

The Papakura Sentinel



Number 57

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Editorial

The Papakura and District Historical Society and Papakura Museum wish all our members and friends the very best for the New Year. Strange times call for staunch friends. Looking back over the last two years we first of all watched bemused an outbreak overseas, then placed teddy bears and red poppies on fences and windows as the first wave struck. Delta lockdowns followed and now Omicron, with uncertainty at each step. Hopefully it finishes with Omicron. We want normal, but what will new normal be after all this time? And we long for certainty, but as with plans dependent on the weather, that’s easier demanded than responsibly provided.

New to us, but not new. It’s only 100 years since Spanish Influenza. And before that whole populations, in New Zealand especially Maori, but also world cities like London, succumbed to outbreaks of plague, flu, cholera, measles, small pox, polio... And each one tested the social resources of communities rural and urban, and the will of nations. Vaccinations mean that many of those diseases are no longer a threat, and by and large we have taken that lesson on board. Isolation, masking, the sacrificial good sense of many people, especially but not only those in the medical services, they all help. Kindness— consideration, cooperation, community spirit.

Anyway, after those reflections, a new year is starting with the determination to carry on. In the Museum, Rebecca Washer has stepped in as Curator while lone has her baby. We welcome her presence on the team. And we all wish lone and family the very best. And then— end of year surprise, we lost Rosie who was offered another position at Howick Museum closer to where she lives. Kara and volunteers will fill the gap. Rosie achieved a great deal over the year she was with us, and we will miss her. Ann Styles and Rob step into Education.

And the Society will press on, as well as we can, with our meetings, and the details of the February meeting follow. We even have two celebrations this year; 60 years as a Society calls for a party and Wendy Deeming is working on that and a booklet; and 50 years for the Museum later in the year. So watch this space and the screen.

PAPAKURA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

PAPAKURA MUSEUM

**Open: Monday—Friday, 10am—4.30pm,
Wed open till 6 pm, Sat 10 am—3 pm**
Accent Point Building, 209 Great South Road
Ph.: (09) 298 2003 www.papakuramuseum.org.nz

Meanwhile our monthly meeting for February is planned for the 24th at 1 pm. Our guest speaker, Edward Bennett, has addressed us before on the Victorian villa. This time the subject is the Victorian way of death. All Covid precautions will be taken—mask, spacing, vaccination certificate. See page 17. We'd love to see you.

We have lost one of our valued and loved members and volunteers over the Christmas period. Several of our members were at the funeral of Pat Williams, and Margaret, Kara and another friend have written a brief obituary (below). Our sympathies and appreciation go to her family.

Welcome, come along to meetings, and read on. *Rob*

Memories of Pat Williams

It was with sadness that we farewelled Pat at the Manukau Memorial Gardens. She had been a member of our Historical Society for 10 years and was a regular at that time. She also made a valued contribution to the running of our museum by her regular stint at the desk on the third Saturday of each month. But it was on the bus trips that I got to know Pat quite well. She was a great supporter of these organised trips and always insisted on sitting in the back seat with all her friends. There, she would share her lollies as we travelled along visiting our various destinations. During the service, one of her sons shared Pat's life story and others contributed early memories, and it was obvious that Pat had been a caring mother, bringing up her family of five as a solo parent and working to support them all. Papakura became the home for was a haven for the whole family.



at a service held on Wednesday 5 January. Pat had been a member of our Historical Society for 10 years and was a regular attendee at our monthly meetings during that time. She also made a valued contribution to the running of our museum by her regular stint at the desk on the third Saturday of each month. But it was on the bus trips that I got to know Pat quite well. She was a great supporter of these organised trips and always insisted on sitting in the back seat with all her friends as we travelled along visiting our various destinations. During the service, one of her sons shared Pat's life story and others contributed early memories, and it was obvious that Pat had been a caring mother, bringing up her family of five as a solo parent and working to support them all and the house in Mack Place

Farewell Pat. You were an amazing lady, and you are already missed.

Another of our long time Saturday regulars would like to briefly share a few memories of her dear friend:

Pat was an inspiration. She met every setback with fortitude; even though pain was no stranger to Pat she was never a complainer. Evidence of her strength and determination was the achievement of putting all five children through university. Family was everything to Pat.

A dependable employee, her work fitted around her family. A Wellington girl originally, as a young woman she had worked as a cleaner at Parliament Buildings. Later, with five children to support, she cleaned at Kingseat Hospital for many years, and was known and loved by all. She also looked after the bookwork for a neighbour operating a small business.

You had the best of friends if you knew Pat. She was always there to lend a helping hand. Not a particularly confident driver she never had an accident and many times ferried me here and there over the years. We met at Papakura Gym and on the very first day we paired up and she drove me home and from there our friendship grew. Soon after she joined me at bowls. When arthritis in her right hand made it difficult she simply taught herself to bowl with the left hand! When I had the same difficulty, she got me using my left hand too.

Pat had a great attitude to life. Whatever was thrown at her, especially regarding her health, she would keep smiling and say: *'Don't make a song and dance about it.'*

Contributed by Margaret Gane, Kara Oosterman and another friend.

In view—Photographers and Walks

We are planning an exhibition on photographers associated with the Papakura District. It is a salute to the power of photography to record knowledge that would be otherwise lost, and also to those who took it on themselves to preserve their present for our present. Some of these photographers were real pioneers.

Our sample is quite varied. It includes two from the Clevedon and Brookby areas who became leading recorders of history in different areas. James Douglas Richardson, born Wairoa and active early in the Twentieth Century, was a bank clerk and manager during his working hours, but in his own time he made it his business to record as much as he could of the Auckland region for posterity. A contemporary with strong Papakura links was Alfred John Tattersall who took ship for Samoa, married a Samoan, and set up as a photographer. He recorded events and people in a dramatic time of change in Samoa, and has been the subject of books and exhibitions. Sentinel has run articles on them.



At the other end of the spectrum we will include local aerial photos from Whites Aviation, and before that, from F. Douglas Mill, a real pioneer of the art from the 1920s and 1930s.

[Left: **Aerial view of the Pahurehure inlet, Papakura c 1930, FDM-0720-G, F. Douglas Mill Collection, Auckland Libraries.]**

This photo is on the front cover of the booklet accompanying the walking map of old Papakura, which is currently being printed. Watch this space for more information about walks.

Then there are photographers living in Papakura. We have previously written

about Anne Campbell nee Hall who provided photos for the *Auckland Weekly News*. George Hardy was a commercial photographer based in Papakura in the 1910s. Many remember Howard's Photography, based on Clevedon Road.

Someone recently donated a small brown Kodak envelope (empty) which once held photos to the value of 2 shillings with a stamp on it inscribed 'Photo by VIC BUTLER Photographer Papakura'. He was in Broadway in 1941-42 before being called up for medical X-ray services.



Any additional information on any of the above or on other photographers, or on providers of photographic equipment in Papakura , would be gratefully received. So would photos.

2022 anniversaries

New Zealand:

100 years ago: Beginnings of radio broadcasting in NZ

75 years ago (1947): Ballantynes fire/ Formation of National (now NZ) Symphony Orchestra

60 years ago (1962): Papakura and District Historical Society established.

