

# The Papakura Sentinel



Number 60

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## Greetings/ kia ora koutou to our readers and friends

Days are getting longer, the dams must be full, and a sort of normality is in the air, even though precautions are still necessary. PDHS and Museum have been busy, with school visits and our own exhibition, *Lens on Papakura and District*, a collaborative venture involving volunteers and Museum staff. Please drop in to see some amazing photos of this area, and read about eight interesting people who looked through the lens of an interesting range of cameras to record images of our area and beyond. This exhibition will be followed by a walk down memory lane to commemorate 50 years of the Museum and 60 years of the Society in September.

Early notice: there will be a special occasion on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September between 2pm and 4pm, something to do with Special Anniversaries of PDHS and the Papakura Museum. See page 2.

This month our PDHS members' meeting will be the AGM, and we hope everybody will turn up to catch up on Society news and gamely grapple with a gripping and gruelling gargantuan quiz phrenziedly presented by pherocious Phil. Be assured that no-one ever has their arms twisted to join the Executive so you can come without feeling you are compromising your future happiness. On the other hand, we are always looking for new blood and fresh ideas, so for those who would like to contribute to the aims of the PDHS and Museum and have a fascination with history, education and social networking or making things happen, here is your chance.

*Sentinel* presents two main articles this time. Iain Wakefield has written part 2 of the Drury Hotels article, bringing the story up to date. And I describe life along Settlement Road a little over 100 years ago, the continuing story of the Kirikiri settlement. In the process of researching this story, descendants of the families concerned keep turning up, which is very exciting. Some have provided photos and valuable information.

So, *Sentinel* and your Society and Museum wish you all some happy and stimulating reading and viewing.

Editor

**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](http://www.papakuramuseum.org.nz)

You are invited to a Papakura Museum exhibition:

# LENS ON PAPAKURA & DISTRICT



When: From 14 July / during July and August

Where: Papakura Museum, Level 3, Accent Point Building,  
209 Great South Road (opposite Library)



Photos: A scene on the Wairoa River, Auckland. Anne Campbell. Supplement to the Auckland Weekly News, 24 March 1904. Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections Awns-19040324-4-2.  
Top: The Duchess, camera, from 1870 (Permission MOTAT)

The photo on the invitation is by our own local photographer, Anne Campbell, and the two young women are her daughters Mary and Annie.

In addition to some fascinating aerial photography of our area, we tell the story of 8 photographers associated with Papakura and district, and display cameras (such as ‘The Duchess’—an early 1870 vintage camera, shown, further information below) and other photographic equipment, some lent by MOTAT and local friends.

In the process of putting this exhibition together, other local photographers have come to light, and more photos by the featured photographers have been identified.

Thanks to the Staff of the Museum, Alan, Kara and Kay, and to Wendy, Corallie and Carolyn.

A book is available, and a digital copy can be sent to you on request.

Rob

Wendy provided the following:

“The Duchess” camera c1870. This camera is identified as a “Royalty” camera produced for, or by, the London and Paris Optic and Clock Co, UK. “The Duchess” is a square bellows folding bed style of field camera with a wooden base, and rare. Black or silvery stains on the plate holder would indicate that it was used for wet plates. The back plate is removable and it has a glass viewing window at rear.

## 50 years of the Papakura Museum/ 60 years of the PDHS

2022 is a year of celebration. Keep this date free:

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September between 2pm and 4pm

**Late Notice:** We regret to announce the passing of our respected and beloved patron, Theo Thomas, at Summerset on Sunday 7 August, aged 96. His funeral at Fountains on Monday 15 August was attended by several members of the PDHS. Tribute was also made to his dear wife of 75 years, Myrtle, while speakers spoke warmly of his character and his many activities and abilities.

# ON ROAD TO THE WAIKATO:

## DRURY HOTELS FROM 1855 (Part 2)

Iain Wakefield

On 22 July 1928, there was a serious fire at the Railway Hotel. Half of the building was well ablaze by the time it was discovered. The licensee Samuel Robertson was in Auckland and the porter was also off-site. The origin of the fire was not known or apparent. Of note, Mr Robertson's lease was due to run out on the next day and the new licensee was about to shift in over the next two or three days. The insurance on the building and contents was £4000. On the next day, it was recorded that the heat from the burning hotel had cracked the windows of two adjacent grocers' shops, but smart work by a hastily-formed bucket brigade had saved them from further damage. The fire had been visible from Pukekohe Hill.

