



BULLETIN

NEW ZEALAND FOUNDERS SOCIETY



SPRINGVALE - TIKOKINO - HAWKES BAY

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Pages 29 - 37 Financial Reports and Statements

OBITUARIES



Mr Peter Harding of 'Mount Vernon' Waipukurau

It is with deep regret that we announce the death in April 2007 of Mr Peter Harding member and President of the Hawkes Bay Branch from its formation in March 1979 until he stood down in 1994 due to ill health. Peter was awarded Honorary Life Membership for Service.

Peter is the great grandson of John Harding who arrived in New Zealand in 1842 and who was one of the six original run holders of the Waipukurau district. After the arrival of his family at Mount Vernon, John prepared to replace the original raupo dwelling with a more substantial residence. This was built at the beginning of 1860's using pit sawn white pine felled nearby. The present Mount Vernon Homestead was completed in 1882 and contains 3000 sq ft on each floor including the basement. It was extensively damaged in the 1931 earthquake and was restored to its present condition as one of the finest surviving colonial homesteads in the district.

Peter and his wife Mary have hosted many meetings and outings for the branch at their historic homestead.

During his time as President, the Hawkes Bay Branch grew to a membership of 383. Members said that Peter would never take no for an answer.

Peter and his branch secretary the late Molly Ferguson will always be remembered for their long and valuable service to the branch and to the NZ Founders Society.

**Mt Vernon Homestead
Waipukurau**



I realize that there are others here who have known Peter Mowbray longer than I have, and been in the Waikato Founders for longer. However, I feel that I am in the position to be able to put together a short resume of his life.

Peter was a descendant of two Scottish families who came to New Zealand. The first, William Cargill, arrived in Port Chalmers in 1847 on the *John Wickliffe* and was a founder of Dunedin.

The Mowbrays, also from Edinburgh, arrived in Auckland in 1864 on the *British Trident*.

Peter was born in 1917 in Auckland and was educated at Kings College. For 43 years he was an Insurance Officer. He was involved in many local organizations - was a J.P. and a Lion.

I met Peter in 1988 when we were both representing our Branches as National Councillors at a Founders Society meeting in Wellington.

For many of us, Peter was the Waikato Founders Society. We can take pride in the support he received in his latter years from our members and indeed here at Te Rapa where he was usually provided with his own meal - one that he could manage with his lack of sight.

He was a most enthusiastic member and we missed his drawing of the raffle last meeting. He did not miss many meetings even being taken away by ambulance a couple of years ago.

When a Waikato Sub-Branch was formed in 1972, the Mowbrays were enthusiastic leaders with Peter's wife Betty as Chairman. When Waikato became a full Branch in 1974, Mr Batt took over as Chairman and Mrs Betty Mowbray was the Secretary/Treasurer for the first two years. In 1979 Peter took on the Chair and remained so for 8 years. In 1987 when he stood down, he took on the role of Secretary for the next 8

years. All this time he represented the Branch in Wellington on National Council for just on 17 years.

In 1990 Peter was made an Honorary Life Member, the same year he wife Betty received the Queens Service Medal.

He was very proud of his family and of his brother John who became NZ Founders' President in 1995.

When we moved to the Waikato in 1997, Peter rang me in Cambridge with information about the next Waikato Branch meeting and before I knew it, I was on the committee. At his request and the agreement of the Branch, I took over his role as National Councillor and Barbara Barclay took over as Branch Secretary.

Peter could be very forthright and persuasive. He knew exactly what he wanted and usually managed to get it. He will be sadly missed and we thank him for his contribution to the many organizations in which he was involved - especially the NZ Founders Society and Waikato Branch.

- 1979-1996 National Councillor
- 1979-1987 National Councillor and Branch Chairman
- 1987-1997 National Councillor and Branch Secretary

L.N. Hyams,
Waikato Branch





MISS VIOLET WATSON

Vi Watson was a stalwart member of the Wairarapa Branch of the New Zealand Founders Society, having joined in 1975. She was descended from William Henry and Agnes Buick who arrived in Wellington on the *Arab* in 1841. Vi served as Secretary for an outstanding 19 years and was President for 3 years, and when she declined re-election because of her age, became a committee member and continued to offer her expertise to our members.

