



BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY INC.

NUMBER 89
REPORT
FOR
YEAR 2017
ISSN 2463-4336



Annual picnic scene: Mrs Mary Amelia Morgan (1864-1935), front left, proprietor of a Hawera boarding house, with some of her family, clients, staff and friends. Photographed near Dawson Falls, Taranaki, probably in January, 1907. See further information about this photo on page 44.

NZ Founders Society Inc.

PO BOX 14455, Kilbirnie 6241

Phone: 04 971 8919

Email: nzfounders@gmail.com

www.nzfounders.org.nz

New Zealand Founders Pledge

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.

**New Zealand
Founders Society Inc.
National
Executive**

President

Mrs Patricia Bayley

Vice President

Mr Graham Cowling

Treasurer

Miss Kathryn Dent

Secretary

Mrs Carolyn Adams

Bulletin Editor

Mr Peter Watt

Branch Representatives

Mr John Webster

Auckland

Mrs Carolyn Adams

Waikato

Mrs Maree Lewis

Bay of Plenty

Mrs Paddy Bayley

Hawke's Bay

Mrs Anne Woodley

Wairarapa

Mrs Lynley Fowler

Wanganui

Mr Graham Cowling

Taranaki

Mrs Carol Hurst

Wellington

Mrs Pamela Absolum

Canterbury



**New Zealand
Founders Society Inc.**

1st Floor, Wellington Bridge Club,
17 Tinakori Road, Thorndon,
Wellington

PO Box 14455, Kilbirnie,
Wellington 6241

Contents

The 79th Annual Report New Zealand Founders' Society—2017..... 3

Introducing our new National President,

Paddy (Patricia) Bayley..... 4

From the Ed 5

Branch President's Reports

Auckland Branch Report 6

Waikato Annual Report 7

Taranaki Annual Report 7

Wairarapa Branch Report..... 8

Hawke's Bay Branch Report 9

Bay of Plenty Branch Report 11

Whanganui Branch Report 13

Wellington Branch Report 16

Canterbury-Westland Branch 17

From around the Branches

Young person's family history research delights audience 18

The Remittance Man..... 20

Coastal history beckons for Christmas function 22

Immigrant Henwood family prosper but also endure hard times 24

The trials of a pioneer 25

A President's message from the 1950s 26

Conservationist ahead of his time — Robert Cunningham Bruce
(1842–1917) 27

Country churches — providing a powerful connection with past
generations 28

Aunty Alice gave us this ... the importance of provenance 32

Opening up the Wyderop — early development of the Wairarapa
for farming 33

Settler family makes good in Otago 35

Left or right? — Our driving follows British practice 36

Remembering our World War I Centenary

A remarkable action by New Zealand soldiers —

the liberation of Le Quesnoy 37

Overseas corner

Marshall's Manor — the restoration of an English Manor House 40

More about our front cover photograph 44

NZ Founders Society New Members for 2017 45

New Zealand Founders Society Inc

Financial Statement..... 47

Annual Research/Book Award..... 47

The 79th Annual Report

New Zealand Founders Society — 2017

National President, Adrian Gover

The year just past has continued to be a year of consolidation for our society, with the meeting of new challenges and reaching the goals we had set out for the year.

The consolidation part has been most worthwhile. We have now embedded our means of conferencing (by teleconference), where the members of the executive are members of each of our branches, instead of the few who gathered in Wellington. This development has been extremely valuable in cementing the cohesiveness of our organisation, as now, all take a part in the executive debates and decisions and we have become 'one in vision' and in how we conduct our organisation's affairs.

Three years ago our branches were disparate; now we are a single entity. My thanks go to those who have taken a part in this collective venture, and for the ideas and cross pollination that has taken place during these teleconferences.

Our website is bearing fruit, bringing us to wider notice, and attracting both new members, and submissions for our Book Grant. Kathy Dent has most ably been the website person, and has my thanks for her efforts.

New challenges exist, and have been identified for the ensuing term of the President. We must manage our constitutional changes, so the constitution reflects legally the changes we have made in our organisation. This process is in hand, and is now in the hands of the delegates at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Secondly, I believe there is still a need to examine what place the office has in Wellington, both in usage and costs. There is a need to debate this, I believe.

The goals I set for this year were, firstly to re-establish links with the Christchurch branch, and to ensure that our Book Grant was actually made. In 2015 it had not been extant for over two years.

Happily both of these goals have been realised. Through the efforts of Paddy, and Graham Cowling, a contact was made, a meeting held, and the

reorganised Christchurch Branch looks as though it is to begin a new life. My thanks go to those who made this happen.

The Book Grant has been made, and there is a possibility of new grants being made in the year ahead. My thanks go to those who found recipients within their branches and contacts, as well as to Carol Hurst, and to John Webster, our adjudicators.

These results are an endorsement of our having full participation by all the branches and their members in the running of our society. It just did not happen like this before our changes.

The Bulletin, in its new format is now in its second year. Its success, and thanks, are due to Peter Watt and his assistants for the excellent publication we now have. It does full credit to our Society. I fully endorse the continuance of this team in the future. We may even end up with a publication that can, perhaps, go on sale commercially in the future, and make us better known.

Carolyn Adams, our National Secretary, has done sterling work, handling agendas, tricky replies, and seeing that I have been kept on the straight and narrow as your President these past years. I give her my profound thanks, and endorse her reappointment for the year ahead.

Kathy Dent has continued her excellent stewardship of our finances, as well as offering sage advice, and maintaining the website with branches. Thank you Kathy for all you do. I would also endorse Kathy as National Treasurer again.

I am regretfully unable to attend the 2017 AGM because of personal circumstances, which have also precluded me from visiting as actively as I would have wished.

I now step down as the National President, confident in the running and continued progress of the New Zealand Founders' Society. I thank you all for your help and assistance.

Introducing our new National President, Paddy (Patricia) Bayley

At the 2017 Founders Society AGM held at Ahururi, Napier, in June 2017, it was announced that owing to personal circumstances, our immediate Past President, Adrian Gover, would be standing down from the National President's role. All present at the AGM acknowledged Adrian's outstanding dedication and expressed appreciation and thanks for his leadership over his four years as President. This necessitated electing a new President which resulted in Patricia Bayley (known as Paddy), Hawke's Bay Branch, winning this position. In doing so, Paddy advanced from her previous role as National Vice President.

With her keen interest in New Zealand's settler history, Paddy Bayley, has long identified with the spirit and aims of Founders. She joined the Wairarapa Branch of New Zealand Founders in 1981 through her great great grandfather on her father's maternal side — John Hodge. He came to New Zealand on the *Slaines Castle* from Fifeshire, Scotland, arriving in Wellington in January 1841. Settling just out of Greytown at 'Morrison's Bush', on the way to Martinborough, he built the Bush Hotel or House, which became a local landmark. It is still standing and in use today.

In other tracing of her ancestors, Paddy notes that her great grandfather on her mother's side, Henry Lenton Gray, emigrated from England in 1874 and farmed in the Wairarapa. His present day descendants are well-known in the Greytown area.

Paddy was born in Greytown, received her primary and secondary schooling in the area and lived in those years on her family's farm which was part of the Maori settlement at Papawai, near Greytown. The Papawai Marae was the Maori Parliament of



Paddy Bayley

New Zealand in the late 1800s and early 1900s and had at its height, a population of more than 3000.

Paddy's professional career in medical and hospital administration (now retired) has been balanced by a strong interest in family and community. She loves meeting people, local and overseas history, travelling, and volunteer work. Another passion is Highland dancing, formerly as a teacher and judge. She and her husband, Richard, greatly enjoy keeping in touch with their children and 10 grandchildren.

Her path to National President has been preceded by serving on the Hawke's Bay Branch committee of Founders since 2009, and she became Branch President in 2015.



From the Ed

'Restoration' is the catch cry of so many heritage groups worldwide these days, and it resonates well with a central aim of our Founders Society, to: "Assist in preserving historic places, buildings and monuments." It's been rewarding to research, compile and edit your material on this topic for this issue. Enjoy reading about marvellous restorations of churches, halls, an English country manor house, and even an old river steamer which had lain at the bottom of a river but was restored to become 'Queen of the River' once more.

A delight in being a Founders member is that it offers a kaleidoscope of New Zealand history and experiences through the eyes of the family histories of our members. This gives rise to an ever-widening

understanding of people, places and events of the past. To take just one example, you'll discover the reason why a small town in north-east France so highly values its continuing connections with our country.

And you'll read that life for the early settlers in New Zealand was far from a bed of roses for the 'Remittance man' and for other immigrants. Oh, and you'll read of a very important man indeed, who loved the violin but was completely awful at playing it.

Here's to another year of exciting discoveries.

Peter Watt, Editor

NZ Founders Society's National Office moves premises

(This notice is from the NZ Founders website)

The national office of the NZ Founders Society has relocated into a smaller room at the same premises. The move took place over two three-day periods in August/September 2017; the first with sorting material that needed to be housed by national office and the second period, moving all the cabinetry (three very large cabinets take up one wall not shown in the photo), pictures, books and files to the new room. There is still some sorting to be completed but we (and our landlord) are delighted with the result.



The office has been open again (by appointment only) from November 2017. Telephone 04 971 8919.

Street address:

1st Floor, Wellington Bridge Club
17 Tinakori Road
Thorndon
Wellington

Date for your diaries ...



Notice of Founders 79th National AGM

at the Auto Lodge,
New Plymouth

Saturday 16 June 2018

Enquire of your local Branch
for further details.

Design and layout by



Stephanie Drew
DESIGN

stephanie@drew.co.nz

Branch President's Reports 2017

Auckland Branch 2017

From John Webster, Branch Manager

In 2017, our Auckland Branch had meetings each month from February to November. While we proceeded with our monthly luncheons, we also discussed the latest news from headquarters, until it virtually closed, and the concerns voiced during the frequent telephone conferences of the branch delegates.

However, the most important discussion at each meeting of the Auckland Branch was our project to commemorate the arrival of the first organised settlers to Auckland on the vessels, *Jane Gifford* and *Duchess of Argyle*, in October 1842.

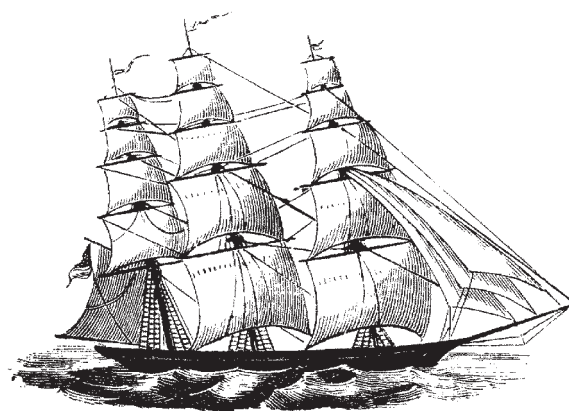
After a failed approach to one waterfront group we conversed with 'Panuku', the Auckland Council's development division, which has control of the wharf area. We had much earlier determined that a waterfront site would be the appropriate location for a suitable commemorative plaque or similar notice.

From the initial meeting, about March, progress has gone ahead in leaps and bounds and we are looking toward a completion of this project in January 2018. We were fortunate to ask at the right time and of the right people. Our proposal is a large, weather-proof art work depicting the arrival of the vessels, based on an existing painting. In front of it, a little distance away from the art board, will stand cut-out steel silhouettes of a generic Victorian man and woman. These figures will be nearly two metres tall, while the rectangular board is slightly taller and will be just over 1.5 metres long. On the board is a simple statement about the arrival of the settlers, and in keeping with an already established theme of using some Te Reo for the boards, the chosen title is 'Waka from Scotland'. Auckland Branch's sponsorship will be acknowledged on the board.

As Council had intended to have five boards depicting local history (and only erected four), our offer to sponsor a fifth was accepted with gratitude. With all the necessary permission having been given for the site, and still applicable, we needed to be proactive and positive. We wanted to avoid the situation where the permission might lapse which would necessitate reapplying.

With Panuku, we have contracted the Wellington business, 'Story Inc', to produce a board to our initial design, knowing that they were responsible for the other four boards already in place. From our tracings on paper and alterations, and a site visit, plus using a small cardboard model, Story Inc have done a great job of interpretation and have kept in touch almost every week. The art board and figures will be made in Wellington and transported to Auckland with an installation crew.

This 'storyboard' as it has been called will join the other boards erected in 2016 by Panuku to illustrate the history of the area. It will be mounted at ground level beside Shed 10 on Queen's Wharf, a very busy area for locals and tourists. Fittingly, it will be as close as possible to the original anchorage of the vessels, long before the wharves were built. An unveiling of some kind is proposed for the 2018 Auckland Anniversary Weekend (27-28 January). With possibly hundreds of people milling around because of the annual regatta on the harbour, plus a number of Founder members, it should be a memorable occasion.



Waikato Branch 2017

From Adrian Gover, Branch President

The year of 2017 was a year of change for us. The meeting venue we had used for many years changed hands and became no longer affordable. Thankfully, after Carolyn spoke to our caterer and found she was moving to the Riverlea Theatre, we were able to adopt this new meeting place with the benefit of keeping our usual caterer as well. It has proved a good place to meet and is affordable. We meet bi-monthly and we welcome visitors.

We have enjoyed a varied and interesting programme throughout the year.

In February, Branch member, Roger McGirr, who is an expert on china and porcelain, told of how he developed this particular interest as a young man as the result of a find. Roger brought samples from his collection and described each one.

At our April meeting, Branch member, Sharron Nelley, spoke about her great grandfather and his life. Our members were enthralled by the revelations.

In June, another member, June Sunkel who had been a Salvation Army Captain, and had been in

charge as the Matron of Bethany Home for girls, spoke about her experiences. All was not always as it seemed, we learned. Her experiences were at times touching, and at times laughable.

Our August meeting saw Graham Ford, who retired as the New Zealand High Court Registrar, speak to us about High Court Matters and Mutters. Graham also spoke last year of his experiences as Sheriff of Pitcairn Island for the British Government.

In October, Kaye Forster-Hill came dressed as her great grandmother, and then changed into her mother's clothing, and spoke on the lives and times of both.

Our November meeting, just passed, was our Christmas and end-of-year meeting, when we self-entertained with stories, Christmas songs and poems. We were also visited by a Christmas fairy whose wonky wings were straightened up by her friends.

We next meet at the Riverlea Theatre, Riverlea Road, Hamilton East, at noon on Thursday 1 February, 2018.

