



The Papakura Sentinel



Number 56

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Wishing readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

What a year it has been! As a Society and Museum we have struggled, along with the rest of the world, to adjust to the difficult situation a nasty virus has thrown at us. So, in the 59th year of the PDHS, we have had to cancel meetings and trips, an inconvenient disappointment for the trip committee, Phil and invited speakers. But holes have been plugged. Staff and Executive have communicated from afar or met—those of us who could—by Zoom, and it has been a steep learning curve for some. The AGM, three months late, was by Zoom and we were pleased to have a virtual attendance of 18! Once we can meet again in the new year, we will hold a Special Members’ meeting to confirm and complete that agenda. And if you’re concerned about unpaid subs, don’t worry. We’re planning a reduced sub for next year to compensate for reduced activities—everything except for the *Sentinel* which has not missed a beat, though the last one was a bit late. Exhibitions in the Museum have been postponed or cancelled, including the Anne Frank exhibition, which was going to include a parallel project in schools.

With the gradual relaxing of regulations the Museum is open again but under restrictions that require vaccinations, masks, sign-in, limited numbers and activities, and social distancing. It has been good to see some visitors in the last week and some of the team. Kara has put together an interesting exhibition of board games, and Ione and Kay spent time working on the New Zealand Wars display, including artefacts from Ring’s Redoubt, such as the items Ione wrote about in the last *Sentinel*. The Heritage Walk map is ready for the printers and Rosie has been putting the last touches to the accompanying booklet. She is also loading recent copies of *Sentinel* to the website. That will greatly increase readership. And staffing for 2022 has been sorted—see next page.

Anyway, it’s Christmas season with New Year round the corner. And even with constraints we wish readers the best. Christmas and New Year both speak of a fresh start, and summer—as long as it’s not too hot—is the season for relaxing. And with high vaccination and sensible precautions we are in a good position. New Zealand’s death rate per million of 8.54 compares with Australia’s 78.26, and Australia’s is low too. An appreciation of the history

**PAPAKURA & DISTRICT
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Monthly Luncheon Meetings: 4th Thurs, 1pm – 3pm
Regular Saturday Bus Trips to places of interest

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and science of epidemics, and an awareness of what is happening elsewhere underlines how well we are doing and reminds us to be positive and grateful once again that we live in Godzone!

At the recent AGM-by-Zoom, our President Margaret Gane stepped down—many thanks Margaret for your consistently good leadership over two years— and Brian Leonard, elected unanimously, has stepped up to the role. His message for readers follows. So read on. Terry reaches back to his muse to record a conversation with his mother about her early shopping experiences in Takapuna. And your Editor continues with the Kirikiri story. This issue is about those who left Kirikiri and Franklin to find their homes elsewhere, and there are some fascinating and some tragic stories. I regret that I have not been able to provide the same detail for the original inhabitants of the area, but their personal stories have not been recorded in the readily accessible documents; meanwhile I hope that members of Te Akitai or Ngati Tamaoho will be able to provide their story. The new school history curriculum focussing on local history means that all these stories are relevant and should be known and told.

Best wishes to you all from PHDS and Museum, and Ed.

Museum Staff update—and a BIG THANK YOU



As previously announced, our Curator Ione will be on maternity leave from February for a year. Best wishes to her and Cameron and Museum Baby in advance. Three excellent applicants for a short term position have been interviewed and Rebecca Washer will start in February.

Rosie Grant will be with us again for another year—cheers all round!! -- in a Front of House—Education role. She's doing great work and is a valued member of the team.

A big thank you to Kay, Ione, Kara and Rosie for the huge effort under trying conditions, and to all the volunteers, Margaret and Executive. In spite of disappointments it has been a productive year. You're a great team.

And now . . . From our new Society President Brian Leonard

Greetings to all PDHS members and *Sentinel* readers, I have been invited to contribute a few words for the December *Sentinel* on the occasion of my election as the new President of the PDHS. I succeed Margaret Gane who has very ably orchestrated the activities of the PDHS between 2019 and 2021. I joined the PDHS executive committee in July 2018, when Terry Carson was the President and I have been on an “apprenticeship” on the committee since that time. I was the Vice President for the 2020/2021 year.

In my relatively short time on the PDHS executive committee, I have gained a much better appreciation of the many long-serving committee members, who have given years of service to the PDHS and the important work that it does in supporting the Papakura Museum and its manager, Kay Thomas, staff and volunteers. I wish to express my gratitude to all the people who work so hard to keep the Papakura Museum operating and providing its wonderful services to Papakura and the surrounding communities. Until I joined the PDHS executive, I had no idea how much effort goes into the preservation of our history.

I am a recent resident of Papakura, only moving to the area in 2014. I was born in 1949 in Thames, NZ. My parents were dairy farmers at Waitakaruru, on the Hauraki Plains, where I went to primary school. My secondary schooling was as a boarder at Sacred Heart College, Glen Innes. I then went to Auckland University and graduated as an electrical engineer in 1973. My engineering work has taken me to live in Hamilton, Wellington, Ruakaka, Twizel, Huntly, Auckland & Taupo in New Zealand and I have also lived and worked in Australia, Malaysia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan,

Museum Musings is brought to you regularly by members of the Museum or editorial staff.

Mozambique, Indonesia, Philippines and Laos, for several spells in some of those countries, the longest being nearly 5 years continuously in Malaysia, and the shortest being several months in Iran. [Brian spoke about his experiences at one of our meetings. Ed] I am still working part-time from home, providing input into the design of a new geothermal power station in the Philippines, which should be operational in late 2022.

My association with Papakura goes back to the late 1950's, when I used to visit my grand-parents, who lived at 21 Great South Road, Papakura. My grandfather used to have a couple of house cows in the paddock behind the house, which is still there, and milk them by hand. The paddock has gone, to be replaced by a hospital. I recall travelling on a steam train from Papakura to Newmarket with my grandmother on a shopping trip during one visit in the late 1950's. I recall hearing the sounds of the trains going by at night, which was a novel experience for a young boy off the farm.

My grandparents retired off their dairy farm at Mangatarata, on highway 27, to live in Papakura. My grandfather was employed by the Papakura Council in those days to drive a Massey Ferguson tractor to mow the grass in the parks and reserves around the town. I can recall him taking me to what is now Massey Park to watch a game between a visiting Japanese Universities team and a local Counties team in the early 1960s, I think, but I haven't yet been able to verify the details. I used to enjoy my holidays with them in Papakura, as I was able to go to the movies, walking along Great South Road down to the picture theatre to watch cowboy movies, something that was not possible at home on the farm.

My few words have become a rambling story, so I will finish with a few more words about my interest in history and decision to give some time and effort to the telling of our history. I can admit that I wasn't very interested in history at all at school or for many years after, but as I have "matured", I have read about the history of many of the places in the world where I have lived and worked, and come to the realisation that I didn't know very much about the history of my own country and its peoples; hence I have attempted to become better informed and I have taken much more of an interest in all things historical. I hope for the best for the PDHS and the Museum and I intend to give my support and energy to that endeavour.

