

# John & Ann Jefferis



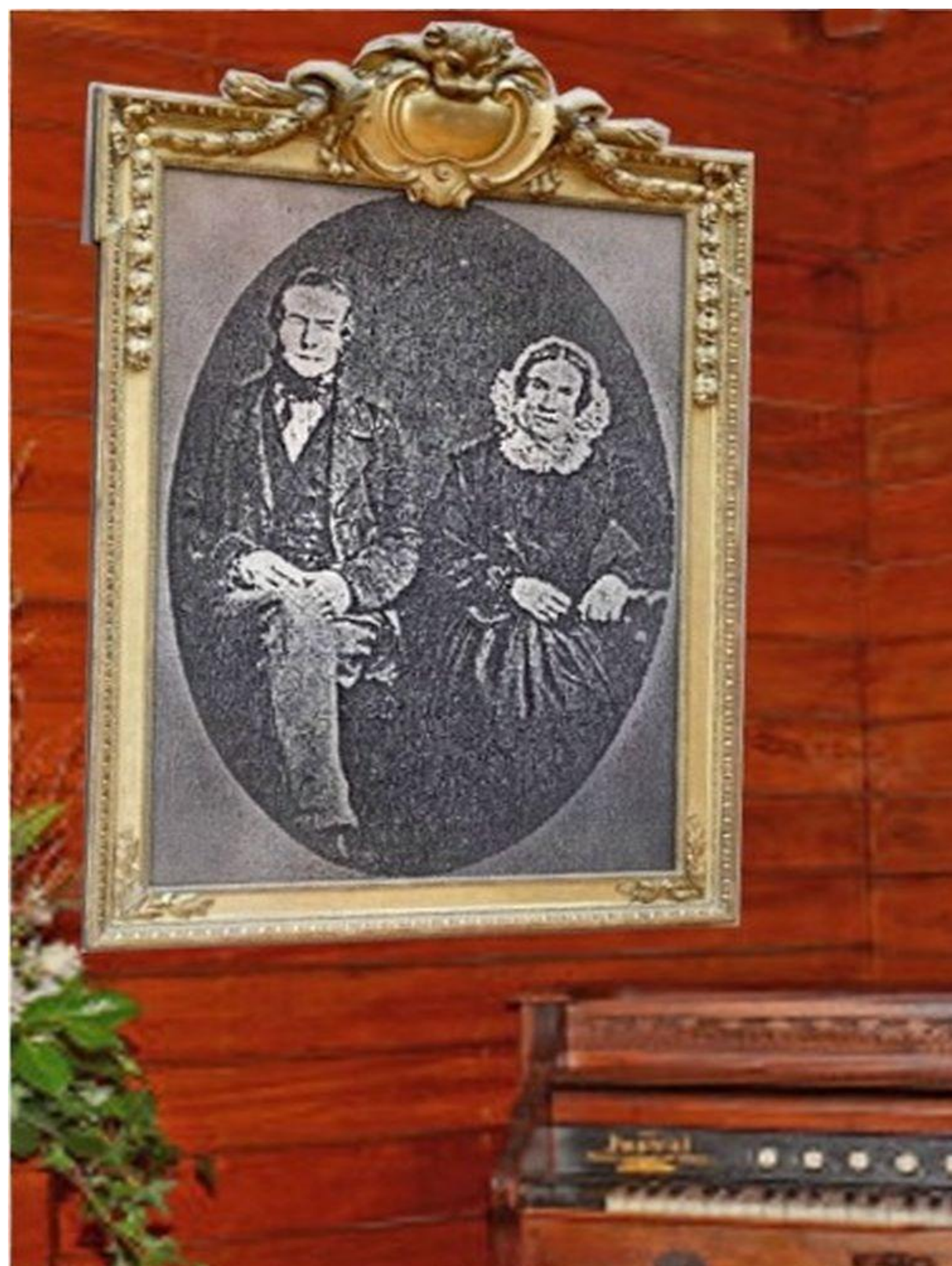
John Jefferis, son of parents James Jefferis and Elizabeth Leonard, was born at Pucklechurch, South Gloucestershire in England and in 1858, immigrated to Otago, New Zealand with his wife Ann nee Hall and their 8 children.



*Drawn by W. Holthorn 1860*

*Otakia, East Taieri, Otago, N.Z.*

*The Reliance Hotel, Otakia, (on the left) was built in the early sixties, upon the discovery of the Otago Goldfields, for the convenience of travellers by the coach during the rush of diggers from Melbourne. Otakia is 18 miles south of Dunedin & situated on the Taieri plain; 18 miles further is the important town of Tokomairiri. These places are connected by railway. J. M. Trochen.*



**John Jefferis (bapt: Oct 12 1804 Pucklechurch, South Gloucestershire, England, son of parents James Jefferis and mother Elizabeth Leonard; he d: aged 70Y on Feb 16, 1875 at Palmerston where he was bur.)**



