

## President's Message

*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 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.

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## History of Wakefield Property

From the bright book "Edward Gibbon Wakefield," written by Miss Irma O'Connor, great-grand-daughter of the famous founder, and a search of deeds and land-transfer documents back to the year 1861, Mr. D. J. Riddiford, vice-president of the New Zealand Founders Society, has written the history of Wakefield House and property.

The area of the land on which Wakefield House stands is two roods and one and one-fifth perches—just over half an acre. It is part of an original town acre of Wellington. The property was purchased by Edward Gibbon Wakefield in 1861, a short time before he died, and he lived here with his sister-in-law, Angela Wakefield, the wife of his brother, Daniel Wakefield, who had died not long before, and their small daughter, Alice, afterwards Mrs. Harold Freeman. The Founder, after his arrival in Wellington, had been living with the Daniel Wakefields for some little time.

Wakefield, now in failing health, had retired from all public activities, and lived a secluded life in rooms which

had been set apart for him in the house.

### Pleasant Hours With Niece Alice

Although he saw few people in the evening of his days, he became greatly attached to his small niece, Alice. She later became the daughter-in-law of a distinguished English historian, and it is from her pen that we learn of the last days of Wakefield. He used to encourage her to read books which had interested him, chiefly Walter Scott's novels, and she would tell him each day episodes from the book she was then reading.

Occasionally he would recover something of his former fire as he commented from his own rich experience of life on the incidents she related to him.

When he was well enough he would ride an old and quiet pony along the Terrace, and sometimes he was accompanied by his niece. Wakefield was in these last days the mere shadow of his former terrific self; a kind of calm had succeeded the storm of his earlier life.



At that time the bustling little community of Wellington little marked his comings and goings, as he had dropped out of the main current of affairs; but when he died, on 16th May, 1862, he left a lasting memory of his greatness and his kindness in the mind of one small girl. His estate was proved at £500.

#### Various Transfers and Leases

On 20th November, 1861, Wakefield transferred the property for the nominal consideration of five shillings to his sister-in-law, Angela Wakefield, widow of Daniel Wakefield. Angela Wakefield on 11th March, 1865, leased the property to Archibald Paisley Stuart, of Wellington, merchant, for twenty-one years at a rental of £20 a year.

On 10th July, 1873, Archibald Stuart assigned the lease to Charles Robert Kenneth Fergusson, lieutenant in Her Majesty's 79th Regiment, for £550.

Angela Wakefield, the proprietor of the freehold, died on 30th November, 1874, and under her will the property passed to her son, Charles Marcus Wakefield.

On 25th January, 1881, Charles Marcus Wakefield of Belmont, Hillington, in the County of Middlesex, gentleman, leased the property to Herbert Pearson Rawson of Wellington, dentist, for twenty-one years from 26th February in the same year for £50 a year clear of rates and taxes.

On 15th March, 1893, Charles Marcus Wakefield leased the property for a further twenty-one years to Herbert Pearson Rawson from 26th February, 1893, at a rental of £65 a year.

On 11th May, 1902, Charles Marcus Wakefield died, and probate of his will was granted on 2nd July, 1902, to his widow, Annette Sophia Wakefield, as sole executrix, who under his will became the proprietor of the Wakefield House property.

Annette Sophia Wakefield leased the property to Emma Louisa Morrison of Petone, wife of John Laird Morrison of Petone, Native Agent, from 26th February, 1914, for forty-two years at a rent of £65 a year.

Annette Sophia Wakefield died on 12th October, 1928, at New Belmont, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, and in pursuance of the terms of her will the property was transferred on 21st August, 1929, to her son, Charles William Wake-

field of Isel Vicarage, Cockermouth, Cumberland, clerk in Holy Orders.

C. W. Wakefield died on 10th November, 1937, and by his will devised the property to his trustees, namely his widow, Emily Storrs Wakefield, and the Westminster Bank as follows:

"3. I devise all my freehold property situate at Wellington New Zealand to my trustees upon trust to pay the income thereof to my said wife during her life and from and after her decease to pay the income thereof unto my sister Angela Mary Wakefield during her life, and from and after the decease of the survivor of my said wife and my said sister I devise the same property to my nephew Edward Roger Wakefield for his own use and benefit absolutely, and I hereby express my earnest wish and desire that the said property shall not be sold by my said nephew but should be held and retained by him and left by him to his eldest or only son (if any), and that failing his dying leaving any such son he should leave the property to his nearest male paternal relative who bears the name of Wakefield and in either case with the same request as to retention of the property in the Wakefield family."