50 years ago: Maori Language petition/ First Maori language day and Kapa Haka competitions/
Equal pay legislation/ Papakura Museum established

Around the world:

500 years ago (1522): First recorded circumnavigation of the world—Magellan

460 years ago (1562): First English slave ship (Hawkins)

200 years (1822): Liberia set up for freed slaves from USA

150 years (1875): First FA cup/ Secret ballot introduced UK

110 years ago (1912): *Titanic* launches into iceberg

100 years ago (1922): End of the Ottoman Empire/ Establishment of USSR that lasted 70 years/ Insulin first used to treat diabetes/ Discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb/ Egypt independent from UK/ Gandhi arrested / Start of Irish Civil War and birth of the Irish Free State

75 years ago (1947): UN votes to divide Palestine/ Marshall plan launched for the recovery of Europe/ Truman doctrine by which US took on leadership of the free world—Cold War begins

70 years ago (1952): Elizabeth's reign over UK and Commonwealth begins/ Anne Frank's diary published

50 years ago (1972): Pres. Nixon visits China/ Bloody Sunday in Derry during the 'Troubles'/ Ballistic Treaty between USA and USSR signed/ Massacre of Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics

25 years ago (1997): Hong Kong returns to China—'one country, two systems'/ Death of Princess Diana in Paris/ Mother Teresa dies

Each year *Sentinel* records some of the significant anniversaries from New Zealand and round the world. They surprise us often by reminding us of events we lived through, and they bring a sense of pathos and scale. The Cold War has re-established itself in Europe; Ukraine and Putin remind us of Czechoslovakia and Hitler. The thaw in relationships with China may have ended; could Taiwan be another Anschluss?

Sources include:

<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/resource/9676/historical-anniversaries-calendar>

<https://mch.govt.nz/commemorations-2014-2022>

Kirikiri

10. A settled community—the 1870s

Rob Finlay

The Thames gold rush passed its peak in 1872, and the rural community of Kirikiri between Papakura and the Hunua edge and Pukekiwiriki hill settled into a quieter rhythm. Much had changed in the seven years since the *Viola* and *Resolute* had made land in Auckland. In 1865 about a hundred families or single men from those two ships were dumped onto 10 acre allotments; now about forty remained. Where most of the adults had been in their early twenties, just starting their families, those who remained were older, a lot of the children New Zealand-born. Where Kirikiri had been bush and swamp, echoing to the sounds of axe and the building of sawn timber houses to replace crudely built whare, with choking smoke in late summer, the district was beginning to pride itself in productive, if rough, farms. Many of the 10 acre farms were being enlarged through purchase, and there was a more prosperous feeling abroad. The 'poor Scots' referred to by the kindly storekeeper Robert Willis had become integrated into the life of Papakura, which was also growing with work under way on the railway track that in part cut between Papakura village and Kirikiri Settlement. The sense of belonging to both the Kirikiri settlement and the larger community of Papakura, Papakura and Wairoa Valleys, and Drury, was strengthened by marriage, engagement at work, school, and for most, the Presbyterian church and the Rev Thomas Norrie. On Sundays Kirikiri settlers walked in a swelling stream to the kirk on the hill.

In previous articles I described how many left, especially after title was granted in 1868, most leaving for Thames or Auckland. (I digressed to follow the stories of some who left because many of them maintained links with their first New Zealand home, and sometimes returned to visit, to marry, occasionally for burial.) Some, having profited from their time in Thames, returned with capital to the homes and allotments which their wives and children had maintained. Others, older men or farmers at heart, had never left.

But what was the community of Kirikiri like during the 1870s? The families who remained, as far as I have been able to find them, are listed on page 6. The number continued to dwindle though death and movement elsewhere. The high mortality that had been a constant theme continued. Of the roughly forty families listed, at least 12 adults died during the decade. Taking their youth into account, this is staggeringly high. In most cases cause of death is unknown, but at least two wives died of heart failure, while accidents and childbirth were also factors. Life was hard. (On the other hand, as we will find next time, some hardy folks lived here into their 80s and 90s, and some children and grandchildren remained after them.)

The completion of surveying and new roads meant that Gaelic-speaking John and Christina McDonald, who previously had a sawmill and houses in both allotment and section, were able to shift up to land in the Hunuas, but maintained Papakura links. Others, like the Brisbanes, would move several times within the district to follow a trade other than farming, but most who moved did so for the same reason others enlarged their holdings within Kirikiri: they wanted to farm and 10 acres had never been viable. With more capital, families bought land where they could. For many this was in the Wairoa and Papakura valleys, Opaheke, and Hunua. (The area later called Ardmore began at the top of Kirikiri hills and was often called Wairoa.) All this meant that the Kirikiri community expanded over a wider area, part of the broader social life of Franklin. Those with smaller units, and their older children, supplemented meagre farm incomes by working in the village, on farms or for Railways, or contracting with local authorities for carting and road and bridge maintenance. Their children often found work or married in Auckland, and most left in consequence.

Table tracking Kirikiri/ Papakura families from *Viola* and *Resolute*—1870s to Twentieth Century.

Electoral Rolls 1871/1875	1887 Rates and 1891	Twentieth Century
Colin/Susan Borthwick — to Auckland mid-1870s	-	-
Daniel/Jane Brisbane	<i>Drury, Ak, Maketu, Ararimu, Ardmore</i>	Daniel Alexander retired Papakura, d 1969
Robert/Euphemia Brydon . She d. 1879	Robert in Kirikiri before d. 1900	-
John/Helen Carmichael . She d. 1876.	T D & Anne Campbell —Papakura mid '80s	TD d 1948. Moody and Dunckley *
John/Janet Clarkson —John in Aust by 1880	John d. 1895	-
William/Ellen Clarkson	Janet left for Auckland 1892	-
George/Lucy Clarkson —left 1873	In Kirikiri till he d. 1905.	-
James/Ellen Croskery	-	-
Robert English m Margaret McCrae. She d 1875.	James d 1919. William Croskery	William/Margaret, others. *
William/Marion Fulton	Robert ?	-
Daniel/ Elizabeth Harrison (Daniel d 1875)	Mary d 1908. Farm Dominion Rd	William m Rachael, d 1920. E Bates
Archibald/Sarah Livingstone	-	-
Alexander/Martha Lyon Left 1881	Both died 1892	-
David/Isabella McClymont and TG McClymont	-	-
Robert d78/Martha McCrae & John/Mary McCrae	David d 1887, Fredk d 1998, Thomas G	Thomas G/Janet d 1935, 1945
John/Christina McDonald . <i>To Hunua</i>	John (<i>and Robert jnr Hunua</i>)	John d. 1935
Lee/Jane McKinstry . Lee d 1890	<i>Hunua Elizabeth Watson wid 1874</i>	Elizabeth Haresnape
John/Jane McLennan	<i>James and other family Opaheke</i>	<i>James d 1933</i>
Hugh/Elizabeth McLeod	Farm Dominion Rd	John d 1911. Kenneth left
Gavin/Mary Jane McMurray	Hugh d 1882. Elizabeth m Derbyshire	E Derbyshire d 1962
Alexander/Isabella McNeil	Farm Dominion Rd	Gavin m 1930, aged 90. Hutchinson
Hugh/Ann McWhinney Sold 1875	Farmed. D 1898 and 1900	-
Malcolm/Mary Millar Sold 1875	-	-
Francis/Bridget Mulgrew —Francis d 1876	<i>Wairoa</i>	-
Thomas/Martha Neillie , Martha d 70, Thomas 77	-	-
William/Mary (Rhind) Neillie .	William d 1990	-
John/Agnes Nicol	<i>Ardmore in 1881</i>	<i>John d 1916</i>
Andrew/Elizabeth Pitt	Andrew d 1892. Elizabeth d.1899.	-
James/Mary Rhind	Rhinds Rosebrae on Red Hill	William Rhind
Edward/Jane Rogerson . Edward d 1875	-	-
Andrew/Mary Scotland Mary d 1874, Andrew left	-	-
Clark/Catherine Smith	Expanded farm to 90 ac, farms elsewhere	Sons and grandchildren Papakura*
Robert/Margaret Stewart	D 1893, 1884. Son Douglas Brown, others	DB Stewart d 1928. *
Thomas/Margaret Stewart . <i>Hunuas by 1876</i>	<i>Farm Hunuas</i>	<i>Hunua farms till 1976</i>
William /Sarah Veitch . She d 1880, <i>Wairoa</i>	<i>Ardmore, Wairoa, d 1991</i>	-
James/Jessie Walker	Enlarged farm Hunua Rd. James jnr	D 1907, 1910. <i>James Jnr Opaheke</i>
Charles/Sarah Williams	Farm Red Hill. Last known, sold 1887	-
	Andrew/Catherine McLean ex Wairoa	D 1931, 1934. Richardson descendants *
		Thomas Paton ex Wairoa
		John Peat McCall ex Wairoa, Moutoukai

Explanation: Initial allocation to about 100 families and single men not shown. By the 1870s (Column 1), there were 38-40, and over the decade some died or left. By 1890 (Col. 2) there were 22, with continuing decline. In the twentieth century (Col 3) about 20 strands remain (although marriage with new surnames may hide the real numbers), including some who had come from Wairoa. In some cases several siblings remained in the area.