Taranaki Branch

From Branch President, Graham Cowling

The past year of 2017 has been successful with a planned focus on getting ourselves 'out there' more. Our activities included a substantial list of visits to various places of interest: such as the site of the First Taranaki War at Waireka. For this, we were chaperoned by Len Jury who has family links to that encounter. We also greatly enjoyed a visit to Wellington where we toured the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa and the Great War Exhibition in the Dominion Museum building.

Yet another successful outing was to visit the recently refurbished and acclaimed Tainui Museum in Mokau. We are all guilty of passing through the 'small' towns as we hurry from place to place, and not stopping to take in local history sites. Tainui Museum is one of those spots. Curator, Ian Whittaker, described the trials and problems dealt with by the early settlers — everyone came away feeling that they had learned something of those times.

Guest speakers this year included: Ron Lambert, recently retired Taranaki Museum Curator; Malcolm

Pearce, 'Habitat for humanity,' and Michael Burr, (complete with 1880s gun and bayonet). Michael is known for taking events of the New Zealand Wars and retelling those tales including the 'what if....' by including fictional characters — all told in a modern way that mixes fact with fiction. His latest book, *An end of honour*, is loosely based on James Belush's book on Titokawharu, *I shall not die*.

Another speaker proved most interesting, when we were addressed by a volunteer from LandSAR (New Zealand Land Search and Rescue). A good description was given of the 'behind the scenes' organising and the equipment, staffing, technology and resources deployed by this organisation in the modern age.

Our Branch's commemoration luncheon is still our showcase event with an ever-increasing number of interested people attending the service at the commemoration plaque sited near the 'Wind Wand.'

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

Those attending the National AGM in June will have an opportunity to visit this and the plinth at Ngamotu along with some other historical sites.

The main focus for the coming year (2018) will be our hosting of the National AGM. Other key objectives will be to increase our membership and to initiate succession planning for the Branch.

In other matters: our fundraising schedule includes a series of cards from prints painted by the late Murray Moorhead; these are \$2 each or three for \$5. They are along similar lines to the ones available from Branch Secretaries. We are also planning to have a further book by Murray Moorhead available for the AGM.

Wairarapa Branch 2017

From Wairarapa Branch President, Anne Woodley

It is my pleasure as President to present this, our 77th annual report, to members. I would like to welcome new members and to offer our condolences to the families of those who have passed away during the year. I would also take this opportunity to thank the Wairarapa Branch committee who organised our programme for 2017, ensuring our branch ran smoothly over the past year.

Waitangi Day in February is traditionally our first outing and we spent a relaxing day at Glenys Hansen's property, 'Tidsfordriv,' (Scandinavian term for pastime, or, distraction). Everyone enjoyed a day in the country and a beautiful afternoon tea on the verandah overlooking the lake.

March was our AGM held in the Masterton Croquet rooms in Queen Elizabeth Park. We are indebted to our archivist, Gareth Winter, who never fails to entertain with his stories of our local history; this time he covered some of the stories behind the old headstones in the Pioneer Cemetary. Our officers remained unchanged from the previous AGM.

In April, a committee member organised an outing to a family member's garden rail setup. An outing much enjoyed by our menfolk.

For May, we followed on from our last year's visit to Bideford church when a number of us went to hear the history of the Solway College chapel. We were fortunate to hear this first hand from a former resident involved with its relocation from the Mangamahoe district to its present site as the college chapel. In its former life it was St Columba's Church, located between Mauriceville and Eketahuna.

June saw us returning to the Wairarapa Services and Citizens club for our annual Robert Miller Memorial lunch. Both Robert and his mother were

extensively involved with the Wairarapa Founders Society and we take this opportunity to remember their generosity.

July was a meeting to share members' family treasures and the background stories associated with them. Thanks to the local Art Club for the afternoon tea.

Our mid winter soup and bun lunch was held at the Croquet rooms. Entertainment was provided by the 'Songbirds,' a group of six local ladies who delighted us with their harmonies.

September saw us move to the new Carterton Events Centre, where our guest speaker was Alison Underhill, former Wardrobe Mistress with the New Zealand Ballet Company. Alison, unbeknown to us, had travelled to Wellington to collect costumes to display for us, and she talked about the various performances they each related to. We all left with a new insight into ballet productions, and the tribulations of the performers. Who knew that dancers' shoes come in only two sizes?

The committee hired a minivan (Jean's husband drove for us), in October, for a day trip to Waipawa to visit their local history museum. It was a very worthwhile outing which showed what small local communities can do to retain their historical items and stories. Our November outing did not eventuate owing to circumstances beyond our control.

Finally to Xmas 2017 and a new venue this year due to the closure of our local Cosmopolitan Club. We all enjoyed a great meal in the lovely surroundings at Copthorne Solway Park Hotel. Good food and the company of Paddy and Richard Bayley ensured our year ended on a high.

Hawke's Bay Branch

(Oct 2016 - Dec 2017)

From Paddy Bayley, Branch President

Our activities

Several events provided our members with enjoyable and memorable visits in the latter part of 2016.

Our planned October visit to the Waiwhenua historic house and gardens at the foot of the Kaweka ranges, had to be quickly re-arranged owing to wet and muddy conditions at that site. Instead, 40 members enjoyed lunch at the historic Puketapu Pub, west of Hastings, then ventured further along the Napier-Taihape Road to the De la Terre Winery in the Sherenden District. There, we experienced wine-tasting, tasty food platters and learned how hosts, Tony and Kaye Prichard, had developed this winery and its accompanying café. Literally, 'of the earth', the title for the winery reflects its ties to the soils of its two contributing vineyards (Havelock North hills and from terraces overlooking the Tuki Tuki river), and from the earth-brick construction used for the winery building and its tasting area.

At the end of November, 61 members attended our Christmas outing at the historic Gwavas Homestead near Tikokino. After lunch, our members viewed the extensive garden and homestead and enjoyed our traditional afternoon tea of Christmas cake, a glass of wine and orange juice before returning home.

February marked our first activity for 2017 when 93 of our members met at Havelock North Function Centre for our Annual Founders Luncheon. Our guest speaker, Michael La Rooy, visiting from England, described how he and his family have been restoring a Grade II star listed historic manor in Sussex. (See full article on page 40)

Fifty-five members attended our Branch's 38th Annual General meeting held at Duart House in April. Andy Duncan, retiring Treasurer, received special thanks for his dedication in keeping accurate Branch records over many years. Guest speaker, Dr David Barry, outlined the aims and activities of the Hawke's Bay Knowledge Bank. He explained, this valuable local history archive, housed in the historic Stoneycroft homestead, Hastings, is dedicated to preserving a large array of the region's historical material. Examples include the wealth of fading photographs, letters and other records which are typically stashed away in old shoe boxes and family collections. Converting these items to digital format allows them to be captured and preserved for future generations.

In May, 57 members came on our annual 'Mystery Trip'. Lunching first at the Quality Inn on Marine Parade, Napier, the journey continued to the historic King George's Hall at Bay View. Stuart Robertson described the building's history and it is of note that Founders member, Judy Siers, was commissioned to write the book *King George's Hall – 1911-2011* for the hall's centenary.

Hawke's Bay Branch was honoured to host delegates to the Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Founders, which was held in June at the Bluewater Hotel, Ahuriri, Napier. It was especially pleasing to welcome two members from the Canterbury-Westland Branch which had been in recess for some years. Branch delegates were welcomed with a gift pack of 'local treats' and information brochures. An apology was received from retiring National President, Adrian Gover, and following a reading of his Annual Report, delegates expressed their sadness and best wishes for Adrian's family at this difficult time. Sixty-seven attended the lunch, including the guest speaker, local historian, Michael Fowler, and his wife. Michael Fowler spoke on the history of Ahuriri and changes in the landscape following the 1931 earthquake.

I felt very humbled and honoured to be elected New Zealand Founders Society National President for the incoming year.

The Cheval Rooms at Hastings Racecourse proved an ideal setting for our winter luncheon in July. Sixty members were treated to an hour of 'mystery and romance' while watching a silent movie titled *Under The Southern Cross*. This movie was found by relations of our member, Margaret Watt, wife of our Founders Bulletin Editor, Peter Watt. It was filmed mainly in Hawke's Bay in the 1920s and featured two of Margaret's ancestors. All the actors were amateurs, and with subtitles and appropriate music, the story line held our members in suspense. How good to see that the villain got his just desserts! It was interesting to see early footage of the Hastings A&P Show, some early Hawke's Bay station homesteads and the motor cars and dress fashions of the time. Members went away with a project on their minds — just where (today) are those two homesteads featured in the film?

CONTINUES ON PAGE 10

A good turnout of 67 members attended our 'Members' afternoon' function held at a new venue for our gatherings, the Ellwood Function Centre near the Showgrounds in Hastings. Our first speaker was Jack Blyth, aged 12, the winner of the inaugural Hawke's Bay Founders Essay Competition, This is a new initiative for our Branch. (See more on this below in this report and on page 18.) Our second speaker was Bulletin Editor, Peter Watt. He spoke on the function and role of an editor and suggested some themes for the Founders members when writing items on their family's history.

In early October we visited the Hastings Orphans Club, which was formed in 1913. Our Branch had last visited them for lunch and entertainment when they celebrated their 100 years in 2013. Their club members (all men) cooked and served a delicious two-course meal for 64 of our members. We were then entertained with a good old 'sing along' and various hilarious skits. It was intriguing to see some of our Founders members in a different light as they are also members of the Orphans Club. Two more 'Friend of Hawke's Bay Branch' certificates were presented to Margaret Brockelbank and Beverley Dunlop.

Sixty-two members attended our annual Christmas outing at the end of November which comprised a coach trip to the historic Chapelwick Coastal Estate, at Porangahau, in Central Hawkes Bay. Chapelwick has a long and distinguished history that dates back to the first colonial ships and the establishment of Porangahau Station in 1854. We were delighted to have Audrey and Ian Henderson from the Bay of Plenty Branch join us, and members greatly enjoyed viewing the beautiful grounds which include a Grade 2 listed historic chapel. Following lunch, a talk was given by the hosts and Christmas fare of wine, juice and cake capped off a most enjoyable afternoon.



I am very proud to be President of such a vibrant and active Branch of New Zealand Founders.

Visits to historic homes form a vital part of our Branch's activities. Hawke's Bay Branch members enjoy a talk on 'Chapelwick' homestead at Porangahau, Central Hawke's Bay.

Other matters

Sadly, we lost a few of our members during the year. In acknowledging their passing, I must mention two special people who did so much for our Founders Branch, Ian Burson and Joyce Duncan. Ian not only supported Nanette Roberts during her years as Branch President, he was our Branch delegate to New Zealand Founders for many years during a time of transition. We are sure his dedication has helped the Society to move forward in these very trying times. We are also indebted to Joyce Duncan for her support to our Treasurer, Andy Duncan.

We greatly appreciate the continuing work done by Andy, not only at our functions, but for all the 'behind the scenes' work he does.

As mentioned above, in a new initiative for our Hawke's Bay branch of New Zealand Founders, an essay competition was organised in 2017 for Year 8 students at Hereworth Primary School for Boys in Havelock North. Entitled, *My Family – a new life in New Zealand*, this exercise motivated the boys to research and write about how their ancestors came to New Zealand. Twenty-two essays were submitted and since the overall standard was high, we gave two Highly Commended prizes, and a donation towards the Hereworth School Library. We look forward to continuing this project with Hereworth School in 2018. See the winning essay on page 18.

As at the end of November 2017, we have a total of 157 members in our Branch: this includes 21 Associate members, and 18 Friends. This year, sadly, we said farewell to Margaret Harper who joined our Branch in 1980, John McKinnon (1982) and Charles Anderton (1990). However, we were delighted to welcome 14 full members, three Associates, and one Friend to our Branch.

Bay of Plenty 2017

From Maree Lewis, Secretary/Treasurer

A year of celebrating local history

Our first meeting for this year was our Branch AGM, held in April at the Armitage Hotel in Tauranga, where our visiting National Secretary, Carolyn Adams, kindly chaired the meeting. We also welcomed a new member, Lyn Heaton, of Whakamarama. At this meeting our subscriptions were reduced from \$35 to \$25 p.a., and meetings were reduced from five to four gatherings. Sadly, three members tendered their resignations, each on the grounds of increasing age and declining health. The Secretary wrote, thanking each of them for their many years of enthusiasm and service.

The Branch is financially comfortable.

Carolyn Adams kindly conducted the election of officers, and for the third consecutive year there were no nominations forthcoming for the position of Chairman. Rob Hicks (for Tauranga and North) and Colin Deed (for Eastern areas) were re-elected as Vice-Presidents by acclaim, both kindly consenting to continue in their posts. Maree Lewis was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer, as was the Committee of Dora Wickham and Gordon Wilson.

For our second meeting (June), we met at the Katikati RSA where we had 21 present, including Raewyn Fitton, a prospective new member from Whakatane. Several members have been seriously ill and good wishes were sent.

Paula Gaelic, recently appointed Manager, spoke about the new Katikati Museum. We visited the museum to inspect exhibits which depict an overview of early Maori settlement, as well as the later arrival of the *Lady Jocelyn* settlers who came via the Vesey Stewart Settlement Scheme. The splendid 'Sam Middlebrook Collection' is a feature of this display. Middlebrook, a Yorkshireman, was the area's first European settler. He lived for many years on his boat in the Uretara Stream, just below the Talisman Hotel. He was renowned as an Armed Constabulary cavalryman, a guide in 1874 to George Vesey Stewart, a butcher, baker, sailor, and boat-builder — and he was a talented ball-room dancer.

For our August meeting we visited the historic old town of Maketu where we lunched on fish and chips at the Community Centre. Colin Deed chaired this meeting. Certificates were presented to two new members, Raewyn Fitton and Barbara James,

both from Whakatane. The Secretary/Treasurer reported on the National AGM in Napier, and noted the Branch's presence with updated material on the Society's website.

Maree Lewis, who had lived for many years in Maketu, spoke of its early history. She described the arrival of the Arawa canoe from Hawaiiiki. and later, Captain James Cook who reported seeing thousands of Maori living on the hilltop pa sites, and gardens flourishing in the valleys. Flax grew head-high from Papamoa to Whakatane and the people used it for everyday purposes such as building and roofing their whare, making matting for the floors, and for weaving clothing and food containers.

When Hans Tapsell arrived in 1830, they began harvesting and preparing flax for his fibre export project. We visited the site of Tapsell's early wharf and store and saw 'Takaparore,' the sacred rock in the harbour entrance to which the bow of the Arawa canoe had been fastened. We then visited St. Peter's Catholic church (1887) and saw some of the original documents from its construction. It was built without nails, and many of the fittings and furniture are original.