Edward Roger Wakefield died on 3rd June, 1944, leaving a will dated 25th July, 1938, probate of which was resealed in Wellington on 1st April, 1946, which provides:

"I devise all my freehold property situate in Wellington, New Zealand, to my said sister Mary Priscilla Williams for her own use and benefit absolutely, and without imposing any trust or obligation on her so to do I desire her to keep the same property which has belonged to our family since the foundation of the colony, and I hope she will leave it to her eldest or only son or, failing a son, to her eldest or only daughter entailed for the longest period permissible by law."

As to the lease, Emma Louisa Morrison died on 9th January, 1939, and her executors on 9th July, 1940, assigned the lease to James Auld and Patrick Gleeson both of Wellington, settlers, as tenants in common for £500. James Auld died on 12th February, 1945, and his interest as a tenant in



common passed to his executors the Guardian Trust and Patrick Gleeson.

The Westminster Bank as surviving trustee of the will of C. W. Wakefield (Emily Storrs Wakefield having died on 17th March, 1940) leased the property for twenty-one years to the Guardian Trust and Gleeson at £208 a year. At the conclusion of the term the lessees had an option of renewal at a revaluation of the land, excluding the buildings and improvements. On 5th December the Guardian Trust and Gleeson purchased the buildings for £1845.

#### **The Final Stage**

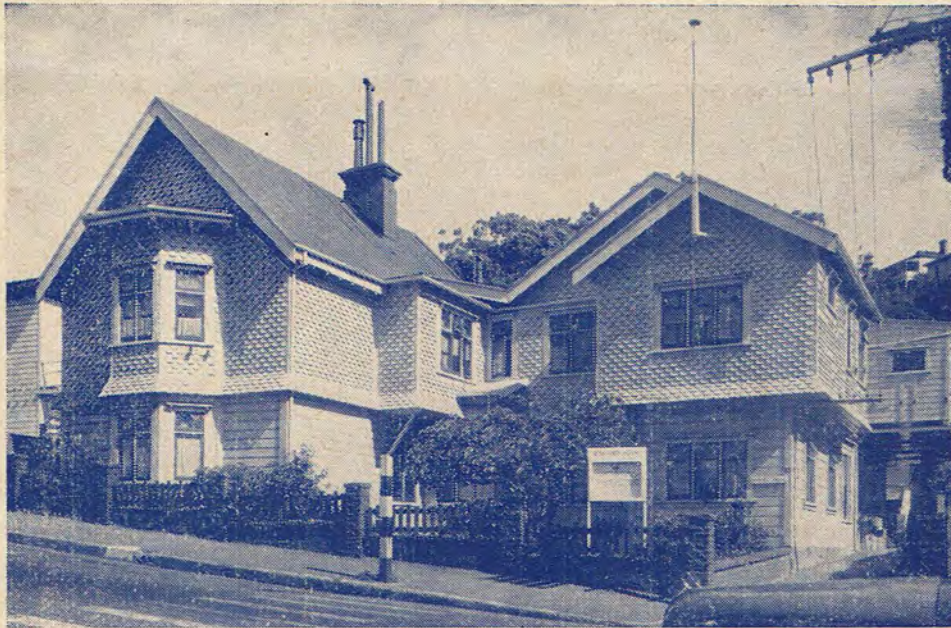
Hence the lessees had, as the Founders Society now has, what is known as a Glasgow lease. The ground soil

is owned by the landlord, the buildings by the tenant, and there is a perpetual right of renewal. On 16th June, 1949, the Guardian Trust and Gleeson transferred the lease to the New Zealand Founders Society. On account of the precatory trust contained in the will of Charles William Wakefield, who died on 10th November, 1937, which was, in principle, repeated in the will of Edward Roger Wakefield, who died on 3rd June, 1944, the present proprietor of the ground soil, Mrs. Mary Priscilla Williams, does not wish to sell. But is it not an honour, certainly no great burden, for the Society thus to share Edward Gibbon Wakefield's Wellington property with a descendant of the Wakefield family?