Brian



One of these photos is of the Brian Leonard we know. Depending on which you recognise, we can expect him to chair a PDHS meeting—with our backing, or else perform with backing. In any case we look forward to 'Sailing' with Brian.
(A leopard may not change his spots, but it appears the lion can change his mane.)



Thanks for photos, Brian.



Shards from Rings Redoubt provided by Clough and Associates and Richard Shakles, archaeologist. See previous issue.

Shopping Now and Then

Terry Carson

During Level 4 Covid lockdown we have all had to change our usual shopping habits. Our spontaneous jump into the car and pop down to the Supermarket has been replaced by contactless delivery or collection, on-line shopping and other variations, with only a few brave souls still masking up and going to the supermarket in person. Many shops of course have remained closed.

What constitutes 'essential goods and services' has at times been mind-boggling and almost ridiculous. A postie we talked to the other day on our daily local walk – safely at a distance and fully masked – told Edna and me of the many thousands of packages NZ Post and its courier companies were delivering, including lawnmowers and fridges. She said she was very happy to remain on her electric bike and stick to simple, small postal items.

When trawling through my documents folder on the computer trying to remember the name of something I wrote a couple of years ago, I came across a piece written by my late mother about shopping when she was a child. She was providing information for a family history project. Although it is set in Takapuna, I thought it was an interesting look at local shopping in the 1920s-30s and worth publishing. The reader can compare with today and reflect upon our Covid lockdown experiences. It will probably spark a few memories among our older members. If you have interesting memories of shopping experiences, think of sharing them in the *Sentinel*.

I asked my mother:

How did you get your groceries and supplies at home?

We used to get our groceries from Dudding's shop at the top of Hauraki Road. It was in the big two storey building that is still there on the far side of the intersection with Lake Road. Keith (brother) or I would often be sent to the grocer's. The Duddings lived above the shop and old Mr Dudding was a familiar sight sitting on the upstairs veranda watching people come and go, and looking out to sea. Across from Dudding's was the butcher shop. When I think of the butcher shop I always remember my brother Keith. When he was young he hated going to school and would be put struggling and protesting on the old steam tram that stopped outside the butcher's shop. The tram would pull away, and after the smoke had cleared, Keith would be found standing on the footpath outside the butcher's. Keith had been put on the Hauraki Road side of the tram and promptly climbed out the other side.

We had regular deliveries to home by the baker, milkman and greengrocer. The baker delivered by motor van and would come to the back door with a large cane basket displaying the types of bread he had for sale that day. Mother would choose the bread she wanted from the selection on offer. The milkman, Mr Wright had a small dairy further along Lake Road, however, delivered his milk to his customers' homes by horse and cart. He would also come to the back door and from a large milk pail would ladle our requirements into our enamel milk billy. His route usually entailed coming down Hauraki Road, and on reaching the bottom he would drive his horse and cart along the beach and go up Ewen Street. When the tide was in and it was hot he would drive his horse through the shallows to cool off. Keith and I would often hitch a ride on the milk cart. The greengrocer was a Chinese man who also used a horse and cart. As we had a large orchard I don't think we purchased much fruit from him, only vegetables. At Christmas he used to give his customers preserved ginger in a small Chinese jar that we used to think was quite exotic. I remember it was quite common after the visits from the various horses to see locals out in the street with

spades, uplifting horse manure for their gardens.

I do not remember us buying much from the few shops in Takapuna. If we wanted anything special we would usually go over to the city. This involved catching the steam tram down to the Bayswater Wharf and the ferry across to Quay Street. Mother, and in later years Doris (*older sister*), made most of my clothing. The nice material might have been purchased from somewhere like Milne and Choyce. After Mother died, when I was sixteen, Doris even made lovely ball gowns for me. Occasionally we might go to Devonport to buy shoes as Father liked to use a bootmaker there.

Did you have any home help?

We did have a lady who for years came in on a Saturday morning to help with the weekly wash. She was a delightful Irish lady called Mrs O'Malley. She had a sick husband who could not work and I think she supported her family by doing washing and ironing for a number of local families. Our laundry was a very big room under the house with a huge storage box for firewood. Someone always made sure that the fire under the copper was going and the water was hot by the time Mrs O'Malley arrived.

(Grace Carson's reminiscences)

Kirikiri

6. Kirikiri dispersed—gone but not forgotten

Rob Finlay

Charles Fugill may have started from Yorkshire when, as a 24 year old farm servant, he sailed from Glasgow on the *Resolute* with his 21 year old wife Fanny and 6 month old son George. He soon left Kirikiri and moved to Onehunga but was 'objected to' by the electoral officer in 1868, as he had already left Onehunga too. He became a miner in Thames, and tried his hand as hotel licensee, before reverting to mining. By 1892, when he was declared a bankrupt, he was at Te Aroha. He applied for a miner's lease in Thames in 1895, and in the following year George, and NZ-born Frank and Mary Fugill, his children, were given residence sites at Waihi. He was granted permission to cut timber in June 1897, and died later that year when he fell ill on a coach riding from Waitekauri to Paeroa. Mobility was always part of his life, to the end.

Scottish, Irish Scots and northern English immigrants who had left their homes and travelled across the world to make a new home in New Zealand were already highly mobile in their northern homelands. Migration had become a way of life for many in the mid-nineteenth century. The Industrial Revolution, the aftermath of Highland clearances and population growth had made Scots particularly mobile. Many of those living in Glasgow and the neighbouring counties of Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Renfrew had come from Ireland, the Highlands or nearby rural areas. Next to Ireland, and sometimes Norway, Scotland shed its population faster than any other European country in these years. Some, like Robert and Margaret Stewart, had lived in England. Soldiers like Hugh McLeod with his Irish wife Elizabeth had seen the world: their children had been born (or died) in Ireland, the Cape, India and England before they returned to Aberdeen then Dundee. To board the *Viola* and *Resolute* many first travelled to Glasgow, the Clark Smiths by ship from Antrim, the Arnolds by train from Preston. Lucy Bull and younger siblings were born in Glasgow, but had grown up in Kingston-on-Hull, the Yorkshire birthplace of her parents. To compensate, Scots here

wrote an average of three letters a year to the folks at home. Sadly we do not have any of the letters written by our settlers, though family historians refer to some.

So it is not surprising that they continued to move around and change jobs frequently in New Zealand. Three years trying to tame an alien landscape within a depressed economy discouraged many from staying at Kirikiri. Those with rural or farming backgrounds were most likely to remain. But four months confined in small ships and three years based in Kirikiri had created a community. Though most left, many kept in touch. There was mail, a lot of local travel, many held property or had relations here, and they read the newspapers, so stories of the dispersed Kirikiri community were shared.