From inside St. Peter's, we looked out at Te Awhe pa, at Fort Colville (where the British forces were stationed during the wars), at St. Thomas' Anglican church (1885), and at the sites of the first post office, courthouse, hotel and stables. We drove past the Centennial Monument, and spotted old Tapsell's cannon, and at Town Point, looked out to the remnants of the ancient pa sites mentioned by Captain Cook. This was a pleasant and casual outing, which afforded many interesting tales not found in the history books.

Our final meeting for 2017 was our pre-Christmas luncheon, held at the Historic No. 2 Road Hall in Te Puke. We began with a buffet lunch, and the tables were set with pieces of century-old silver and tableware, making the beautifully restored little hall seem very welcoming. The big photos of old sailing vessels (which Kath Law had made the previous year as table mats) were on a wall. We greeted Ynys Fraser who had recently celebrated her 100th birthday, and a warm welcome was also extended to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12



Ynys Fraser QSM, centenarian, addresses Bay of Plenty Founders at their pre-Christmas luncheon.

Kathy Phillips from Bethlehem, whose membership application had recently been received.

With Vice-President, Rob Hicks, in the chair, the meeting heard that the national teleconferencing calls continue to prove beneficial, and that the National headquarters is now settled into a smaller area in the Bridge Club building in Wellington. This is available for members to use should they need office space in the city.

The planned speaker was unable to attend so the Secretary / Treasurer, Maree, spoke on, 'The things that surprise genealogists.' Members were amazed to hear what can go wrong, and how families can find sad and unpleasant things in their family history. She mentioned an elderly forebear who exchanged his Remuera house for a Te Aroha goldmine plus a five-bedroom house, replete with a tennis court. Neither he nor his equally elderly wife knew anything about gold-mining, and nor could they play tennis!

Maree also told how her husband, Tom, had been advised that he was to inherit a century-old bible, found in a library in Exeter, UK. This had belonged to Tom's second cousin Paul Pascall, who came from the old English family of Pascall's lollies fame. Said bible duly arrived, with the entire work published in the Tamil language!

With further stories, and explaining how much help can be gained from the 'Papers Past' website, Maree concluded an interesting insight into how fascinating — and disappointing — and truly amazing — and maddening — the study of genealogy can be.

This very happy function marked the end of our activities for 2017, and thanks go to all the Bay of Plenty members who have continued to support our Branch so well. Our thoughts are especially with our sick members and we trust that 2018 will be a better year for you. I hope all of our members will have had a Happy Christmas and will enjoy a wonderful New Year.



Historic No. 2 Road Hall, Te Puke, built in 1881 and extensively restored in 2013.

Amazing Ynys

From notes provided by Maree Lewis, Bay of Plenty Branch



Ynys Fraser QSM

It's a rare occurrence for anyone's meeting to be attended by a centenarian, but that was the case for the delighted members of Bay of Plenty Founders as they celebrated their end-of-year function at an historic Te Puke hall.

Guest of Honour was their centenarian member, Ynys Fraser, QSM (Ynys is Welsh and is pronounced Inniss). Ynys has lived for many years near Hamurana Springs (northern shore of Lake Rotorua) and in fact still lives in her original home, 'The Cottage,' where she came as a bride in 1941.

Although her birthday was in August, members presented her with a rousing 'Happy Birthday' and a bouquet, and received a warm reply from Ynys in return. Visiting with her on this enjoyable occasion was Ynys' son, Iain Fraser, from Auckland.

Ynys is the daughter of Dr Stanley Wallis and his wife Elsie, and was born in London during a Zeppelin air raid. Raised as a youngster in the two-storeyed doctor's residence on Pukeroa Hill (where Rotorua Hospital stands), she went on to develop a vast knowledge of the history of her hometown. Over her long and interesting life her interests have included learning ballet, drama and elocution, gaining a Heavy Traffic license (as part of her war effort), honeymooning on Mayor Island long before it was fashionable, and running the Hamurana Fishing Lodge for many years. She has also given generous time to many Rotorua charities such as Hospice, Prisoners Aid, Friends of the Museum, QE Hospital Friends, and St. Barnabas' Church. She has also knitted rugs for refugees and made craft materials.

She was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2003 in recognition of her generous services to the community.

Well done Ynys – the Bay of Plenty Branch is very proud of you and we hope you will enjoy many more years of fruitful and healthy days.

Whanganui Branch 2017

This Branch was established on 26 September 1945. We presently have 53 members and have a regular attendance of between 20 and 35 at each of our monthly meetings, depending on the day's programme. While some members are not able to be very active, our members are enthusiastic and generous in supporting our endeavour to get the first official settlers recognised via a stained glass window in the District Council Chambers.

We try to have a mixture of events that will attract younger people to join and there is some evidence that this is working. However, we have also had a few resignations, with the reason given that there is difficulty (for some) in meeting the expenses associated with membership. We are working on this.

The stained glass window project has reached an exciting stage. We have twice been to see it being made and it is planned to have a launching ceremony next February. I have a coloured picture of the design but note that some of the colours will differ in the

finished window. We would prefer to wait until the official pictures come out and publish one of them in next year's Bulletin.

Our year of events, 2017

In February, local author Felicity Campbell, gave an excellent presentation on the subject of her latest book, *Town Hall*, which features the early development of Castlecliff, Gonville, and Wanganui East. These three original Town Boards came to life through the names and personalities of the men who served on them, many of whom are remembered in our street names and places of today. The work they did in developing the infrastructure of our city has been well recorded in Felicity's research.

Our March visit took us to the Woolshed Museum in Kohi, Waverley. In spite of three phone calls, our planned bus provider somehow failed to record our booking and did not appear at the pick-up point. Members hastily arranged a car pool and drove to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 14

Kohi instead. There, Bill Hone has a wonderful collection of everyday items from bygone days that he has collected or saved from being destroyed. We all enjoyed browsing through the crowded shelves, and also Nell Hone's lovely garden. An enjoyable afternoon tea provided by our members ended our afternoon in the country.

For April, our AGM was held at the historic Avoca Hotel in Upokongaro followed by Susannah Norris talking about the centenary of the first motor vehicle to drive from Wanganui to Raetihi along the Parapara road. A newspaper article of the time added to the atmosphere with a detailed description of the journey. A lavish afternoon tea was provided by the Avoca Hotel.

In May, Geoff Potts and Bruce Isted from the New Zealand Postcard Society chose a selection of early Wanganui buildings from their extensive collections and presented them using a data projector with accompanying commentary. They also set up display boards illustrating the popularity of postcards in the early 1900s and the important part they played in recording the past. There was a good attendance at this meeting and Geoff and Bruce indicated they would be pleased to return with another subject at a future date.

The social history of times past was discussed at our June meeting and it proved a most successful afternoon. The Chairman, Lynley Fowler, suggested topics and the members recalled events from their childhood and family memories, and the discussion flowed easily. It was unfortunate that our recording equipment didn't function as this was a snapshot of daily life from a bygone era.

In July, Roz Grant from Turakina gave a most interesting talk on the life of Robert Bruce of Hunterville — philanthropist, politician, and conservationist. She told of the journey of re-discovery she made in unearthing his burial site within the remnant of bush known as Bruce Memorial Reserve. Many Hunterville residents seem unaware of the story behind this location. One-hundred years on, after his death in 1917, his legacy lives on in the



The Field family home was built of heart Kauri timbers (1868). It is located on Field's Track, between Kakatahi on the Parapara road and Karioi, near Tangawai.

form of a continuing monetary endowment he left New Zealand for afforestation and for native bush preservation projects. A remarkable gentleman. (More on page 27.)

August saw us visit 'Field House', the home of Henry Claylands Field, a surveyor and an early settler of the Wanganui region. This was a very interesting and well attended afternoon with many members bringing visitors. This property is still in the same family. The current owners outlined the history of the Field family and of the house (1868), which retains many items of historical importance.

In September, the Wanganui Branch held an anniversary dinner at the Grand Hotel to celebrate our 72nd birthday. This was a most successful occasion with members enjoying the dinner and the opportunity to meet the National President, Paddy Bayley and her husband, Richard. They met with as many members as possible and Paddy gave a short address outlining her involvement with the Founders Society and the recent changes at National Office.

For our October meeting, Jim Parnell gave a most interesting account of the ill-fated *Tahua*, the first purpose-built stern wheel, river steamer to ply the Wanganui River. Built in the David Murray Foundry on Taupo Quay, Wanganui, it began operating in 1886. The *Tahua* carried mail and supplies to Pipiriki, but was wrecked on the west side of Moutere Island in the river in 1890. Jim was able to show us what

is possibly the only photograph of the wreck, just under the water, taken in the 1950s, not long before a slip came down and buried it forever.

Our Christmas meeting was held at Ashley Park near Waitotara. This grand country home is a tourist mecca with accommodation, antiques and crafts shop, park walks and lake, assorted animal enclosures and

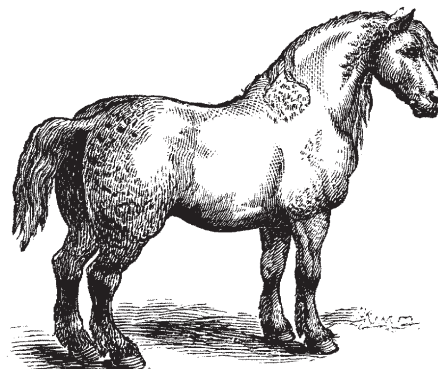
aviaries, and a museum and curiosities collection. It proved a most enjoyable afternoon with most of the group travelling there on the free bus. We could have used a lot more time as there was so much to see. The grounds abounded with many animals including 'Hansel' the emu, numerous chickens and bantams, a turkey and peacock, and a llama.



The *Waimarie*, commissioned in 1902 and re-launched in 2000.
Photo reproduced with permission of www.visitwhanganui.nz

River steamers plying the Whanganui River played a vital role in helping to open up the hinterland in the early years of settlement in this region. The paddle wheeler, *Waimarie*, was to enjoy a kinder fate than that of the *Tahua* (as mentioned in Whanganui Branch's report for 2017). After being sunk and abandoned for 40

years, the *Waimarie* was raised and underwent a full restoration over seven years. She was re-launched for touring the Whanganui River on 1 January 2000, and carried 25,000 passengers in that year. Also at the Waimarie Centre, at the riverside, is the Waimarie Museum, which tells the colourful story of boating on this river.



Wellington Branch

From Branch Chair Person, Carol Hurst

Annual report to 31 December 2016

Our branch committee had a busy year in 2016. While we attracted three new members in that year, we lost more because of declining age and health. Numbers continue to fall. We had a good attendance at our Annual meeting in May after having to cancel the April meeting for lack of attendees. The speaker was Hilda McDonnell, who gave an interesting account of her work in publishing the results of her years of research and study of early Wellington city hotels, set up at the time of settlement from 1840.

In June 2016, the National Annual Meeting for all branches was organised by Wellington Branch at Premier House, an impressive Government venue in Tinakori Road, Wellington. This was a lot of work for my small committee of four: finding suitable caterers, arranging flowers and organising the special Police reports for delegates required by Parliamentary services. It was disappointing that some delegates did not attend. The speaker was the interesting and very entertaining historian, Jock Phillips. The meeting was a great success, with good fellowship and food.

In September we held another lunch with a talk about John Martin, an early Norwegian mariner who settled in Martin's Bay, now Balaena Bay, where he set up a ferry and boat repair business. He was on board the *Rifleman*, commandeered by Te Kooti from the Chathams in 1868. Martin set up a ferry and boat repair business in the Bay in the 1880s and boat building continued there until the 1950s.

Our December gathering for a Christmas lunch at the CQ Hotel was well supported and this venue proved excellent. Having a private space to dine encouraged socialising and it was good to see some new faces.

Sadly, Roma Foley died suddenly during the year. She was a loyal and supportive member and her account of her war time nursing was in the 2015 Bulletin.

I thank each of my committee, Yvonne Lawrie, Janet Robinson, and Jane Watts for their help and support during the year.

... and activities to December 2017

We hold sociable lunches with finger food provided by our small committee of four.

In March, 2017, Margaret Hurst, who had recently retired from many years working at the National Library, spoke to us about her career and also helped our members with advice on the facilities available at the National Library for undertaking family research.

Our annual meeting was held in May with Ruth Gotlieb as our speaker. Ruth is an entertaining speaker and told us entertaining stories of the many years she spent on the Wellington City Council. She still spends a lot of time volunteering in the community: as a driver for the Cancer Society, a volunteer at Wellington Hospital, and as a Justice of the Peace.

In July, Adrian Humphris, who is in charge of Wellington City Archives, spoke to us about the collections they store and showed us slides of some of the earliest documents from the settlement of Wellington in 1840.

The September meeting was cancelled and instead we met in October at the National Library to visit the new exhibition space for the Treaty of Waitangi and the Women's Suffrage Petition. There is a lot to see and most of us decided we would make another visit. We all had lunch at the café in the Library.

In December we had a festive lunch at the CQ Hotel in Cuba Street.



Early photograph of the Albert Hotel, Willis Street, Wellington. Note telephone wires are evident but no motor cars, at least in this pic. Acknowledgement: National Library of NZ website.

Canterbury-Westland

From Pamela Absolum, Branch Chair

Our branch went into recess after the Christchurch 2011 earthquakes. Now, finding where various archives are located is an ongoing search, and trying to revive membership and get new members is no easy task. We find that people are interested, or are involved with other genealogy groups. However, we have formed a small group of like-minded people. and if we regard as 'active,' those who have attended any of our May Special General Meeting (to set up a 'properly' constituted committee) and/or, our three social functions, we have a core of some 14 members and of course, a handful of their spouses and friends. Our mailing list is about double that number. At our meetings, we have shared our family histories and ideas – the core substance of any Founders movement. Slowly but surely we should grow.

A visit to Christ's College in October was historically interesting as it was the first school in Christchurch. Founded in 1850, this Anglican school is the oldest independent school in New Zealand. In the present day it caters for boys, day and boarding, in years 9 to 13. Some of the original buildings are still used along with beautiful internal wooden beams, wall cladding and furniture. The outside cladding

of volcanic stone was sourced locally and different colours determine where the stone came from.

Lunch was enjoyed at 'The Bunsen' in what was the Canterbury University and also the offices and laboratory of Earnest Rutherford.

Our Christmas function was held at 'Glengarry' Farm, Birch Hill, Oxford, the home of members, Mary-Jean and John McLauchlan, We were lucky with the fine and warm weather. Mary-Jean and John had arranged seating under the shade of a wonderful old tree. John took us on a short walk around part of the farm, giving us a good understanding of its history and the work he and Mary-Jean had put into the farm over a period of more than 50 years. Many trees were planted as shelter belts to buffer against the 'nor'west' winds which funnel down from the mountains. The trees also give shelter in the winter from the snow and southerly winds. The sheep are Coopworth, a dual-purpose breed (carpet wool and meat), developed by scientists at Lincoln University, Canterbury.