[* indicates local presence to recent times. *Italics* show neighbouring districts where families moved—out of Kirikiri but not too far—still regularly connected with Kirikiri and Papakura.

In addition to the 10 acre allotments, the Waikato Immigration Scheme had allocated a quarter acre section to every family or single man, including many whose allotments were in Maketu. Title for these came through very late, 1871, after many had well left. The sections had very little value, so the Papakura Town District Rates Books (beginning in 1887) list many of our settlers who were not paying rates, often address unknown, a common problem in many settlements where recipients of grants were absentees. Most of those who stayed lived on their farms, although some had built houses on the sections, so much of this land was unoccupied, possibly leased for grazing, perhaps not as developed as the larger Kirikiri allotments. As far as I can tell, only two or three families moved off their 10 acres onto the quarter acre sections at this stage: Andrew and Elizabeth Pitt who bought several sections, including the whole 2-acre block between what became Chapel and Onslow roads; and Hugh and Elizabeth McLeod, who appear to have been renting.

Let's take a trip round Kirikiri on a fine winter's day in 1873

[Twenty first century intrudes with some modern street names to help us with our fictional tour.]

Perhaps we will engage Andrew Pitt to provide a tour on his dray, drawn by one of his horses. He grazes them on the 2 acre block (eight quarter acre sections) he owns near the edge of the village. He won't be working for Railways today. We meet him at his block on the corner of the Opaheke road out from town where another road opposite the cemetery leads to 'the Settlement'. At the cemetery a group of men are putting up a fence: George Clarkson led the way by putting up some money for it, puir man. His wife Janet and wee son William are buried there with far too many of our folk. Pitt turns down the Kirikiri [Onslow] road. It is a mainly dirt road with some gravel and wide weedy verges, and patches of bush. Thistles! Whoever brought them should be given the job of digging them all. It wasna us. We would have left them in Scotland. The road is mainly fenced with a few cottages, gardens and orchards, sometimes with sheep, house cows or pigs, and fowl pecking on the road. Stands of bush remain, messy round the edges through continued felling or regrowth. Pitt tells us it's been dry for a week or so, so the road will be rutted but won't be too muddy.

We pause at the single railway track crossing—two regular trains twice a day since May, and we know when they will come, but you have to be careful. Sometimes there's a locomotive by itself or a train carrying rail-making materials for track-work beyond Mercer. It was very busy here when the track was being constructed. We always watch out for cattle on the loose, and chase them if we see them near the lines. The station is on the left. More quarter acre sections— a few of them occupied, before we come to the first of the Allotments.

On the right is part of the grand farm of young George Clarkson, who discovered the Shotover gold. Changed all our lives. The post and three rail fence is well constructed, much of it hiding behind hedges, and the pasture looks healthy, sheep grazing among the stumps. He's a rich man now and he's built a grand house down the end of that track [now Marne]. He calls it Kuranui after that Shotover gold stream where the bonanza began. He has about 20 allotments, gave a good price for them too. Many of us worked on that house and some are working on his farm. He's made us proud. And he's been generous with his wealth. Back in Glasgow he was just a coal miner, now he's the laird of Kuranui. George Clarkson Esquire. This near corner of his farm used to belong to our Deputy Superintendent Davidson, who had a fine hotel in Thames, before it all failed. And now his puir wife Christina lies in the cemetery behind us too. Very sad. No children.

On our left [Mansell field, Papakura Intermediate], that is the McClymont land. 20 acres because young Tom got an allotment too. David is getting on, we call him the auld man, but he has good lads to work on the land. He had a big advantage when he arrived. His oldest lad was here already, at the Wairoa, top of the Kirikiri ridge over there. Was in the Forest Rangers, had lots of adventures. But that's in the past. On the right Smith's road leads to Livingstones' and then Clark Smith's farm—he's bought out some neighbours too. Most of them are in Thames now. He's determined to make a farm of it. Always working. He planted a row of oaks to remind him of Antrim, after cutting and burning all the forest.

On the corner here—that's the Hunua road—is Brisbane's [Edmund Hillary School]. They only have 5 acres, but then he's a man of business, her too. Hunua road only goes to the bottom of the hills. The surveyors have the idea of continuing it up the Hay's Creek gorge. Past him are Croskery, Walker, McLennan, and Smith and Clarkson's farms again.

And left, this road [Kelvin] leads to Lyons' and then if you go back towards the village [along Willis] there's Robbie and Euphemia Brydons' and Rob and Maggie Stewarts'.

We continue along the Settlement road, which heads more or less straight for the Hunua edge. Harrison on the left and Carmichael on the right. Now William Clarkson—the oldest of the three brothers—on the left (with his brother John's 10 acres next—or, more like his sister-in-law Jane's) and young Neillie on the right. Both have 20 acres, Clarkson because he bought Tiernan's, Neillie because his father is next door. Will Clarkson will probably be going down to Dunedin with his brother, but says he'll hold onto the land for now.

There's a dirt crossroads—ruts to navigate. [Dominion Road] Road goes up north to meet the Wairoa [Clevedon] road—McKinstry's and Borthwicks still up there, but Colin Borthwick is trying to sell. He's a canny carpenter—has a good trade, but he's not very well. Beyond them was Ring's Redoubt on the road, where the folks who came on the *Viola* lived in tents by the soldiers when they first came over from Wairoa. Opposite is McNeil. And looking right to meet Hunua road where it ends at the Hays creek are McMurray, Veitch, and now Fulton who bought out Hamilton and McLeod. This is where the Maori village used to be. Some of those bare peach and fig trees they planted. We get the rock for the roads from quarries up here, and Davidson worked a lime kiln.

We cross a narrow timber bridge—the Kirikiri stream, and soon the horse has his head down a little. Road's a bit rough here. To the left there's a small roadside stall with produce. Frank and Bridie Mulgrew—they're Irish. You often see Frank on the road with his horse and cart selling produce. And Thomas Stewart to right. Stewart spends most of his time cutting trees. I think he has his eye on some land up in the Hunuas.

The horse is pulling hard. Now, do you call that a road? A narrow track runs off to the right just past Stewarts' below the steeper slope. Tea tree branches lie across the tracks, slick with black mud. It's always wet, that track, even when it's dry. Water from the hill. McCraes down there, and they farm Rob English's land, who married their older lass. It's a bit of a hill farm. But take a look behind you. A view of the valley back to the village is beginning to open up through the remnants of trees. There are larger patches of bush up here.

Most of the farms up ahead are not part of the Settlement. They're bigger, and rugged. Only the Murrays got their land up here and they left. Now that glen runs up to a crater. They say a battle with the Natives was fought up here before we arrived below that brow scarped Red Hill. That was a pa—a fort. Someone was up the top there giving signals during the fight, but they pulled back into the hills. All gone now. I grew up near Edinburgh, reminds me of a smaller Arthur's Seat with trees.