Two weeks later, Samuel Robertson made an application to carry on business in temporary premises near the Drury shops and this was granted. A further two weeks later there was the temporary transfer of the license from Robertson to James Leo Stitt with a permanent transfer a further fortnight later

Mr Stitt made an application for the removal of the license to new premises 300 yards further north on the Great South Road, Drury when 'a two-storied brick and concrete structure is to replace the hotel at Drury recently destroyed by fire'. There were plans to 'provide for a commodious and well-designed building'. The architects of the new Ye Jolly Farmer Inn were Benjamin Chilwell and Cecil Trevithick, a well-established city practice which had also designed the Papakura Centennial Plunket and Restroom, Endean's Building in lower Queen Street, the Whitcombe & Tombs' building half way up Queen Street and the Myers Park Kindergarten at the top of Queen Street. The builder was Noel Cole, a master builder in Auckland who was also President of the Auckland Master Builders' Association at that time (1928-29). The cost of the build was £7185 1s 5d.



Ye Jolly Farmer Inn' under construction 5 Feb 1929 [Auckland] Sun, page1

On 4 Feb 1929 it was announced that 'A new hotel at Drury, replacing the premises destroyed by fire about six months ago, is to be in occupation and open to the public next week...Not only was the structure a handsome one, but it was also proposed to improve and lay out the grounds. No expense would be spared in making the hotel one of the best country hostelries in New Zealand'. The licence was removed to the new site and the hotel was christened Ye Jolly Farmer Inn. Five weeks later James Stitt took the opportunity to transfer the licence to Edmund Grace Twohill just prior to the opening of the new hotel. As work on the new hotel was nearing completion, the Licensing Committee suggested that the bedrooms should not be used until proper fire escapes were erected. Fully constructed fire escapes were completed days later.

The ninth of March 1929 was a day of celebration. Ye Jolly Farmer Inn opened on that date. It was also the day of the Franklin Racing Club's meeting at Pukekohe and that ensured a healthy crowd to celebrate the event.

A sponsored advertising feature in the New Zealand Herald of 13 Mar 1929 exclaims: 'The inn is unique in New Zealand, being the first of its kind designed on the line of an Old English Village Inn... The design of the building is Elizabethan, the whole of the interior being in keeping with its exterior....' Elsewhere in that paper it was noted that the Jolly Farmer Inn had "an impression of restfulness and solid comfort ... given by the Old World design and the atmosphere of the coaching days ... the main door is of studded oak and the coffee room is furnished in correct period style, with a large open fireplace, inglenook, and low-beamed ceiling ... casual visitors are catered for as well. They will be able to procure meals at all hours of the day and night, and should find the inn an excellent destination for an afternoon's run into the country'.

There were 12 rooms to let in the new premises.

Two months later on 7 May 1929 the license was transferred temporarily from Edmund Twohill to Edward Taylor and this transfer became permanent on 5 June 1929.

In February 1930 William James Meredith acquired the license. He was a senior Rugby referee who had officiated at several Ranfurly Shield challenges and was also radio announcer at Eden Park and Western Springs Speedway. Previously, he had been the chief clerk at the Telegraph Office at the CPO, Auckland during the 1920s.



Drury probably in the early 1930s (the inn is top left of the photo) <http://api.digitalnz.org/records/41740888/source>

Meredith's licence was transferred to Walter Agnew Kritsch in June 1930 but he returned to Australia early in the next year. Mr Albert William McIvor took over Ye Jolly Farmer Inn in March 1931. He was always known as 'Old Mac'. He remained the publican until 1943. However, early in this period police raided the hotel several

times and McIvor was fined for serving alcohol after hours. The inn was very popular with the soldiers from the Papakura Army Camp for its access to all sorts of convivial pleasures.

The hotel became more than just a watering hole for Drury. The Pakuranga Hunt met there for the first time in June 1932 and on many occasions subsequently. The Drury Rugby Club, winners of the Stevens Cup (a Challenge Cup played around Franklin) for the fifth time in 1938 was given a complimentary dinner by 'Old Mac' in celebration.