In this issue, the focus is on those who left. I have already told the story of some in the transition period up to the early 1870s, those like the Clarksons, Davidsons, Campbells, McGregors and Cornes who left for Thames; the Irelands who early left for Auckland; and Jane Rogerson who took ship with two of her children for Dundee after her husband was tragically drowned at Rangiriri. (The other young *Viola* widow, Elizabeth Watson, returned to her family, now living in Hunua.) At least two ended their days in Australia, and George and Lucy Clarkson also spent years there. Other miners, later on, went to South Africa, and Frank Eddington went back to Scotland before returning to live locally.

Unfortunately people are hard to track, so the total of our families constantly leaks. But Kirikiri and Wairoa remained 'home' for many of those who left. Sometimes, they returned for burial, like Christina Davidson and young William Clarkson buried here with his mother; to marry; for business or to meet old friends. The next issue will resume the story of those who remained in Kirikiri.

But this time we follow the Kirikiri diaspora of the first two generations in other communities. Fittingly the first groups are the largest, those who went to Thames, the Coromandel and Ohinemuri, and to Auckland. But some also went to Northland, the East Coast, Hawkes Bay and Waikato, and further afield.

Thames, the Coromandel and Ohinemuri

The Thames gold rush peaked in 1872, and many moved on once conditions subsided. John Watson, who had been spokesman at the protest meetings at Drury, was probably one of those who went to the 1873 Palmer River diggings of Northern Queensland with its ugly violence against Aboriginals and Chinese miners, and a few years later Thomas Cornes was in Mount Morgan in the same state.

But others remained in Thames for all or most of their lives and contributed significantly to the life of the Thames community. Thames became a significant outlier of the Otau (Wairoa/ Clevedon)-Kirikiri-Maketu-Ararimu-Hunua communities of *Viola* and *Resolute* settlers. Most went as miners, some did well, and some took up other callings. When the Ohinemuri goldfield opened up to the south of Thames in 1875, some like the Fugills, turned their eyes to mining or farming there, and William Brown, Thames butcher (previous issue) became a carrier there. Andrew Hamilton was farming in Karangahake in 1904 and was later on Great Barrier island.

One who made a valuable contribution was James Coutts, a miner from Peebles in Scotland. He and Margaret arrived with two children and had another nine here. They had been Kirikiri neighbours of George Clarkson and arrived in Thames in 1867. He was at first a tributer (operating like a sharemilker). He may also have been engaged in the Clarkson coal mines in the 1870s. Able and ambitious, by 1875 he was manager of Nonpareil mine, and he was at different times manager of the Southern Cross, at Cambria on the Waiotahi Creek beginning as supervisor in the 1880s, and Deep Level Cross, Victoria Gold Mining Co. Then, in 1896, he was head-hunted to become manager of the Taitapu Company at Collingwood, near Nelson.


The *Thames Star* (26/5/1896), commented that Taitapu were securing the services of a 'thoroughly practical man, one who has a wide experience in all classes of mining, and has been connected with the Thames gold-field for over a quarter of a century'. He had taken a keen interest in County matters, and had been for some time chairman of the Charitable Aid Board. He was on the Waiotahi Board from 1874. In 1893 he was elected to the Thames County Council as one of two representatives for Waiotahi Riding, and acted as chairman. He was a member of the Bruce and Waikato Lodges. In 1896 he was gazetted a member of the Board of Examiners under the Mining Act; less than a year after leaving he returned to Thames as Inspector General to the Government of the Dominion for the Hauraki Goldfields District. Readers may remember from the previous issue how the tragic death of young Richard Watson in an explosion was one of the factors that led to the appointment of mining inspectors. John McGregor had also died in a mine accident. There is poetic justice that another with Kirikiri connections served in this capacity.

He died at home in Rolleston St, aged 66. At the funeral, one of those who spoke about his humility, public spirit and engagement with the County and the Presbyterian church was John Frater. While not an emigrant on 'our' ships, Frater, a Scot, Presbyterian and Mason, had had his 10 Kirikiri acres and had been a contractor employing his neighbours. He remained a friend to many.

Christopher Tierney (*Resolute*) and Joseph Dunn (*Viola*) both worked as miners in Thames, but in 1891, were mining in the new Ohinemuri fields. They jointly took a 'plaint for the forfeiture of licenced holdings on the grounds of non-working' at the Waikino court. It was against John McAllister, T Garlick and G Bryant, owners of the Hilda claim at Canadian Gully. The court found that McAllister had in fact been working it, but the other two lost their claim in favour of Tierney and Dunn. A full 26 years after arriving in New Zealand these two Kirikiri settlers were partners. They were part of a community of miners with shared interests. In 1869 Tierney was listed as a shareholder of the Middle Star Extended Goldmining Co (Reg) at the Moanataiari Creek and Wisemans Gully: among the other shareholders were Hugh McDonald, Alexander McNeil, Thomas Patterson, and also James Spence, brother-in-law of Lucy Clarkson nee Bull.

Tierney had been a miner in Scotland before emigrating on the *Resolute*, and so he remained. In retirement he was recorded as receiving the full £18 old age pension. A year later the *Thames Star* recorded his death, aged 71, beloved husband of Mary Ann Tierney, at his home in Tararu Road.

Joseph Dunn, and his sons leave a good trail in newspaper records. In 1882 he impounded a heifer for trespassing on his orchard at Parawai. He was appointed to the committee of the Thames Presbyterian church in 1885 (along with Coutts, and Frater as auditor). Joseph Dunn, father or son, was one of 13 recipients—William Campbell another—of a bronze medal from the Royal Humane Society in 1887 for his part in the attempted rescue of miners overcome by gas in the Caledonian Mine. The medals were awarded in the Thames Academy of Music. An application for a gold mine holding in 1890 by Joseph Dunn snr, Joseph Dunn jnr and Alexander Dunn was accepted and published in the *Thames Star* of 13/9/1890. [Right, from Papers Past]


APPLICATION FOR LICENSED
HOLDING.
UNDER REGULATION No. 4.
DISTRICT: HAURAKI.
Date: 4th September, 1890.

TO THE WARDEN AT THAMES—
I hereby apply for a Licensed Holding for gold mining purposes, under the provisions of "The Mining Act, 1886," of the lands hereinafter described.

ALEXANDER DUNN,
for applicants.

Name and address in full of applicants:
Joseph Dunn, snr.; Joseph Dunn, junr.; and Alexander Dunn.

Style under which it is intended to conduct the business: Mountain Flower Licensed Holding.

Locality where the land applied for is situated: Shellback Creek. Bounded on the north west by Exchange Licensed Holding; on east by Coliban Licensed Holding; on the south by Hilda claim; on south-west by General Gordon claim and Stanley Licensed Holding.

