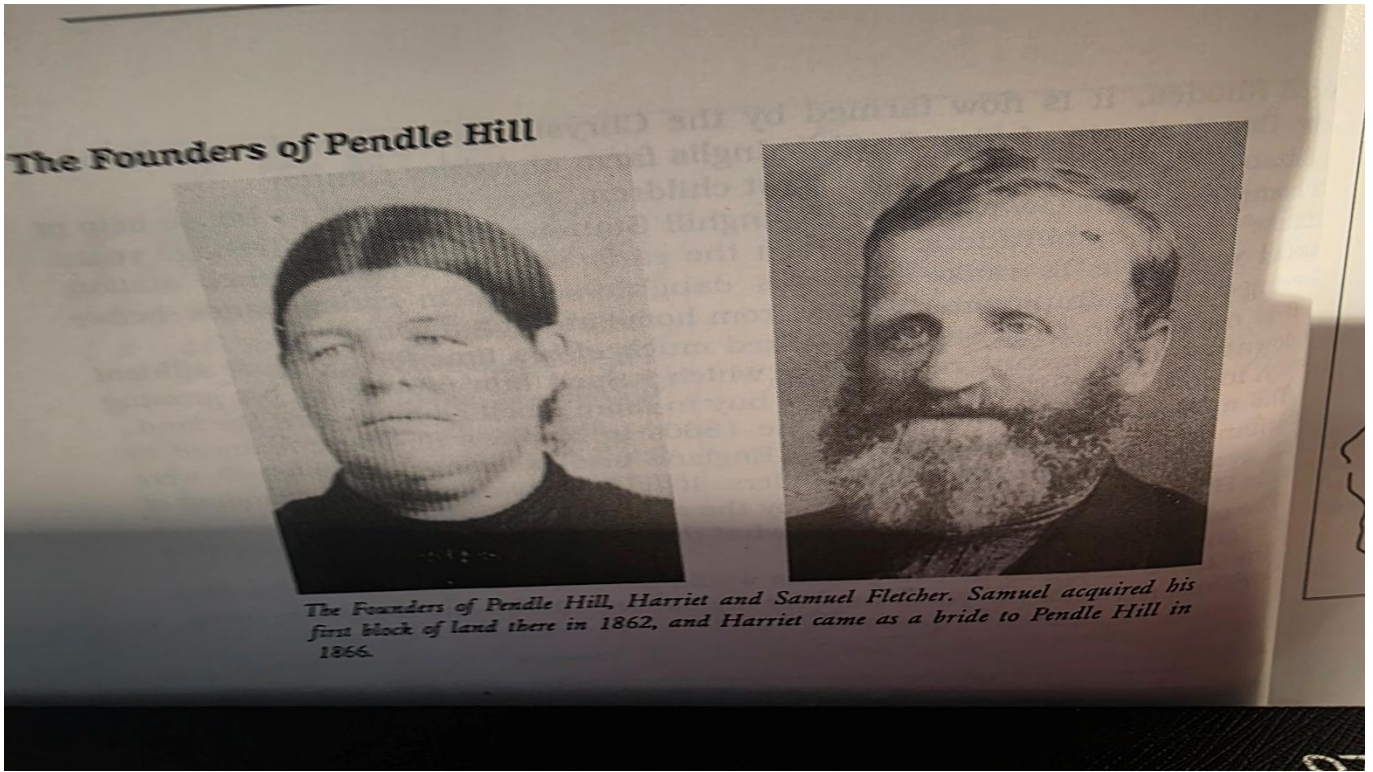
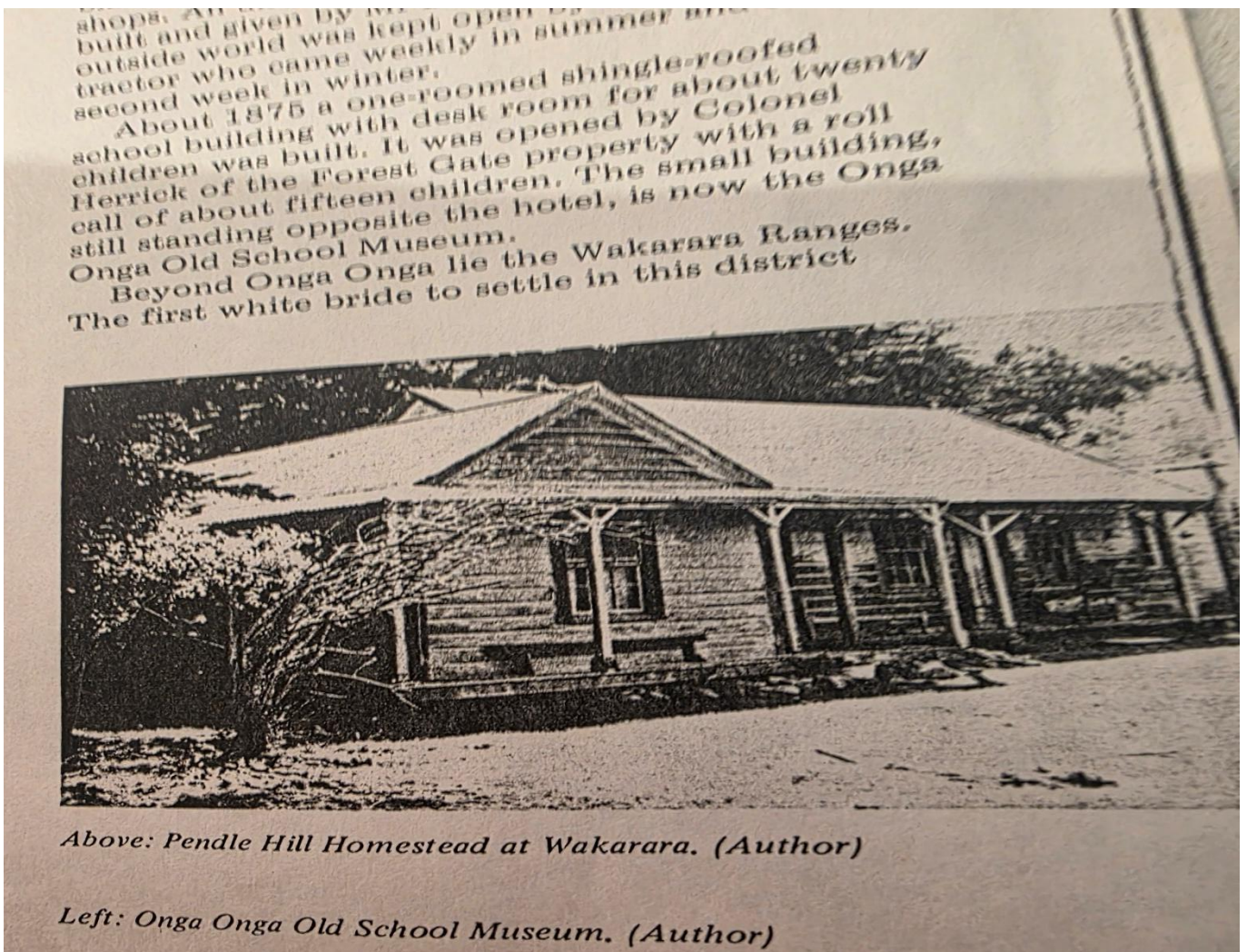


Wanganui Branch February 2026 report



Jill Clark spoke about her recent Fletcher family reunion at Pendle Hill Estate in January 2026 where her family first lived. Her ancestor Samuel Fletcher arrived on the "Alma" in 1856, and he married Harriett Lomas in 1866. Samuel had pre-paid for flat farm land at the foot of the Ruahines, but when he arrived he found that that piece of land had already been claimed by someone else so he settled for land up in the foothills of the Ranges.



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Samuel spent the years between arriving and marrying Harriett in cutting a track between Napier and Pendle Hill. After their marriage they lived in a sod hut where they raised thirteen children. They later built a grand totara house which was wallpapered with Auckland Weekly newspapers. This house is now part of the Onga Onga Museum. The family cemetery is still in use and a blue gum tree planted by Samuel when he first arrived in 1856 is still alive.