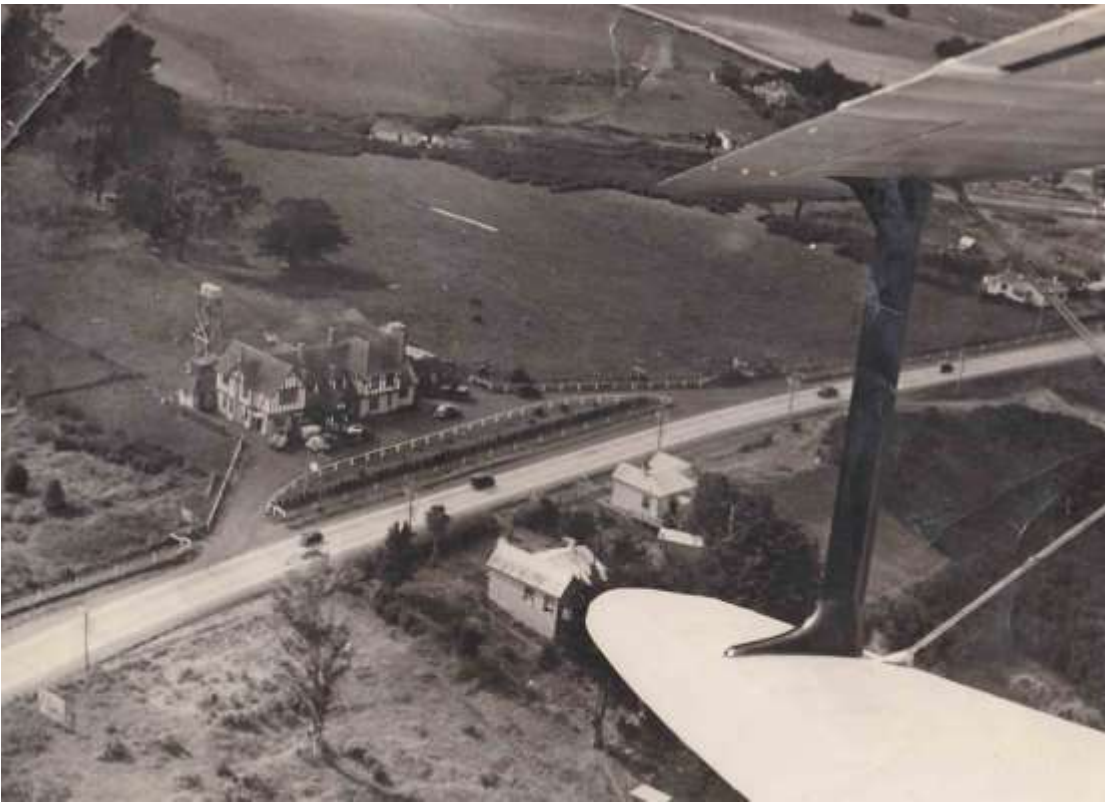
'Ye Jolly Farmer Inn', with the Pakuranga Hunt 1955 (with acknowledgement to the Papakura Museum)

In 1942 the Labour Government decided that there should be a reduction in the strength of beer with the o.p. percentage to drop from 9 percent to about 6 percent for the period of World War II. These regulations were repealed in 1948 although the old percentage was never fully restored.

Mr McIvor's licence was transferred to William Cyril Jackson temporarily in March 1943 and permanently in June 1943 and it was later transferred onto William George ("Broncho") Bright, a tobacconist in Otahuhu in December 1943. The inn remained an important centre of social intercourse through to the end of WWII and beyond. Bright remained the publican until his death in 1949. Mrs Margaret Cecilia Bright then assumed the licence for a further two and a half years to March 1952.

A referendum in 1949 maintained the status quo for 6 o'clock closing [473,768 for and 153,850 against (75.5%)] with not a single electorate (out of 80) voting for 10 o'clock closing.

The licence was transferred from Bright to Clarence Bambery on 6 June 1952 (although he later applied for leave of absence on 1 Dec 1952 which was extended to 28 Jan 1953) and then onto Victor Kennedy Simpson on 5 June 1953. Vic and his wife Phyllis had shifted northwards after the Bungalow Hotel at Taupo burnt down. Vic Simpson also held the license at the Kings Arms Tavern in France Street, Eden Terrace, Auckland. He introduced the option of take-away flagons (approximately two pints) initially from the Kings Arms Tavern and latterly from Ye Jolly Farmer Inn.



