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EDITORIAL

THE ROLE OF THE HISTORIAN

The death under tragic circumstances in early August of Mr. Leslie G. Kelly in a railway collision directs attention to a person—the historian—who has not always received the consideration in this country that was due to his services.

I am not referring to the historian who has a comfortable University post, but to the amateur who, for the sheer love of knowledge, spends years in research to produce a book of inestimable value for which the reward is next to nothing.

Such a man was Leslie Kelly, who was of part-Maori descent, and also known as Te Putu.

For 20 years he collected material for the book subsequently known as "Tainui", the history of his own tribes, descendants of those who came to this country six centuries ago in the canoe of that name.

He followed what, in the eyes of many, was a useful but humble avocation—that of engine-driver.

The Polynesian Society, of which he was a member for many years, published this author's "Tainui" as a monograph, paid nothing for the manuscript, and received what profit there was on the book. The volume is long since out of print. Like other New Zealand classics "Tainui" today must be sought by collectors at auction sales of books.

In addition, Mr. Kelly published a book on the visit of the French navigator, Marion Dufresne, to the Bay of Islands in the 18th century, and contri-

buted over the years some 16 articles to the "Journal" of the Polynesian Society. The latter, in the main, dealt with old pa sites.

He was the descendant of Edward Meurant, an Englishman who arrived here early last century, and the Waikato chieftainess, Kenehuru.

There have been others, men of the calibre of S. Percy Smith, James Cowan, and George Graham, to mention only three, writers whose roots go deep into the soil of this country, who sought no reward but a desire to make a contribution to the history of their native land.

In the present issue of "The Bulletin" there is mention of a hitherto unknown letter from the notorious Kimble Bent, of Taranaki War fame, and published by the Bay of Plenty Branch in their "Newsletter". It is from such material that the fabric of history is woven. Those Founders who possess such material should recognise the responsibility of ensuring its safe custody, freedom from the risk of fire.

It does not fall to the lot of every person to write a book. Indeed, there have been far too many of poor quality published in New Zealand. But the passing of a man like Leslie Kelly, in whose veins was the blood of both races, and whose contribution to New Zealand's literature was an outstanding one, should not pass without some reflection. Is the labourer in historical literature unworthy of his hire?

—THE EDITOR.

Hawke's Bay to Mark Colenso Mission Site

Miss Alice Woodhouse, who is well-known in literary circles throughout New Zealand has submitted the following report to the N.Z. Founders' Society on recent work by the Hawke's Bay Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust:—

"This is the second report I have made as your representative on the Committee. Last year I could only report that a considerable amount of time was spent on discussions of suitable sites for marking, and other matters, but now it can be said that some progress has been made.

"The Committee are very pleased that the Trust has agreed to put up a marker to indicate the approximate site of the mission station established by William Colenso at the end of 1844. This will be alongside the main road from Napier to Hastings, between the bridges over the Tutaekuri River and the Waitangi wash-out. The Hawke's Bay Catchment Board has plans in hand for river control at this point, which will leave unused a small triangular piece of land. It is hoped the marker may be put on this, and a little reserve created round it.

PUKEHOU CHURCH

The Trust has also given a grant towards repairs to the Anglican Church at Pukehou, near Te Aute College. This is claimed to be the oldest church in Hawke's Bay, as the original church was built in 1859. Parts of it are still incorporated in the present building. Some little time ago it was found that both roof and foundations needed attention. The people of the district, a very scattered one, raised about £1,500 among themselves for repairing the building, and replacing the shingle roof with imported shingles, as suitable ones were not obtainable locally. In recognition of this effort the Trust has contributed £200 towards the roofing, and another £50 to remove an unsightly power pole in the church grounds, and put the cable underground.

AN OLD STABLE

"Besides the marking of sites, and the preservation, where possible, of historic buildings, another form of activity in which the Trust is interested is the recording, by means of measurements, drawings, and photographs, of particulars of buildings that it is not possible or desirable to preserve. The committee is having this done in the case of an old stable near Havelock North, built originally for Thomas Tanner, who at one time owned most of the land round about where Hastings is now. It is a fine example of Victorian architecture, with a two-storeyed central portion surmounted by a turret, and a sloping roof covering additional rooms at each end.

"The stalls and boxes have all been removed, and the building is now used as an apple-packing shed, the fluorescent lights in the ceiling and the modern grading machinery looking oddly out of place in the ancient building. Unfortunately, the whole place is falling into decay, and cannot be preserved, especially as some time ago a falling tree smashed in one of the end rooms, which is now roofless. It can only be preserved on paper, which will be done.

"Since my last report the Committee has had two field days, inspecting old sites of Maori pas, of which there are many in Hawke's Bay. One was on a hillside in from the Middle Road, which runs south from Havelock North, and the other was on a high knoll just off the Ohiti Road, which winds into the hills from Fernhill. Mr. E. H. Phillips, of Hastings, the Committee's chairman, is very interested in these sites, and knows the location of most of them round Napier and Hastings. There is no question of putting up markers on them, as there are too many, and also little is known of the actual history of most of them.