**John mar. 22 Feb 1842 in St Nicholas,**

**Whitchurch, Somerset, England to Ann Hall (b: Abt. 1816 in Whitchurch, Somerset, England; she d: 12 Aug 1895 Wellington, bur. Karori Cem, M/I at Palmerston Cemetery)**

**Ann and John were farming at [Lower Knowle Farm](#), Whitchurch at the time of the 1851 census. [PDF Research Link](#).**

**John Jefferis: 46 farmer 116 acres b: Pucklechurch; Ann wife 35 b: Whitchurch; Lucy daughter 8 b: Whitchurch; Benjamin J son 7 b: Whitchurch; Hester daughter 5 b: Whitchurch; John son 3 b: Whitchurch; Ann daughter 2 b: Whitchurch; Wellington T Jefferis Brother 37 Visitor b: Pucklechurch; servants Ann Tyler 18Y and James Hardwick 15Y**

Household No.	Parish or Township of	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Dumb
						Male	Female			
32	Whitchurch		John Jefferis	Head	Mar	46		Farmer 116 acres & 200 sheep	Pucklechurch	
			Ann do	Wife	Mar	35		Wife	Whitchurch	
			Lucy do	Daughter		8		Daughter	do do	
			Benjamin J do	Son		7		do Son	do do	
			Hester do	Daughter		5		do Daughter	do do	
			John do	Son		3		do Son	do do	
			Ann do	Daughter		2		do Daughter	do do	
			Wellington T do	Visitor		37		Farmer & Brother	Pucklechurch	
			Ann Tyler			18		House servant	Sancti Martini	
			James Hardwick			15		do House servant	do Westbury	

**The family immigrated to Dunedin, NZ with their 8 children on the Nourmahall on the 20 May 1858 - a trip of 54 days non-stop from Bristol (Somerset) in England. Ann had been very ill for most of the journey so they decided to stay in Dunedin rather than continue on to Auckland as intended.**



**Shipping News: Otago Witness May 15 1858. The "Nourmahal" left Plymouth on the 8th February: John Jefferis wife 4 sons and 4 daughters**

**May 5, Nourmahal, 884 tons, Capt Brayley; She has passengers for three**

**PUBLICANS' LICENSES — FIFTH LIST.—**  
The following applications will be taken into consideration in the Superintendent's Office, Dunedin, on the first Tuesday of March, 1862, at 10 o'clock a.m. Objections, if any, may be lodged at this office, or stated when the case is under consideration. Parties must attend.

**BUSK LICENSE.**

Name of Applicant.	Situation of Premises proposed to be Licensed.
William Esou ..	.. Post-office Creek, West Taieri.
Robert Brown ..	.. Mill Town, Tokomairiro.
J. Harcourt of the firm of Harcourt and Steel ..	.. Roxburgh, Tokomairiro.
James Goodall ..	.. Tokomairiro.
John Jefferis ..	.. North Taieri.
George Coghill	.. Waihola.
For transfer—William McFee to J. E. Hutcheson, of the firm of Hutcheson and Abrahamson ..	.. Bridge end, Tokomairiro.
<b>WINE AND BEER LICENSE.</b>	
Andrew Affie ..	.. Hawkesbury.
Brown and Jones ..	.. Tamora House, High street, Dunedin.
Simon Ross of the firm of Ross and Johnston ..	.. MacLaggan street, Dunedin.
John M'Cablin ..	.. Arcade, Dunedin.
<b>BOTTLE LICENSE.</b>	
William Wright ..	.. Great King street, corner of Union street.
Hugh M'Fadyen ..	.. Section 2, N. E. Valley.
Moss and Moss ..	.. Corner of Arcade and MacLaggan street.
Foster and Armstrong ..	.. Walker street.
Maurice Joel ..	.. Princes street.
William M'Intosh ..	.. MacLaggan street.

By order, JOHN LOGAN, Clerk to Superintendent.

**New Zealand ports.**

**May 8 1858 The "Nourmahal" from London, has arrived, and is now at the Heads. She has 263 passengers, including 26 in the cabin - 164 are for Otago**

**May 15 1858: The arrival of the "Strathfieldsaye" and the "Nourmahal" has made a very considerable addition to our population. There are: 29 ploughmen, 6 shepherds, 4 blacksmiths, 72 labourers, 15 carpenters, 1 butcher, 1 saddler, 64 domestic servants.**

**The Jefferis family settled with their eight children to the North Taieri near Dunedin. The 105 acre "Park Farm" was too small to financially support the family while undertaking the breaking in the land. The Jefferis's used bullocks for stumping the trees and for ploughing crops of wheat and oats. The sons gained valuable experience and additional income by contracting their labour and enabled farm stock to be purchased. John extended their home to take advantage of the Central Otago gold rush, opening it as the "Racecourse Hotel". The isolated families without roads and bridges required tuition for their children so daughter Lucy opened a private school the Jefferis Hotel, teaching up to 12 pupils despite having no training in education and despite poor health. When Lucy married in Aug 1860, her school closed.**

**Otago Daily Times , 19 Feb 1862: Bush License - Hotel. Situation of Premises. Name of Applicant. John Jefferis North Taieri.**

**Apr 1862:** During the. races two robberies were perpetrated at the West Taieri, near the Racecourse. Two hotelkeepers, named Barr and Jcfferies, were severally robbed of sums of money - in one e instance by the thief abstracting a cash-box from a bedroom during the evening, and escaping by the window, and in the other, by the robber withdrawing the cash-box from under the head of the sleeping Boniface. This second rascal was not so adroit as his fellow, for the publican awoke, and although an old man, succeeded in keeping the intruder until help arrived. The police captured the other robber, and both have been committed for trial.