Past-President, Maurice Watson, told me that Vi had asked him to go with her to Wairarapa Branch's AGM one evening and when he came out of the meeting he found he was, much to his surprise, Vice-President! He also said that she had boarded with his family but although sharing the same surname, they were no relation.

Vi's grandparents ran the Taueru Hotel (east of Masterton) in the 1800's and her father was drowned in the Taueru River on the return journey after ferrying the Commissioner of Lands across. Watson's Road in Te Ore Ore is named after him.

Her mother later married a Mr Heron who ran a business in Perry Street and was, at one time, Mayor of Masterton.

Many of us will remember Vi as Miss Watson at the Masterton Library, where she worked for 25 years. She was always so kind to borrowers and often helped them choose their books. She was a keen sports-woman and played cards every Tuesday in the Pensioner Flats at Kuripuni.

Her last years were spent at Khandahar Rest Home in Masterton where many Founders' members visited her regularly and she was always interested in the activities of our Society but unable to take part in them for the last year or so of her long life, being 96 years of age when she died.

Joan Dickens,
President,
Wairarapa Branch



RONALD DAVID GREENWOOD, M.N.Z.M.

It is with sad regret National Executive and Wellington Branch members announce the recent death of Ron Greenwood on 18 August 2007.

Ron joined the New Zealand Founders Society in 1950, through William and Martha Greenwood who arrived on the *Slains Castle* in Wellington on 29 January 1841. He served as National President from 1955-56, National Executive from 1955-57 and again from 1993-97. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 1991. In 1994 Ron headed the Futures Committee to promote debate on the future of the Society. A report was produced and circulated but there was no follow-up action.

In the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours Ron received the NZ Order of Merit for two fields. He was a retired accountant and management consultant and in 1945 founded the NZ Institute for Management to assist returned soldiers from World War Two gain management skills. The Institute now has 10,000 members. In the 1960's he also founded the Directors' Institute.

Ron's work in establishing the Parkinson Society after his first wife Trixie developed the disease was also recognised in the Award. The

Society now has 1,000 members providing information and support to those affected by the disease through its 27 Field Officer



Mrs Marjorie Sheat with the portrait of the *Little Emigrant*

THE LITTLE EMIGRANT

by W.N. Sheat, Wellington Branch

A nineteenth-century painting has been returned to Nelson after an absence of nearly a hundred years. The painting "*The Little Emigrant*" by an English artist, Laura Herford, has been presented to the Suter Gallery by its owner, Marjorie Sheat, a member of the Founder's Auckland Branch, a great-

granddaughter of its original owners, Mr and Mrs T.J. Thompson of Richmond, near Nelson.

The history of the painting and its origins goes back to 1864. The Land Wars were in progress and the Imperial Forces included Major Walter Vernon Herford. He had been recruited into the 3rd Waikato Militia from Adelaide in South Australia where he was practising as a solicitor. He was wounded in the battle of Orakau. When news of this reached England, his sister, Anne Laura Herford, boarded the first available sailing ship to come to New Zealand. When she arrived in New Zealand she found that her brother had died of his wounds before she had even set sail.

Before leaving London she had been given a letter of introduction to Mr T.J. Thompson of Richmond. She travelled to the South Island to call and visit the Thompsons. Laura Herford and Sarah Thompson talked of the latter's loneliness and homesickness as she sat by the bulwarks of the *Lord Auckland* as she sailed from England with her family.



Laura Herford was the first woman artist to be accepted by the Royal Academy in London. Prior to her being accepted by the Academy, enrolment had been restricted to men only. She submitted some of her work to the Academy authorities but did not disclose her gender. On the merit of her work she was offered a place at the Academy. When she showed up at the Academy the authorities were somewhat taken aback but agreed to accept her.

Laura Herford was moved by Sarah Thompson's telling of the emotions of the voyage. She is reported as saying, "You have given me a motif. I will paint you as "The Little Emigrant". On her return to England she painted the picture. It is believed the model for her picture is her niece, Helen Allingham (nee

Paterson) who was to become a distinguished painter in her own right.