Up the top the road loops right while the country drops on both sides till it comes behind Red Hill. Rhinds have bought land here. And then [Red Hill Road] it turns back towards Papakura, and through the trees a vista opens out all along the scarp of the Hunuas, then down the rolling valleys towards Drury and beyond up to distant hills. Whoa! Steady there girl! And then looking straight ahead a great view out to the Manukau Heads with the curved arms of the Pahurehure inlet polished grey under the cloudy sky.

In the foreground. That's the settlement. All the toil and deaths and grief, and the beginnings of farms. But 10 acres! No-one can make a living on 10 acres even if you have a big family and you get out and sell your produce. You still need capital. You either buy more land or sell your labour. Most of those who are still here have more than 10 acres now. The others were eager to sell and had big hopes for the Thames. Charles and Elizabeth Williams live here. They're the high farm now their neighbours have left.

At the bottom of the Red Hill road the cart turns right and winds a hundred yards down to the flat where Hays Creek opens out of the Hunua gorge. As we return towards Papakura, there's McLennans', Walkers' - 50 acres now—and then when we go onto the boundary road, that's all Clarksons', even after we cross the railway line—need to watch here, road's close to the bend in the tracks—and pull up towards the Opaheke ridge. That was our place, beside Bulls' who bought it before selling to Clarkson.

At the top, the Opaheke road, we turn right, passing Andy Scotland's 20 acres and then it's mainly scrub and small paddocks in the village quarter acre sections, some leased, most doing nothing. We live here, and so do McLeods. And a few others have a house here even if they live on the allotments. Including some of the Maketu people. But most of them are deserted and no one pays the rates on them. Me, I'm happy to buy or rent some. It's all I need to graze my horses and keep a garden and chooks for the missus, and it's close to the village and railway station. With the railways now, Papakura is going to start growing, and these lots will be worth something. I have a good lad to help. He'll be making his own way soon.

Here we are. Come on in, meet the missus and have a dram! Or tea, if that's your fancy. There's a while before the evening train. [Thanks to Andrew Pitt for allowing the liberty.]

Clarkson Heyday

The early 1870s up to 1873 was the closest the Settlement came to being anything like the Scottish/ Irish Scots community the immigrants had left behind. Most of the land was now owned by the settlers, and the community was dominated by a prosperous farm owned by one of their own, and one of the youngest.

I have previously told the story of **George Clarkson** and the farm he created which became known as Everslie (*Sentinel* #41, June 19 & #42, Aug 1919), and in issue #55 (Oct 2021) I described his mining adventures at the Thames. But this is the story of the Kirikiri community. Clarkson's original 10 acres was a triangular block by the Otuwairoa stream along the southern boundary. He made a start with clearing the land, but when his wife died and he had no income it was probably one of the more neglected blocks, as there was no one to maintain it when he went to Thames. He ran a good risk of losing it because it had to be occupied 11 months in the year. But gold changed all that. Overnight he was a rich man with money to spend. He was able to marry young Lucy Bull who lived on the allotment at the corner of the Opaheke and Boundary roads.

And he was able to enjoy the privileges of his new-found wealth and the status that came with it. Mr and Mrs Clarkson with Mr and Mrs Copley (Henry, one of his Shotover partners, also bought land at Papakura) were able to pay the expensive tickets for a glittering citizen's ball at the Fort Britomart Barracks, a rare occasion where 'the wealth and fashion of Auckland... congregated together', with the visiting Duke of Edinburgh and Governor Bowen and his lady, and many officers. The guests danced Quadrilles, Waltzes, Lancers, Polkas and Galops, the music played by the band of the Royal Irish 18th, with great spirit till midnight, when the company took their seats for supper, and fulsome Victorian toasts were delivered. *DSC* 14/5/69. (The 18th Regiment had been at Ring's Redoubt,)

Clarkson presented cups for the Thames races and the Caledonian games in Newmarket, sat on the committee to set up a Thames Presbyterian church, was generous to other miners. By May 1869 he had joined the Papakura Association, and at the monthly meeting was elected vice-chairman, with his neighbour to the south William Hay as chairman. The decision was made at that meeting to focus on agriculture.

Meanwhile he bought out most of his immediate Kirikiri neighbours. He was acquiring an asset of course, but the prices he paid were generous, enabling some of them to buy elsewhere. The records I have consulted (so far) don't provide the full story of his purchases, but in 1868 he had at least 150 acres, and maybe as early as that year he owned allotments stretching from Charles Davidson's on the Settlement road to his neighbour John McLennan's on the corner of Boundary and Hunua roads, and once his father-in-law Henry Bull had left it extended up the Boundary road to Opaheke Road. He ended up with a farm of 214 acres. He also appears to have bought other allotments such as William Deveney's Allot 52, and onsold them. (Allot 52 ended up in the hands of Charles Williams and then Clark Smith, who were also enlarging their holdings).

Most of these neighbours were involved in the gold rush, some like John McGregor and George Symington, working for a time for Clarkson in Thames or in Auckland where he built two houses at Remuera and the Mining Company had its office. The Gilmores were in Auckland. Some stayed in Thames, but others of those he bought out – Alexander McNeil, Andrew Pitt, Daniel Brisbane and three neighbours along Hunua Road,

(John McLennan, James Croskery and William Fulton), remained in Kirikiri or returned here. The latter three all bought up blocks of two or more allotments not far away, McNeil bought one. Andrew Pitt, an engine man back in Glasgow, decided not to farm, so was able to use his money to buy up some of the 1/4 acre sections closer to the Village of Papakura. Andrew Brisbane was happy to live on the remaining five acre allotment.

Not only did George Clarkson buy up their land, he also employed some of them, paying them £2 per acre to fell trees. Apart from ploughing, sowing of grass and fencing, he advertised for men to dig drainage ditches. Was Malcolm Millar, ploughman, called on for his expertise? Clarkson said he was employing 24 men at £2 each a week. His aim was to rear sheep.

And he had two other projects. First there was the matter of a mansion which he called Kuranui, in honour of the source of his wealth. (He also named a daughter Louise Shotover.) And with the house were stables and the horses and carriages to go with them. Because George Clarkson loved horses.

A newspaper article described a party he gave on 11 November 1868 to thank the men who had built his house. 25 men, including his father, sat down to dinner at Reid's hotel. After a sumptuous feast, they marched in fours to the farm, passing by his existing cottage at the corner of *Chapel and King St*, where young Mrs Clarkson came out and poured 'mountain dew' for all the men, who drank success to the new house and loudly cheered her. Arriving at Kuranui, up the long drive, they formed into two lines, cheering vociferously as he entered the house between them. The afternoon ended with sports and prizes, brother-in-law Charles Bull winning a horse. And further drinks. The house was built of local stone and imported materials including brick foundations and a slate roof, and had 9 rooms with a large hall. So he may have employed masons like James Walker, bricklayers like John Carmichael or Andrew McLean from Wairoa, carpenters like Colin Borthwick or John Parker. John McLennan was a plumber, James Robertson a slater. Probably George and Lucy employed 'help' - work for someone's daughter. There was a lawn round the house—a gardener?

As for horses, there were two stables with space for ten horses and a 'large and commodious coachhouse'. His stables had glass fronted doors for the harness cupboards. There were draught horses for work on the land, and light harness horses for the coaches. He owned a brougham, drawn by a pair of matching dapple grey horses, and a footman to drive it. And presumably stable hands. Lucy, because she was short and wore voluminous skirts and couldn't reach the step of the carriage, had her own little gig and Shetland ponies.' The *Herald* reported the arrival of 5 horses and 3 Shetland ponies on the *Hero* in January 1870. A boy working for him was injured when a horse he was riding fell on him, fortunately not too severely, according to Dr Zinzan. Mrs Clarkson and her coachman were involved in a headlong collision on the Great South Road in February 1872: her horses were quiet and stopped immediately the little damage was mainly to carriage lamps and harness.