The evening ended with a scrumptious pot-luck dinner, magnificently prepared by Mary-Jean.



Christ's College, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Young person's family history research delights audience

Whoever said it's only older people are interested in history? Towards the end of 2017 this was shown to be not always the case, when young Jack Blyth (12), read out his winning essay to an appreciative Founders Hawke's Bay audience.

Hawke's Bay Branch Vice-President, Kath La Rooy and President, Paddy Bayley, developed this essay competition, pilot project, in an attempt to encourage young people to take an interest in their family's history, especially in relation to settlement in New Zealand. The competition was offered to Hereworth School, Havelock North, and the Year 8 boys chosen for the venture adopted it with gusto. The winner, Jack Blyth, and two highly commended participants were announced in June. Founders Hawke's Bay Branch donated a prize of \$100 for the winner and also donated towards books for the school.

Jack's essay traced the familiar themes of early settlement in New Zealand. The prospect of a better life, hardships along the way, and some particularly memorable events for some family members.



Jack Blyth reads his winning essay.

My Family — A new life in New Zealand

by Jack Blyth

Some would say I'm European, some would say that I'm pakeha, some would say I'm a Kiwi but I would like to say that I'm a New Zealander. I come from a family which started from many origins, all brought together by the prospect of a better life in New Zealand. All made the choice to travel for three long months by ship in hazardous, crowded, cramped, conditions to come to the new world – Aotearoa – the land of the long white cloud. The land of opportunity leaving behind the family life they knew, anticipating a better life. For some this would be true, for others they would discover hardship.

For my great, great, great grandfather, Albert Willyams, who had arrived on the West Coast of New Zealand and found a job in the coal mines, sadly his hopes and dreams of a wonderful and easy going life were shattered by the Brunner Mine disaster which struck on Thursday, March 26th 1896. An explosion deep in the mine killed all 65 workers. Unfortunately Albert was working at the time and was killed, leaving behind his wife, Elizabeth, and their 6 children, 5 sons and one daughter, Edith. Following this disaster Elizabeth moved her family

to Christchurch to find work. This disaster had an ongoing effect for all new all immigrants to the West Coast as the lowered economy meant fewer jobs and my great great grandfather, William Robert Leetch, who had arrived in Hokitika in 1892 from Ballymena, also moved to Christchurch to find work. There in Christchurch, Edith Willyams and William Leetch met, married and had a daughter and a son, William Albert Leslie (Les) Leech. Les married Nancie Hepworth in 1941 and they settled in Timaru where he became a prominent businessman. They had a daughter and in 1944 a son, Russell Keith Leech, my grandfather. (R. K. Leech, personal communication, March 12, 2017)

On the other hand the story of another great grandfather, Roderick MacRae MacLean, was vastly different. Born in 1906 in the Kyle of Lochalsh, his family had been struck with the great flu epidemic and his mother, Zella and five of his 10 siblings had died. Rod was sent to New Zealand in 1921 at the age of 15 to be raised by his Aunt, Catherine. He arrived to the MacKenzie Country where his aunt

CONTINUES ON PAGE 19

was established and worked on the high country stations. In 1940 his life in New Zealand was to change when he joined the Army to fight in World War II. Unfortunately he returned from the war wounded. He was rehabilitated and studied to be a land valuer. Rod returned to the MacKenzie Country and in Fairlie he met and married Elaine McCahon a nurse from an Irish background who was born in Oxford New Zealand. Elaine had grown up with her own share of excitement. In January, 1929, Elaine helped her 69 year old uncle Henry Morris aka New Zealand's Blondin, to "make good the promise of his advertisement, weather permitting Blondin will wheel a young lady across the 90ft rope in a wheelbarrow." Around 500 people came from across Canterbury to watch as Henry wheeled Elaine across the Ashley Gorge on a tightrope 30ft high and 84ft wide. ("Rope Walking", 1929).

Rod and Elaine had two girls, one being my grandmother, Zella Catherine MacLean, born in Christchurch, 1945. The name Zella has a long history in our family, it originates from Zeller Lillingston, a wealthy German lady who lived in the Kyle of Lochalsh where my great grandfather came from. She was very generous to the poor people. As a mark of respect, families who received money from her would call their daughter Zeller – over time with the Gaelic language the name changed to be spelt Zella. This name continues in our family today with my younger sister being called Zella. (Z.C. Leech, personal communication, March 12, 2017.)

So, after many people had travelled, lived, worked and survived through disaster and war my grandparents met and married in Timaru where they still live today. They had my mother Joanne Kristie Blyth in 1974 and in 1995 while studying in Christchurch she met my father Marcus Blyth. In 2004 they married and moved to Marcus' family farm near Dannevirke where we live today. (J.K. Blyth, personal communication, March 25, 2017)

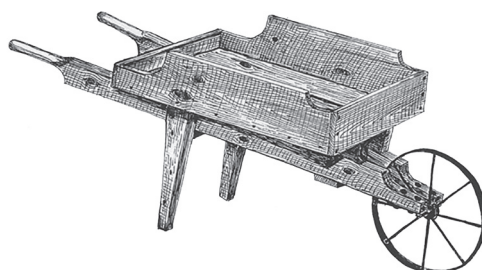
And so finally, after some 108 years on from when records show some of my first relatives arrived on the West Coast of New Zealand, I, Jack Wilson Blyth, was born on the 2nd of June 2005 ready to make my mark on history.

References:

Jack provided appropriate references and photographs.



Jack Blyth with Founders essay competition organisers, Hawke's Bay Branch President, Paddy Bayley, left, and Vice President, Kath La Rooy.



The Remittance Man

by Koria M Davidson, Founders, Wanganui

"The remittance man, in his weakness, symbolised his culture's fear that British masculinity was imperilled both in Britain and abroad."

It is said that my great grandmother's first husband, Rowland Charles Davies, was a 'Remittance Man'. He died in Raetihi at the age of 91, having worked on the land all his active life, thereby breaking the rules generally ascribed to those known as 'remittance men.'



Rowland Charles Davies Snr

"The thing about a remittance man, of course, is that nobody ever knows for sure whether (he) was in fact a remittance man."

Wikipedia: *Within Victorian British culture, a remittance man was usually the black sheep of an upper or middle-class family who was sent away (from the United Kingdom to the Empire), and paid to stay away. These men were generally of dissolute or drunken character, and may have been sent overseas after one or more disgraces at home.*

It appears that here in New Zealand, the remittance man received a lot of bad press, according to my searches in the New Zealand newspaper archive *Papers Past*. There would have been many reasons why the remittance man was looked upon with such disdain – addiction; married outside the family's religious beliefs; married to a person of different race or culture; a threat to an inheritance; married beneath their station; unexpected pregnancy; or, some other more obscure family embarrassment. For whatever reason it was obviously of more benefit for the family to have the unfortunate soul sent off into

obscurity, never to be seen again.

He was described as a despicable creature, a useless member of society, a waster, hopeless rogue, spendthrift, bankrupt, criminal, imbecile, plunger, sundowner, swagger, and one who wandered from place to place with a blanket and billy, never wanting to work, but if the need arose, might be forced to trade his toil for food, clothes or shelter.

However, in contrast, I have discovered the remittance man was also referred to as 'mannerly,' and as a 'Gentleman Joe' (in respect of his courteous manner and posh accent). He was "polite, suave, glib of tongue (he never swore or used foul language), generous but weak-minded, incurably indolent, a reckless liar, and often a thief." The contradiction, for some, would have been a heavy burden indeed.

For many remittance men who were sent to New Zealand, the burden was so intolerable that they took their own lives, sometimes in the most hideous ways, including the hypodermic needle, cutting one's own throat, or ingesting carbolic acid or other deadly poisons.

The incidence of suicide of remittance men in New Zealand was unbelievably high. A Google search <remittance men suicide> from *Papers Past* yielded 2460 results. For example, the plight of the remittance man was described as follows in *The Observer* (20 January 1894):

The Remittance Man

One more unfortunate, weary of breath, rashly importunate, and gone to his death!

Charles Henry Dowsett suicided at Napier last week. Went into his bedroom at his lodgings and cut his throat. Dowsett was only 30. He was a remittance man. Somehow, the men who end up laying violent hands upon themselves in the colonies, generally, are remittance men. I know nothing of Dowsett's case save what the very brief particulars wired to the Auckland daily papers could tell me. But there is a strong family likeness in all these suicides by remittance men. They are generally attributable to the same causes.

The remittance man seldom does any work. He depends upon his remittance, and when one cheque is 'done' he waits for the next to arrive. Between times he loafes away his time and very often amuses himself by

CONTINUES ON PAGE 21

cursing the colony and the day on which he saw it first. Remittance men (of course there are exceptions to the rule), have generally been failures at Home, and have been shipped out to the colonies by their affectionate friends and relations to sink or swim or go to the dogs, as they please. Many otherwise sane and intelligent persons in the Old Country are firmly impressed with the belief that the man who has failed utterly to make his mark (or even his bread and cheese) in England, has only to set foot in Greater Britain to straightway become a dazzling success.

Of all the failures that come out to New Zealand and Australia in the hope of bettering their condition, the remittance man is the most heavily handicapped. If his allowance is sufficient to keep him in food and clothes and enable him to have a roof over his head, he won't work – as a rule. And the man who doesn't work or occupy himself in some way that will keep brain and body employed will, in nineteen cases out of twenty, very soon drift to the bad. The penniless and friendless new chum is better off if he would only believe it, so long as he has health and strength and activity, than the average remittance man. He has to depend upon his own exertions for the food he eats and the clothes he wears, and very often the early struggles he encounters make a man of him, and this fits him to become a useful and desirable colonist. – end:

As a child living on the family farm situated alongside the main highway between Ohakune and Waiouru at Tangiwai, north island, I recall my grandparents often having had unexpected visits from swaggers. Some were repeat callers.

My grandparents were extremely generous, and 'swaggers' were always given a good meal and shelter from the inclement weather. I recall one old



Rowland Davies and bullock team at Moawhango, near Taihape.

gentleman, a regular caller, always arrived with holes in his overwhelmingly smelly socks. My grandmother would screw up her nose in horror, especially when he proceeded to put his feet up on the rack above the coal range. But my grandfather would caution her not to comment, and he was always sent on his way the next morning well fed, rested and usually with a warm coat. I chuckle when I think of it because the coat was often fairly new and my grandmother would be thinking how she would have to forego buying herself something new and fashionable in order that my grandfather could afford another coat.

I recall how the house had to be opened up and aired thoroughly the day after the swagger left, because although he was invited to take a bath, he always refused the invitation.

Wikipedia tells us that there were also 'remittance women' but I have failed to locate any information which tells of any such person in New Zealand.

On 30 January 1892, the *New Zealand Herald* published, on page 1 of their Supplement, a story written by Rudyard Kipling, entitled 'One Lady at Wairakei' (1891), in which a remittance man is featured as a sorrowful character. It is a little known fact that Kipling visited our beautiful country.

http://www.kiplingsociety.co.uk/rg_nz1.htm

Robert Louis Stevenson, who resided in Samoa for a good many years, also featured a remittance man in a story entitled 'The Wrecker,' which he co-authored with his stepson.

In 1897, Mark Twain (Samuel Langhorne Clemens), wrote a non-fiction travelogue entitled 'Following the Equator,' in which he tells of the first remittance

men he ever met. Mark Twain also visited New Zealand and spent some time in Whanganui.

There is an excellent ballad on 'Youtube' which is based on the above travelogue.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEuonn4rmsA>

Much more recently, in the *Otago Daily Times* of 21 August 2017, an article by Bruce Munro described a 'remittance man' who was allegedly paid a remittance to

CONTINUES ON PAGE 22

“leave England and never come back, the man was apparently the spitting image of his alleged father, King Edward VII.”

<https://www.odt.co.nz/lifestyle/magazine/within-heirs-breadth>

So, in referring back to my ancestor and remittance man, Rowland Charles Davies, he can rightfully be commended for living a long and productive life. He made a new life for himself in a new and exciting land, faced new challenges and did not look back. He was accountable and contributed in a constructive way to the development of the land that was presented to him. He could very easily have made a different choice.

Remittance Man

by Judith Wright (1915-2000)

(Verse 1 only)

The spendthrift, disinherited and graceless,
accepted his pittance with an easy air,
only surprised he could escape so simply
from the pheasant-shooting and the aunts in the close;
took to the life, dropped easily out of knowledge,
and tramping the backtracks in the summer haze
let everything but life slip through his fingers.

Coastal history beckons for Christmas function

High on the list of things greatly enjoyed by Founders are visits to grand historical homes and sites associated with our New Zealand settler past. Fittingly, a sunny Sunday in late November saw a full coach of Hawke's Bay Founders head out to Porangahau on the central Hawke's Bay coast for their end-of-year luncheon and Christmas afternoon tea at the historic homestead of Chapelwick.



Close to Porangahau beach, the present-day Chapelwick home is operated as a luxury bed and breakfast and function centre, by hosts, Sandra and Pat, and Sandra's sister, Deborah.

The lovely old home and a nineteenth-century (Grade 2-listed) chapel sit handsomely in 18 acres of attractive lawns and gardens. The modern-day visitor would not guess that the present home was built in 1920 to replace the original homestead lost to fire.

Chapelwick is sited on the old Porangahau station, first established in 1854, and run by the family of George Hunter senior who emigrated from England in 1839. The property remained in this family

Hawke's Bay Founders members gather at 'Chapelwick,' Porangahau, for their end-of-year luncheon and Christmas afternoon tea.

until 1986. They were indeed early settlers to New Zealand in the 'Founders' tradition. George Hunter Snr, with his wife, Helen, and their 10 children, left England aboard the *Duke of Roxburgh* on 3 October 1839 — and arrived at Wellington on 8 February 1840. George Snr was the first Mayor of Wellington and his sons became prominent in farming and in agri-business.

After an initial walk of the grounds and tour of the house, the Founders visitors were treated to a

CONTINUES ON PAGE 23

CONTINUES FROM PAGE 22

lunch hosted by the owners. This was followed by talks by the hosts on the history of the property. Paddy Bayley, Hawkes Bay Branch President, then presented new members with their certificates. The afternoon concluded with traditional fare of Christmas cake, wine and juice before departing this most picturesque venue.

Historic chapel of the pioneering Hunter family – built in the 1870s and now a popular venue for weddings.



