforts that were left behind in the old country. She never learned to sew because there was no

by rough bush wagons were transport. limited and the main form These events from a billy the hostess

material available, however she learnt to shoot and ride and was considered the best rider in the district. Her personal side saddle is still stored in Cobblestones Museum in Greytown.

Gradually they cleared their land and built their house in which Frances resided for the rest of her life. All the timber was pit sawn on the farm, then morticed and tenoned without the use of nails. The house was built on the main road opposite Somerset Road, In the 1960s it was shifted to Cobden Road, Belvedere - the house was called "Melverton".

In their early years, our settlers were very wary of the Maoris. But when the Hau Haus came south and the settlers took shelter in a Carterton stockade, Frances refused to join them. She had two children at the time, who she had with her and she kept on side with the Maoris by offering them scones and a cup of tea.

Hugh McMaster gave her a six shot revolver which she kept hanging from her bed and she was a crack shot. A carved walking stick was given to Frances by the Maoris as a token of their friendship. This walking stick was given in turn to Maria Ray and handed down the Ray family and is now in the possession of Mrs Macgregor.

We know that Frances and Donald had four sons, Donald, Albert, Hector and Malcolm and a daughter, Eunice. The Nicolsons presented a two acre section in Chester Road for the first Clareville School and then gave another two acre site for the Clareville Railway Station. Two paper roads were named after Donald - Nicolson's Line and Donald Street. These two small roads run at right angles. One exiting onto Chester Road just east of the railway line. The other exiting onto State Highway 2 next to Jack Kamper's residence.

The *Dominion* newspaper printed an article on Frances on the occasion of her 88th birthday in 1933. In the article she described her early days in the Wairarapa from 1862 onwards. She recalled that as far as clothes were concerned, the women considered themselves lucky if they had a spare gown or sun bonnet. Frances had some strange pets. A stream which flowed through her property contained eels which came when she whistled them. At dusk time they gathered under a small bridge and left their heads 8 inches above the water. Some of the eels even allowed themselves

to be lifted out of the water. What would have been a highlight for Frances was when the Fisher monoplane was brought here in the early 30s and landed in the Booth paddock in Anderson's Line; and she was taken for a flight. Donald passed away in 1908 and Frances in December 1933. They are both interred in our Clareville Cemetery.

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The Big Shake

Contributed by Betty Catt - Wairarapa Branch



Because it is a subject that has been on everyone's minds recently, I have been encouraged to relate my experiences of the Wairarapa earthquake of 1942. In doing so I wish to apologise to anyone who has been through the events in Christchurch or Seddon

and who are trying to move on.

It was a cold crisp night in June 1942 (so it is a myth that earthquakes only occur in humid weather) and on our farm just out of Carterton, two horses in a paddock next to the house were restless and galloping about. My father was worried, thinking there may have been a stray dog on the property, while I tried to get on with my school homework. Not long after 8 o'clock there was a movement as if someone had pushed my chair at the back, "That felt like an earthquake" my parents said casually. I went to bed wondering what time my sister would be home.

After 11 o'clock all hell broke loose. The house was literally twisting off its wooden piles, while the big double brick chimneys

were thudding onto the ground, luckily falling outwards. The push out window latches had come loose and were clanging against the window frames. The noise was terrific. My first childish thought was "It's the end of the world". Luckily my sister had arrived home from the pictures because we knew later that the southern wall of the theatre had fallen down. We leapt out of bed yelling for our parents. I stepped on a picture that had fallen down and skidded across the room and cut my foot. My father insisted that we all stay together, so with another sister we all ended up "top and tail" in the one bed. All night there was not let up. There was almost continuous shaking. Luckily some youths we knew, who had been visiting in the area, called to see if we were alright before heading back to Greytown. What a scene of devastation greeted us next morning. Beautiful vases and ornaments recently inherited from grandparents were like dust on the tiled hearth. The store cupboard had burst open and our carefully saved rationed sugar was a gooey mess mixed with raspberry cordial. Broken crockery was all about. Our grandmother clock had bounced off the wall into the sitting room table and although a pendulum fell off it still told the time when it was reassembled! We found heart breaking damage as the days went by. My mother never fully recovered from the shock of it and died six years later at age 56 from heart problems.