In addition to time in Thames they took a trip back to Yorkshire and Scotland via USA with their growing family. They lived for some time in Remuera, but by 1873 settled back in Kirikiri, George throwing himself more into the Papakura farm and community and with a new coal mining project near Mercer. He must have needed a farm manager, but there are no clues who he might have turned to. And then he put his farm up for sale to launch a new coal-mining venture in Dunedin. It was turned in at sale but a subsequent deal was made.

That deal ended an era. While George Clarkson remained, the Kirikiri community was dominated by the *Viola* and *Resolute* immigrants of 1865. They owned most of the land, and the largest and most successful landowner was one of their own. (I'm not sure when the farm came to be called Everslie. If it was named after a horse, it may have been named by Clarkson.) But there was some continuity. Although the next owner, gentleman farmer William Pile Gordon, was West Indies born and buried in an Anglican cemetery, his Sydney-born widow Nina (Selina), nee Deloitte, and her second husband Donegal-born James Joseph Niblock, then Dugald Cairns who rented the farm for a while, and James and Mary Black who bought it, were all Presbyterians and are buried with the Kirikiri settlers they met regularly at church. Gordon and subsequent owners also continued Clarkson's focus on sheep farming. Gordon was a pioneer in both Australia and New Zealand—he had farms at different times in Queensland, Dunedin and south Sydney—in the farming of Romney crossbreds. Under him, Everslie farm and mansion were used by the people of Papakura for picnic and parties, so remained a significant part of the community.

HUNTER & NOLAN

Have received instructions from Mr. George Clarkson, to sell, on his farm, near Papakura, on Wednesday, July 9,

- 330** LONGWOOLLED and Half-bred Ewes and Ewe Hoggetts
 4 Longwoolled Rams, Dairy Cows, 3 Calves
 5 Draught and Light-harness Horses, Horse Rake, Large Iron Roller
 4 Ploughs (different sorts), Harrows, Swingletrees, New Reaping Machine, Mowing Machinery (nearly new), Lawn-cutter, 2 tons Bone-dust, 2 tons Eating Potatoes, Lot of Shaft, Plough, and Leading Harness, Chest Drawers, Chairs, Tables, Bedsteads, Cheffoniers, Large Writing Desk
 10 tons Meadow Hay, 5 tons Oaten Hay, about 100 head Poultry, Berkshire Sow and Boar, Empty Bags, &c., &c.; at 1 o'clock.

The end of an era. Three advertisements: Above, first, selling stock, stores and furniture, NZH, 4/7/1873; Top right, from *Daily Southern Cross*, 15/8/1873, and lower right, NZH 22/8/73, advertising the farm. Note variations on the name of farm and difference of 32 acres in the advertised size.

F O R S A L E,
 the Farm known as Clarkson's, at Papakura, containing 214 Acres, securely fenced, on which is erected a superior Brick Dwelling house, with large and commodious coach-house, stables, and outbuildings. Price required, £2,000
 ALFRED BUCKLAND.

THIS DAY.

THE HAY MARKET.

The undersigned has received instructions from Mr. George Clarkson, to sell, This Day (Friday), 20th August, at 12 o'clock,

THE FARM known as "KURANUI," situated at Papakura, containing 182 acres, all in grass, securely fenced, and subdivided, together with the substantial Dwelling-house of eight rooms, with slated roof and brick foundation, first-class stables, and coach-house.

ALFRED BUCKLAND.

Reshuffling land

Clarkson wasn't the only one to buy up land and augment his holdings. I have already mentioned the three neighbours along Hunua Road who he bought out for a good price, enabling them to buy elsewhere. James Croskery moved just over the road, buying first from John Watson before he went to Australia, and then from Alexander Mathieson. William Fulton bought Allotment 27 and in October 1872 bought the adjoining land of Andrew Hamilton (Allot 17, for £30, maybe on-selling to Alexander McNeil) and Hugh McLeod (Allot 23, for £20). (In 1904, Andrew Hamilton, then a farmer in Karangahake, also sold his quarter acre lot 10 to William Fulton for £2 6s 9d.) John McLennan ended up with 30 acres further out on Hunua Road. (See maps on page 16 for locations.)

Clark Smith who had set his mind determinedly on becoming a successful farmer bought up most of the rest of the block between Smith and Hunua roads. By 1887 he had 40 acres, and the family ended up with 90 Kirikiri acres between Smith and Dominion roads, and went on to acquire land between South Street and Beach Road (south of Papakura village) while his older son had an Ardmore farm until he left the area.

Others who augmented their holdings were James **Walker** (50 acres on Hunua Road); William Veitch (Dominion Road—20 acres); Robert Brydon (Willis Street 20 acres, and later another 10 on Settlement Road); Alexander Lyon (Kelvin Road, bought out Tullis—20 acres); Charles Williams (Red Hill who bought 20 acres between Hunua and Dominion roads later bought by Smith); William Clarkson who bought another 10 acres (and probably managed or helped to manage, his sister-in-law Janet's 10 acres); Gavin McMurray; Andrew Scotland who acquired the neighbouring McWhinney block by Opaheke Road. Henry Bull briefly owned a second allotment, perhaps Pitt's, before selling to George Clarkson. Meanwhile father and son holdings were consolidated by McCrae (Red Hill, later farming the land of brother-in-law Robert English); McClymont (Settlement Road). Some also bought up 1/4 acre sections, and others, even in this early period bought in Ardmore or Hunua, like John Nicol, Malcolm Millar, Thomas Stewart, McKinstrys.

To these add those who kept their original 10 acres: Robert Stewart, John Carmichael, Francis Mulgrew, William Neillie, and Alexander McNeil on a new allotment, and those two or three who held onto or added to their 1/4 acre sections, and we have the remains of the Kirikiri community from *Viola* and *Resolute*.

1870s and early 1880s

People continued to leave. And in this issue the main focus is on those of the Settlement who were gone by the early 1880s. Noticeably those who had remained were among the older immigrants.

Colin and Susan Borthwick, *Resolute* immigrants from Argyle, on Dominion Road, were energetic and capable. He was a carpenter who presented field gates and sheep hurdles for show at the Agricultural Association and made the desks for the Drury school. At the Cattle Show at Ellerslie in Nov 1874 Susan 'exhibited woollen yarn and men's socks made from wool grown on Mrs W Hay's farm at Papakura and knitted by herself. She deservedly won 1st prize.' Colin does not appear to have tried mining and continued to farm Allot 14 at Kirikiri, although the land was on the market in 1871-2. (Land often was slow to sell.) Three acres were fenced in grass, and £30 was the offering price. Maybe poor health was a factor in their move to Auckland. They seem to have left by 1875, and Colin died in Parnell in 1881, aged 54. Susan remarried, under her maiden name McLachlan.

Death was a constant theme. I have already told the story of Edward **Rogerson** who had enlarged his holding on Dominion Road, but drowned at Rangiriri in 1872, aged 32. His widow and two if not all three children returned to Scotland. Daniel **Harrison**, whose land was on the corner of Settlement and Kelvin roads died in the same year, aged 40. A petition was drawn up by some of the leading figures of Papakura (Hay, Willis, Walter, Clow, Lindsay) requesting assistance for the widow Elizabeth and the three children.