Harvey and Patricia Boyden (left), at Chapelwick, having received their Founders full membership certificates, with Hawke's Bay Branch President, Paddy Bayley.



Recipients of their 'Friends of Founders' certificates, (from left), Yvonne Lynam, and Hugh and Peggy van Asch, with Paddy Bayley.

Did you know?

Since we've mentioned the locality of Porangahau, central Hawke's Bay, did you know that this area boasts one of the longest place names in the world? It's called:

Taumata whakatangi hangakoauau o tamatea turi pukakapiki maunga horo nuku pokai whenua kitanatahu

Translated, that means — "... the hill on which Tamatea, the chief of great physical stature and renown, played a lament on his flute to the memory of his brother."

A New Zealand folk song was written about this placename in the early 1960s by Peter Cape, the father of Hawke's Bay Founders member, Stephanie Drew.



Immigrant Henwood family prosper but also endure hard times

by Jenny During, Wairarapa Branch (abridged)

Elizabeth Martha Trescowthick (1820-1904), was born at Padstow, Cornwall, in 1820. She was married to John Henwood in London in 1846, and emigrated with John and their three children, to New Zealand, arriving at Canterbury in 1856.

Moving to a new life was a joint family affair as John's brother James had married Martha's sister, and other Henwood siblings joined them in the journey to New Zealand. They sailed on the *Joseph Fletcher*, a three-masted clipper barque of 672 tons.

Captain John Pook was the master of the *Joseph Fletcher* and this voyage marked her only trip to Lyttleton. On this passage she carried five infants under 12 months, 66 children, 32 married couples, 43 single males and 27 single females – a complement of 173 souls in total.

One of John Henwood's brothers, Horatio, made diary entries which give a clear account of the journey. This record (the original) is held in the New Zealand Archives, Christchurch.

Two weeks after disembarking (the newcomers likely stayed in the Army Barracks, at Lyttleton), they walked the Bridle Track across the hills to Christchurch, carrying their youngest children. After checking out the prospects and possibilities of life in the new Canterbury settlement, the extended family seems to have split up and gone various ways.

John and Martha took their family to Kaiapoi in November 1856, where they opened a general store in Peraki Street. They also owned a farm nearby called 'Ashcombe.' The farm produced fruit, vegetables, eggs, dairy products and other goods that could be sold at the store and it's likely that Martha, assisted by her daughters when they were old enough, bottled fruit and made preserves and pickles to sell there as well.

The township of Kaiapoi was originally known as Mandeville. The port was particularly busy during the 1860s with approximately 80 small ships taking out wheat and potatoes and bringing in other necessary supplies for much of north Canterbury. John became involved in the business life of the small settlement, becoming a Director of the Kaiapoi Land



Mrs John Henwood, her daughter Mrs T.B. Knight, her granddaughter Mrs C.W. Sherwood, and her grandson Master Noel Sherwood.

Photo and caption as published in a Christchurch newspaper in 1904, showing the late Mrs Martha Henwood, right, with four generations of the Henwood family represented.

Building and Investment Society in 1862. Three years later he was elected to the Kaiapoi Municipal Council.

At this time, the Waimakariri River was prone to flooding; John and Martha's farm was flooded with severe results. They lost their cows, 200 garden fruit trees, other crops, and endured a flooded house over eight days. The river flooded again in 1868, repeating the severe damage.

Losses from these floods resulted in John losing his original capital of 500 pounds (brought with him to the colony), plus everything he had made afterwards. He was declared bankrupt in 1869, which effectively ended his aspirations for involvement in local body government.

John Henwood died of bronchitis in 1896 and his wife Martha died in her 84th year at Sydenham in 1904. She was survived by one daughter, four sons, 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 25

Footnote

As a poignant reminder that loved ones remaining in the 'mother country' never expected to see their migrated relatives again, Jenny During says she has letters written by Martha's parents which give news of the families who remained in England. At some part of each letter, it is quoted that "we will all meet again after we have died."

Table with evident water staining as a result of the Waimakariri River floods of the late 1860s.



The trials of a pioneer

by Audrey Densham, *Founders, Hawke's Bay*

"Oh my back!" groaned Mary Messenger, as she straightened up from bending over the washtub.

When she and her family had left their comfortable home in Essex to start a new life in far away New Zealand, they knew it would entail hard work for them all, but not as grindingly hard as it turned out to be.

The journey out in the sailing ship, *Joseph Fletcher*, had been an exciting adventure. [Read of another voyage to New Zealand by this ship, just a few years later, this time to Lyttleton. On facing page.] As she (Mary) had recorded in her journal, she and her father had proved to be good sailors and her brothers had soon got their sea-legs and were up among the sails with the sailors whenever possible. Her mother had been ill for quite a while, and Mary, aged 20, had been glad she was a good cook, and able to bake a loaf of bread and a fruit cake every morning. With six children ranging from herself, the eldest, to Jessie aged 8, it was a good number to feed. Each family among the 124 passengers was responsible for their own meals.

In good weather there were flying fish and porpoises to amuse them, or fishing. Some of the passengers were very happy to join in a game of chess or draughts when bad weather forced them to stay below deck. Copying sheet music and reading sometimes occupied her time too.

Their arrival in New Plymouth (December, 1853), had been exciting, with wild, burly looking Maoris coming out to carry the passengers from surf boats to the beach. The house they rented for a few months at 7/- a week was adequate for their needs, but a far cry from the comfortable house and servants they had left.

When Papa bought his first 50 acres of land for £250 they all went out eagerly to view their new home, which included a house. The boys and their father viewed it with eagerness and enthusiasm, but the women were secretly dismayed by the thick native bush and the primitive small dwelling on the property. They were not surprised it had been abandoned by the previous owner.

Clearing of the land involved felling a lot of trees, dragging them to a heap and burning them when dry. A heavy and dirty job which entailed everyone pitching in and helping.

The cooking and washing was very difficult because the chimney smoked terribly, until the menfolk found time to make a cob (with clay, gravel and straw) and remodel and remake the chimney entirely. When Papa and brother William were unwell, and also when they were busy travelling back and forth to town with the bullock cart, Mary felt obliged to help with the outside chores as well

CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

as helping Mother. She was often very tired. Louisa was rather delicate for heavy outside work but was wonderful with young Charles, Edward and Jessie. Of course, even the young ones had their regular duties.

It was a red letter day when William went into town with the bullocks and returned with the usual sugar, flour, etc plus their beloved piano and their beds. Things began to seem more like normal life, although far removed from the days in Essex, where Mary had enjoyed many quiet sessions with music pupils.

The hard chopping, clearing and burning continued whenever the weather was right. They pit-sawed timber for building and split shingles for roofing and rails for fencing. The fences did not always keep the animals in and they often had to go searching in the bush for escapees. Many a time they also found and returned neighbours' strays. The men were trying in their spare time to dig a vegetable garden, and make an outside privy and a fowl house.

A lot of the people they met on the ship coming out, had bought land nearby and were just as hectically busy breaking it in. They managed to visit sometimes, and even make time for a sing-song around the piano or a game of draughts or chess. There had to be some light relief from the arduous daily tasks in this new land.

Often they were jolted awake by yet another earthquake. They got used to them and were not so frightened as at first. The Maoris said there were so many earthquakes because the farm was on a direct line between the mountains of Taranaki and Ruapehu, who were still angry with each other about the rivalry over Mt Pihanga. Mary's response was, "Well, this is a new and angry land, not like dear old England."

Mary heard her mother bustling about in the kitchen and hoped by the time the delicious smelling mutton stew was cooked, she would have hung out the heavy wet clothes on the lines William had rigged up for her. She would then call the men to a meal with the gong they had made with iron bars.

Perhaps tonight she would find time to write again to her brother John, aged 18, who had left England before them and was staying with relatives in Melbourne, Australia.

Mary's account of her family's experiences in the next 10 years (1853-63) in Taranaki, as written by Audrey Densham, will be brought to you in the 2018 Bulletin. William Messenger, after whom Mt Messenger in north Taranaki is named, is Audrey's grandfather.

A President's message from the 1950s

We see a similar theme today by many organisations in the drive for new members, but what a different style (below) in how it was expressed, just over 60 years ago.

Again, I have to emphasise the need of a big increase of membership of the New Zealand Founders Society, so that it will be strengthened, financially and otherwise, for full achievement of its national objects. I repeat my December appeal to each member to bring an eligible relative or friend into membership this year. Such a feat should not call for great spending of time and strength. What a light task – rather a duty – it is in contrast with the founders' triumphs over stupendous difficulties! I feel sure that satisfactory response will come from any member who gives good heed to the letter and spirit of the society's main object:

"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 in the past and which, if kept alive and virile, must prove of inestimable value for the future of New Zealand."

Duff Daysh

NZFS Bulletin, April, 1954

Conservationist ahead of his time — Robert Cunningham Bruce (1842–1917)

The year of this Bulletin, 2017, marked the centenary of the death of a remarkably forward-looking immigrant settler who was passionate about preserving New Zealand's native forests.

The process of felling the bush to make way for pasture land for grazing has resulted in the sweeping views of paddocks we see today, with little remaining of the native bush. Yet, thankfully now, modern attitudes are demanding bush remnants are preserved and new plantings of native species are encouraged.

Scottish immigrant, Robert Bruce, came out to New Zealand with his parents and siblings in 1860. After a stint in the Otago goldfields followed by seamanship on merchant shipping, he re-joined the Bruce family (1877) in the Turakina Valley, south of Wanganui, where they were developing farms from the heavily wooded country.

From his farm base, he developed an interest in politics and won the Rangitikei seat, 1884-1890, and again in 1892. He was known in Parliament and throughout his public life for his fluent and powerful oratory.

Never having married and leaving no direct descendants, he nevertheless left a generous legacy to New Zealand. In addition to philanthropic bequests, he left generous funding which was to be used for, "the making of domains or national parks in New Zealand".

Since 1968, more than \$400,000 of the Robert Bruce trust funds have been used to concentrate on two main purposes. One, to support university research into New Zealand forests (55 per cent), and the other, (45 per cent), to support the acquisition, reforestation and maintenance of native forests on public land.



Honouring the centenary of his death (23.4.2017), on that day, representatives of various groups pay their respects at Robert Bruce's grave in the Bruce Memorial Reserve near Hunterville.



Robert Cunningham Bruce
Photo reproduced by courtesy of the
Marton & Districts Historical Society



Map showing the distribution of grants from the Robert Bruce Trust to organisations involved with native reforestation projects, and to national parks in New Zealand.

Support material: We are indebted to Turakina historian, Roz Grant, for providing information and photographs, and to Lynley Fowler, Founders, Wanganui, for assistance with this item.

Country churches — providing a powerful connection with past generations

by Peter Watt, *Founders, Hawke's Bay*

As we tour rural New Zealand, the old churches are often the most notable buildings we see. This is largely because of their distinctive architecture, and especially because of their steeples which are likely to draw attention because they are higher than other buildings. The impact is even more pronounced when a church stands alone, is perhaps on a rise, or is some distance from other buildings.

To us as Founders, these old buildings resonate perhaps a little more than others, because they were so much at the heart of our settler communities. They fulfilled a role (and still do) in providing places for worship, but they also marked milestone events for families, through births (and baptisms), funerals and marriages; festivals in the Christian church calendar such as Christmas and Easter; Sunday school; and fetes, which were often held in the church grounds.

Yet, while many of these buildings are falling into serious states of disrepair and/or are being closed or sold for other purposes, there are community-driven efforts at the local level to preserve and protect them. These motivated volunteers recognise that these icons of our settler past would otherwise be lost forever.

We'll come to an excellent example of just how this has been done in a small north Wairarapa community, but meanwhile, let's hear from several spokespersons on what it means to see such churches (and halls) closed and left, which without intervention, dooms them to eventual deterioration and ruin.

Special memories — invite action

The following comments are by Hawke's Bay resident, Hilary Pedersen (in *Hawke's Bay Today*, 5.1.18), in response to the announcement that her old home church, St Michael and All Angels Anglican church (1881), Porangahau, was to be closed.

"My parents, Harry Dean and Muriel Clifton, were married there in the thirties. My forties christening followed. In the fifties and fresh home from boarding school ... my sister Pam and I would show off our superior choral skills and sing descants. Somewhere in the early sixties local school teacher, taxi driver

and later to be my husband, Barry Pedersen, started the church choir.

"Our wedding followed later ... and when my mother died aged 96 ... there was only one place to bring her. ... Where else but Porangahau?

"What of the future? Are the memories that are soaked — along with the honey from past resident bees — into its walls all that will remain of an era that now has little place in present lives?"

Hilary invites the local community to help keep the church open. "This time I will put my hand up. Will you?"

Margaret Symons responded with a positive message in *Hawke's Bay Today* (12.1.18):

"Communities can still embrace change and maintain a church. ... I am part of St Michael's at Puketapu. We are all volunteers, including the clergy.

"About eight years ago we decided to move a small hall beside our church. Money was donated and we probably spent two years clearing the site, moving the hall on and then rebuilding it.

"It was hard work but lots of fun too. ... Since then, things at St Michael's have ticked over. ... We've all benefited from the friendships that new opportunity and physically contributing have brought."

Also responding to Hilary Pedersen's letter, Richard Andersen of Waipukurau (*Hawke's Bay Today*, 12.1.18), speaks of the 'glue' that bound rural communities:

"Anybody who has a rural upbringing ... would have fond memories of the rural atmosphere, the compassion and help that was so readily extended to those in need, the joy and celebration at weddings and the arrival of new families and children to all the small area schools.

"The pride and celebrations in the local hall when the district team won a sports event, few soldiers sailed without a farewell, and the huge terrible district sadness once again at the hall when some soldiers failed to return."

Another perspective is provided in a south island study: (Ennor, L H (2007). 'Effects of closing a small rural church,' (Dissertation, Master of Ministry).

CONTINUES ON PAGE 29

“The St James church [Sheffield, Canterbury], was opened in 1910 but is now showing the effects of its age and will soon become unsafe to use as water has seeped in behind the exterior cladding (applied in 1959), causing an unknown amount of damage to the framing timber. There are currently [2007] eight to 12 regular worshippers, and 37 on the pastoral role. The church will have to be closed, but some of the regulars would rather not face this fact.”

Elsewhere in his dissertation, Lawrence Ennor says in such rural communities the loss of a local church becomes another blow to be endured by those remaining. Typically, they might already have seen the loss of some businesses, services and community groups.



St Aidan's Anglican church, Alfredton, northern Wairarapa



Neil Algie (left), builder, and team leader for the St Aidan's church restoration and Peter Watt, Founders, Hawke's Bay.