Extent of land applied for: 10 acres.

Amount of capital proposed to be invested: £1000.

Proposed mode of working the land: Driving and stoping.

Term for which license is required: 21 years

General remarks: Pegged out at 7 a.m. on 4th September, 1890. Mark on page **W**

Dated at Thames this 4th day of September, 1890.

The above application and any objections will be heard at the Warden's Office, Thames, on 16th October, 1890, at 10.30 a.m.

Any person desiring to object to the issue of a license for the land applied for must, before that date, enter his objections at the Warden's Office at Thames.

H. W. NOETHCOFF,
Warden,

Warden's Office, Thames,

In the same year, he successfully applied to the Thames Council (Coutts was in the chair) for work to help move a landslide at Moanataiari, and an application to work two pieces of ground from one tunnel was granted at Mountain Flower, Shellback range, work beginning under his management. In 1896 he had difficulty paying rates of £2 7s 7d, as he was out of work, and again in 1901 his request to Council to help him work out his rates was sympathetically received. In 1902 he or his son successfully applied to be dog registrar. He was receiving the full pension by 1900. Joseph Dunn died in 1909, leaving a significant estate of £6045 (if his is the one handled by the Auckland Supreme Court)

George Coutts Kerr, born in Peebles like George Coutts and probably related to him, had been a coal miner in Midlothian. He became a contractor and mine manager who called for tenders for driving at Tookey Tribute Co's Mine. In the Christmas games of 1871, he won two silver quoits for winning the quoits competition and he placed ads in the paper for the quoiting club. He also competed in wrestling, and held office in the Lodge Sir Walter Scott. George, Agnes and their growing family left Thames in 1879, when his premises on Campbell-street, opposite St George's Hall, described as a magnificent 3 room cottage, with verandah, garden with fruit trees and furniture, were put up for sale. By 1882 he was in Northland prospecting for coal at Whangaroa, and that's where we will meet him in the next chapter.

James Rattray was a mason/ stonecutter from Edinburgh, married to Anne and with an infant son when he arrived in New Zealand. They had a further 7 children. He began mining in Thames, claiming £5 for payment from Manukau Extended Gold Mining Co for work and labour in 1872. After being found drunk and incapable on Williamson Street in Grahamstown, then not appearing at court and forfeiting bail three years later, he seems to have settled down. By 1878 he was a Messenger for the Thames Borough Council assisting the Collector in valuing, and he continued in Borough employment for some years. Along with Brothers George Kerr and Symington he was elected as an officer in Lodge Sir Walter Scott at the Freemason's Hall. In 1880, when he was living in Parawai, he won the lease by tender of the Kauaeranga Valley Recreation Ground; he grazed cattle and made improvements, and placed ads in the paper warning that stray cattle on the reserve would be impounded. When he appealed the rates on the Reserve they were reduced from £50 to £30. When he made concrete blocks for the tomb of a Maori rangatira, he was falsely accused of having used Council resources. Two infant twins died within three days later that year, and were buried with Spiritualist rites. He signed a petition for the inclusion of the Parawai district in the Thames Borough. His burial, aged 43, soon after, was by Masonic rites.

His son James (who had arrived in New Zealand aged eight months), became entangled in a legal dispute after he bought a horse off young Ngaro Maki. A Mr Grainger who watched James breaking in the horse, decided that the horse had been stolen from him, and took a case against Maki. The court was packed with Maori and Pakeha, and tempers ran high. The judge decided that Grainger had misidentified the horse, but the dispute was not over. When James went to reclaim the horse Grainger was there too, and police interfered in the tussle, taking it over the weekend and promising Rattray it would be his next Monday but in fact delivering it to Grainger. This led Rattray's lawyer to telegram the Minister of Justice in Wellington.

Among those who moved out of mining to running hotels (see previous article), one couple stood out.

George Symington had been a servant of the Campbells of Tillyheven in Ayrshire, and his wife Jane, 7 years his senior, had possibly been cook. She certainly was able to satisfy large groups of diners. They were linked with George and Jane Clarkson, probably since the *Resolute* voyage; Jane was sponsor at the christening of their daughter, who was given her name. George had moved to Thames in 1867 (according to his obituary, which wrongly tied his story with Hunt rather than Clarkson). It reports that he worked in 'the celebrated Shotover Mine (Hunt)'. 'Hunt' had left him in charge of his affairs at Remuera when he went 'home' on a visit. On returning to Thames he entered the hotel business. He became proprietor of the Grahamstown Hotel in Owens St in 1875 (Charles Davidson had been publican there prior to his bankruptcy), ran the Governor Bowen hotel from

June of the following year until 1881, and then, in 1882 became licensee of the Royal Theatre Hotel, also in Owens St. He made improvements: although the bar had been open for some time, from 18 October the hotel was opened up to accommodation for lodgers and visitors. 'The tumble-down barn-like building has been metamorphosed into a grand-looking hotel.' *Thames Star*, quoted Barker. The couple frequently won plaudits for the ample dinners put on for large social events: 'Appreciated for catering, credit to Mrs S.'

He was very much a man about town. He was chosen by an 1876 meeting of Thames gas consumers to manage a petition to reduce the cost of gas from the Gas Company. In 1878, He was nominated along with Thomas Cornes for Waiotahi School Committee, and was a Steward at the Lodge Walter Scott. He was also Quartermaster–Sergeant of the Scottish Volunteers, and an enthusiastic marksman who featured in and managed numerous shooting competitions. Nor were Franklin origins forgotten. In February 1881 the Thames Scottish visited Wairoa for a shooting competition and then hosted a return visit in March, duly ending up at the Symington hotel. After the turning of the first sod of the Thames railway, 230 sat down for lunch at the Volunteers Hall for a meal provided by George Symington. He and Jane contributed to Christmas cheer at Thames hospital – Mrs Symington contributed 5 bottles of wine in 1880; this became a regular event. And he took an interest in the Thames fire brigade. They retained interests in mining, both buying shares in the mining companies. Like the McGregors, they were interested in Ohinemuri land, and bought two lots at Karangahake in 1885.

He was not quite 50 when he died in April 1887 at his residence, Theatre Royal Hotel, from lung congestion. Mourners noted his avoidance of conflict and good-nature, a man 'without an enemy'. 'Few were better known among both visitors and the resident population in Thames.' The funeral was widely attended by all classes and members of Masonic Lodges, one of the largest funeral corteges at the Thames for many years.

Widowed, Jane Stewart Symington was granted the publican's license for the Royal Theatre, in May— 'a hotel of 30 rooms exclusive of those required for the use of the family', and continued to run it until September 1890 when she had it transferred to Owen Humphries for £300, not including furniture and stock. She continued to engage in local concerns. A few months after her husband's death, she and Mrs Frater were singled out for 'originating' a soiree, concert and tableaux for the Presbyterian church, seating 2-300 people at the Academy of Music. She was on the committee of the Thames Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in the 1890s. In March 1900 she advertised her 9-room residence on Queen St Thames, as she was moving to Auckland. But she continued to contribute to the Thames Ladies Benevolent Society as late as 1909, the year she travelled to Scotland. Two years later word came to John Frater that she had died in Edinburgh.