When T.J. Thompson came into some money he decided to buy a piano. He wrote to Laura Herford and asked her to choose one for him. When the piano was shipped out to New Zealand, the painting was packed with the piano. The piano was last heard of in 1969 when it was sold to the Christofski family of Motueka.

At the time of Laura Herford's visit to the Thompson home in Headingly Lane, Richmond, Sarah Thompson had recently given birth to twins - a boy and a girl. The girl was named Laura Herford Thompson after the painter. Laura Herford Thompson married the boy-next-door, Alfred Sheat, who lived around the corner in Queen Street, Richmond. Alfred was to become a Richmond Borough Councillor and the Mayor of Richmond. Alfred Sheat Street is named after him.

When Laura and Alfred Sheat moved to the Thornton District near Whakatane "The Little emigrant" went along too. When Alfred Sheat died, his widow moved to Auckland and after her death the painting eventually passed down to her granddaughter, Marjorie Sheat.

Thomas John Thompson was born in 1814 in Gibraltar where his father was an army officer. During his early years he was the companion of his cousins, children of Count de Montjo, the youngest of whom became the Empress Eugenie. Moving to England he became the protégé and favourite of Lady Byron, wife of the poet. His uncle was a director of the New Zealand Company and this led to his taking part in meetings convened by Bryan Duppa of a group called "Second Colony of New Zealand" (the first was to be Wellington).

He came to New Zealand as a surveyor under contract to the New Zealand Company. He was surveying land for them in Marlborough in 1843 when the "Wairau Incident" took place.

Later, he surveyed in Waimea and Moutere. He served on the Nelson Provincial Council until the abolition. His personal papers, including surveyor's diaries, are held in the Turnbull Library in Wellington. There is a portrait of him in the Suter Gallery.

Sources:

The New Zealand Methodist Times, issue 3rd May 1941 - article by Alfred Sheat.

Nelson: A History of Early Settlement by Ruth M. Allan, A.H. & A.W. Reed.

A Colonist's Voyage by Alfred Fell - Capper Press Reprint.

Nelson is our Port - The shipboard diary of T.J. Thompson (edited by Arthur J.L. Sheat) - published in instalments in the Nelson Evening Mail, 9th-31st October 1954.

Nelson Evening Mail, 17th December 1969 - piano story.

www.helenallingham.com/Helen.Biography - Niece of Laura Herford.



THE FORTUNES AND MISFORTUNES OF OUR PIONEERS

From Mrs Mary Pratt, Bay of Plenty Branch

Joseph Sowden Broadbent was born in 1838 at Arnley, near Leeds in England. Later the family went to live on the Isle of Man.

Across the world, surrounded by the waters of the Pacific Ocean, lay the small islands of a new colony. Already many Britons of adventurous spirit were being lured by the mysteries of a new life. Many hundreds had already braved the long and arduous sea voyage and those who survived the Maori Wars were building a new nation called New Zealand.

Joseph, a young Yorkshire man full of adventure, had heard stories about this land. Rather than follow the livelihood expected of him, he persuaded his father to let him go. With his fare paid and enough money to buy some land, 22 year old Joseph set out from Portsmouth, England, on a sailing ship, possibly the *Canterbury*, bound for Canterbury in New Zealand's South Island.

During the voyage Joseph befriended a Mr James Jones. He loved New Zealand and was obviously in touch with agricultural people. He went on to become a judge of cattle at Pastoral Shows in Christchurch. It was then that Joseph and Mr Jones bought cattle, which they hoped to drive over the 'great divide' (the Southern Alps) to feed the hordes who gathered in Greymouth for the gold rush. There being no track over the Alps, it was rough going for the horses. The cattle fell into snow ravines and rivers and most of them died. The men were lucky to survive their trek back over the mountains.



It was following this adventure that Joseph and Mr Jones bought St James Station near Springston in Canterbury.