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## **Remember to Get That New Member**

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#### **FRONT OF WAKEFIELD HOUSE**

The commemorative sign, which is lit up at night, has these words: "This house was the home of Edward Gibbon Wakefield, 1796-1862, who by his faith and perseverance was mainly responsible for the colonisation of New Zealand by British people.

"This property has been acquired by the New Zealand Founders Society to honour and commemorate all pioneers throughout New Zealand."



## Good Progress of Auckland Branch

The Dominion president, Mr. Duff Daysh, was the guest of honour at the annual meeting of the Auckland Branch of the Society on 24th February. He congratulated it on its excellent development, and said he looked forward to the day when it would be possible to have a provincial council of the New Zealand Founders Society in Auckland with branches throughout the province. He expressed the hope that Auckland would eventually obtain its own premises.

The secretary, Miss Irma O'Connor, stated that the Mayor of Auckland, Mr. J. H. Luxford, who was himself a descendant of pioneers, had expressed interest in the Society and his willingness to become patron of the Auckland Branch.

The Annual Report stated that steady, satisfactory progress had been maintained. The executive had worked hard in the interests of the Society, sometimes under very difficult conditions.

Membership at 24th February was 214, with eight more awaiting confirmation of their acceptance from Wellington. A further encouraging feature was that interest in the Society had been aroused in Whakatane, where several members of the Whakatane and District Historical Society had also joined the Founders Society. There was similar interest in Rotorua, where one of our most energetic members, Mrs. Edith McKee, had already secured a number of new members and was working hard to form a sub-branch.

During the year eleven evening meetings were held at the former club-rooms in Darby Street, four of them illustrated by lantern-slides, or by maps, photographs and pictures. One of these evenings was devoted to "Family Relics and Pioneer Experiences." The speakers were Messrs. R. L. Wynyard, D. G. Riddiford, E. J. Burke and Miss N. Lush. The speakers on the other occasions were Mr. Humphrey Duder, Mr. M. Scott-Young, Mr. L. M. Lennard, Mr. R. L. Thornton, Mr. Bryce Hart, Mr. Alan Coulam, Lieutenant-Commander C. V. Connolly, R.N.V.R., Mr. Tom Walsh and Mr. George Fowlds.

As the weather during the winter months was extremely and consistently wet, two or three of these gatherings had disappointing attendances, and two luncheon gatherings were therefore held in addition at the Farmers' Tea-rooms, both very well attended. Mr. M. H. Wynyard was the speaker at one, and at the other a Brains Trust provided excellent entertainment, the panel of speakers comprising Professor A. G. Davis, Major Ronald Murray, Mr. Bryce Hart and Mr. Peter Hillyer.

There were also two very successful and enjoyable motor picnics, one to Huia and Cornwallis, where some of the members were hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hambling, and the other to Miss Nixon's "Garden of Memories" at Howick.

Every effort had been made to provide entertainment as varied as possible within the extremely limited resources of the Branch, and to meet the wishes of all members as far as possible.

"In summing up," the executive's report concludes, "we should like to say that, while definite progress has undoubtedly been made, and some members have been particularly helpful in promoting the welfare of the Society, we do feel that in a province as large as Auckland it should be possible to secure far more members and to accelerate our rate of progress. We urge all existing members to take a really active interest in the Society by making it known to others wherever possible, by attending meetings as regularly as they can and by paying subscriptions promptly. More money will be needed this year to meet the extra cost of hiring our new rooms, as well as the now heavy cost of postage and stationery. Smaller attendances mean fewer half-crowns to pay for the rooms. Unpaid subscriptions mean a serious loss of revenue, especially as capitation fees have to be paid to Wellington for unfinancial as well as financial members. If, therefore, a member is merely a name on a roll, he is likely to be more of a liability than an asset.