Aerial view of 'Ye Jolly Farmer Inn' probably from the late 1940s (courtesy of Sel Bennett)

The building at that stage was owned by Sir Ernest Davis' family trust. Staff quarters were on the other side of the Great South Road where the Driver's Motel now stands. Vic was well known for his support of speedway racing and for the summer picnics that he organised for blind and crippled children. Typically, these took place at Redwood Park at Swanson. Vic also organised pets' days and staff 'fun sessions' in the main bar (see picture). The event in the picture took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1953 but was followed by the tragic death of two members of his staff and himself on the following day during a flight over the Mamaku Ranges near Tapapa. Phyllis May Simpson took over the license but had to sell the Kings Arms Tavern to cover death duties.



'Ye Jolly Farmer' pet day 5<sup>th</sup> September 1953 (courtesy of Les Simpson)

Domestically, there were six bedrooms, one bathroom and a separate shower upstairs. The kitchen for the dining room was at the far southern end of the main building. A bore was installed on David Hill's property to the north. Chickens were kept at the back of the building and a maintenance man/caretaker lived in the sheds behind where the bottle shop now stands. There were two beer tanks behind the main building. Beer tankers were introduced at this time. Spirits were purchased from Hancocks in Newmarket with Bob Cossey as the carrier. Les Simpson (Vic and Phyllis' second son) aged 16 remembered being allowed to work as a barman because the Jolly Farmer was his family home. Phyllis Simpson sold the hotel in 1964.

Peter Gordon became the licensee in 1964. Peter was a former pharmacist, his wife Maureen a trained opera singer. One eye-witness description of the 'six o'clock swill' at that time recalled 'three or four deep, and drinking not as human beings, but often like animals, fighting to get it and passing handles over each other's heads' Maureen solemnly states "We didn't open on Sundays ... but customers would come to the back door with their flagons. They were good days".

The bedrooms upstairs were closed and that meant the Jolly Farmer was restyled as a tavern (pubs serve drinks, taverns serve food and drink, inns provide lodging with or without food and drink). The Gordons moved on to the Carpenters' Arms on Grey's Avenue and then to the Kings Arms Tavern in Eden Terrace in 1969 where Peter died. His wife reflected on the times in Drury: "We had a huge hedge that all the trucks used to hide behind. We would have the coal-truck driver from Huntly drop in at 9 o'clock in the morning to have his first beer. And when he'd come back in the afternoon, he'd have a bit of coal left over and he'd say, "Do you want a bit of coal?", you know." "The groups would come over from Pukekohe. They played that Ten Guitars so many times that every time I hear it now, I think "Oh God, not again!".

New Zealand Breweries developed plans in October 1966 to build a new bottle store. The Brewery placed a series of managers rather than licensees in charge. Later in the sixties there was the end of six o'clock closing ("the swill") following a referendum in September 1967. The drinking age was dropped to 20 years.

From 1970, Pat Hawkins was the licensee. NZ Breweries developed a circuit of bands to perform at their pubs and Nozark had a residency from 1971 to 1976 and Sunday Drive in the early eighties. From 1973 to 1979, Ron Wheeler was the licensee and he had leased the premises from Lion Breweries. During his time, there were a number of internal changes and extensions. In January 1977, those developments included a lounge extension, a new lounge bar and the start of the new wholesale bottle shop. In August 1978 a 'beer garden' was redesignated at the back of the building and the car-park was extended further eastwards at the back with a maximum of 159 parking spaces.

Alan Ross came as manager from 1980 from the Civic Tavern on Queen Street, Auckland. He was followed by Kevin Schwass between November 1981 and August 1983. This was Kevin's first job in the hospitality trade. He was starting on the Lion Breweries management programme after working for Police CIB in Wellington. It was a turbulent time in New Zealand generally following the Springbok tour although he noted that Drury escaped much of the turmoil elsewhere. There were two bars – the public bar and the entertainment bar. In the latter, tables were located right up to the stage. The Jolly Farmer was not in the Auckland pub music circuit during his time there and he organised the visiting bands himself. Roger Skinner was a perennial favourite. However, there was no dancing. Back stairs had been recently built behind the wholesale premises and he lived upstairs 'above the shop'. He had both assistant and bar managers to support him. Kevin was subsequently a North Shore City councillor; the President of the Auckland branch of Hospitality NZ and he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2010. John Erickson replaced him as manager from August 1983.