"On the Middle Road site there were still parts of two or three of the heavy palisade posts remaining in the ground. They had been slightly sharpened by charring, and the possibility of having them 'carbon-dated' will be investigated, but apparently this may be a difficult matter. On the Ohiti site there was nothing left of the palisades, but the earthworks, ditches and storage pits could be seen, though levelled down or filled up considerably by the passage of time, and now covered by grass. The Maori member of the Committee, Mr. J. Hamlin, from his knowledge of the movements of the tribes in the district, estimated that the pa might have been occupied about 1750.

MAORI FORTIFICATIONS

"Another member of the Committee, Mr. Robin Bell, who has had considerable military experience, agreed that the place was originally planned as a defensive position in the pre-firearm days, but thought it had been adapted later for defence against musketry. The discussion between the two was most interesting, though I for one could only regret that amongst the alleged 'blessings of civilisation' that we had brought to the Maoris had been improved methods of slaughter.

"Members of the Committee were appointed by the Trust, from the nominees whose names were put forward, for an initial term of two years, 'and thereafter may be re-appointed for such period as the Trust may decide' (Memorandum on Regional Committees, 1956). It seems, therefore, that the re-appointment of any member rests with the Trust, and there is no need for re-nomination by the nominating body, but if your Council thinks it desirable, that point could be checked with Mr. J. Pascoe, the Trust's secretary.

"In any case, I shall be happy to continue as the representative of your Society on the Committee for, at any rate, another year, if that is the wish of your Council. As there is no local early settlers' association in Napier, or, as far as I know, anywhere in Hawke's Bay, such representation on the Regional Committee can only be through the Founders' Society, but the relevant clause in the Rules of the Trust, Rule 31(d), says: 'One representative of historical, founders', pioneers', or early settlers' associations and societies.' There is in Hastings an Historical Society connected with the Royal Society, and that group might at some time wish for direct representation on the Committee.

"The present Committee chairman, Mr. H. E. Phillips, and another member, Mr. R. Bell, are both members of this Historical Society, but on the Committee Mr. Phillips represents the architects, and Mr. Bell the Hawke's Bay Art Gallery and Museum."

High Tribute To Taranaki Member

A former New Plymouth librarian and an original member of the Taranaki branch of the New Zealand Founders' Society, Mr. Allan Leslie Low was a man whose knowledge was irreplaceable, Mr. R. G. Jamieson told a meeting of the branch at New Plymouth.

Mr. Low's knowledge included details of all the Taranaki families, the dates of their arrivals in New Zealand and the ships in which they arrived, as well as a knowledge of most of their descendants.

Mr. Low's own grandparents arrived at Port Chalmers in the Mooltan in 1849. His mother, Miss Jane Smith, married Mr. William Low, and their son was born in 1890.

He was immediately invited to become a committee-man when he joined the Taranaki branch in June, 1956, and he was serving on the committee at the time of his death.

Mrs. McCallum was elected to fill the committee vacancy.

Alarming Incident at Bay of Islands Caused by a Child

The following incident in the life of Elizabeth Puckey, later Mrs. Gilbert Mair, has been forwarded by her grandson, Mr. Gilbert H. Mair, of Sharon's Road, Brown's Bay, Auckland. It took place when his grandmother was only eleven years old. It is taken from a life of the pioneer missionary, William Puckey, which has been compiled by the London Missionary Society at Adelaide, South Australia.

"Early in the evening of August 18, 1821, when her father was buying kumaras, a Maori woman, a relative of the chief Hongi, came and interfered with him. 'She was going to fall upon his wife', writes the Rev. J. G. Butler, who describes the incident at length, and he pushed her away, when she up with a billet of wood and struck him twice, and threw mud in his face.'

"The woman reported to Hongi that Puckey's daughter (afterwards Mrs. Gilbert Mair) had some six months before boasted that she would cut off Hongi's head and put it in an iron pot. According to Puckey this boast was in answer to Hongi's daughter's taunt that Puckey was nothing but a slave, that Hongi would kill him and eat him. The outcome of this childish exchange of taunts was more serious, for it aroused the natives, and that night they stole nine hogs and a couple of goats from Puckey

"Early the following Sunday morning numbers of Maoris invaded Puckey's yard and forced their way into his kitchen, stealing whatever they could lay their hands on. A friendly Maori chief, Reewah (Rewi?) disarmed them, but not before they had purloined planes, files, saws, hammers, stock and kits, axes, hoes, razors, shoes, wearing apparel, lamps, teapots, one iron pot, two blankets, and one rug.

"Puckey's 16-years-old son was sleeping in the kitchen when the Maoris arrived, and was terrified by their treatment of him. One caught him by the hair, and threatened to cut off his head if he should utter a sound. Rewi's intervention once again brought peace to the troubled household, and Puckey and his son set off to attend morning service at 11 o'clock. The service had been in progress for only a few minutes when Puckey was called out. The Maoris had returned to steal the chickens from his yard. Despite the missionary's pleadings they took them all. Divine Service did not end till 1 o'clock. The worshippers had scarcely repaired to their homes before the Maoris descended on Puckey's house again.

"Dinner had been set on the table. Having broken open the door, the marauders carried off the food from the table, broke all plates and dishes, took away the knives and forks, spoons, a looking-glass, two bottles, one cannister of tea, table cloth, towel, three mats, about one bag of flour, one of wheat, and sundry curiosities, etc.