A successful church restoration — St Aidan's, Alfredton

This picturesque little Anglican church in the northern Wairarapa was saved for posterity by an enthusiastic and dedicated band of local volunteers led by Pahiatua builder and project manager, Neil Algie. Neil said the impetus to save this church stemmed from the strong ties his family had with it and the realisation that if the church was no longer there, no-one would know there had been a settlement at Alfredton; the former hall, general store, other shops and nearby small schools having long gone.

Said Neil: “So many of my family's important life stages are represented in this church. My great grandfather settled in this area in 1895. Members of his family, my grandfather's family and my mother and father are buried in the cemetery, just a stone's throw from the church.”

On learning that a winery would likely purchase the church and remove it, Neil's group (team of five) responded by forming the St Aidan's Alfredton Community Trust and purchased the property (September 2010), assisted by funding from private donations, from St Cuthbert's church, Eketahuna, and from Genesis Energy.

Neil said their first task was to remove an overgrown garden, clear the site of blackberry, shrubs and weeds, bring in topsoil and lay a lawn, and erect a boundary fence. As with many old wooden buildings without adequate stormwater drainage, damp ground under the building had ruined most of the piles. Half have been replaced, with the balance to be done in the future.

Other transformative work has largely brought the church back to its old attractive self. It now boasts a new roof, restored belfry and bell, has drains to take away stormwater, has a smart new paint job and there are plans to erect new spouting.

In addition, the restoration team were successful in having the building granted Grade 2 listing by the

New Zealand Historic Places Trust (in 2010). This organisation is now known (since 2014), as Heritage New Zealand. The team also erected a kiosk with an information board at the path entrance and Neil commented it has been pleasing to note that increasing numbers of tourists travelling through the area are stopping to take photographs, walk around the church and read the information provided.

He also is delighted to observe that the church is back in use, providing for weddings, funerals, baptisms and the singing of carols in the Christmas season.



Plaque confirming St Aidan's as a Category 2 historic place.

The Registration Report (2010) on St Aidan's published by the former New Zealand Historic Places Trust, cites information about this church's role within the Alfredton community:

"Small rural churches such as St Aidan's Anglican church have significance as heritage landmarks, and the church remains one of the only historic buildings in Alfredton." (p 3)

"... also has local significance because of the commemorative elements which honour families of the community." (pp 3-4)

"... as one of the only historic buildings in the area [this church] has considerable potential to provide knowledge of the history of a small rural community at the turn of the twentieth century." (p 21)



Large kerosene lamp dating from the early 1900s (now electrified).



St Aidan's church, porch-end view, showing narrow width of the building (designed for a congregation of 50). Note the small door set low — which allows passage of coffins. Normal passage of coffins was not possible owing to the 'tight turn' between nave and porch door.

Walking in the grounds of a country church, it's easy to be reminded of the relaxed peacefulness they offer. Enjoy that mood with the opening 12 lines of a poem familiar to us through school days, and often claimed as the favourite poem of English-speaking people worldwide.

Elegy written in a country churchyard

by Thomas Gray

(first published in 1751)

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,
Save where the beetle wheels his droning flight,
And drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds;
Save that from yonder ivy-mantled tow'r
The moping owl does to the moon complain
Of such, as wand'ring near her secret bow'r,
Molest her ancient solitary reign.

Naming of Alfredton

As a postscript to this story, it seemed fitting to explore how this settlement was named. It was named after Prince Alfred (1844-1900), the fourth child and second son of Queen Victoria. His titles included Duke of Edinburgh and because of his lineage (father's side), also Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Prince Alfred was the first British royal to visit Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). On visiting Sydney, Australia, in 1868, he was fortunate to survive an assassination attempt (shot from behind by an Irishman).

He went on to pursue a long career in the Royal Navy and rose to its highest command, Admiral of the Fleet. In 1874 he married Maria Alexandrovna of Russia, the second daughter of Tsar Alexander II. They had five children.

Prince Alfred was enormously fond of music and played a prominent part in founding the Royal College of Music. However, his own violin playing, while enthusiastic, left a lot to be desired. Sir Henry Ponsonby wrote of it, "His fiddle was out of tune and the noise was abominable."

Sources: online Te Aro New Zealand Encyclopedia and Wikipedia.



Prince Alfred, 1888
Acknowledgement: image, Wikipedia

Did you know?

Butter boxes

In the early decades of the twentieth century, kahikatea timber was used to make boxes in which butter was exported to Great Britain. Unlike most other woods, kahikatea did not taint the butter. For this reason, it was also widely used for cheese crates and tallow casks.

Kahikatea trees (also known as white pine) can grow to 150 feet (51 metres), making them the tallest of any New Zealand native trees. Kahikatea is a conifer and is from the same genus as matai and totara.

Most of the kahikatea stands had been extracted by the early 1920s. Today, there are remnants of kahikatea forest in south Westland, and a reasonably-sized stand can be seen when travelling north out of Auckland on the northern motorway. Look to the left, approaching the Northcote interchange.

Acknowledgement: website, Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand



Kahikatea tree

Aunty Alice gave us this... the importance of provenance

by Stephanie Drew, Founders, Hawke's Bay

Family mementos can be wonderful things, but as fashions and tastes have changed numerous times over the years the question often arises of what to do with these 'things' when the time comes to pass them on to the next generation.

Having to sort through items that have been in the family for generations can be quite challenging and stressful. Some may have been of sentimental value to a previous generation's family member, or they may have been collected as a memento of an event or a place visited, or just been kept 'out of habit', while other items may have been purposefully collected as an investment.

As mentioned, fashions and tastes have changed and the majority of old items, be they china, crystal or silver, are not dishwasher-friendly, nor will they fit in with modern décor in some of our younger generation's homes. And our own sentimental attachment to an item may not be reflected by another person.

One way to treat these items is to establish their 'provenance' — in technical terms this is a means of establishing a record of ownership of an item that can be used as a guide to its authenticity or quality. This term is usually associated with antiques and artworks but it can also be applied to more everyday items as well.

On a practical level this can involve making a written record of what you know about where an item came from, who gave it or bought it and when, and whose hands in the family it has passed through. Much of this information may be passed down with the item — "this was your grandmother's" or "your great-grandmother picked this up on her



travels", but other information about the item could possibly be found, if you are fortunate, in letters or diaries..

For some items it is advisable to do some research into the maker's marks or branding — doing this will give an indication of the date of manufacture and potentially the date when the item came into the family. Doing this can also show up whether the item has more than just sentimental or aesthetic value. The oddest things might actually be worth money to a specialist collector, while other pieces might turn out to be reproductions of limited value.

As well as creating a written record of the known history of an item, along with any other information you have found about it, it is worth attaching a photograph so that the piece can be easily recognised at a later date. This would make it much easier for someone in the future to identify "That thingy vase that Aunty Alice gave us, the one she had got from her great aunt." They may not like it or want it as an object but at least they will know why it has been kept and not automatically consign it to a rubbish skip without thought.



Miniature of Emma Blomfield, my great great grandmother. Identified by a label attached on the back.

Opening up the Wyderop

— early development of the Wairarapa for farming

by Marjorie Harris, *Founders, Hawke's Bay*

Port Nicholson, in early New Zealand, with its enclosed harbour surrounded by hills, did not provide the wide expanses of land that were expected by the new settlers when they arrived in the 1840s. The New Zealand Company agents who had traded for land in 1839, had considered a good harbour the main requisite needed for a settlement. They had not sufficiently considered that the settlers required pastoral land. However, for those settlers who intended to farm, and especially those who aspired to become run holders, good grazing land was a primary need.

The shortage of farmland quickly became vital to those settlers who had brought animals with them. The Hutt Valley pasture was soon settled but a shortage of grazing forced other settlers to beg for fodder where they could. After the signing of the Wellington Land Purchase deeds, the Ngatiawa Chief Wharepouri, told the New Zealand Company of a flat and fertile district to the east of the hills. He declared the area, *tapu*, (sacred) with the name of Wairarapa, which literally means 'glistening waters'. The New Zealand Company agents, involved in the sale of Kapiti at the time, took no action. Although the Wairarapa land was not actually his to sell or lease, the chief urged that the Company should accept it.

Early ventures

In September 1839, the naturalist Ernst Dieffenbach and the Company draughtsman, Charles Heaphy, hunted for huia in the Rimutaka hills. At the summit of the Orongorongos they gained a hill top view of Wairarapa Lake and Palliser Bay, making them the first known Europeans to see the 'Wyderop,' as it was to become known. However, their subsequent report to the New Zealand Company stated that the hills were 'too high', presumably considering that access would be too difficult for settlement.

The first known European to walk around the coast was William Deans. He wrote to his family of the journey to 'Wyderop' and suggested he might squat there. He did not though, but settled later in Christchurch. (The Deans family became a well-known name in the early settlement of Canterbury.) Ensign Best of the Eightieth Regiment was the next



View of Lake Wairarapa from the top of the Rimutaka Range.

Acknowledgement: website: Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand; photo by Jock Phillips

to head an expedition, comprising three canoes to Orongoronga, then overland as far as Alsop's Bay, on the Lake. His report stated that there were about 50,000 acres of good land which was level, and moderately wooded."

In 1840, Robert Stokes, a surveyor with the New Zealand Company, was the first European pioneer to cross the Rimutaka hills. He crossed the Mangaroa Hill, traversed the summit, and walked down the southern side of the range.

With increasing pressure to locate accessible pasture, the assistant surveyor, Charles Kettle, and a large party were sent to explore the district. Their chief guide was the Maori Chief Te Ahu, who 20 years before had been a member of Te Rauparaha's invading war party to the region.

Colonel William Wakefield was aware that with the settlers' importation of livestock, improved access to the Wairarapa was imperative. The problem of crossing the Rimutaka Hills was still the issue. In February 1843, the Company's chief surveyor, Samuel Brees, was chosen to form a group of field men with Maori guides. The directive from Wakefield was, "to judge the practicability of carrying a road" (over the Rimutakas) and to "ascertain its character generally." The group was augmented by two settlers, Richard Barton and Edward Chetham, who were later to become major Wairarapa run holders.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 34

Their route took them along the Hutt River, over the Pakuratahi summit, and then entered the Wairarapa via the Otiwera Stream, about two miles from the head of the lake (L. Wairarapa). Samuel Brees reported that there was "sufficient land fit for arable purposes to suit settlers."

In September 1843, H S Tiffen, suggested an alternative route for a road which would run from the Lowry Bay swamp to the Wairarapa, 'without crossing a single hill.' In fact this was not accurate – perhaps it applied for the section around the coast, but not for harder gradients presented by the Wairongamai saddle, and the harbour ridge. In addition, men under Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, were already working on a road over the Rimutaka Hill. The 'Wyderop' region was opening up.

With the New Zealand Company bogged down by arguments over the legality of its recent Wellington purchases, the issue of access to suitable pasture land in the Wyderop was becoming urgent. A suggestion was made that runholders lease from the iwi, rather than the Company attempting to purchase from them (iwi). In March 1844, a party comprising Charles Clifford, Henry Petre, Charles Bidwill, William Vavasour, and William Swainson, travelled to the Wairarapa to negotiate land leases directly with the chiefs. The rental finally agreed upon was twelve pounds a year per lease.

Settlement begins

Charles Bidwill brought the first flock of 350 merinos around the coast, having manhandled them over the Mukamuka rocks. He settled on land on the eastern bank of Lake Wairarapa. Clifford, Vavasour and Petre followed, and within a year there were a dozen sheep and cattle stations established in the district.

The settlement of sheep farmers in the Wairarapa opened up the country's export markets. Wool from the area was taken down the lake by boat to the coast, where whale boats transferred the bales to the ships. The report of sheep owners in 1845 lists 10 run holders in the southern Wairarapa; this increased to 15 runs by 1847. With growing numbers of European settlement, other support services were needed. Small communities became established. In June 1856 the Rimutaka road was opened to wheeled

traffic (a dray drawn by six bullocks and with a ton of supplies), although the route remained dangerous and hazardous for some years. This road was first used as a pack track, with cattle being driven through as early as 1848, but the aim was to carry two-wheeled traffic.

By law, the run holders were considered squatters, as they were unable to purchase land directly from the Maori owners. The Provincial Government did not approve of these Maori leases as they had no control over the transactions. By the 1850s, the rentals were increasing. The runholders, who wanted to obtain freehold titles, were worried that high leases would discourage the Maori from ultimately selling to the government. They petitioned for the government to buy and freehold the Maori land. The government agreed eventually and began to divide the land into blocks. Maori reserves were set aside, plans were roughly drawn, and acreage was calculated but not surveyed or measured.

Governor Grey was sent to the valley to persuade the iwi to sell. This was achieved by telling the chiefs that if they didn't sell, the Government would evict the runholders off the land and all lease income would cease. Using this 'carrot' method, the Native Minister, Donald McLean, was sent to the Wairarapa to negotiate the purchases. Negotiations were complicated and were not helped by the Provincial Government having a shortage of funds for land purchases. This resulted in some promissory arrangements as down payments, and in one case, at least, payment with cash.

On 1 September 1853, the Western Lake Block of 200,000 acres, including part of the Rimutaka Range and the Featherston area, was purchased for £2000. The Owanga Block, also on the western side of the lake and consisting of 18,000 acres, was purchased for £1000 on 14 December 1853. All the other blocks eventually followed.

Settlers continued to enter the valley over the new Rimutaka Hill Road and Featherston, Greytown, Carterton, and Masterton became thriving rural communities. The Wyderop, aka Wairarapa, was now finally opened up for settlement.

Settler family makes good in Otago

From notes and photographs supplied by Hugh Ramage, Founders, Whanganui

Hugh Ramage's great grandfather, John Ramage, married Julia Brodie Bower, aged 19, in 1875. They were to spend most of their lives in Balclutha, and Julia recalled in later life, that early Balclutha was a flax swamp.

John Ramage was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1849, and sailed with his parents to New Zealand on the *Storm Cloud* in 1860. Following his apprenticeship in Dunedin, learning the plumbing and tinsmith trade, he launched his own business (1867) in Dunedin, then moved it to Balclutha (1874), where it became one of the largest enterprises of its kind, south of Dunedin.

John took a keen interest in local politics, serving at intervals on the Borough Council, and at one time, served as Mayor. He died, aged 68, in 1920.

Julia died aged 59, in 1917. Her obituary testified to her strong character and qualities:

"Hers was a nature largely diluted with the milk of human kindness and having experienced many of the trials and troubles of the early settlers, she was always sympathetic with those on whom fortune was apt to press hardly."