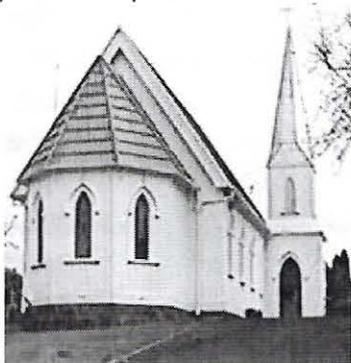
After corresponding with his parents in England, Joseph decided to sail back on a visit before settling permanently in New Zealand. On his return to New Zealand he discovered that in his absence, Mr Jones had sold the cattle and the land and absconded without trace!!

This was a traumatic event for Joseph who was very young and single still, so he decided to leave Canterbury for good. He sailed the long journey to Auckland.

His arrival in Auckland saw the beginning of another era for Joseph. He met Robert Graham, a chap who lived at the top of Ladies Mile, and who owned most of Ellerslie, including the Ellerslie Racecourse. Ellerslie was so-named after his former home in Scotland.

Quite soon after his arrival in Auckland, Joseph met Agnes Cross, a young lady aged 22 years. They were married on 29th August 1869, at Somerville Presbyterian Church in Remuera. The reception was held at the home of Robert Graham, the bride's great-uncle.

For the first four years they lived in the old homestead on the slopes of Mt Wellington where Joseph farmed. During their time there, Joseph and Agnes' first two children, Mary and Samuel were born and christened at St Mathias Church in Panmure. St Mathias Church in Bishop Selwyn in Wellington was built by the 1840's. It is interesting to



note that it was at this same church, some 75 years later on 10th January 1948, Joseph's grand-daughter Mary and Frank Pratt were married.

From Auckland, Joseph Agnes and their children moved to Tauranga to live closer to Agnes' parents. It was while living at Otumoetai, Tauranga, that Ada and Amy were born.

They later moved to Napier where Joseph managed Ngamatea Station which covered much of the high country north and west

of Napier. These must have been enjoyable times, although hard work.

Joseph had farming in his blood and he wanted dearly to own land of his own again. However, that was not to be as his misfortunes in Canterbury had put an end to his dream.

During those happy years in Hawkes Bay, Joseph and Agnes had a further two children, two more sons. The first they named after Joseph and the younger one, Archibald Maltby.

However, their happiness wasn't to last. Within a few years of their arrival in Napier, tragedy struck and Joseph Broadbent died. In shocking weather he and all of the staff, had ridden out to the back of the station to resolve a problem, and Joseph later became ill with pneumonia and died.

In those early days without Joseph, Agnes who had another child on the way, must have wondered where to turn. Fortunately she had a brother in Carterton in the Wairarapa, who suggested she move there with the six children. The last of the children, Isobel, born in Carterton, of course never knew her father but had many cousins both in the Wairarapa and Hawke's Bay areas so she heard many stories about him.

All but one of Joseph Broadbent's children grew up and remained in New Zealand.

Joseph's namesake, Joseph junior, worked as a young man in a Carterton bank and decided, like his father before him, to seek his fortune overseas, ending his days in Canada.



A TALE OF TIMOTHY SULLIVAN

By Kath Townsend, Waikato Branch

What happened in 1873 -
An event about which I must tell,

Concerning poor Tim and what happened to him
On a day I remember so well.

My mother had named me David Jones.
A stockman I was, by trade.
I was camped in a whare at Pukekura,
While working on a road to be laid.

At the time I was toiling with some of my friends
On E.B. Walker's land.
He had leased it from the Ngatihaua -
A track there had been planned.

The confiscation line was near,
But past it we had to go,
In order to make our road with fascines,
Any progress seemed ever so slow.

There had been a few threats by the Hauhaus I think
To those who crossed over the line.
While stock had been shot and a hut was burnt down
We foolishly thought we'd be fine.

With Charlie Rogers and Tim Sullivan
I slaved very hard before lunch.
As we crossed the road to get twigs for the fire,
I suddenly noticed a bunch.

While reaching up to a wayward branch,
I noticed my dog yelp, then run.
I spun around in time to see
A warrior carrying a gun!

I backed away, then horrified saw
About three or four others close by.
I called to my friends as loud as I could.
"Let's run!" yelled Rogers, "or die!"

We dashed away as fast as we could,
The swamp sucked hard at our feet.
If only we could reach the bush in time,
I really was feeling the heat!