"Word was sent to Rewi who came 'quite naked' and 'dreadfully angry', and drove Hongi's men away.

"These are trying scenes indeed", wrote Butler, "This is something of a missionary's life among cannibals."

(This Mair was, of course, the original Gilbert, born in Scotland in 1797, and, curiously enough he is said to have first touched at the Bay of Islands in 1821—the year of the above incident. He settled there permanently three years later. Mair married Elizabeth Puckey in 1827, and they lived both at Paihia and at Wapapu. He died in 1857, and his widow survived him until 1870. His last years were spent in Whangarei. The Mairs, as a family, made a notable contribution to the early history of this country.—Editor.)

Why Not Try for the Hodges Collection ?

The collection of oil paintings, the work of William Hodges, R.A., who accompanied Captain Cook on his second voyage to New Zealand, that of late has been on exhibition at the Turnbull Library, is now being displayed in Napier.

The collection includes works painted by Hodges in Tahiti and adjacent islands, in New Zealand, and in New Caledonia.

The exhibition attracted considerable attention in Wellington, said the Turnbull librarian, Mr. C. R. H. Taylor. It had been inspected by a number of city and suburban schools, while other juvenile parties came from schools in the Palmerston North and Masterton areas.

Gisborne had asked for the collection, and offered to pay part of the expense involved, Mr. Taylor said, and it was likely to be shown there. "An offer of that sort from such a small centre is most encouraging and reflects credit on all concerned," he added.

The exhibition will also be shown in Auckland, and possibly in Christchurch.

("These studies are the property of the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, and were secured for display in New Zealand through the good offices of our acting High Commissioner, Mr. G. R. Laking, in London. The collection is not of first-rate importance artistically, but it is of definite significance historically. This is a subject in which the Society could well interest itself. If representations were made to the Admiralty it is just possible that the collection might be allowed to remain here permanently"—Editor.)

Wakefield House Functions in Recent Months

The following functions have been held at the Wellington Clubrooms, Wakefield House, 90 The Terrace, since the last publication of the Founders' "Bulletin":—

April 8, Buffet Luncheon: Mr. F. Hugo Arnfast, Minister of Sweden, was the speaker, and his talk covered various aspects of life in Sweden.

April 15, Evening Function: A talk was given by Dr. E. I. Robertson, Director of Geophysics Division, D.S.I.R., on "Scientific Collaboration in Antarctica". It was illustrated with colour slides and covered the scientific programmes of the 12 nations engaged in Antarctic research.

May 13, Buffet Luncheon: Mrs. Dorothy Moses, a freelance journalist, was guest speaker. Her subject was the much publicised holiday area of Surfers' Paradise, Queensland, which she visited recently.

June 10, Buffet Luncheon: Mr. A. G. Bagnall, deputy chairman of the National Historic Places Trust, and well known librarian and author, was the guest speaker on that occasion.

June 17, an Evening Function at which a programme of selected films was shown and supper was served.

July 8, at a Buffet Luncheon, Mrs. Francis Lockyer, wife of the Trade Commissioner for the United Kingdom, spoke on "Living in India".

August 12, a Buffet Luncheon, at which Mr. E. R. Toop addressed members.

Founders' Activities

Branch Reports

Bay of Plenty:—This branch met in February for a picnic lunch in the grounds of Te Amorangi, the oldest house standing around Rotorua. It was recently placed in trust by the owner, Mr. Sheward, for St. Faith's Youth Club. The young people took much pride in doing up the grounds, building a museum to house treasures, and provide a meeting place during inclement weather. For the picnic the extensive grounds were floodlit, and hot points were provided for visitors. The old croquet green laid down in the Seventies is now used for dancing by up to 1,500 young people at a time. The slit trenches used for defence during the Te Kooti raids are to be renovated.

After addressing the large gathering, Mr. Sheward took parties on a tour of the house and grounds. Visible evidence of the Tarawera eruption is provided by a sizeable cypress, which now has its branches growing as separate trees since two feet of ash fell and put the house below ground level.

Although covered now by tiles this house of two stories still has its original shingles. The handmade hinges and catches upon the doors are in perfect condition. The places where shutters were used over the lower windows to fortify the place are still visible, and the original upward sliding windows are still there. Indoors there is a colonial oven, also a Doulton bath and basin in perfect condition. The original hand-made woodwork is exquisite, and in splendid preservation.

A wonderful day was appreciated by all, and several new members were gained for the society. The suggestion was made that the visit be made an annual one, on Founders' Day, or the Sunday nearest, to commemorate the occasion.

On that occasion Mrs. Flora Spurdle, of the Whanganui Branch was warmly welcomed.

Taranaki:—The annual commemorative service was held at Te Henui Cemetery at the graveside of Mr. F. A. Carrington, the "Founder of Taranaki", on April 5. The address was given by the Rev. Canon K. Liggett. The congregation included 600 young people.

Others present included were Mr. E. P. Aderman, M.P. for New Plymouth, and Mrs. Aderman, Mr. T. T. Murray, M.P. for Stratford, and representatives from local bodies throughout the province.