"Moreover, one of the most important aims of the Society is to help preserve places, buildings and objects of



historic interest—in other words, to give strong and practical support to the work which it is expected will be done as a result of Mr. Duncan Rae's very important Historic Places Act. But our support will only be effective if we are strong enough and influential enough to make ourselves both heard and felt."

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. D. G. Riddiford; treasurer, Mr. J. P. Buddle; secretary, Miss O'Connor; assistant secretary, Mr. E. J. Burke; committee, Mrs. H. G. Bell, Mrs. D. E. McCown, Mrs. G. Maunsell, Miss N. Lush, Miss E. Matthews, Mr. R. L. Wynyard, Mr. T. A. Bishop and Mr. G. Maunsell.

## Wellington Functions

Since the publication of the first "NEWS-LETTER" in December, the functions of the Society in Wellington have included a Christmas party for adults and another for children, a picnic and buffet luncheons with guest speakers.

On the evening of Waitangi Day, 6th February, Dr. R. A. Falla, Director of the Dominion Museum, gave a delightful chat on "New Zealand's Heritage of Birds," supplemented by beautiful coloured films of the White Heronry in the Okarito district, Westland, and the home of the Takahe in Fiordland.

This year's series of monthly lunchcons in the clubrooms, Wakefield House, began on 3rd March. The guest speaker was Mr. Earle Riddiford who, with Sir Edmund Hillary, was a member of the Shipton Exploratory Expedition to Mt. Everest in 1951. He gave a very interesting story of the climb.

At an evening function on 24th March the guest speaker was Mr. C. H. Williams, M.V.O., Public Relations and Press Officer for the Royal Tour, who gave a very sparkling review of the planning and various amusing incidents.

Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, the well-known Turnbull Librarian, was listed as guest speaker for a luncheon on 7th April. His choice of subject was "Incidents connected with publication of Cook's Voyages."

## Early Colonial Exhibition

The Whanganui Branch held an Early Colonial Exhibition in the Alexander Museum during the last week of October. The exhibition brought forth from members of the Society and other interested people many rare and valuable treasures, some of which are hardly known to the present generation. Besides the articles of a more antique kind, there were those used by the pioneers in their every-day life.

The exhibits included handbeaded black velvet bracelets, fans, valentines, sugar shaker, some photographs and paintings of pioneer subjects, a snuff-box in the form of a horn, sovereign cases and sovereigns, brass candlesticks and ship candlesticks, a book-mark of Queen Victoria's period, a hand-operated knife cleaner shaped like a churn, gold watch and chain, a balance for weighing letters; a writing desk with a secret compartment, once the property of a Resident Magistrate; chocolate tins presented to the troops by Queen Victoria; tea caddies which locked when tea was a rare commodity; candle moulds, coffee mill, an engraved butter-pat; a hoe with manuka handle 75 years old and still used to hoe the family potato patch; section of split totara shingling from the dove-cote of an early Wanganui homestead; several split totara fence palings, 100 years old; two charcoal irons, officer's crimson scarf and sword, a particularly fine example of a Chinese lacquered sewing box, a menu card from a banquet held in 1898, two tickets issued by Cobb and Co. to travel from Wanganui to Marton, gold mourning brooch and ring; china by Wedgewood, Baleek, Majolica, Crown Derby, Rockingham and others, designed for an earlier period.

Also there were several pioneering period dresses and petticoats, and a lady's riding coat and a beautiful lace parasol; documents and deeds. One document had special interest to this district, as it was an account of the money paid for Whanganui, then Petre, in 1848; the total was £1000 paid in unequal amounts to 22 chiefs.

From various viewpoints the exhibition was a great success, but surprisingly it did not bring forth any inquiries for membership to the Society.



# How Whanganui Lost Its "h"

Wanganui lost the "h" from the proper name Whanganui a few years after Europeans had formed a settlement on the banks of the beautiful river, which has been called "the Rhine of New Zealand." Much to the settlers' dislike, the Government authorities had dubbed the name "Petre" on their village, in honour of Lord Petre, who was one of the directors of the New Zealand Company.

In 1844 thirty-five leading settlers signed a petition for a reinstatement of the original name, from which they ignorantly dropped the "h." Here is the text of the document:—

Wanganui,  
May 3rd, 1844.