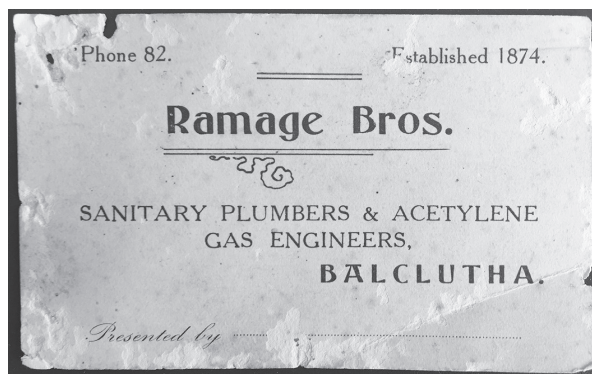
Julia Brodie Bower and John Ramage



Mrs J Ramage (nee) Julia Brodie Bower (1857-1917)



J Ramage family pose at entrance to their business premises, Balclutha.



Ramage business card

Left or right? — Our driving follows British practice

As driving patterns emerged in New Zealand in the early 1900s, from horse and trap to the motor car, a question pondered was to legislate for driving on the left or right of the roads. It didn't require much debate as New Zealand was to follow the pattern adopted by most of the British Commonwealth countries. And that was to drive on the left. This became mandatory in Britain in 1835.

Motoring journalist for the *Dominion Post* (20.1.18), Rob Maetzig, tells us how Britain adopted the left hand rule.

"The reason actually goes back hundreds of years to violent feudal times, when horsemen travelled on the left side of the roads.

"That was because since most people are right-handed, swordsmen preferred to keep their scabbards on their left so they could use their right hands to grab their swords, and keep opponents to their right when they fought.

"Not only that, but for a right-handed person it is easier to mount a horse from the left – and nobody wanted to climb aboard a horse from the middle of the road."

So we are left wondering why did the Americans and Europeans adopt driving on the right?

[This arose] ... "in the late 1700s when large wagons began to be hitched up to several pairs of horses to haul big loads of farm products in France and the United States.

"These wagons had no driver's seat so the driver sat on the left rear horse so he could keep his right arm free to use his whip.

"Because the driver was on the left, visibility was best down the left side of his horses, so those teams began keeping to the right side of the road."

Rob's article tells us that 74 countries drive on the left as a result of British expansion and influence. Japan also drives on the left, having adopted the British way following British help in developing their tram and railway networks in the nineteenth century (which were engineered at home for driving on the left).

There's some good news for kiwis.

"... There is some evidence to suggest that driving on the left side of the road is safer, simply because the greater percentage of the world's motorists are right-handed and therefore right-eye dominant.

"This means the stronger right hand can be used to control the steering wheel, and the right eye is the one closest to the traffic."



A Nelson family setting out for a drive in the early 1900s.

Reproduced with permission of the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand (24.01.18). Image #1/2-028502;G. Photographed by Frederick Nelson Jones.

Remembering our World War I Centenary

A remarkable action by New Zealand soldiers — the liberation of Le Quesnoy

by Peter Watt, Founders, Hawke's Bay

Passers by, journeying through the pretty Waikato town of Cambridge, would have little inkling of a marvellous story told within the grounds of the stately and historic Anglican church, St Andrew's. Within its grounds and on the walls of the church, the story is told via a stained glass window, a painting, and plaques in a dedicated French Garden. This site is proudly announced and celebrated by the flags of France (tricolour) and New Zealand, flying side by side.

The story is about the liberation of the small town of Le Quesnoy (pronounced Le Kainaw) in north-east France, by soldiers of the New Zealand Division, just seven days before WWI ended. The town had endured a harsh occupation by the Germans for four years.

Underscoring their special connection formed in war, Cambridge and Le Quesnoy enjoy a formal sister city relationship, signed in 1999. The relationship engenders a lively interchange of cultural dialogue and travel between the two places. [See more at the dedicated website: 'Cambridge/Le Quesnoy Friendship Association.'] In a pleasing aside for Founders, the Reverend Canon Dr Adrian Gover, our Immediate Past President, resides in the area and has had a long pastoral association with St Andrew's Church.

Principal reasons for the warm relationship Le Quesnoy has with New Zealand lie in the fact that their town and its historic buildings and artefacts were spared from being smashed up by artillery and heavy fire, which would also have resulted in many civilian deaths and casualties. As a mark of respect and appreciation for New Zealand, numerous links can be found in the town, including streets with New Zealand names and a Garden of Remembrance.



St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cambridge, and the flags of France and New Zealand



Aerial view of Le Quesnoy today, pop 5000.

Acknowledgement: website — Le Quesnoy images — Alliance Francais, Dunedin

CONTINUES ON PAGE 38

How the battle unfolded ...

The following extracts are from 'The Forgotten General' (2011), by Jock Vennell. This work provides a detailed coverage of the life of World War I Commander, Major General Sir Andrew Russell of Hawke's Bay. A tribute was paid to this outstanding soldier in the Founders Bulletin, 2017.

As Jock Vennell described the battle for Le Quesnoy on the morning of 4 November 1918 ...

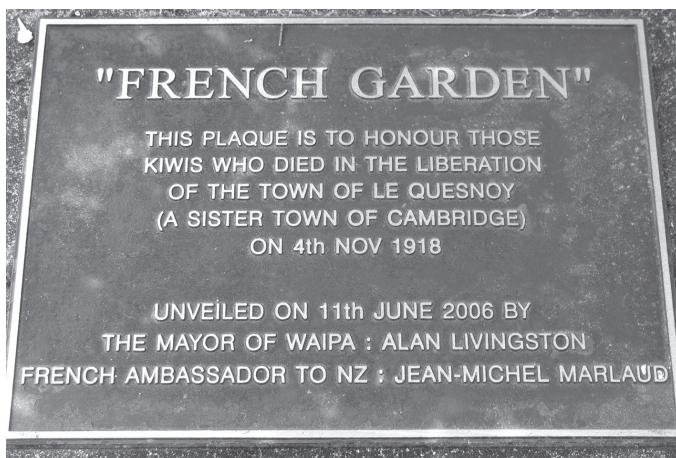
"Initially, Le Quesnoy looked a tough nut to crack. It was protected by 16-metre high ramparts and surrounded by a wide, deep moat. On and around those ramparts the Germans had sited field guns and dozens of machine guns. Taking the town by frontal assault would mean bombarding it in advance, causing heavy damage to historic buildings and much loss of life among its civilian population. ... Russell planned to avoid this by encircling Le Quesnoy while his other brigades pressed on through the Forest of Mormal towards the River Sambre.

"The attack opened at 5.30 am on the morning of 4 November. The town was steadily enveloped and German positions on the ramparts were deluged with smoke and drums of burning oil, Prisoners were sent into the town with a message demanding a German surrender, and a similar note was dropped by aircraft. Before any reply could be received, men of the 3rd (Rifle) Brigade scaled the ramparts by ladder. ... Under cover of Lewis gun and mortar fire, they took its 1000-strong garrison by surprise, and once New Zealand troops were in the town, the Germans readily surrendered. In the main square, the German commander handed over his revolver and 400 of his men to a young New Zealand captain.



Stained glass window depicting the assault by ladders.

"The joy of the French population at their liberation was unbounded. The French tricolour flew at every window, and the townspeople flocking out of their shelters under the ramparts went joyfully hysterical: Russell and one of his brigade commanders rode into the town, before going on to check the progress of their troops still fighting in the Forest of Mormal. A few days later, French President Henri Poincare inspected a New Zealand guard of honour drawn up in the square and thanked them for what they had done for France."



Plaque honouring NZ soldiers in the 'French Garden'.



Also in the French Garden, from WW II. Plaque honouring a French Resistance couple who rescued a downed kiwi pilot from Cambridge.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 39

Other insights on Le Quesnoy and the war

Other perspectives on the liberation of this attractive town on the French-Belgian border and regarding other aspects of New Zealand engagement in WW I are provided in an obituary which appeared in the *New Zealand Herald* on 12 October 2001. It was on the life of Lt Col. Lawrence Morris Blyth, who saw distinguished service in France including the liberation of Le Quesnoy. On returning to New Zealand he owned a prominent menswear shop on Karangahape Road, Auckland, for 50 years and lived to the remarkable age of 105. He was the last survivor of the New Zealand soldiers who stormed the walls of Le Quesnoy.

Quoting from articles related to this obituary:

[Following recovery in England from the effects of gas (Somme) and a head wound (Messines)] ...

"He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and sent back to France, where the bitter fighting ended, following a great New Zealand victory, storming the ramparts of the fortified town of Le Quesnoy on November 4, 1918, and the signing of the Armistice, halting the war 10 days later. [An end to hostilities was declared on the morning of 11 November 1918.]

"Lieutenant Colonel Blyth's close association with that town which had been occupied by the Germans for more than four years, lasted until September 18 this year, [2001], when his 105th birthday was marked by a telegram from the Mayor of Le Quesnoy.

And a comment in praise of his mother who had four sons serving in WWI:



Plaque honouring the last of the liberators, Lt Col Lawrence Blyth, died aged 105.

"The strain of having four sons overseas, of waiting for that dreadful letter, shortened her life. She died at 51, also a casualty of the war, though not many people understand that."

Don't forget

You can 'tune in' to see what is going on in respect of activities and events under way or planned to mark this centenary year.

Go online to 'WW100' for a full suite of this information, arranged by region.

The main national exhibitions:

Great War Exhibition

This is in the Dominion Building, Wellington, set in the Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. This exhibition, unless otherwise announced, is open until November 2018. Open 9.00am to 6.00pm.

Gallipoli: the scale of our war

This is on display at the Te Papa Museum of New Zealand, Wellington. Open 10.00am to 6.00pm.





Michael La Rooy

What was I thinking? Writing this three years later, I'm not sure. House buying decisions typically involve weighing up lots of pros and cons and ultimately choosing one house over another, but looking back, this choice was the start of a big journey – one that is well on the way, but is by no means complete.

Marshall's Manor — the restoration of an English Manor House

by Michael La Rooy

Background

We have lived in England since 1998, mostly on a very extended assignment with my job – which eventually became 'permanent' in 2010. At that point we bought a nice 'new-build' house, but we were really looking for something that had more character, more land and was in a truly rural setting. The Sussex countryside is beautiful and we wanted to be immersed in it. So, armed with what we thought was a generous budget and 'empty nesting' on the horizon, we looked at dozens of country houses. However, most had at least one critical flaw. Typical faults were: on a busy road, had small rooms, a bad floorplan, minimal bathrooms, or, a lack of character, etc. The really impressive houses that ticked all the boxes were much more expensive.

Then, in late 2014, I spotted 'Marshall's Manor' in an online advertisement. Marshall's Manor is located in the north-west corner of East Sussex, in open countryside. The property had been owned in the mid twentieth century by Winston Churchill's doctor, Lord Moran.

It was quite local but had been unknown to us as it was tucked away down a 1 km private road. It's hard to tell the condition of a house from small photos and the descriptions are usually full of coded phrases,



Marshall's Manor, East Sussex

CONTINUES ON PAGE 41

such as, "would benefit from refurbishment" (which can mean something much more drastic). Despite that, the photos looked interesting – it certainly looked to have loads of character, was a good size, had large rooms, four bathrooms, and all on 1.2 ha of land in a rural setting. So, why not take a look?

The reality was it was a large stone house with an amazing garden and grounds, but it had had no maintenance for decades and the interior was a strange mix of 1970s garish kitchens and bathrooms, and elsewhere, dilapidated old curtains, peeling paint and threadbare carpet. Everywhere you looked, more faults became evident – roof, stonework, heating, plumbing, rotten woodwork, wonky floors, dampness. Still, how bad could it be? The price was

well below similar houses and with a low offer, we stood a chance of being lucky.

Well we did get 'lucky' and so began our journey to bring Marshall's Manor back to its former glory. It is a listed property, so the controls are very tight on what can be modified and on what are one's responsibility for the upkeep. Failure to comply is a criminal offence and when you buy a listed house you take on the liability (which includes any previous unapproved modifications). We discussed this with the local planning officer to ensure that we would not be liable for all the 1970s alterations. In restoring 'Marshall's,' we were largely in the hands of the heritage regulatory bodies and specialists in the restoration industry – and we felt like real beginners! Marshalls is Grade 2*, which is reserved for the top 5 per cent of Grade 2 properties. Grade 1 is the highest category, reserved for castles, palaces, and the like.

Ensuring things were done correctly

One of our first tasks was to employ a Standing Building Archaeologist to write a report on how the building had changed over time. Marshall's started as a Tudor house and was progressively modified and extended, mostly in the Jacobean style, with outside walls made of local sandstone and a Horsham stone roof (very heavy stone tiles). In the 1600s, a lot of money was made locally by the Wealden iron industry and that created the wealth to pay for houses that were much grander than the earlier farm houses. The south end of Marshall's including the kitchen, was added in Victorian times, but in the same Jacobean style. This made a big (helpful) difference, as this part of the house was much less historically sensitive and most of the changes we wanted to make were in the kitchen and the master en-suite bathroom above it.

We employed a local architect with extensive heritage experience



Fireplace restored to original size with wood burner installed.



Attic room with oak beams exposed.

and proceeded to develop plans for the restoration with some discreet modifications. The main change we requested was new wood-framed glass double doors, to replace a single solid door – this was to bring light into the kitchen and provide access to the new terrace. In reality, we mostly asked for permission to remove relatively recent modifications. The final result would be more consistent with how the house was in the mid 1800s. We modernised the bathrooms, but in a classic style. The kitchen has gone from 1970s orange to hand made, painted solid wood. In the attic (a relatively recent conversion) we removed boarding to expose the oak beams and installed new stairs which have transformed this space. Our architect had some great ideas which we would not have been brave enough to consider without such expertise.

Making progress and making discoveries

By April 2016, we had planning approval and it was time to go to tender. That was probably the most difficult phase, because the quotes were considerably higher than we expected. Our architect was also surprised – not very reassuring. After much angst (which in retrospect made no difference to the outcome) and playing with budgets, we chose a local building company.

Work started in October 2016, with a scheduled completion date of July 2017.

We had a fantastic site manager who solved problems and made all the details look great. It has been fascinating to see how restoration involves craftsmanship. The roof has been expertly re-laid using the existing Horsham stones and the leadlight windows have been restored. The exterior stonework has been repaired and has new lime mortar pointing (essential to ensure the surrounding stonework does not get water-damaged). The result is that it still looks well weathered and original. Inside, we have



Horsham stone roof tiles stacked on scaffolding, ready for re-laying.

mostly used oak and only replaced wood where it was totally rotten or not historically correct. The big oak beam in the dining room ceiling needed reinforcing. This was done by cutting and inserting a steel 'flitch beam' from above – not visible, but strong. Wooden floors downstairs are now exposed and our brick dining room floor was re-laid on top of a new insulated base. The bricks were numbered and re-laid in exactly the same order as originally, as mandated by heritage planning.