After the religious ceremony a wreath was laid upon Mr. Carrington's grave by the president of the Branch, Mr. R. G. Jamieson. The latter reminded all Founders of their obligations under the Fifth Commandment; "Honour thy Father and thy Mother that your days may be long in the Land that the Lord thy God giveth you".

After the service members and friends enjoyed a luncheon at the Criterion Hotel, after which the invitation of the New Plymouth Historical Society was accepted to attend their ceremony at the Port, where Mr. Murray, M.P., gave the address.

A unique feature of that service was the placing of the wreath by Miss Jeannie Mana, aged 17, who is descended from settlers who arrived on the beach at Pioneer Road in 1842 and has also the blood of the Maori people who received the latter.

STATIC MEMBERSHIP

The third annual meeting of the Taranaki branch was held in New Plymouth on April 23, Mr. R. G. Jamieson

presided over a good attendance. The annual report disclosed that membership was static, admissions equaling resignations, and the financial position of the branch strong. The biggest worry the branch was having was to obtain a suitable secretary. However, the president was given full executive powers, and is combining both positions. The following officers were all re-elected:

Mr. Jamieson, president and secretary; Mr. V. C. Davies, O.B.E., vice president. Committee: Mrs. M. H. Stewart and Messrs. W. L. Faull, R. Davidson, A. L. Low, N. F. Jupp, and Bruce Sinclair-Lockhart.

The guest speaker was Mrs. V. C. Davies, who gave an illustrated address, the majority of her slides were her own taking, of scenes, homes, and places of interest in New Zealand. The thanks of the Society were ably expressed by Mr. Bruce Sinclair-Lockhart.

The serving of supper ended a successful meeting.

The next function for this branch was Mr. Norman's address on "Historical New Plymouth" on July 23.

An effort is being made to establish a strong junior section, if children or grandchildren are available please advise the branch secretary. All "Foundation" members will be given a Founders' Badge free.

Wairarapa:—The annual report of the Wairarapa branch was submitted on April 31. Mr. A. T. Maitland presided.

The following officers were elected:—

President, Mr. Raymond Smith; vice-presidents, Mr. A. T. Maitland and Mrs. E. R. Miller; secretary, Mrs. I. Ball; treasurer, Miss H. Tankersley; honorary auditor, Mr. W. M. Sellar; committee, Mrs. G. Armstrong and Miss D. Armstrong (Carterton), Mrs. J. Edge (Featherston), Miss M. Speedy, Miss G. Langdon, Mr. Ian Cameron, Mr. Archer Hale, Mrs. C. E. Mountford and Mr. Verne Welch; publicity officer, Mrs. E. R. Miller; representative on the Regional Council of the Historic Places Trust, Mr. C. E. Wrigley; delegate to Dominion Council, appointment left to the incoming committee.

The deaths were reported during the past year of three old members—Mr. H. B. Maunsell, Mr. Noel Matthews and Mr. R. J. Matthews. Sympathy was extended to their relatives, and to other members of the Society who had suffered bereavement.

A report on membership showed that it had increased to 162—149 senior members, 13 life, 10 junior, one honorary life, and two associate members.

Four committee meetings were held during the year.

Four very successful social functions were enjoyed by members. In May members were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrew at their historic home, Ica. Sixty members were present, and brought with them many interesting old articles. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew also displayed some objects and pictures, all linked with early colonisation.

In June an afternoon function was held in Carterton and it was very well attended. Mr. Northcote-Bade spoke on Colonial furniture and brought with him some examples to illustrate his interesting talk.

Members spent a delightful evening viewing Mrs. R. Miller's slides of her Canadian tour. Mrs. Miller also showed some pictorial slides of New Zealand.

About 70 members attended the Xmas tea party. An unsuccessful effort was made to arrange an evening of National Film Unit films co-ordinated with a suitable speaker. That was a fairly ambitious project, which had to be abandoned because of technical difficulties.

Mrs. and Miss Armstrong, Mrs. Ball, Mr. Smith and Mr. Maitland attended the annual general meeting of the Society in Wellington. Messrs. Maitland and Raymond Smith were both elected to the Dominion Council.

Miss D. Armstrong is a delegate, and Mrs. Ball a vice-president, so the branch is well represented.

A drive was made to collect outstanding subscriptions. As a direct result £20, being about 50% of the amount, was received. Further payments have come in since.

A social hour followed the meeting. Miss Beverley Morrell, accompanied by Mrs. E. Speight, sang two vocal solos. Mrs. E. R. Miller gave appropriate recitations. Mr. Bennett Iorns entertained with a screening of photographic slides depicting historic spots in and around Masterton and in other parts of New Zealand, including the Bay of Islands.

Canterbury:—The eleventh birthday of the branch was celebrated by the holding of an "at home" on June 10. This took place at the residence of the secretary, Mrs. M. Jones, at Shirley. The 48 guests included six of the oldest members of the branch. A welcome was extended by the vice-chairman, Mr. A. H. Oakes, in the absence, through illness, of the chairman, Mr. W. P. B. Cleary. Special reference was made to the presence of Mr. J. L. Hewland, president of the Canterbury Pilgrims and Early Settlers' Association, and Mrs. Hewland, also to that of Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Barker.

The Canterbury branch now has a membership of 57 persons. Of that number 13 reside outside of Christchurch.