To His Honour,  
The Superintendent,  
Wellington.

Sir,

We have the honour to submit to you that the name given to our town, "Petre," is so universally disliked that we believe there is not one in the entire community who uses or acknowledges the designation.

But this arises from no factious motive, nor from any undue feeling of personality to the noble lord whose name it bears, though we can make out

no private, public, local or general claim that entitled him to this distinction, but simply because the name is not appropriate either in sound or sense, and because by its non-adoption by people generally it is likely to be productive of confusion and mistake.

We have therefore to solicit your Honour that you will be pleased to represent to His Excellency the Governor the anxious desire of the inhabitants to have reinstated the former and now well-known name **Wanganui** or, if His Excellency should prefer an English appellation, that the patronymic be of someone entitled by public beneficial acts to such commemoration.

We have the honour to subscribe ourselves,

Your Honour's most obedient humble servants.

[In the original document "honour" has the American spelling "honor."]

A copy of the petition is in the Alexander Museum, Wanganui, but the whereabouts of the original is unknown in Wanganui. It was presented to the Wellington Provincial Council in 1854 and was granted the same year. Until that time the official name was Petre.

Several societies and other organisations still keep to the original spelling of Wanganui.

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## Qualification for Membership

Members who are determined to help in the campaign for a large increase of membership of the Society should pass on the following information to eligible relatives or friends:—

Descendants of pioneers who arrived in any of the six original provinces not later than the first ten years after the official foundation date of settlement, or earlier, are eligible for membership of the Society. Applicants who are not thus eligible may be admitted as associate members if, in the opinion of the council, they are descendants of pioneers who rendered outstanding service to New Zealand. The husband or wife of a member, if not eligible for full mem-

bership, may apply for election as an associate member. Honorary life membership may be granted to members who have attained the age of eighty years.

### Foundation Dates of Provinces

Auckland Province was pioneered before 1840, the year in which it became a recognised British settlement. The anniversary day is 29th January, the date on which Captain Hobson delivered his proclamation.

Taranaki dates its anniversary from 31st March, 1841, the day on which the ship "William Bryan" reached New Plymouth.



Wellington Province (which originally included Hawke's Bay) takes its anniversary from 22nd January, 1840, the day on which the ship "Aurora" arrived with the first immigrants.

Nelson Province (which originally included Marlborough) gets its anniversary from 1st February, 1842, when the ship "Fifeshire" arrived with the first immigrants. The "Will Watch" had arrived on 5th November, 1841, and the "Whitby" on the following day with survey parties.

Canterbury (which originally included Westland) dates its anniversary from 16th December, 1850, when the ship "Charlotte Jane," the first of four immigrant ships, reached Port Cooper (now known as Lyttelton).

Otago (which originally included Southland) takes its anniversary from 23rd March, 1848, when the ship "John Wickliffe" arrived in Port Chalmers. The "Phillip Laing" arrived on 15th April, 1848.

## Obituary

The Society's Executive regretfully reports the deaths of Mrs. L. G. Buxton (Christchurch), Miss M. M. Sellar (Paraparaumu), Mr. E. Baucke (Auckland) and Mr. F. R. H. Brice (Wanganui).