Martha **Neillie** died, aged 42, in 1870, and by 1877 her husband Thomas, had moved to a new home 'in the range above the school house in Ardmore'. He died tragically that year, aged 60. An inquest held at the Travellers' Rest Hotel heard how his daughter had become concerned after he had gone out in search of a cow and calf, and not returned. She had searched, calling out, along the cattle track. After a sleepless night, she went into Papakura and Mr Rhind, an in-law, helped her find his body: the heavy limb of a tawa tree had fallen on his head. He was 'of quiet and unobtrusive habits'. He left two sons and three daughters. William, married to Mary Rhind, continued on his allotment on the corner of Dominion and Settlement roads. (His brother Thomas was a wood-splitter in Papakura, providing heart of kauri shingles 13s 6d per 1000, palings and kauri posts, but left Papakura after his uninsured house burned down under suspicious circumstances. He was dogged by misfortune, assaulted at home in Mt Roskill, then his building there burned down, the fire spreading to neighbouring properties. He became ill and died in 1889 of paraplegia.)

Francis Mulgrew also seems to have died in hospital as a result of an accident. The family appear to have been Catholics from County Tyrone or Derry, so were a minority in a Presbyterian community. They had lived in Stevenston in Ayrshire—the town that the McCraes came from. After a brief stint in Thames Francis returned to the allotment at the foot of the Kirikiri hills, and set himself up as a carrier and chapman; they also had a small fruit shop, perhaps on their urban section. They had bought a second urban section adjacent to the first on Arawa Road. In March 1875 Francis was thrown out of his trap (the effect of bad roads or a skittish horse?) and 'sustained a severe fracture of the leg.' He died in the following year, perhaps from complications, aged 53, in Auckland. W. Shanaghan, Court Clerk, Papakura, wrote in the paper about the circumstances of his widow: 'She lives in Papakura, has six young children, and is far from being in easy circumstances... She will have now almost to depend exclusively on the business of carrier and chapman, having to go to town herself, and in consequence the proceeds of the shop will be lost, having no one to take care of it in her absence. She has no property, is not free from debt, and no other means of support for herself and family but what she may earn.' In the following month, the wider community responded with contributions and concern. Mr P Doran and his 'comic and dramatic friends' held an entertainment for her benefit, and on Friday 3 March a ball was held at the Papakura Public Hall. After his death the family retained a local presence for a while. In October 1879, J B Hay successfully sued 'Mulgrew' for the princely sum of £49 9s 6d. His widow may have gone to Otahuhu and then Australia but at least one son known by the Local Board remained in New Zealand, in Gumland, Coromandel, and was approached to pay rates. The Town Board wrote giving him the option of clearing his allotment or paying the Board to do it.

Others left for unknown reasons. Hugh **McWhinney** on Opaheke Road (10 acres between Short and Albert streets) sold in 1875 to Andrew **Scotland**, but Andrew had already lost his 37 year old wife Mary the previous year. There were no children. He remarried and then also left Papakura and disappeared. Robert English also lost his wife Margaret McCrae in childbirth in 1875. His land was later farmed by his brother in-law John McCrae, and I don't know when he left.

Thomas and Margaret Stewart were in Hunua by 1876. **McKinstry**s bought land in the Opaheke area. Antrim-born John **Nicol** and his Glasgow born wife Agnes were in Ardmore by 1880, farming on the Clevedon Road. The Veitches first added a neighbouring allotment, but by the time Sarah died aged 60, he was farming 200 acres in Ardmore with his son William. **The Veitches**, William and his second wife Sarah, had come out to New Zealand with two sons, followed in 1867 by a daughter Mary. Eleven years later, living with only a housekeeper, he was robbed and murdered by Thomas Fry, a casual worker he had reluctantly hired to help bring in his oats harvest. When interviewed on his death bed, he said he always paid his workers at the field, and it must have been then that the killer saw his watch and purse, which he stole. The jury's verdict was wilful murder. William was buried in the Presbyterian Church at Wairoa South, and the family left the area.

Not all the early deaths were followed by departure from Kirikiri.

John and Helen (or Ellen) Carmichael were one of the older couples, he 41 and she 36 when they arrived on the *Viola*, with two young sons. Another three children were born in Kirikiri. Their allotment was on Settlement Road (55) opposite Kelvin Road, and there is no sign that they added to it. He was a bricklayer, and he probably found work locally in that trade: the wooden houses all had chimneys. Ellen died suddenly in 1876, when she was 49 and the youngest son was 4. She suddenly felt ill, he helped her to bed, told the neighbours, and started to Papakura for medicine, but by the time he got back she had gone. An inquest at the Globe Hotel decided the cause was heart disease. John remained in Papakura.

Only three years after Ellen Carmichael's death, another wife, aged 58, died suddenly at her home along Willis Road (Allot 81) in very similar circumstances. Euphemia **Brydon** wife of Robert was well respected and her passing left a gloom over the neighbourhood. Robert and his family remained farming in the area. They had been one of the older couples, she aged 44 and he 42, when they arrived on the *Resolute*, with Robert 11, Samuel 9 and Alexander 5. No further children were born in New Zealand.

One family left in disgrace and contention. Alexander **Lyon** was 45, describing himself as a labourer, and his wife Agnes was 39 when they emigrated on the *Resolute* with John, 15, Alexander, 13, Martha, 6, Hugh, 3 and Andrew 11 months. (Born in E Kilbride, Lanarkshire, In 1851 he was working as a potato merchant in Dunbar, East Lothian in 1851; ten years later, after marrying Agnes Gordon in July 1858 at Glasgow, he was a labourer.) Electoral rolls suggest they had increased their holding by 1869, adding Allotment 92 to the original 91 on Kelvin Road. Most of the many newspaper references to the Lyon(s) family are to disputes over cattle and fences, some of them becoming abusive—they appear to have been fairly fiery— with the inference that the fences were inadequate. Other situations that appeared in newspapers included the drowning of a son (inadequate cover for the well), the loss of their house in a fire, and a case he took to the Supreme Court in 1880 against a neighbour for the seduction of his daughter resulting in the birth of a child the previous year. The case, in which he sued Robert Willis junior for £150, showed that 14 years after arrival, the farm was still in a fairly rugged state. Young Willis was frequently on the Lyon property on shooting trips, where he allegedly encountered Martha. She used to deliver butter to the Willis store on Fridays. Witnesses revealed that Martha had worked in the Globe Hotel, but had been dismissed after being found in a bedroom with a manservant.

On 14/7/79 the birth of 'Martha Gordon Lyons, illegitimate', was registered by her grandfather Alexander. The mother was 18 year old Glasgow-born Martha. Court evidence over the seduction case refers to her father as a hard man, who beat his wayward daughter, who would spend the night in the bush to avoid him. But Mrs

Clark Smith attested to the 'respectability of the Lyons family who were regarded as honest, industrious people'. Questions arise: did her father blame her for the drowning of her brother in June 1868, did his disfavour lead to her unruly behaviour? In court, Willis denied accusations, but said that Lyon had suggested the only compensation would be to buy his land, excellent cattle country, suggesting £300, which was almost double the £160 he had previously asked for in discussion with Willis and his brother. He talked about moving to Albertland. The court awarded £100 plus costs. And the Lyons left, for in 1881, Amos Eyes, stationmaster, bought the two lots, and his two sons farmed it. Alexander Lyon was a watchman at Aratapu in 1890 and a gumdigger at Taupaki in 1896. He appears to have died in 1898, but his widow Agnes and youngest son Gordon appear in Auckland up till 1914, around the time of her death.

George Clarkson had two brothers in Kirikiri. William and his wife Ellen went with him to Dunedin and were involved in the coal mine, but returned and made Kirikiri his home. William described himself in Electoral Rolls as a miner all his life. Perhaps the presence next door of Janet, wife of his absent brother John, helped anchor them in Papakura. William had to be man for his wife Ellen, his sister in law Janet, seven daughters and nieces one son and one nephew.