Letter Discovered From Notorious Soldier Renegade

The Bay of Plenty branch has issued a "Newsletter", following the good example set by the Whanganui branch. "This is an attempt to preserve and present to our members something of the past," says an editorial in issue No. 1 of May, 1959.

It has certainly produced something unusually interesting in a letter from Kimble Bent, the notorious renegade who deserted to the Taranaki Maoris in 1865. The letter was written to Mr. Dennis Sullivan, of Patea. Bent was then residing at Rukumoana in the same district. It was dated February 22, 1880.

In this letter Bent denied that he had ever fought against the Europeans, but says that when the Maoris went to fight they left him well behind the firing line. "I shall some day return to the Europeans to find a new life for me", he wrote. But he never did so. He remained among the Taranaki Maoris or among their kinfolk in the northern section of the South Island.

Bent, in this document, tells how in 1878 he again placed his feet, after all those years, beneath a pakeha table: "... the first time that I had the opportunity ... to take breakfast for 13 years and six months. It felt strange indeed for me to lift up a cup of tea in my hand. When I lifted up the small children in my arms it seemed to me as if an angel had come from Heaven. The tears rolled down my face ..."

Bent was an American from the State of Maine, and is said to have been of part Indian descent.

His life among the Maoris must have been very lonely at times. But according to this letter he had deserted more than once, and, indeed, had been subjected to a flogging.

(The original of this letter, surely, should be placed in the Turnbull Library for safe-keeping.—The Editor.)

"OLD WHANGANUI"

Mrs. F. P. Spurdle, of the Whanganui Branch, visited the Taranaki district recently, and addressed the Historical Society at New Plymouth on the early history of her own district.

A Whale Chase in Wellington Harbour

One September morn, just a century ago, a huge whale nosed its way into Port Nicholson from Cook Strait. Its appearance occasioned considerable excitement. Though the probability is that the Whanganui a Tara, as the harbour was known to the Maoris, sheltered many a whale in its time, this was only the second one seen there following European settlement 14 years before.

It is known that in the early period of Port Nicholson's history whalers brought their catches into the harbour. The beach at Oriental Bay, below St. Gerard's monastery, is said to have been the spot where blubber was rendered down in large try-pots.

The chase and subsequent capture of the monster was described in "The Spectator" of September 23, 1854, by a writer, who even burst into verse:

"And seems a moving land: and at his gills

Draws in, and at his trunk spouts out a sea."

When the whale's presence was observed, two boats were fitted out with the essential gear by Messrs. Bethune and Hunter and started in pursuit. Two young men named Riley, one as headsmen and the other as steerer, were in the first. The second had one Baley, a former mate of the American whaler Mount Wollaston, as headsmen, while the steerer was "the younger Hebblerley".

The latter must have been a son, by his Maori wife, of James Hebblerley, a former whaler well known on both sides of the Strait. A Weymouth man of German extraction, the senior Hebblerley, was born in 1809, reaching Sydney in 1825, and was at the Bay of Islands two years later. Hebblerley was with the Ngai Tahu of the South Island during the last phase of Te Rauparaha's raiding, and is said to have purchased land at Port Nicholson as early as 1837. The title deeds, however, were subsequently declared to be invalid.

After a career as whaler and pilot, he was drowned in 1899 at the age of 90!

Thomas Henry Hebblerley, his grandson, born in 1876, will be remembered in Wellington as a carver; he died as recently as 1937. For a period he was employed restoring carvings for the Dominion Museum.

It is possible that the Hebblerley concerned in the chase of the whale in 1854 was Jacob, the half-caste son of James Hebblerley. In the early period of his life he resided both at Petone and across the Strait.

The chase round Wellington's harbour lasted for the greater part of the day, the whale having made a complete circuit. There were times, particularly near Kaiwharawhara, when it approached perilously close to the shore, where it was seen to advantage by the settlers who lined the beach.

At last the whale was struck by a harpoon from the Baley boat. After a short struggle it was captured, the second boat arriving in time for the kill. The carcass was then towed to the eastern side of Lambton Harbour, where "it was quite an object of attention, being visited by the greater part of the inhabitants of Wellington, particularly towards the evening, when upwards of 200 people must have been called together to see the huge leviathan."

The captors had sanguine hopes of collecting between £300 and £400 for the oil and bone, though history does not record the precise sum realised.—"PONEKE".

Plea For Restoration Of James Busby's Home

A plea for the restoration of the old Residency, once the home of James Busby and his wife at Waitangi, Bay of Islands, was made recently by Eric Ramsden, New Zealand historian and Busby's biographer, in a letter to "The Evening Post", Wellington.

Important aspects concerning what is the most important national memorial in the country have been overlooked, says this writer, who has visited the home of George and Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, near Washington, D.C., and was most impressed by the manner in which a patriotic body, The Daughters of the Revolution, completely restored it. He stated:—

"As one who has taken more than a cursory interest in Waitangi, because I spent six years writing the life of James Busby, the man most concerned with it, I feel that two important aspects of what is probably the most important historic site in this country, have been overlooked. That there is something wrong in our present concept concerning Waitangi is, I think, obvious, judging by the criticism that arises so constantly.