The Thames experience was positive for most of the Kirikiri settlers that we can find information on. It appears most of them made enough from mining to settle them in life, and for some it may have been enough to buy additional land and set themselves up as farmers or in small business. As a mining community Thames avoided the reputation for erratic riches squandered on alcohol, gambling and brothels. This was partly because the mining was not alluvial, but for the most part involved men with steady work as employees of big companies, and some had the experience, skills and character to rise to management level or to work as contractors. Most of our Kirikiri settlers were also married, and home provided a settling effect. The next generation of Scottish, Kirikiri and Thames-born children grew up in the area. Thames newspapers include some



From Thames Illustrated Mining Map, 1873; Theatre Royal Hotel enlarged & modified from top right-hand corner. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections Map 4531

names in their lists of school prizes, eg in 1878, Phillis Rattray (born Kirikiri in 1867), Agnes and Thomas Kerr in Thames School, and Margaret and Agnes Coutts at Waiotahi School.

Thames working conditions were tough. The miners relied on pumps to drain the shafts, miners crawled and crouched in low tunnels. Children and women worked in the mines too, although, unlike men, they were exempted from 24 hour work. There was mud, candles and oil lamps in the dark. In a town dominated day and night by noisy steam driven pumps, crushers, pounders and stamper batteries, the dramatic silence at midnight on Saturday provided a Sabbath hush no doubt appreciated by faithful Presbyterians and others alike.

From the beginning some sought gold in other parts of the Coromandel. James Rhind had taken up a claim in Kennedy Bay in August 1869 before returning to Kirikiri. Between 1895 and 1897 George Clarkson, back from Australia, turned up again, with his sons, in the Tairua area. His return from Australia, where he had caught up with Hunt in the Western Australia goldfields, was heralded by the newspapers and he made an enthusiastic start. He also made an effort to claim a £5000 reward offered by the Government for the discovery of gold in Thames in 1888. All the Clarksons, largely settled in Auckland, continued to invest in mines.

Several families lived in the vicinity of Coromandel township and Mercury Bay. There was a concentration of blacksmiths to the east of Coromandel. **James Edwin Arnold**, who, with his wife Agnes and son Thomas Andrew, had taken a train from Preston in Lancashire to Glasgow and a steamer from Glasgow to the *Resolute*, and kept a diary of the journey, had been allocated a grant in Maketu but was a householder in Whangapaoa by 1875. In 1880 and 1885 Arnold was a blacksmith in Mercury Bay, and by 1890 he was smithing at Kuaotunu. Which would mean he maintained contact with blacksmith **Archibald McDonald's family**.

When others had gone to Thames, McDonald had focussed on a different sort of gold, kauri gum in Papakura Valley. But some of his older sons were mining in the Coromandel area in 1868. Allan took out a miners right in Karaka in October 1867, Duncan took out his first in January of 1868, and Hugh had a claim at Kuranui in June 1868. By 1875 Hugh and Allan were both miners and householders on the Tokatea Ridge on the backbone of the Peninsula between Coromandel town and Whangapaoa. Allan was still mining in Tokatea 10 years later. In later years the younger sons were living and working not far from here. (Also working at Tokatea was Alexander McNeil jnr whose parents remained in Papakura.)

While Archibald McDonald died at a son's house in Parnell in 1883, his widow Flora lived at Kuaotunu, where her younger sons had shifted, till her death in 1905. By 1890, Neil was a millhand—timber the other boom industry of the Coromandel—and Donald and Duncan blacksmiths at Mercury Bay. In 1900 all three were smithing in Kuaotunu, probably connected with mines. In 1905 the Thames Electoral Roll records Donald (who married Ellen Douglas Bright in 1883, and then Ellen Maud Brown in 1899) and Neil (married to Ida Urynia Bright in 1883), as blacksmiths in Kuaotunu, while Duncan carried out the same trade in Gumtown. By 1928 Neil and Ida had moved to Mackay Street Thames, where Neil was still plying the same trade.

Unexpectedly, another family turned up at Coromandel.

In the previous issue I told the tragic story of Jane Campbell who had probably met Edward Rogerson on the *Viola*, marrying him soon after arriving in New Zealand, and losing him when he was drowned on a winter evening in the Waikato river, leaving her with three children. In her grief she decided to return to Scotland (although she may have accompanied Thomas Campbell's family out she was not their daughter) with two (if the newspaper was to be believed) of her children. Sure enough the 1881 Scotland census showed her at home in Dundee with her elderly father Donald, aged 71, a younger sister, and two children, Christina (11) and Edward (9). None of the children had been christened Edward but she had bestowed her late husband's name on her youngest, Daniel John. She was an elementary teacher in Dundee then and ten years later.

Meanwhile my interest was kindled when I found a letter in the Papakura Museum by a T L Rogerson in New Zealand, which raised the question whether the widow or any of the three children, William, Christina and

Daniel John, had returned to New Zealand. Indeed they had. Confirmation came from two marriages. In October 1897, Daniel Edward John Rogerson, a storekeeper (or 'storeman'? - *1900 Wises Directory*), of Coromandel, and formerly of Dundee, was married by the Rev T Norris (the son of the Papakura stalwart) to Evelyn Deerness daughter of the late William Logie Spencer Deerness, carpenter of Auckland, at the home of the bridegroom's brother. (A William Rogerson had bought shares in the Crown Gold Mining Co in 1895, but is otherwise elusive.) The young couple, with Jane Campbell Rogerson, nurse, were still in Coromandel in 1900. Two sons were born to them: Edward Augustus Campbell in 1898, and Louis Alexis in 1902. Soon after the family moved to Queensland. The death of Daniel Edward John Rogerson is recorded in Charters Towers Queensland on 5 August 1902. His widow returned and married Wilfred Denton Smith in 1905. He was a farmer in Te Pua, Kaipara (1911/14): she had a further four children before 1916.

Bereaved for a second time of a loved Edward Rogerson, Jane Campbell Rogerson, nurse, married her daughter-in-law's uncle, John Deerness of Pukekohe East, in 1903. In 1914 they were living in Sussex Street, and in 1919 in 35 Fleet Street in Auckland. Her husband, 8 years her senior, was a Pukekohe East identity, who had settled in the area in 1856. He had been given the land on which the Pukekohe East Presbyterian church stands by J G Rutherford, the laird of broad acres stretching down from Bombay. Jane was his third wife: his first had taught in native schools and died in 1887, his second wife had died in 1892. He had moved to Auckland where he had been one of the first members of the Auckland YMCA and was active in the Presbyterian church. She died in 1921, aged 75, soon after her husband.