## New Members

The following new members have been elected since the last circular was issued:—

Name.	Place.	Ship.	Date.	Ancestor.
Mrs. E. J. Spicer	Auckland	Maori	1852	Gillon
Miss M. D. Richmond	Wellington	Thomas Sparks	1843	Hursthouse
Mr. E. B. Mackenzie	Wellington	—	1857	Mackenzie
Mrs. M. F. Keir	Wellington	Lord Wm. Bentinck	1841	Speedy
		Bengal Merchant	1840	Milne
		Lady Nugent	1841	Yule
Mrs. E. M. Duncan	Wellington	Lord Wm. Bentinck	1841	Speedy
		Bengal Merchant	1840	Milne
		Lady Nugent	1841	Yule
Miss P. G. Hawker	Christchurch	Zealandia	1858	Woodward
Mr. L. R. Civil	Rotorua	Slains Castle	1841	Greenwood
Mrs. S. I. O. Civil	Rotorua	Slains Castle	1841	Greenwood
Mr. A. E. Wilson	Wellington	Brazil Packet	1834	Wallis
Mrs. A. F. McEwen	Wellington	Bernicia	1848	Ellis
Mr. P. W. Levin	Wellington	Prince of Wales	1850	Levin
		Charlotte Jane	1850	Fitzgerald
Mr. P. C. Levin	Wellington	Prince of Wales	1850	Levin
		Charlotte Jane	1850	Fitzgerald
Mrs. M. Levin	Wellington	Blundell	1848	Dewe
Miss J. M. Levin	Wellington	Blundell	1848	Dewe
Mr. S. L. Moses	Wellington	—	1844	Davis
Mr. D. G. Mumme	Wellington	Canterbury	1851	Farland
Mr. W. S. Stichbury	Auckland	Cuba	1840	Stichbury
Miss B. Y. Mexted	Wellington	Lord Wm. Bentinck	1841	Mexted
Mrs. L. M. Walker	Wellington	London	1842	Collins
Mrs. H. Truda	Wellington	Arab	1841	Walker
Mrs. R. M. Dean	Wellington	Midlothian	1851	Neal
Mr. I. J. H. Curlett	Hawke's Bay	Zealandia	1858	Johnson
Mr. E. Moore	Lower Hutt	Lady Nugent	1841	Martin
Mr. E. B. Jennings	Palm, North	Slains Castle	1845	Jennings
Mrs. A. M. Steele	Wellington	John Wickliffe	1848	Nicholson
Mr. D. H. Stewart	Wellington	Adelaide	1840	Brown
Mrs. M. E. E. Davey	N. Plymouth	Cuba	1840	Wyeth
		Duke of Roxburgh	1840	Reynolds



Miss S. E. Curlett	Wellington	Zealandia	1858	Johnson
Mrs. J. F. Loeber	Wellington	Aurora	1840	Pudney
Mrs. M. N. Brown	Wellington	Rainbow	1828	Baker
Miss B. E. Steele	Wellington	—	1842	Villiers
Miss N. M. Bruce	Wanganui	Caroline Agnes	1855	Donnett
		Charlotte Agnes	1853	Bruce
			Late 40's	Remington
Mrs. D. E. McPherson	Masterton	London	1842	Dixon
Miss J. E. James	Masterton	Cuba	1840	Wyeth
		Duke of Roxburgh	1840	Reynolds
Mrs. D. A. Langdon	Wairarapa	Fancy	1848	Cripps
Mr. E. Y. Cutten	Rotorua	John Wickliffe	1848	Cargill and Cutten
		Portentia	1838	Ellitt
Miss C. E. Cherry	Auckland	Blenheim	1842	Williams
Mr. J. G. Busby	Tokomaru Bay	H.M.S. Imogene	1833	Busby
Mrs. E. Rae	Auckland	Berhampore	1849	Kilgour
Mrs. L. R. Guest	Whakatane	Adelaide	1840	Campbell
Mrs. L. D. Wishart	Auckland	Bengal Merchant	1840	McGechie
Mrs. C. D. Peck	Auckland	Bengal Merchant	1840	McGechie
Mrs. J. Jewell	Rotorua	Sir Geo. Seymour	1850	Laraman
Miss E. J. Bingham	Thames Coast	Timandra	1842	Gillingham
Mr. L. S. Cairns	Silverdale	New Zealander	1820	Mair
Mrs. N. P. Reidy	Hamilton	Slains Castle	1841	Greenwood
Mrs. V. L. Weir	Auckland	H.M.S. Calliope	1846	Groves
		Cashmere	1859	Tweedy
Mr. C. S. Atkinson	Pukekohe	Clontarf	1859	Atkinson
Mrs. H. M. Turner	Auckland	Slains Castle	1841	Greenwood
Mrs. H. A. Busby	Tokomaru Bay	Monarch	1850	Parker



Great Wakefield's spirit expects that  
every member this year will do a very  
important duty by bringing another  
member into the N.Z. Founders Society.

It's up to YOU  
To spring and DO.  
Begin TODAY  
In WAKEFIELD'S WAY.