"Why cannot Busby's old home be restored on the lines of that of Washington at Mount Vernon? The latter, thanks to a body of patriotic women, has been restored to something approaching the glory it once enjoyed in the time of the Washingtons: in other words, it is as perfect a period piece as patience, taste, and money can devise. Even the original wallpapers have been copied. Indeed, the country was scoured for Washington relics. Today Mount Vernon is one of the most charming national memorials I have seen in any part of the world—a tribute to its builders and the period in which they lived. It is once again a home. The setting, curiously enough, is similar to that at Waitangi.

"There is Busby's furniture still in existence, also other relics that possibly could be obtained if their possessors were encouraged to hand them over in trust. The most significant fact of all, that Waitangi was Busby's home, has so often been forgotten. At Waitangi James Busby suffered, and almost died very tragically indeed from a would-be assassin's bullet. Yet bumble-dom has consistently ignored that human and personal aspect. It is only in recent years that mention on official occasions has been made of his name. Long ago there was a Nias Walk on the estate.

NO MENTION

"But no mention, apart from a few words in the house, of Busby. The only memorial, apart from that to the ex-Resident, will be the memorial gates that his own descendants propose to erect at Waitangi. Surely Busby, a man of the utmost probity, deserves more of this country than such negligence. How little Nias had to do with the drama enacted at Waitangi! After all, his presence there in 1840 was merely incidental. Busby, on the other hand, served his country for seven years there before the treaty signing, and lived there for long after, and his widow made it her home until her death.

"It was a mistake, in my opinion, to have changed the name from the British Residency to 'the Treaty House.' The treaty was not signed in the house, but outside it. Old Bay of Islands settlers always knew Waitangi as 'The Residency'. All of Busby's official correspondence was so headed. So little consideration has been given to the Busby family, and their feelings that it has taken 26 years to obtain the appointment of a direct descendant of the one-time Resident to Waitangi's board of management.

"My second point is that, though there is Maori representation on that board, and there is a carved house and canoe in the vicinity, there is no real link between the Maori people and the place. Waitangi is in no sense a marae Maori: it is not a papakainga. Therefore, while the treaty is revered in Maori minds, the place itself can only be a show place in pakeha hands. Does the canoe ever enter the water? Is the house ever used by local tribesfolk for tribal purposes?

CLOSER CONTACT

"I don't know what can be done to overcome that feeling, except by bringing young Maoris in closer contact with Waitangi and giving them some feeling of right to be there—not one of privilege at some occasional ceremony in which they play a secondary part. Waitangi should be just as sacred to the young Maori, perhaps even more so, than to the young pakeha.

"Instead of using it as a museum of sorts that cannot be classed as even third rate, for it is a jumble, restore Waitangi, piece by piece, as was done with Mount Vernon, and then the old house can tell its own story. The Residency began as the private home of James Busby and his wife. Let it revert to something of the sort. Not until that is done will we have something really unique as far as this country is concerned, and do justice where justice should be done.

"Busby's services in obtaining Maori consent to the treaty have never been adequately recognised though Hobson, before his death, placed on record his gratitude, and it was a most generous recognition. There has been far too much of a desire in the past to exalt others and forget what Busby did.

QUIET CHARM

"We, in this country, could never hope to emulate Mount Vernon, which was built in an earlier and more attractive historical period, and the whole place, with its numerous outbuildings, is on a far larger scale than Waitangi. But we could restore the old Residency to something approaching the quiet charm and dignity of an early Victorian home, and remove the excrescences that have arisen to perhaps another building. Let people come forward with some real sense of vision who can look at Waitangi from a truly national angle, and not merely from a Bay of Islands viewpoint. The pity is that Waitangi will probably continue to suffer because of its geographical situation."

Women's Committee Elects Officials

The president of the Women's Committee, Mrs. K. Edwards, at a meeting at Wakefield House, Wellington, on May 2, thanked members for their loyal co-operation during the year, and stated she was proud of the harmonious spirit that had always existed among them. The president was particularly grateful for the help members had given at all social functions.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Edwards; vice-presidents, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Coates, and Miss Parker; secretary-treasurer, Miss W. L. Helliwell; committee, Mesdames A. D. Beattie, W. Brown, A. Burnard, E. Coates, V. Dalgleish, E. Duncan, K. Edwards, H. M. Healey, H. Logie, J. Sangster, G. Townsend, Misses G. and N. Hamerton, W. L. Helliwell, B. Parker, J. Sellar, I. Turnbull, and N. B. Wratt. Mrs. Edwards was appointed delegate to Council meetings.

Mrs. Sangster, and the Misses N. Hamerton and Parker will comprise the linen committee. Mrs. Sangster was appointed honorary auditor.

John Plimmer's Link With Ship Inconstant

Mr. F. W. Squires was clearing rubbish in a house in Atholl Crescent, Wellington, the other day when he came across a souvenir of the ship *Inconstant*—otherwise, John Plimmer's Noah's Ark, a familiar sight in Wellington a century ago.

It was a piece of oak bearing the inscription: "C. H. Dinley, 35 Hankey Street, Wellington," also the words "Inconstant, 1849. Plimmer's Noah's Ark, Bank Corner and Custom House Quay, Store 1856."