For three-quarters of a mile, fright gave us wings
Manuka slowed any gunfire
Of the warriors following closely behind
As we all struggled on through the mire.

Then all of a sudden, poor Tim collapsed
To the ground with a cry of despair,
"Take care of yourselves, I'm done" he croaked
And a shot rang out through the air.

The chase went on - just two of us now,
The hillside loomed closely ahead.
I heard the sound of gunfire again,
It missed, but it filled me with dread.

At last with the bush clawing hard at our legs,
The clearly marked line we passed.
A warrior yelled, "The boundary you've crossed!"
And he stopped the chase at last.

We slackened our speed and decided to part,

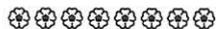
Charlie headed to Walker's place.
Cambridge was where I aimed for then,
To tell the town of the chase.

Major William Clare had only two men,
But the settlers were keen to join him.
They armed themselves well and all galloped off
To hunt for my poor friend Tim.

At Roto-o-rangi they began to search
The swamp and the bush for Tim.
It was E.B. Walker who found the spot
Where the warriors had murdered him.

To add to his shocking injuries
His waistcoat and hat had gone.
I wondered when I heard this bit,
Which warrior had them on?

Now, when I look back on that terrible day,
I thank Heaven that I was spared,
That He kept us alive to bring the news
To the people of Cambridge who cared.



THE STORY OF SPRINGVALE STATION

A talk given to the Hawkes Bay Branch at Springvale by George R
Foulds on 26 November 2006

(see cover photo)

Jonathan Holden arrived in Auckland in 1857 where he had a look
around, then decided to go to Australia. He did not like what was

offering there, so came back to Wellington. He then walked up the East Coast and in his wanderings arrived into Porongahau - Takapau Hampden, where he found all this splendid bush. All beautiful trees - totara, matai, rimu & white pine. So off back to Wellington to the Crown Office to purchase 80 acres for about 10 shillings an acre. He also sent for his wife and their three sons and two daughters. Jonathan was waiting for them in Wellington. They then took a coastal boat to Napier. From there it was a three day trip by bullock dray to Hampden 'Springvale.' The hard work was started - felling trees, saw milling and the construction of huts to live in and then to make a living. Between 1859 and 1863, three more children were born.

In 1864, tragedy struck - Jonathan was killed when a branch was released as a tree was being felled. He was 42 years old. After his death, the family - 8 children and Ann - experienced great financial difficulties and physical hardship.

However in the next 30 years, difficulties were overcome as John, Thomas and Jonathan Jnr. cut and sold posts, strainers and timber. One client, Alex Grant and Sydney Johnson of Orua-wharo, bought totara posts, 7 feet long and these were sunk into the ground at 7 foot intervals. As well timber was sold in Waipawa after being floated down the Waipawa River.



My grandmother, Elizabeth and Alice, Pat Abernethy's grandmother, being the two oldest girls in the family, must have had to look after their three younger sisters. In 1866, the Holden children were able to attend the newly opened school at Hampden. They walked three miles following blaze marks on the trees.

The family purchased more land and sheep numbers increased - 1873, 1400 sheep and in 1876, 4000 sheep and as the acreage

increased to 10,000 acres, sheep numbers went up to 14,000 - all shorn by hand blades.

In the 1890's, the brothers made many partnerships, leased land and did deals finally to be dissolved with each brother becoming farm owners in their own right. John with 'Springvale', Thomas, 'Rimuroa Station' in Gisborne and Jonathan Jnr., Makatuku Station. Then Thomas's three sons took over 'Rimuroa and Thomas came back to 'Springvale' taking over from John. Then Thomas's other son, Dalby took over followed by Peter and today David and Sharron,



A trout hatchery was established in the early days. It is recorded that 15 per cent was paid for by loans to buy land.

The Homestead was built around 1900 and Ann would have lived in it only for a few years as she died in 1906.

On the hill above Springfield where Jonathan Snr, Ann, John and Thomas also two daughters Nancy and Jane and Thomas's son, Dalby. There are other family memorials to later members.