John Clarkson seemed to lack the steadiness of William or the drive and good nature of George. Their last child was born in 1871. Newspapers name him in connection with a string of drink and theft offences. Unlike his brothers John did not buy a share in the Clarkson Company. He appears to have left Papakura by 1874, and was removed from the Electoral Roll in that year, but Janet remained, living next to her in-laws. John was not there when his 4 year old son James broke his thigh, 'playing in a paddock adjoining his mother's house, when he was knocked or trodden on by a horse that was grazing there.' The doctor attended but was not able to set the bone till the next day. He was last listed in Wisers Directory in 1878, and In 1880, he was arrested on a warrant in Whangarei, charged with travelling on the Auckland and Papakura Railway on Christmas Eve of 1879 without a ticket. He pleaded guilty, saying that he was out of work and had no money. He went to Australia and did not return, but his wife and family continued on family land to some extent dependent on William and Ellen. At the marriage of their daughter Rosina at Mrs Janet Clarkson's home at Papakura in 1884, it was her uncle William who signed as witness. By 1892, possibly following the death of her husband in Penrith, Sydney in 1891, she was free to sell the property and move to Karangahape Road where a daughter was living.

William and Ellen were stalwarts of the community. Ellen was appointed 'as assistant teacher and sewing mistress to the Papakura school' in 1872. It found in her 'an experienced and accomplished teacher' who could also provide private instruction 'in music etc'. Her art was also noted. The school was still at the Presbyterian church until 1877, so she doubtless led the 'walking bus' of Kirikiri children down the Settlement road, through the village, up to the church. She would have been aware of those, like Clark Smith, William Neillie and Alexander Lyon, who rather begrudged the time little children wasted in schools.

One family who left Kirikiri in the 1870s, but never left the community, maintaining Papakura links well into the Twentieth Century, was that of **Daniel Brisbane and Jane Love** from Ayrshire. Brisbane demonstrates that descriptions provided on shipping lists are an inadequate measure of a person's potential or abilities. Described on the *Resolute* list as 'labourer', he had strong latent abilities. He was born in Beith, Ayrshire, where he was at 13, in 1851, an iron moulder living with his parents. In 1861 he was working as a hand calico engraver in Glasgow. In Kirikiri, he quickly became involved in community affairs: at the end of 1865 he chaired the meeting of the Kirikiri emigrants over provision of a doctor, and by 1874 he had began his long association with Highway Boards: notices were published advising that Hunua Highway Board assessments should be paid to Daniel Brisbane 'at his residence, Kirikiri'. But the family was already on the move. When neighbours, John and Ellen Carmichael's infant son Andrew died in October 1872, it was at the home of Jane Brisbane, shopkeeper, Drury. Clearly Jane Love was a capable shopkeeper and nurse. Daniel became storekeeper at Maketu at the corner of Dale Road by 1876 and their house there was on the Great South Road in 1882. He was on the

school board in 1877. (In 1879 Maketu was renamed Ramarama.)

By this time, between the 1870s and 1893, he had begun progressively buying up adjoining parts of lot 108 Opaheke in the Ararimu Valley near Totara Road, selling some and passing part of it to a son-in-law, Janet's husband Alexander Jones. In 1967 there was still an old house dating back to the family. He described himself as a farmer in the 1880s and 1890s. By December 1876, when he witnessed Martin Curtin's behaviour after his murder of Dennis Shanaghan at Ararimu, he was recorded as a storekeeper of Ararimu. Curtin had come to his store asking for the loan of a pound, and mentioned a great fight. John McDonald was another witness at the 1877 trial. He was also the 'respected superintendant' of the Ararimu South Sabbath school, providing entertainment for the children, and chairing meetings. He was on the committee of the Maketu Presbyterian congregation in 1882. He continued his work with the Highway Boards, keeping the valuation list at Ararimu. In 1881 Mr Daniel Brisbane was clerk, collector or secretary for Opaheke Highway District between 1880 and 1895, and he was on the Opaheke licensing committee.

We will meet the Brisbanes again in subsequent articles, along with others who remained at the area.

Kirikiri in Papakura Community

The Settlement, dispersing out beyond Kirikiri into the wider area, was very much part of the Papakura community, joining in all aspects of local life. Mention has already been made to the Papakura Agricultural Association. A meeting at the Globe Hotel in 1871 to draw up a Volunteer Rifle Corps elected young Thomas McClymont as ensign. Andrew McClymont was on the first combined school committee in 1869: Hugh McLeod was drill master and Ellen Clarkson assistant teacher in 1872. Gavin McMurray also joined the school committee. Henry Bull was one of the signatories (and auditor) when the Literary Society was drawn up in 1879, Frederick McClymont was a Trustee.

They attended political meetings. John McLennan was reported at a Papakura meeting of Electors of Franklin in 1874 expressing his support for the end of the North Island provinces. He was probably motivated by the fact that the provinces were chronically underfunded, a situation which had led to many of the problems of the Kirikiri settlement in its infancy. The provinces came to an end in 1876. At the 1874 AGM of the Hunua Highway District, the Settlement was well represented: Daniel Brisbane appointed collector of rates (a lifelong association), William Fulton as a fenceviewer, and Andrew McClymont, the oldest son (and strictly speaking, not a Kirikiri settler), was auditor.

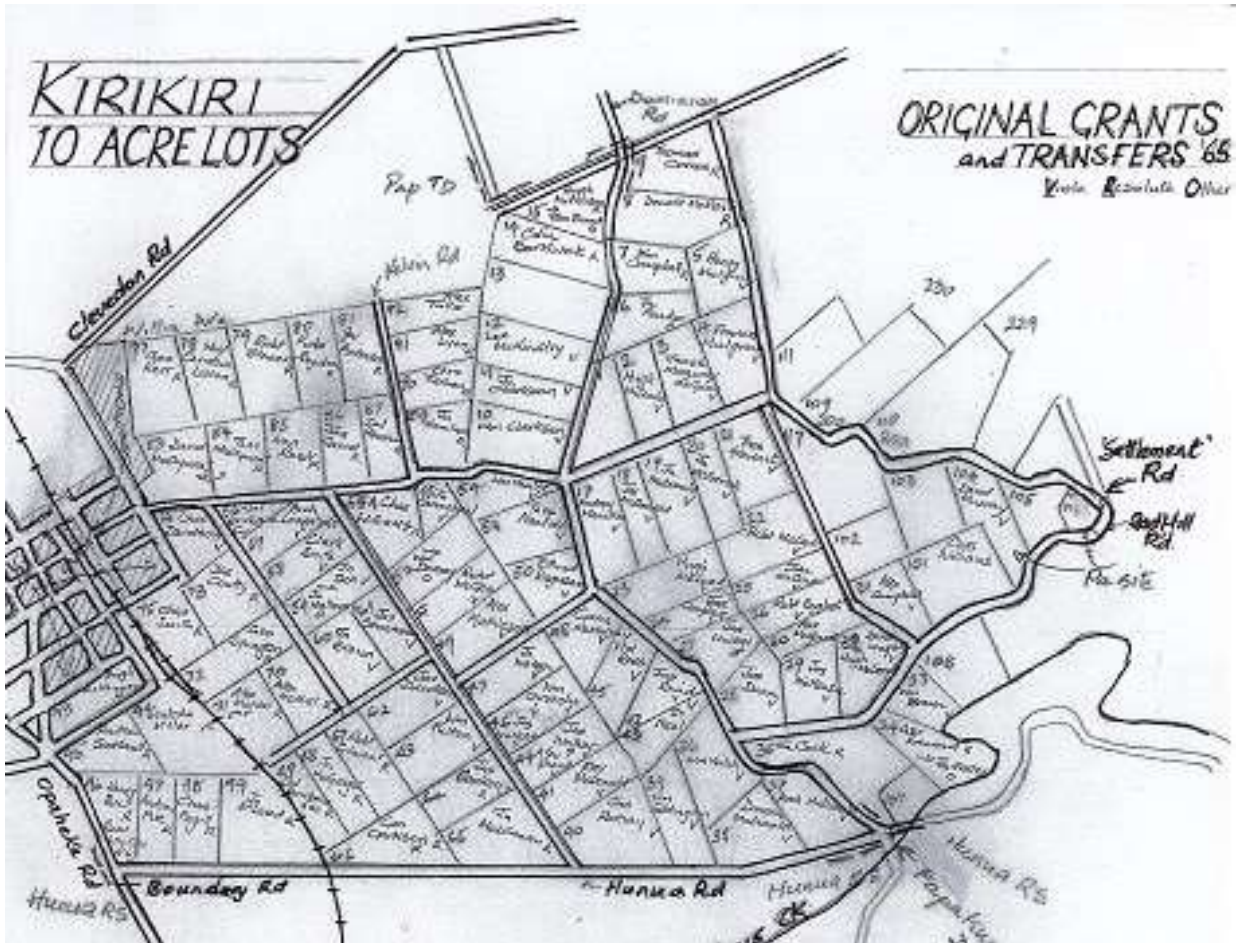
The Presbyterian church was central to their social lives. Reports of soirees in the early 1870s gave prominence to one of the youngest ladies, Mrs G Clarkson. Mr C Borthwick gave a recitation in 1873. At the 1876 Annual meeting of the united congregations, a 'table was provided by the settlers of Kirikiri, at which Mrs McNeil presided.' In 1879 the Committee of Management for the Papakura Presbyterian congregation consisted of Gavin McMurray, Frederick McClymont (son, aged 28), Alexander McNeil, and four others. They were also involved with the Lodges.