When excavations were made on the site of the Bank of New Zealand at the junction of Lambton Quay, Customhouse Quay and Willis Street, the *Inconstant's* hull was found in sound condition. From the timbers were made chairs for the bank's board room and one for the Turnbull Library.

Reference is made in a book, "The Life of John Plimmer," to the purchase of the *Inconstant*. She was of 650 tons and was built at St. John's, New Brunswick.

She was wrecked on Barrett's Reef in August, 1850. Leaking badly, she was brought into the harbour, and beached at Te Aro. Plimmer purchased her for £80. The Governor (Sir George Grey) gave the new owner permission to use the vessel as a wharf opposite Barrett's Hotel.

"After much trouble and no little expense," he wrote, "we succeeded in placing her in the required position. . . . I cut down her upper works, and built a large building over the hull, 68 by 30 feet, The Government allowed me to make a store of the lower part, and granted me a license for it."

It appears that "the Ark," as it became known to Wellingtonians, suffered in the disastrous earthquake of 1855. "What vexed me most was that my old ship had been turned over," wrote Plimmer. ". . . After much toil and expense I succeeded in righting the old ship, and got her replaced firmly and safely in her old position." But the contents of the store had been scattered round the building.

The *Inconstant* was in Wellington in the latter part of 1849. Her captain, one Culliton, advertised during that period that he would not be responsible for any debts contracted by his crew. Bethune and Hunter were the ship's agents.

John Plimmer, descendant of a family which espoused Cromwell's side in the Civil War, and suffered for it on the return of Charles II, will always be remembered because of one of the city's most picturesque, if steep, lanes—Plimmer's Steps.

Branch Newsletters

The June issue of the Whanganui Branch's "Newsletter" (No. 6) comments: "It is interesting to learn that the Canterbury Branch is considering starting their own 'Newsletter', and we wish them success if they undertake this project. We consider that it is certainly most worthwhile, and hope that the idea will spread to other branches."

(Whanganui has certainly set a good example. As a compilation, neat, chatty, and informative, its "Newsletter" has certainly maintained a good standard.—Editor.)

No Suitable Setting for Featherston Bust

When the bust of Dr. Isaac Earl Featherston was unveiled at the old Colonial Museum, Wellington, on May 24, 1877, Sir William Fitzherbert declared: "He made a deeper, a more lasting mark upon the history of New Zealand than any man who has yet lived among us."

In the vestibule to Parliament House in Wellington is a small collection of busts in memory of the distinguished dead. That of Featherston is not among them; it is to be found in a corner in the room that houses the Dominion Museum's historical collection.

One wonders at times just what entitles a man to have his bust placed in the Parliamentary Parthenon. The verdict of history is, surely, that at least one or two of them, now there, hardly qualify for that distinction. But, if ever a man deserves that honour it is Featherston.

Four times Superintendent, member of Parliament, Cabinet Minister, Agent-General in London, this courageous, far-seeing, and humble man, who throughout life fought a constant battle against ill-health, served New Zealand faithfully and well. Cannot his bust be placed in a position where all New Zealand can honour him?

Born at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1813, Featherston obtained his medical degree at Edinburgh in 1836, and left for New Zealand in 1840 as surgeon-superintendent of the *Olympus*. For the next ten years in Wellington he devoted himself to the practice of his profession. In 1853 he was elected Superintendent without opposition.

The service that he gave to the infant colony was varied. At one time he was sent to Australia to negotiate a mail steamer agreement. Again, he returned to Australia to persuade General Chute to assume responsibility for keeping the Imperial troops in this country. Later he went to England with the first Sir Francis Bell for the same purpose.

Such was the sincerity of this man that, during the difficult days of the Maori wars, the loyalist levies refused to move without him. When Chute made his historic march through Taranaki, it was Featherston, though so ill that he could hardly sit on his horse, who accompanied him. In 1871 he accepted the post of Agent-General in London, where he died in 1876. Though he was awarded the New Zealand Cross, Featherston refused a knighthood.

Of him it has been written: "There was nothing mean or mercenary about him. He was fond of power, but his sole aim was to use it for what he thought was the public good: and in that cause the object of his life was to spend and be spent."

The bust was unveiled by the Governor, the Marquis of Normanby. More than 400 people subscribed to the memorial fund, the prime mover behind which was Jonas Woodward. Those present included Dr. Featherston's daughters, Mrs. Charles Johnston, Dr. Pollen, Dr. Buller, Justices William, Johnston, and Richmond, Dr. Grace, William Gisborne, and others whose names feature prominently in our history.

The chief, Wi Tako, a member of the Legislative Council, who represented the Maori people, said: "I have seen none to equal Dr. Featherston. He was the friend of both Maori and Pakeha."

The time, surely, has come to rescue this bust from comparative obscurity, and place it where it should be—the hallowed place that Parliament has set aside for New Zealand's famous men.—"PONEKE".

Overseas Trip.—Miss Jean Sellar, who had organised the successful series of card evenings for the Wellington Women's Committee, has left on a trip overseas. Miss Sellar is a member of a well-known Masterton family.