Now finally, I say to you David and Sharron, a big thank you and it's my pleasure to call on Mrs Nanette Roberts, our President to come forward and declare this beautiful oak tree planted in memory of Jonathan Holden who arrived in New Zealand one hundred and fifty years ago.

Thank you.



FOUNDERS FAMILY

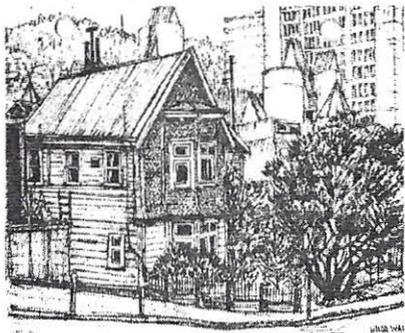
by Lynley Hyams, Waikato Branch

In 2007, when I became the Waikato Branch Chairman, I looked back on the involvement of our family since the inception of the

New Zealand Founders Society. In doing so I thought that it could be of interest to members for a Bulletin article.

On 27th May 1939, the first Founders Society social gathering was held at the Pioneer Club on The Terrace in Wellington. Approximately 200 attended and it was a great success. The "New Zealand Freelance" publication devoted a whole page to that evening function. We have that page because my husband's grandmother, Mrs Miriam Batten, is pictured attending. Her husband's parents were John Batten (*Sebastapol*, 1861) and Sarah Martin (*Balaclava*, 1864). Her own parents were William Ogier and Lydia Martin who arrived from Guernsey (*Regina*, 1859).

As a young person growing up in Wellington, I lived very near to the distinctive old Wakefield House on The Terrace and my husband Peter, went to school next door to it at Wellesley College.



In 1971 my father, Keith Jacka Holyoake, was honoured by the New Zealand Founders Society with the Founders' Medallion

Badge of Service. The 1983/84 edition of the Bulletin has, in an article, a copy of the certificate making him an "Honorary Life Member and First Recipient of the Founders' Medallion Badge of Service". I still have the badge engraved with his name on the back. His founding ancestors were James Gibbs (*Bolton*, 1842) who married Charlotte Verry (*Clifford*, 1842), William and Sarah Eves (*London*, 1842), Richard and Eliza Holyoake (*Indus*, 1843) and Thomas Jacka (*Admiral Grenfell*, 1853).

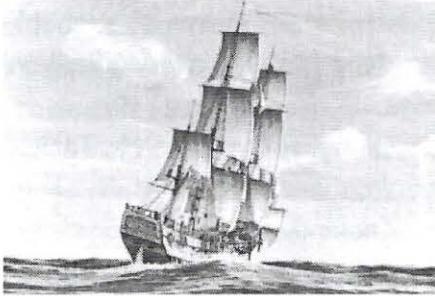
On 8th April 1976, my father officially opened the new Wakefield House and in 1977 became the New Zealand Founders Society' Patron.

In 1980, my Mother and Grandmother had recipes included in the Bulletin. They were old colonial recipes handed down through the families - one was for Haggis and the other for Braised Pigeon!

1989 was the 50th Anniversary of New Zealand Founders Society and 128 years after the death of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. The National Executive and National Councillors retired from their Annual Meeting to attend a small ceremony where the Wellington City Mayor unveiled a plaque outside Wakefield House. I was there because I was the National Councillor representing the Poverty Bay Branch of Founders.

In 1988 a public meeting had been held in Gisborne to ascertain whether there was sufficient interest to start a Branch of the

New Zealand Founders Society. Peter and I became involved and I chaired the steering committee. By January 1989 we had sufficient numbers to be established as an official Branch and I became the first Chairman as well as National



Councillor.

1990, being the 150 Anniversary of The Treaty of Waitangi, commemorations of different types were held throughout New Zealand. Our Poverty Bay Branch decided to raise the money to provide a large bench seat sited on Kaiti Hill. This overlooked Captain Cook's first landfall in New Zealand and across Poverty Bay to Young Nicks Head. We had a suitably inscribed plaque

attached and an article in the newspaper. Two years later, from this site was a wonderful view of the tall ship *The Spirit of New Zealand* coming into the Gisborne port. Some of our Branch members were crew for some hours which gave us a slight insight into what cramped conditions our ancestors had suffered for so many weeks on their voyages. Once again we were able to get good publicity in the Gisborne Herald for Founders.