**1865 Name JEFFERIS John; Elect. Rolls: Taieri; Address North Taieri**

The Racecourse hotel provided the fascilities for patrons of local events to [meet](#)

**1870 John Jefferis puts the Racecourse Hotel and farm for sale.**

GILLIES and STREET  
are instructed by Mr. Jefferis to sell by private contract  
the whole of his valuable freehold property situate in  
North Taieri, consisting of  
100 acres of fine land, on which is built  
That commodious and first-class roadside hotel  
THE RACECOURSE HOTEL,  
with excellent stabling and accommodation.  
The land is well fenced, planted with quinces, and  
divided into seven paddocks all under good English  
grasses, and not liable to be flooded.  
Apply to  
GILLIES and STREET,  
June 16th, 1870.

**1875 NZ Probates; Name JEFFERIS John; Place Flag Swamp, Hawksbury; Occ. Farmer; Death Date 1875; Court Dunedin; Archives Ref. [Will](#)**

**1895 Otago Witness, 15 Aug : Jefferis: On the 10th August, at Wellington, Ann, relict of John Jefferis, late of Flag Swamp ; in her eightieth year.**

**Evening Post, 12 Aug 1895; Another old identity has passed away. Mrs. Jefferis, mother of Mrs. Young, of Karori, who died at her grandson's residence, Young's Gardens, Wellington on Saturday afternoon. The deceased, with her late husband and young family, landed at Dunedin on the 24th May, 1858, and settled at North Taieri. In 1870 the family removed to Flag Swamp, near Goodwood, which farm is still carried on by Mrs Jefferis' son Roland. Deceased survived her husband 20 years, and leaves two daughters and four sons. Mrs. Jefferis was much beloved by many sorrowing friends. The funeral took place at Karori Churchyard this morning.**

**Otago Daily Times: 10 Aug 1896: IN MEMORIAM. JEFFERIS - In loving remembrance of our dear mother, Ann Jefferis, who died on the 10th August, 1895, at Karori, Wellington, in her eightieth year.**

**Their children:**

**1 [Lucy Jefferis](#) (b: 1843 in Keynsham, Somerset, England Bapt: 01 Jan 1843 St Nicholas, Whitchurch, Somerset, England) She mar. 1860 in Dunedin to William Alfred Young (b: 15 Jun 1831; d: 17 Jan 1885 in Shag Valley)**

**2 [Benjamin James Jefferis](#) (b: 1844 in Keynsham, Somerset, England Bapt: 24 Apr 1844 St Nicholas, Whitchurch, Somerset, England; d: Jun 1902 in Te Houka) He mar: 31 Dec 1868 in Knox Church, Dunedin to Catherine Lindsay (b: 16 Aug 1849 in Fife Scotland; Bapt: 26 Aug 1849 Beath, Fife, Scotland; d: 1920 in Balcutha)**

3 [Hester Hall Jefferis](#) (b: 1845 in Keynsham, Somerset, England; d: 09 Dec 1863) Mar: 1862 to Joseph Culling (b: 1837 d: 18 Feb 1891 in Hillgrove, Moeraki Bur: 20 Feb Hampden Cem.)

4 [John Jefferis](#) (b: 19 May 1847 in Whitchurch, Somerset, England; d: 16 Sep 1925 in Buckland, Auckland) Mar: 20 Apr 1880 in St. Andrew's Manse to Elizabeth Muir (b: 05 Sep 1858 in Auckland d: 04 Jul 1933 in Buckland Auckland)

5 [Ann Jefferis](#) (b: 1848 in Keynsham, Somerset, England; d: 14 Feb 1910 in Taieri) Mar: 1873 in East Otago to Arthur Alexander Webb (b: 1842 d: 1888 in Taieri)

6 Elizabeth Jefferis b: 1850 in Keynsham, Somerset, England d: 1876 in Palmerston Bur: Abt. 1870 Palmerston Cemetery .

7 [Walter Hall Jefferis](#) (b: 1838 in Keynsham, Somerset, England) He mar: Clara Smith and had 2 daughters, Grace and Norma

8 [Roland Jefferis](#) (b: 1857 in Keynsham, Somerset, England d: 08 May 1929 in Oamaru) Mar: 30 Sep 1880 in Cherry Farm to Mary Duncan (b: 30 Sep 1861; d: 1939 in Oamaru)