New Members of Founders Society

Name	Address	Ship	Date	Ancestor
Mrs. E. M. Harris	Manawatu	Gertrude	1841	John Plimmer
Mrs. M. Tollemache	Auckland	Louisa Campbell	1845	F. Tiffen
Miss G. McKenzie	Auckland			Richard Dunne
Mrs. C. L. Renner	Auckland	Phoebe	1843	Charles Palmer
Miss M. F. Reid	Wairarapa	Bengal Merchant	1840	Thomas Reid
Mr. M. D. K. Reid	Wairarapa	Bengal Merchant	1840	Thomas Reid
Mr. C. R. Renner	Auckland	Sir Edward Paget	1856	Dr. T. O. Rayner
Mrs. I. B. London	Bay of Plenty	Martha Ridgeway	1840	James Hobman
Mr. J. G. T. London	Bay of Plenty	Clifton	1841	Henry London
Mrs. E. M. Washer	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1840	William Judd
Mrs. B. G. Bell	Wellington	Egmont	1856	Benjamin Button
Master G. Walker (Jr.)	Wanganui	Phoebe Dunbar	1850	George Walker
Mrs. L. K. Groves	Wairarapa	Duke of Roxburgh	1840	James Bryant
Mr. W. T. Wood	Taranaki	William Bryan	1841	Philippa Inch
Mrs. M. A. Bailey	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1840	William Judd
Mrs. M. H. Walker	Wellington	Westminster	1858	Francis Lawrey
Mrs. A. J. Rowe	Wellington			Amos Burr
Mrs. C. M. Wood	Wellington	Charlotte Jane	1850	Jabez Thornton
Miss H. F. Raymond (Jr.)	Wellington	London	1840	Joseph Dixon
Mr. V. Welch	Wairarapa	Aurora	1840	William Welch
Mrs. E. I. Stratford	Auckland	Fifeshire	1842	William Cullen
Mrs. T. R. Mercer	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1840	J. T. Wicksteed
Mr. C. E. Ericson	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1842	John Kidson
Mrs. H. McVeagh	Wellington	Tory	1841	William Dorset
Mrs. H. D. Adams	Wellington			Charles B. Stone
Mr. K. K. Kirk	Wellington	Strathfieldsay	1857	Mary Wilson
Mrs. L. L. de Thier	Christchurch	Randolph	1850	John Harper
Mrs. V. M. McAdam	Christchurch		1827	Rev. James Stack
Mrs. A. S. Chisholm	Wellington	Mystery	1859	Richard Clark
Mrs. H. K. Reid	Wellington	Diana	1840	Captain Butler
Mr. S. G. Dinniss	Wellington	Sir Robert Peel	1847	Charles E. Gold
Miss G. A. Aldred	Christchurch	Triton	1840	John Aldred
Mr. C. L. Rose	Auckland	Westminster	1840	Charles H. Rose
Mrs. G. B. Broad	Wairarapa	Berkshire	1850	J. W. G. Beauchamp
Mrs. L. A. Thompson	Wairarapa	Martha Ridgway	1840	William Judd
Miss K. F. M. Langdon	Wairarapa	Lady Leigh	1842	Robert Langdon
Miss B. Matthews	Wairarapa	London	1842	Charles Matthews
Mr. A. J. Starck	Taranaki	Clifton	1841	Peter Christison
Mrs. N. E. Gosling	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1840	William Judd
Mrs. G. A. Avery	Bay of Plenty	Bolton	1840	William Judd
Miss V. A. Rucroft	Bay of Plenty	William Bryan	1841	James Climo

Society's Secretaries' Addresses

Dominion: Mrs. D. Anderson, P.O. Box 2457, Wellington. Telephone 42-278 (Bus.), 77-184 (Home).

Auckland: Miss I. M. O'Connor, P.O. Box 387, Auckland. Telephone 45-950 (Bus.), 585-985 (Home).

Wanganui: Mr. George Walker, C/o Maori Affairs Dept., Campbell Place, Wanganui. Telephone 4073.

Bay of Plenty: Mrs. K. P. Wilson, 6 Reservoir Street, Putaruru.

Manawatu: Awaiting appointment.

Wairarapa: Mrs. I. Ball, 5 Johnston Street, Masterton.

Taranaki: Mr. R. G. Jamieson, Oakura, Taranaki.

Canterbury: Mrs. M. Jones, 41 Flockton Street, Shirley, Christchurch. Telephone 58-564.

Rare Busby Book to be Sold

Members of the Society who are enthusiastic collectors of early New Zealand printed material will be interested in an item that will come up for sale in Wellington at Bethune and Coy's sale towards the end of August.

Of importance also to Australian collectors is a copy in excellent condition, still possessing the original covers of James Busby's "A Manual of Plain Directions for Planting and Cultivating Vineyards, and for Making Wine in New South Wales," printed in Sydney by Robert Howe in 1830.

Though Busby was the author of a number of pamphlets, the "Manual" is regarded as a rare one. This copy was a gift to the Rev. J. Hobbs, a pioneer missionary in North Auckland, and an inscription in the latter's handwriting testifies to the fact.

The last copy of this pamphlet to be sold in Wellington in 1947 realised £10/10/-. It is believed to have advanced in value since then. It was written before Busby ever saw New Zealand, and while he was in charge of an agricultural school near Sydney. It is dedicated to the then Governor, General Sir Ralph Darling.