Also in 1992, Peter and I were official representatives of the Society during a three-month trip overseas. This involved spreading the word wherever we went. We attended functions at St. Paul's Cathedral, the London Guildhall, the Victoria League, the Royal Overseas League, Westminster Palace, the College of Arms and Windsor Castle. A full report was sent to all Branches on our return to New Zealand and I was invited to speak at several meetings. When I stepped down as Poverty Bay Chairman I was asked to remain as National Councillor for a further five years.

Peter and I retired from Gisborne to Cambridge in June 1997 and were invited to attend the Waikato Branch functions in Hamilton by Peter Mowbray. At the next AGM we were elected to the committee and at the request of Peter Mowbray I took over as National Councillor.

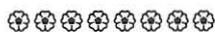
My husband Peter became the Waikato Branch Chairman in 1999, standing down at the 2004 AGM and I did a further year as National Councillor. We both continued on the committee.

My founding ancestry through my Mother goes back slightly further than that of my Father. My Great-Great-Grandfather, James Cook, was a member of the survey party with Arthur Wakefield (*Will Watch*, 1841). His wife Johanna, arrived on the ill-fated *Lloyds* in 1842. She left for New Zealand with five children and arrived with two! Three being buried at sea. Their

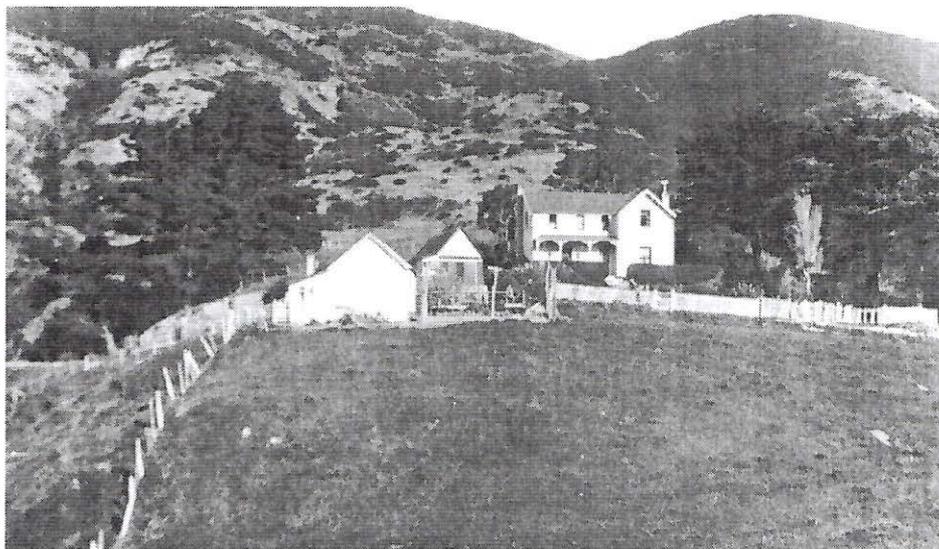
son, my Great-Grandfather George Cook, married Janet Drummond (*Sir Allan McNab*, 1855). Janet's uncle, Donald Drummond, arrived in Wellington on the *Bengal Merchant* in 1840. He drowned on Lake Ferry in 1850 and was buried in the Bolton Street Cemetery, Wellington.

The New Zealand Founders Society is like an extended family. The more we find out about our own ancestors the more we have to share with others. There are ancestors who came on the same ships with shared experiences and ancestors who came from the same places, worked together and so forth. It is important for future generations that this information is kept 'alive' and safely recorded.

"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."



JOB WILTON - AN EARLY SETTLER IN THE
WADESTOWN AREA WELLINGTON



*Job Wilton's farmhouse and cowshed, 116 Wilton Road,
Wellington - built 1883.*

The land at the rear of the house was subdivided for housing in 1906. The land in the foreground was his hay paddock and is now the site of the Wilton Bowling Club.

Job was a pioneer environmentalist and set aside a remnant of unfilled bush on his property to remain unspoilt.