The younger members of the community contributed as well; in 1877 a 'very successful ball (was) given by young men in Papakura to their numerous friends': one of those balls which lasted into the wee small hours, held in the hall in Papakura. The Stewards were Messrs McKinstry (the MC), Robert and Samuel Brydon, McNeil. These had all been children when they immigrated.

Kirikiri folk played in sports teams. McClymont were prominent in cricket. And as the years continued Kirikiri folk featured in rugby as well.

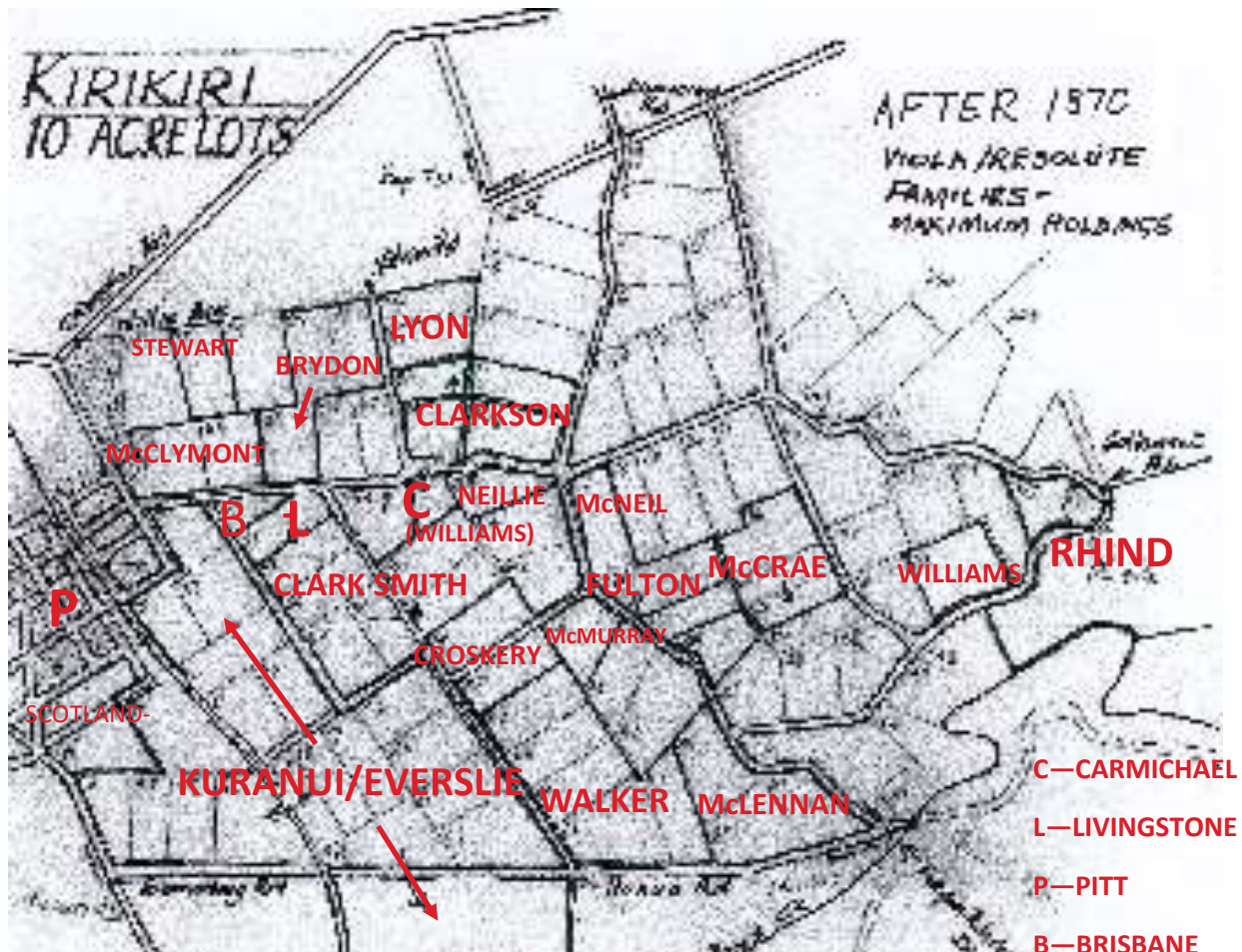
The next issue will feature the Kirikiri community from the 1880s and into the early 20th century as Kirikiri became a mature rural district just outside the growing Papakura town. A second generation would come to prominence, and most of the first would slowly pass on.

Sources: as indicated on previous articles. Citations provided on request.



Maps of the 10 acre allotments. **Above**, the original allocation in 1865, when each grant was of 10 acres.

Below: land holding after 1870, when many left and a few enlarged their holdings. (Apologies for quality.)



NOTICES

Meetings will be announced closer to time, but for this month:

Thursday 24 February, 1 pm—Edward Bennett will speak on ‘The Victorian way of death’. All precautions taken, vax-certificates, masks, distancing. No afternoon tea but consider having coffees in smaller groups.

March meeting, Thursday 24 March, 1 pm: Phil Sai-Louie will take us down memory lane with ‘Great Kiwi Brands’ - provisionally. Confirmation to follow.

Trips only after the normal winter break, from September. In the meantime consider a walking tour. See Museum for map/guide or contact Rob.

MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS:

Mighty small, mighty bright—March to May. A hands-on science exhibition for children.

Photographers and photography of Papakura and District—June to August

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.

**To register for trips, please ring Dave
at (09) 2984507**

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The Papakura Sentinel is a bimonthly magazine of the Papakura & Districts Historical Society. Your contributions are welcomed. Please send directly to Terry or Rob by email: pdhs@papakuramuseum.org.nz



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