Dampness the enemy

Dampness is the enemy of old buildings in the UK (rising damp and all that!), so it is important to keep the house well heated and ventilated. Lime plaster on internal walls with breathable paint ensures that moisture does not build up inside. This means removing incorrect products – a labour intensive, but necessary task. We installed breathable insulation in the ceilings, but the thick stone walls are just that – and we need to keep them warm given the high thermal mass. We have oil-fired central heating (typical in UK houses beyond the reach of the gas network), and have installed wood burners in each of the three open fireplaces. The wood burners are safer with old chimneys and they allowed us to open out the fireplaces to their original size, plus they are much more efficient. Plumbing and electrics are all new, and were carefully installed to minimise intrusion and lower the fire risk.

As the work progressed, there were more 'discoveries.' Tall chimneys needed reinforcing and bathrooms upgraded beyond the usual minimal budget allowances. We decided to do everything at once. When the plumbing and wiring were being re-done, it made sense to do all the other refurbishment too. We saved by buying many light fittings second hand – with some amazing bargains. My guess is that this was because most older stuff is too large for modern ceiling heights.

The building work was largely finished by September 2017. It was about 25 per cent over budget but the results were stunning. We moved in and are now living in luxury surrounded by boxes of stuff we'd forgotten we owned. That said, it feels great. As I write this in the sitting room I have a stone fireplace in front of me, beamed ceilings above, beautiful corded sash windows behind and a view down the hallway to the Tudor period dining room.

Looking ahead

What's to come? A stone terrace off the kitchen which will become a south-facing sun trap (equivalent to north-facing in New Zealand), lots of curtains, more period furniture, refurbishing the large but slowly rotting garage, and taming the garden. Plus four Hunza floor lights (made in New Zealand) installed in the sitting room, surrounding the central oak pillar.

So, what have I learned? Despite this being an historical restoration project, it is essential to have a forward looking mindset. The £s already spent are sunk and what is important is the creation of something that will last more than 100 years, both structurally and aesthetically to ensure its future. That's not something I can do at work. It is more than a house – it is an intrinsic part of our lives and who we are.

Web references

The planning details: <http://www.planning.wealden.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=131913>)

Marshalls in the 1930s: <http://theweald.org/d10.asp?BookId=scm05a709>

Instagram photoblog: [mmconservation](https://www.instagram.com/mmconservation)

Footnote: Michael La Rooy is the son of long-serving Hawke's Bay Founders member, Kath La Rooy, and her husband Gerard. We are grateful to them for bringing this story to our attention and to Michael for sharing his experiences with us. Ed.

More about our front cover photograph

From Maree Lewis, Founders, Bay of Plenty

The photo on the front cover of this year's Bulletin was taken on Mt. Egmont (now named Mt Taranaki), near Dawson Falls, probably in January, 1907.

Front left in this photo is Mrs Mary Amelia Morgan (1864-1935), who was the proprietor of the 17-bed Heatherlea Boarding House in Wilson Street, Hawera. The photo shows the annual picnic for the boarding house clients, staff and friends. Mrs. Morgan was 43 at the time of this photograph.

The girl dressed in a pale blouse in the second row from front, is Mary's third daughter, Byrl Adeline Morgan (1889-1971). The seven young men are some of the boarders, who would likely have been bank clerks, apprentice lawyers, and salesmen in the various hardware and farming stores in the busy township. Can you identify anyone else in the photo?

The two older Morgan daughters, Kate and Sarah (not in the photo), were probably left at home to make the beds, do the washing, ironing, and cleaning, and to prepare the evening meal. It was hard work caring for this very large family.

Mary Morgan was born at Portobello, near Dunedin, the first child of Daniel Nuttall and his wife Jane (nee Robertson). Daniel Nuttall had arrived in New Zealand from Nottingham on the *William Miles* in 1860, and Jane Robertson came from Kilsyth (near Stirling) arriving on the *Queen of the Mersey* in 1862.

Mary Nuttall married the Maori Wars veteran, Tom Henry Morgan, at Patea in 1886, and they first



worked for Tom's in-laws (the Geary family) on a farm at Alton, and then for Chew Chong in his fungi packing shed at Mangatainoka. Daughter, Byrl Adeline (as above), was born at the Opunake hospital (now absorbed into the RSA retirement complex) just before the family moved to Hawera, where Tom spent most of his working life as a railwayman.

For anyone viewing this photo and able to identify any of the persons not named, please send information to email nzfounders@gmail.com





NZ FOUNDERS SOCIETY NEW MEMBERS 2017

Name	Port	Ship	Date	Ancestor
<i>Auckland Branch</i>				
Mrs D E Whiteacre	Nelson	Himalaya	1843	Robert & Sarah CAMERON
<i>Bay of Plenty Branch</i>				
Ms R M Fitton	Lyttleton	Canterbury	1851	Charles FITTON
Mrs L D Heaton	New Plymouth	Duke of Portland	1855	Thomas & Mary Ann HAMBLYN
Mrs B J James	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Edward & Jane TUCKER
	New Plymouth	William Bryan	1841	Ann PHILLIPS
	Port Chalmers	Mariner	1849	James & Jessie STIRLING
	Auckland	Sir George Grey	1864	Louisa HANCOCK
<i>Canterbury Branch</i>				
Mr W R Absolum	Auckland	Ann	1848	William LESLEY
Mrs V J Heward	Lyttleton	Cressy	1850	William & Hannah PARISH
Mrs P M Stenberg-Absolum				
	Lyttleton	Indian Empire	1865	Thomas & Jane FAULL
<i>Hawke's Bay Branch</i>				
Miss S L Tuck	Napier	Western Australia	1864	Sarah Elizabeth BURTON
Mrs H Rowe	Nelson	London	1842	Thomas & Jane ALLPORT
	New Plymouth	Timandra	1842	James & Betsy WILLS
Mrs G Thomson	Petone	Oriental	1840	Charles Henry KETTLE
Miss S Gay	Port Nicholson	Arab	1841	Thomas & Ann SHIRLEY
Ms J Larrington	Auckland	Robert Lowe	1860	James FITZGIBBONS
Mrs A Hall	New Plymouth	Oriental	1841	Charles Armitage BROWN
	New Plymouth	Amelia Thompson	1841	Charles BROWN
Mrs J M Trewheellar	Lyttleton	Indiana	1858	Jane WATSON
Mr W H F Trewheellar	Nelson	Zingari	1854	Thomas TREWHEELAR
Mrs J M Cooke	Lyttleton	Strathallan	1859	Thomas & Eliza ABBOTT
Mr L E Cooke	Port Chalmers	Sevilla	1859	George Barry & Honoria WOODS
Mr K M Webb	Wellington	John McVicar	1857	Dr Augustus FLORANCE
	Christchurch	Mersey	1865	Dr Augustus FLORANCE
Mr R F Burson	Lyttleton	Chariot of Fame	1863	Albert BURSON
Mr H W Boyden	Christchurch	Mersey	1862	Simon WEBBER
Mrs P M Boyden	Kororareka	Herald	1840	Robert ORMSBY
Associate Members				
Mrs C Gudsell				
Mrs A Webb				

CONTINUES ON PAGE 46

Taranaki Branch

Mr C F McLeod Kororareka Jess Schooner 1839 John MCLEOD

Waikato Branch

Ms T Nicholl Auckland Andrew Jackson 1865 William NICHOLL
 Mrs M R Dodd New Plymouth Timandra 1842 Phillip & Catherine VERCOE
 Mrs D H Baucke Wellington Martha Ridgway 1842 William GIBBISON
 Auckland Carnatic 1855 Marie MELLSON
 Auckland William Denny 1857 John Thomas MELLSON
 Mrs J Fear Wellington Martha Ridgway 1842 William GIBBISON
 Auckland Carnatic 1855 Marie MELLSON
 Auckland William Denny 1857 John Thomas MELLSON
 Mrs S M Chestnut Nelson Martha Ridgway 1842 Benjamin PARKES Snr
 Nelson Anne Longton 1864 Donald SUTHERLAND
 New Plymouth Essex 1843 Richard OLD
 New Plymouth Essex 1843 Nicholas KNUCKLEY
 Auckland Louisa 1861 John DOOLE

Wanganui Branch

Miss J Jones Petone Oriental 1840 Mary Ann GRIMM
 Auckland Oriental Queen 1849 Edward & Catherine EARLE
 Miss J A Guilford Lyttleton Castle Eden 1851 John & Ann GUILFORD
 Nelson Thomas Harrison 1842 William & Charlotte BARNETT

Wellington Branch

Mrs J M Dickson Wellington Lady Nugent 1841 Margaret CRUICKSHANK

New members — by year

2017 — 32
 2016 — 31
 2015 — 25
 2014 — 26
 2013 — 26



New Zealand Founders Society Inc. Financial Statement



To year ended 31 March 2017

The New Zealand Founders Society made a surplus of \$2766 for the year ended 31 March 2017. Our financial statements can be viewed in full on the Charities Services website www.charities.govt.nz by searching the Register for NZ Founders or our Charity number, 39182, and clicking on the Annual Returns tab. They appear in full under the Financial Statements column.

Annual Research/Book Award

Conditions

1. The Award will be of an amount to be determined by the National Executive of the NZ Founders Society from time to time, but will not be less than \$1,500 or more than \$3,000. There is one award per year available and applications should be received by 31 August of the coming year. Applications are assessed on receipt and the National Executive may make an award earlier than this date if a suitable applicant is forthcoming.
2. The method of payment will be one-third forwarded to the candidate on confirmation of their success, a further one-third after a period of approximately six months when the Society has received confirmation of satisfactory progress and a final payment of one-third after receipt of satisfactory evidence showing completion of the research.
3. The Award is made for research in the areas of national or local history but not for research into personal family backgrounds, family trees or pure genealogy. However, a full length account or biography of a founding family or family member could be accepted provided the topic has general appeal.
4. Research must be completed within one year following notification of winning the Award, or within a time limit agreed to by the National Executive of the Society prior to the payment of the first instalment of the Award or subsequently.
5. The research can be a finite part of a larger piece of research, but must be able to be published alone.
6. Following completion and the work being made public, the NZ Founders Society Inc. reserves the right to use or to publish in part or in any way it thinks appropriate, the research of an Award winner. This condition does not contravene the rights of the author, and any such publication will be with the prior agreement of the author and will not in any way be to the detriment of the publication of the completed research.
7. All research reports and/or publications must contain a printed acknowledgement to the NZ Founders Society Inc. A waiver of this requirement can only be granted by the National Executive of the Society.
8. The work is to be published in printed form and at least one complimentary copy of the final report or publication must be presented to the Society. The Society does not support publications that are solely in electronic form. In the event of the project not being completed within the agreed time limit, any progress payments not made and the final payment, could be forfeited.
9. The acceptance of these conditions is to be acknowledged by the applicant on their application form.



About Founders

From the New Zealand Founders Society website

Who are we?

We represent descendants of the early New Zealand settlers who arrived prior to 31 December 1865.

We share a common interest in their history of New Zealand and the achievements of its pioneers.

Who can join?

Those who are descendants of persons who arrived in New Zealand before 31 December 1865.

We also accept Associate Members.

Services we offer

A reference library is available for members' use by appointment.

Material includes over 600 books & pamphlets mainly dealing with early history of New Zealand.

We also have family trees, histories, newspaper cuttings, photographs and a list of ships arriving in New Zealand before 1865 with some passenger lists.

An annual Bulletin is published and available through branches at a cost of \$7.

What we do

Prepare, publish and collect passenger lists and have available accurate lists of early settlers prior to 1865.

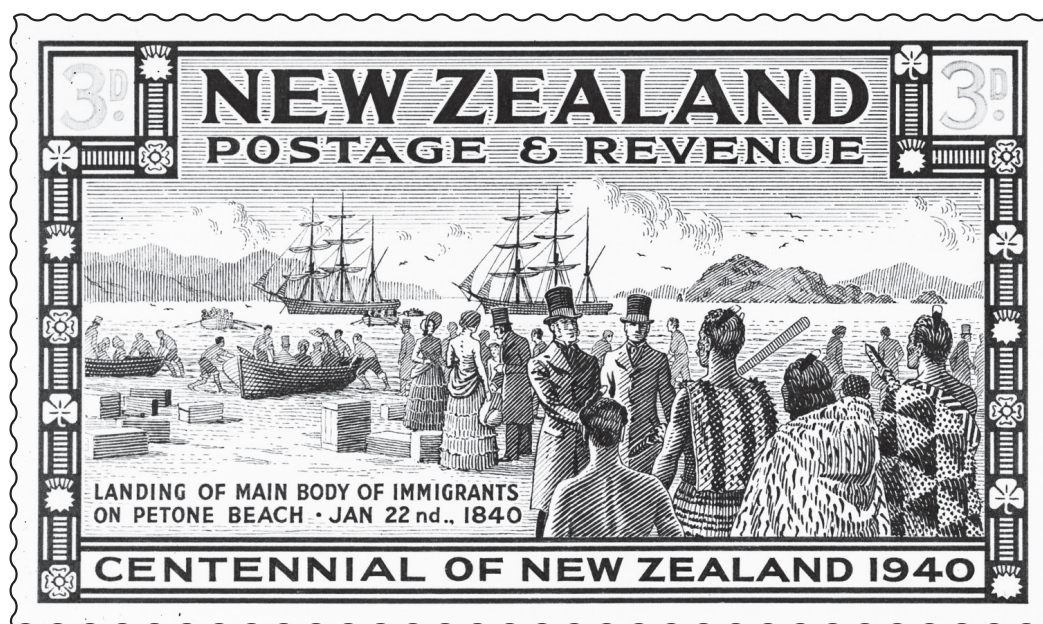
Administer a research award for national or local history.

Assist in preserving historic places, buildings and monuments.

Provide activities for members.

Branches hold regular gatherings with speakers.

Foster links among members.



This stamp depicts settlers of the New Zealand Company scheme coming ashore at Petone in 1840. It was issued to mark the Centennial year of 1940 which celebrated 100 years of European settlement, government and achievement in New Zealand.

Reproduced with permission of Archives New Zealand: Image #AAME 8106 W5603 Box 291

Acknowledgements

The Society's grateful thanks are extended to all members of the various branches who so willingly have provided material and photographs for this 2017 Bulletin. Thank you all.