There is still a mystery: between 1957 and the early 1980s John Shakespeare Rogerson, painter and Martha Haggarty, receptionist, lived in 14 Opaheke Rd (one of the old Kirikiri town lots, near Settlement Rd.—*the old Rogerson allotment was #53*) Warwick Graham named Trevor Rogerson, and spoke of son Jimmy at school before 1860. He had a trade and went to Australia. What was their connection to the family?

7. Northland—risks and losses for Rusks and Rosses and others—timber, coal, gum, horses and cows

Thames was not the only mining destination. Two families, the Rusks and Rosses, took up mining in the Bay of Islands. **William Ross**, 29, described as a labourer, with his 30-year old wife Isabella and two daughters Elizabeth and Isabella, migrated on the *Viola*, and were allotted land in Kirikiri. Two children were born in 1866 and 1869. **William Rusk** (R), a gardener, arrived in New Zealand with his wife Mary and 2-year old Richard on the *Resolute*. They had land on Settlement Road (Lot 85), and also at Maketu (where unpaid rates were recorded between 1870-1872). They had two further children, Charles Bull Rusk in 1867, and Douglas Campbell. Both men tried their hand with gold at the Thames in 1868. Ross bought a miner's right in January at Waikawau and in May at Karaka, and Rusk was in Shortland with a miner's right in June at Karaka. He was working in the Lancashire Lass Claim where he was witness on a case of removal of pegs.

Both families soon made the move to the Bay of Islands. William Ross was recorded as a coalminer at Kawakawa, with dwelling, in the 1870-71 Electoral Roll and again in 1875-6. And the Rusks had moved north as well. Tragedy struck twice. In the dry of February 1874, *The Herald* reported that the family were sleeping in a whare in the gum-digging settlement of 'Rupecapicca (sic—Ruapekapeka), a wild district about 12 miles from Kawakawa' when a discarded match – William had been smoking – caused a fire. Several were burned, but their youngest, New Zealand born 6 year old son, Douglas Campbell, died 3 days later on 12 January from burns. Their oldest son, Richard, was also burned, and when he recovered some months later, went riding with his father. *The New Zealand Herald* 15/4/75 tells what happened: 'A boy, Richard Rusk... after lying in a state of unconsciousness until five o'clock pm, on 17 March, died from the effects of the injuries

received by the fall. This is one of the same family who lately got so badly burned when their whare took fire at the goldfields, and the poor little fellow had hardly recovered from the burns when his father was taking him out for an airing, and was only a little way behind when the horse slipped and trying to recover himself, the girth strap broke and saddle and boy fell together.'

Both families mined coal in the area between Hikurangi, north of Whangarei, and Kawakawa. In 1880-81 and in 1890, William Ross, his brother John and William Rusk were all recorded as miners in Kawakawa. The only reference in 1896 was to Ross, mining in Hikurangi. He would have had contact there with George Kerr. Although Kerr moved first to Whangaroa, he became manager first at the Kamo coal mines, and then, during the 1890s at Hikurangi. But by 1900, Rosses and Rusks were both living in Ruapekapeka. The Ross land was on the direct road between Towai and Ruapekapeka. The two older Williams both described themselves as settlers and William Ross jnr as a gumdigger. Charles Rusk, sole surviving son, married Lily Agnes Collins in 1894 and they were listed as settlers in 1896. Lily had given her address as Towai in 1900; she and her husband named Paiaka in 1905. William Rusk died in 1902 aged 77 and his widow ten years later, aged 87. Four children were born to Charles and Lily between 1895 and 1904. They established roots in the area, the Rusk Bros becoming prominent dairy farmers named in agricultural awards and local events. F Rusk played for dances. The Riponui Pa school calf-club awards in 1940 were dominated by three Rusks, and FCG Rusk was farming in Paiaka in 1946.

At the *Viola* centenary celebration in 1965, one Ross granddaughter Mrs McLean, the oldest lady present, cut the cake, while another, Mrs A Brown, nee Isabella Ross, provided a potted story of the life of William and Isabella Ross. She wrote about being taken in a cutter: 'up the Clevedon River to the Soldiers Barracks. The War had just ended and the Soldiers were still in the Barracks. My Grandparents were then shifted to Papakura and they lived there for a number of years. They then shifted up North Auckland to Kawakawa, Bay of Islands where my grandfather worked in the coalmines for a few years. There were five more children born at Kawakawa, three Daughters and two Sons. Finally my grand-parents shifted to Ruapekapeka and lived there until their deaths. Their youngest Son, William John Ross, was my father.'

What she didn't record was the tragedies that dogged the sons in the Ross family, as it had the Rusks earlier. Their older son was Robert, born 1866 in Kirikiri. He was the 'young hero of about 12' (maybe 14) when two girls were drowned in the Waiomio stream in 1880. The father of one girl was unable to swim, and 12-year old Robert plunged in fully dressed and recovered her body. But in December 1886, he was killed by a fall of earth when he was working on a road cutting near Kawakawa. He was only 20.

Their other son, William John, narrowly escaped death less than a year later when he was thrown from a horse that shied and then kicked him in the crown of his head, inflicting a large and serious wound. But he recovered, and married Margaret Taylor in 1898. They had several children including a son, William. In 1910 14-year old William Ross and a friend went out hunting with pea rifles near Ruapekapeka and wounded a pig. Trailing the pig through scrub, Ross in the lead, the trigger of the second boy's gun was caught by a twig and Ross was shot through the head, dying instantly. He was taken the seven miles home on horseback by a Mr Owen. At the inquest a strong reproof was directed at parents who allowed children to have pea rifles and stores that sold them ammunition. (Two years later, a protracted sitting of the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court in Kawakawa found Duncan Owens guilty of threatening to shoot William John Ross of Ruapekapeka with a revolver.) The Ross family were involved with the Ruapekapeka Band of Hope in 1892: three monthly meetings with recitals, readings and songs by William, Janet or Jane. The *Herald* commented: 'The meetings are a cheerful break in the monotony of back settlement life.' Was that a sentiment that the Rosses would have shared?

William John Ross died at his home in Ruapekapeka in March 1949, leaving a large family. In that same year

two Ross brothers felled a record tanekaha tree. Descendants were living in Kamo, Auckland, Tairua, Te Puke and Ohakune as well as locally.

Meanwhile the Kerr family became established north of Whangarei, where first George and then one of his younger sons were engaged in local government. He died in Kamo in 1921, aged 84, and Agnes a year later.

Other folk from Kirikiri went to the Kaipara and Northern Wairoa region.