Job purchased 108 acres from an earlier landowner in 1860. Much of this land was cleared for gardens, pasture and timber production but Job preserved a portion of the forest by fencing off 17 acres. His area became known as *Wilton's Bush*.

Job arrived in Wellington in 1841 as a young boy on the ship *Oriental*. In 1860 he married and bought the land in Wadestown, which ghe farmed until 1902. He was happy to let picnickers enjoy the stream and bush walks. Over time both sides of the

Kaiwharawhara Stream became popular with the town residents who named the area *Wilton's Bush*. Wilton was pleased that the area was selected by the Government for the protection of native forest. By today's standards, Job was a visionary in his interest in preserving mature forest but he would have faced great scepticism from his own community at the time.

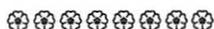


In the early 20th century, concern over the loss of native forest in Wellington led to the purchase of areas held by maori and also the acquisition of the original forest preserved by Wilton. This area formed the nucleus of a larger *Wiltons Bush* vested in the Wellington City Council.

In 1926 the City Council established the Otari-Wiltons Bush Native Botanic Garden & Forest Reserve (Otari was the place of snares used by the Maori for food gathering) The Reserve is a flourishing asset much visited by both local and overseas visitors and the plant collection is being continually

extended.

Information gathered from the Wilton family and the Wellington City Council.



Hurworth Sesquicentenary

By Trevor Bright of New Plymouth

On Saturday 25th March 1856 Harry (later Sir Harry) Atkinson married Jane Skinner, at St Mary's Anglican stone Church in New Plymouth.

Atkinson was at that time a prominent farmer, who along with his brother Arthur, and brother in law C W Richmond had created an approximately 400 acre farm from the bush.

He had also learned to pit saw timber from some of the best trees on his property, and was the first to build a permanent sawn-timber house at Hurworth, approximately ten miles (16 kilometres) from New Plymouth, on the 1865 constructed Carrington Road. After the wedding, husband and wife spent their first night at Hurworth.

This colonial cottage known as 'Hurworth Cottage' has been restored to its original size and condition by the NZ Historical Places Trust in Taranaki and is open to the Public.

Atkinson represented New Plymouth as an elected member of New Zealand's Parliament, the General Assembly in Wellington, from 29th April 1867. He became Minister of Finance under Vogel and became Prime Minister on 1st September 1876 following Vogel's return to the United Kingdom. He had several terms as Prime Minister but was finally defeated, leading his Conservative Party, by John Balance in 1890. Harry Atkinson retained his Egmont seat in Parliament and was made Speaker of the Legislature Council.

He died while attending Council on 28th June 1892.

Extract from *'Born to New Zealand, Francis Porter, p. 84'*

.....over the next few months various members of the mob worked with Harry to finish his house; even the 'great Broadmore', helped with laying the floor, hanging windows and doors and 'directing' the others..... The day before Harry and Janes Wedding, Maria came over to 'put things to rights a little in the house' while the bushmen cleared up outside.... The wedding was celebrated at St Mary's on 25th March 1856 at 8.30 in the morning. William Richmond gave Jane away; Bill Atkinson was

groomsman, and Blanche and Nellie Hursthouse, Bessie Crompton, and Julia Horne were bridesmaids.

Twenty two, mostly family, sat down to the wedding breakfast at Merton.... Later in the day Jane and Harry, both on horseback, with Cassy the cat in a kit slung over Harry's shoulder, set off at a canter for Hurworth.

On Saturday 26th of March 2006 the Atkinson/Skinner wedding was re-enacted at St Mary's Pro Cathedral, New Plymouth, with 300 guests, many suitably dressed as for an 1856 wedding. Following the re enactment the couple left for Atkinson Homestead, Hurworth, 906 Carrington Road, on a horse drawn carriage, followed by many of the guests for a Family Picnic, Victorian Games, and Entertainment in the tree clad grounds of Hurworth. Members of the Taranaki Branch of Founders Society joined Members of NZ Historic Places Trust, who had organised the occasion, at the Wedding and afterwards at Hurworth Cottage.



Atkinson wedding reenactment

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