At the time the army were camped at the local show grounds. What a blessing that turned out to be! Each household was eligible to have one chimney replaced and most chose to have the one for the wood or coal range so that cooking could be done again. Bricklayers were brought in from all over and each one allocated an army truck with army driver. In the town itself the Post Office was badly damaged and had to be pulled down. The clock from the clock tower was stored away and as you know a clock tower was erected for it some years later. It is lovely to hear the chimes today. Bricks from two storied buildings almost blocked the roadway in places. The

only major damage was to two storied buildings. The Marquis of Normandy Hotel did not have major damage and is still the same today as when it was built. The picture theatre was badly damaged. For months we had to travel to Greytown to see a film, sometimes by bicycle!

The war progressed and United States marines were stationed at the show-grounds (which were where the rugby grounds are now). What a brave sight they made marching from the station down Broadway in full dress uniform. Every time I saw a photo of our village friend, Grady Lightfoot, in uniform I thought of that day and wondered how many made it home. The Japanese prisoner of war camp was built in Featherston, which gave work for many Wairarapa carpenters. However the most vivid memory remains of that awful night and following days in 1942.

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MUSINGS ON PARK PIONEER MEMORIAL

(Contributed by Wairarapa Branch)



History is easily destroyed and once it is lost few people are aware of its importance to future generations. Such a case has arisen in our Queen Elizabeth 11 park central to the township of Masterton. Located at the back of our park is an area where the early Pioneer settlers and Founders of Masterton, and surrounding areas are buried. This area is the oldest part of the cemetery and of great

historical significance This fact however did not deter discussion from taking place in 1973 when a debate was entered into concerning the Pioneer cemetery, and some Council members voiced a wish to have the headstones removed, and the area turned into a passive recreational space.. This idea was opposed by the then mayor, Norman Tankersley, and other public objections soon followed.

By July 1973 local Founders Society members along with Park Superintendent Colin Pugh were involved. Other organisations and volunteers worked to clean up the pioneer cemetery headstones, and tidy the graves, which included Masterton's founding father Joseph Masters. Working in conjunction with the council and Mr Pugh it was decided to build a new entrance to the cemetery through a lych-gate. Our branch was heavily involved in this undertaking, and donated a plaque attached to a local Jasper stone to commemorate the role settlers played in the development of New Zealand. November 1974 saw the unveiling of this memorial by Miss Lena Iorns, a direct descendant of Joseph Masters, alongside Canon Neald who gave the benediction at the ceremony.

Over more recent years the Masterton Borough Council in their wisdom decided to hire a firm of consultants to draw up a plan to revamp our town park under the concept of rejuvenation over a number of years commencing in 2004 and continuing on in stages. Old trees were severely pruned, some removed completely, fences and bird aviaries, and other longstanding features were demolished with minimal public consultation. Even the area around the older cemetery headstones did not escape the earthmoving machinery leaving graves vulnerable to damage from cars.

About three years ago Wairarapa Founders Society members found to their horror that the stone walls and our memorial plaque and stone in front of the lych-gate had been removed and the general

feeling was that the site had been desecrated. Our members felt very strongly about these matters and in 2011 they assembled in numbers at the lych-gate for a photo which was submitted along with an article to our local Times Age newspaper drawing attention to our missing memorial and requesting information as to its currently unknown whereabouts. Letters and emails addressed to the Council received unsatisfactory answers or were ignored. No one was prepared to tell us exactly where the stone and plaque had been removed to for, and I quote " safe keeping" Finally in May 2013 our branch committee with backing from all our members decided to once again go public and write to our paper. As well as a letter to the paper we also contacted our Mayor and councillors. All asked the question "Where is our memorial"? Neither our Mayor or any of his councillors replied to our questions, but within four hours a reporter from the paper had contacted us with a view to making our issue a news feature the following day. Armed with photos and information the branch President and her deputy met Amie the reporter, and her photographer Lynda, at the memorial for an interview aimed at getting answers. The next day the president received a call from the council representative at the Park to tell us our stone and plaque had been located in the recreational services yard in Archer St. and that the plaque had been detached from its stone mount. The second of two articles in the media featured a photo of Council staff with our plaque and appeared some six days after we went public. In this article council undertook to enter into discussion with us over the location and timing of its replacement in or as near as possible to the original site. Hopefully this will take place during the 2013/14 phase of the park plan, we wait with bated breath for a satisfactory conclusion to this sad state of affairs.

In conclusion perhaps as Founders we need to be more aware of our history being destroyed around us and ask the hard question of

ourselves. Do we need to fight harder to preserve the heritage our forefathers left us?

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NZ Founders Creed

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

Acknowledgments

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Thank you all

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