Thomas Campbell, who had taken up teaching at Thames, was employed as teacher at Kaiwaka between 1880 and 1882, and was 'occasional preacher' at the Presbyterian church there. He later returned to Thames. At the same time a son, Thomas Duncan was working as a carpenter and in timber mills at Aratapu: the former county town of Hobson and centre of the Northern Wairoa timber boom in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, is a virtual ghost town today. At its height around 1900, there was a population of around 2000 people, engaged in milling and shipbuilding. He met Annie Hall in Kirikiri after her family had arrived from County Cavan, Ireland in 1877; they married at her father's house in 1882 and started their married life in Aratapu but came back to Papakura with their first baby. In this he broke the pattern of older immigrants remaining in Kirikiri while their sons and daughters moved elsewhere. Five years later Thomas snr was at Razorback near Bombay for the wedding of Hugh, a baker. Another younger son John, born in Kirikiri in 1866, a Razorback store-keeper, was witness.

In the same year that Thomas D Campbell married Annie, Samuel Brydon, 26, bushman of Northern Wairoa, returned to marry Minnie Pollock at her mother's home at Drury. His brother Robert, Kaipara bushman, was there as witness. Robert and Samuel Brydon, the two Glasgow-born older sons of Robert and Euphemia, had gone north and were both part of the huge assault on Northland forests. Robert, 11 when he left Scotland, married in Dargaville in 1888, and went on to be active in the Gumdiggers' Union there. He was still in Dargaville in 1911-15, describing himself as a settler. Samuel was in the Bay of Islands by then.

Two sons of Andrew and Catherine McLean went North. (The McLeans were originally settled in Otau, but moved to Kirikiri later.) William first married in 1888, and he and Isabella had four children in Whangaroa. Blood poisoning after a miscarriage in August 1893 occasioned a desperate passage to Auckland on the *Clansman*, but Isabella didn't make it. His second marriage in 1902 was to Janet Ross; was she the daughter of William and Isabella, born in 1877 and living south of the Bay of Islands? His brother Alexander was married in Hokianga in 1899.

8. Auckland and further

In early years some settled at Onehunga. Home was Church Street Onehunga when James Edwin Arnold. 'late of Kuaotunu', died at the Auckland District Hospital in 1893, aged 57. He was buried at Mangere. The family had moved to Onehunga some time before that, because Mary Alice, third daughter of James Arnold, Onehunga, had married Thomas Donaldson there in May of the previous year.

I have already told the sad story of Nelson and Helen Ireland. Another family that went to Auckland early was that of **Robert** (an iron dresser), and **Charlotte Gilmour/Gilmore** who had travelled on the *Resolute* with three children. He spent some time in Thames as a miner from mid 1868, but they were in Auckland by 1870—but not Auckland as we know it. Court reports amply bear witness of their presence. Robert, like Nelson, was known to the court: in 1872, he was arrested and in a police cell after having attacking his wife Charlotte 'by striking her on the body, knocking her down and dragging her by the hair of her head'. Did he, like Ireland, have a drinking problem? On 3 June, she was granted a protection order, her husband having deserted her without cause, and habitually failed to provide for her or her children.

But it was Charlotte and her cows who became well known in court and to reporters. In 1870, Charlotte Gilmore was fined 40s and costs under the Impounding Act, and this became a recurring theme. In July 1872 she appeared in court for allowing her cows to roam in Elliott and Wyndham streets. His Worship said 'See how you will have to dilute your milk to make good the *money lost* (indecypherable) if I fine you £3 and cost this morning. Now do see to this, and mind you do not break the law again. I will in this case only inflict a penalty of half-a-crown per cow, but I hope you will not come here again. The defendant curtseyed, paid the fine and left the Court. This finished the business.' Two years later Charlotte was in court 'for allowing her three cows, named Smart, Cherry, and Redface to be at large'. She 'pleaded not guilty as her cows were in a paddock belonging to the Mayor. She could not tell how they got out, but she ought not to be fined; it would not be complimentary to the Mayor who owns the paddock. (Impeccable logic! The Mayor in question was Henry Isaacs, second Mayor July-Dec 1874.) Mr Broham remarked that Mrs Gilmore was an old offender against the by-laws, and she was fined 10s and costs. Two years later, Charlotte Gilmore, represented by her son, Robert, pleaded guilty to allowing a cow to stray in Stanley Street and was fined 2s 6d and costs 19s 6d. The next year, 1877, 'Charlotte Gilmore, for suffering four cattle belonging to her to be at large in Eden Crescent, was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.' In 1891, she was in court, successfully appealing against the assessment of rates on her land in Stanley Street, from £16 to £12. The repetition of the figures suggests there may have been two sections. Two years later when her appeal against assessment in Stanley Street was again sustained the following entry in the newspaper was for Robert Gilmore also in Stanley street, so it appears they remained neighbours. Each had their rates reduced to £11. Charlotte Sutherland Gilmour died in 1909, aged 80.

Alexander Tullis was recorded as a labourer on the *Resolute* in 1865 with his wife Mary, and two young children. They do not seem to have had further children in New Zealand. He took out a miner's right at Tararu in 1868, and then disappeared from the records for some years. He was a shoemaker in Barrack Street before

Coal, Firewood, Etc.

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Taupiri Coal (household), 22s per ton; Waikato do., 20s per ton; Long Wood, from 8s to 9s 6d per ton; and best Ti-tree Blocks, 10s 6d per ton. Delivered to any part of the town or suburbs for cash. Send orders to McKinstry and Tullis Parnell.

Auckland Star, 15/12/1888

1875 and appears in electoral rolls in 1880, as a shoemaker, lot 39 Clarence St Ponsonby, and also possibly registered as Alexander Teillis, freehold, Auckland Settler, lot 29 Pukekohe. But the family maintained contact with at least some in the Kirikiri community. In late 1888, 'McKinstry and Tullis' of Parnell were advertising Taupiri coal and ti-tree firewood, delivered to any part of Auckland town or suburbs. In 1889, this partnership extended to marriage, when Robert McKinstry married Alison Pringle Tullis.

Alexander was receiving his old age Pension of £9 in 1900, but later in the year he died, in his 71st year, at his Clarence street residence: 'Dunedin papers please copy.' He was buried at Waikumete. The reference to Dunedin is interesting. Was he related to Tullises there? Or had he accompanied the Clarksons in their unfortunate coal-mine enterprise there?

Archibald and Flora **McDonald**, and the younger children of his large family were living in Papakura Valley by 1867. As a blacksmith he was making and repairing kauri spears and other tools, and had a gum store. He was living in Otara by 1880, working as a blacksmith, with several sons, Duncan, Donald and Neil, of East Tamaki. But by 1883 he was staying with one of his sons in **Panmure**, when he died on May 17, aged 64 years. As recorded above, his widow and younger sons followed the rest of the family to the Mercury Bay area.

Colin and Susan Borthwick, carpenter, *Resolute*, stayed on in Kirikiri, but by December 1881, their residence was in Parnell, Auckland where Colin died, aged 57, beloved husband of Susan McLachlan, late of Lochgilphead, Argyleshire. Presumably he had been working as a house carpenter. There is no further sign of her, unless she married under her maiden name.

Their daughter Susan married Richard Pepper the following year. In 1899, when they lost a young son, the couple were living in Grey Street. At the time Richard was a benchman in a bootmaking company, and was interviewed in the Arbitration Court in a case over union rights, specifically whether bootmakers in Auckland should work for less than they did in the South where workers had to belong to the union. He was not prepared to work with non-union employees. He had previously worked in Wellington and Christchurch. The couple had 9 children including one who bore Borthwick as a middle name, and were living in Hastings in the early twentieth century

The **Bull** family, inlaws of George Clarkson, also moved to Parnell. Eliza Ann died at her Scarborough Tce residence at the age of 55 in 1880. But the family retained interest in Thames gold shares along with their inlaws the Clarkson clan.

Christina Lister had gone to Thames after her husband William died, aged 33, in 1868. They were emigrants on the *Resolute* with Isabella aged 3 and an infant son John Baxter. William worked in Papakura as a cabinet maker but had taken up mining in Thames. After his death Christina took up a miner's right at Karaka North in her own name in July 1870 and logged a claim at Karaka Creek in November. She married James Couper, a *Viola* Otau settler, who was also mining in Thames, in 1869. They had a daughter Jane Baxter Couper in 1872. Christina, living in Dublin St, Ponsonby, became a widow a second time when James Couper, wood-turner, died in 1880, aged 60, in the Auckland Provincial Hospital. In December 1883 her oldest daughter Isabella married Walter Henry Harrison. Christina still retained ownership of her land in Kirikiri in 1887. She died in Albert St in Devonport at the home of her son, in her 80th year in 1911. But members of the family appear to have retained connections in Papakura.

The diaspora and the base

Others moved elsewhere. In the second generation and later quite a few made their homes in the Waikato, the East Coast or Hawkes Bay. In 1885 *Viola* immigrant Jane McCrae married William Hall jun, brother of Anne Campbell, and they lived in Kirikiri into the 1890s. But by 1896 they were farming at Frankton. By 1911, their farm there was called 'Aberdeen'. Then they moved south: William died in his 74th year in 1922 at Pukeroro, and was buried at Cambridge. She survived him by 16 years, dying at Cambridge on 7/2/1938, aged 80.

There were Borthwicks and McMurrays of the second generation living in Hastings by the twentieth century. The youngest Neallie daughter married in Gisborne.

David Murray died in Dunedin. Others left for Australia and South Africa (we're told—probably in the 1890s) or returned to the United Kingdom.

In addition others would leave Kirikiri but remain in the extended Franklin community, and I will include them in the next articles when we come back to the local area.

In our extended ramble round the country seeking out those who left, there are frequent reminders that many maintained contact with Kirikiri and sister settlements. This was especially true of the significant group who made their home in Thames.

Many of those who left for Thames kept in contact with the Kirikiri settlement. When the Papakura races were held in the summer of 1878, according to the *Auckland Star*, 'some of the crack shots of the Thames

Scottish volunteers (took) advantage of the opportunity to see the Papakura races', though ticketing delays at the Auckland railway station meant some missed their train. They were there too the year after. We know that some like George Symington were part of this group, and they also kept in touch with the Wairoa folks through the shooting competition exchanges between the Thames Scottish Volunteers and the Wairoa volunteers.

Romance flourished. As time went, grooms came 'home' to get married. In 1890 George McNeil, miner from Coromandel, returned to marry at the home of his father Alexander McNeil. Thomas Galbraith McClymont, whose parents remained in Kirikiri, was farming at Mangatawhiri Valley when he returned to marry Janet McNeil in 1879, and the couple made their home here: both were from *Resolute* families. Even when the families had left the area, local links remained: I have already referred to the marriages of Thomas Duncan Campbell and of Samuel Brydon to Kirikiri and Drury girls in 1882. Edinburgh born John Baxter Lister, blacksmith in Ramarama after his mother and stepfather had left the area, married New Zealand born Clara Ann Sinclair, from another *Resolute* family, at the home of her father in Maketu in 1888, and took her to the North Shore (where their marriage fell apart). Another younger son, Douglas Brown Stewart, would return from Auckland to take up the family holding once his father had died.

McClymont, Campbell and Stewart would all become influential members of the Papakura Town Board. But that is a later story.

There are also two mysterious burials in the Papakura cemetery. Christina Isabella Lister was buried in July 1945. She was the 3 year old Isabella, brother of John Baxter Lister, who had arrived with their parents on the *Resolute*, married in Auckland, but was buried under her maiden name. With her was Jessie (Jane?) Baxter Couper, her stepsister. Maybe the quarter acre section was port in a storm.

Next time we will return to Kirikiri to take up the story of those who remained through the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s and into the twentieth century. Though relatively few in numbers they were the true Kirikiri community.

Sources consulted for Kirikiri article

In addition to the newspapers, *New Zealand Herald (NZH)*, *Daily Southern Cross (DSC)*, *Auckland Star (AS)*, *Thames Advertiser (TA)*, *Thames Times (TT)*, *Northern Advocate (NA)* and *Waikato Independent (Wi)*, this article has made use of sources on the local area mentioned in the first article, on archival sources and on the contributions of local histories including:

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Phil Moore and Neville Ritchie, Coromandel gold: a guide to the historic goldfields of Coromandel peninsula. Dunmore Press, Palmerston North, 1996

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J Littin (ed) History of education in the Kaiwaka district: 100 years of progress, 1870-1970

Stephen Fordyce, Longwater: historical aspects of the Northern Wairoa.

Citations provided on request.

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year

-a new year of promise and hope for, among other things, a resumption of Society and Museum business & friendships.

Next *Sentinel* will be in February 2022.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS:

Mighty Small, Mighty Bright—March to May

FEBRUARY MEETING: February 24, 1 pm (all being well) Edward Bennett (who told us about the Victorian villa) will speak on the Victorian way of death.

TRIPS: will resume after Christmas

Seasons greetings from all the PDHS/Museum family

Pohutukawa flower on banner from Kete New Plymouth. Digital NZ.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Library Meeting Rooms opposite the Museum, starting with the talk at 1 pm, continuing with business and afternoon tea (for a **\$2 gold coin** minimum). All are welcome. Phil Sai-Louie arranges our interesting speakers.

Events are advertised here, on the screen in the Museum window and on our blog and Facebook pages. Please check for updates and Museum news.

Trips are usually held on the fourth Saturday of each month two days after the meetings. The bus leaves from East Street behind the Access Point building at 10 am, unless otherwise stated. Cost is \$5 more for non-members, but anyone is welcome on a first come first aboard basis. Please register early and advise if unable to attend as numbers are limited.

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