Twenty veteran cars outside 'Ye Jolly Farmer Inn' with the new bottle shop in March 1981 – from 'Brew News'

1985 saw the introduction of the wet T-shirt competitions with a \$1000 prize to the winner. Morality demonstrators described these events as 'live pornography'.

In 1993, Lewis Charles Driver became the landlord and licensee. He had bought the business from NZ Breweries (Lion) and so had the freehold of the premises. He introduced the Major's Carvery. His bottle shop supplied Bombay, Drury, Onewhero, Papakura and Tuakau Rugby Clubs, and he continued the wet T-shirt competitions and started jelly wrestling events. Up to 2500 people would attend the finals of the T-shirt competition. A Harley Davison motorbike was the first prize.

The bedrooms upstairs were not used because of the cost of new regulations and renovations. An upstairs bar was available for private parties. However, there were problems generally with the licencing authorities and with noise control and there was a general increase in drunkenness in the area. There were multiple occasions of inappropriate behaviour and theft.

Lew Driver moved out in 1997, returning to the Mainland and to his trotting horses. Ray Cameron moved in as the landlord. He had previously been involved with the chicken processing plant in Drury and had subsequently owned, managed or was the licensee of 14 hotels around the North Island later in his career. At other times he had been a commercial fisherman and the harbour-master at Tairua and he had also owned motels and a chicken processing farm in Fiji.

Selwyn Leonard Bennett moved in as landlord and licensee in 2000 with his wife Ivy Milly. They developed an in-house brewery at the rear of the main building with a bar, entertainment stage, kitchen and toilets. The function centre was designed to offer an evening's entertainment as "A piss-up in a brewery". At its peak, the brewery produced 6000 litres of beer each week. They introduced an 'all you can eat' Sunday morning breakfast with up to 600 mouths fed on occasions. They sold the freehold of the public house with the licence when Sel became medically ill in 2004. He was subsequently President of the New Zealand Rugby League and a member of the Rugby League International Federation. Sel Bennett is the nephew of Bronco Bright.

The new owner was a Queen Street syndicate led by Reg Newcombe. It was also associated with the Civic Tavern on Queen Street, the White Horse Inn in Pakuranga and the Orewa Tavern.

In December 2008 Philip Anthony Hogan became the licensee with his wife Yvonne Marie. They initially leased the premises from Stadium Nominees (Andrew Tauber, director), and subsequently bought the entire premises in January 2010. They rebranded the Jolly Farmer as Murphy's Law Irish Bar following the Hogans' success with Finn McCool's Irish pub in Manukau City which they had sold in 2006. At the time that they started, the restaurant was closed and the kitchen needed reorganisation. They developed an Irish-themed bar with Guinness and Kilkenny beers on tap and the tricolour flag flying from the roof.



The premises at the rear were empty when the Hogans moved in. The buildings were then renovated and are currently leased to three builders for equipment storage. Diversifying, a parking zone for motor homes was started in mid-2014 and has proved very successful.

Special thanks to Edna Carson who made major contributions to this article, all the licensees past and present, Cara Francesco (Principal Specialist Built Heritage at Auckland Council) and the Auckland Library Heritage Collection.

# Along the Settlement Road

## Kirikiri farm community

**Rob Finlay**

Along the metalled settlement road with its weedy and scrubby verges a community lived on small farms between the 1880s and early 20th century. I have referred to some previously—Livingstones, Carmichaels and the Smiths on their successful farm, 'The Oaks'. Among them by the 1880s were 'new-comers' and members of older Papakura families who had not been part of the original Kirikiri Settlement. They were clearly part of the community but outside the scope of this account, unless they married into *Viola* or *Resolute* families.

### Out to Kelvin Road

Leaving the village and the Kirikiri 1/4 acre lots was a 100 acre block between today's Marne Road and Kelvin Road, flanked by Settlement and Willis Roads. Of the 10 families or single men who had moved onto Allots 77 to 87 in 1865, four were still there in 1880 occupying 7 allotments; two remained on five allotments in the mid-1890s; and only one family remained by 1899. The McClymonts, Robert Stewarts and the widowed Robert Brydon traced their roots to the *Resolute*. Willises bought up some of this land as it became available.

**The McClymonts** had had an advantage, when they first arrived, that their oldest son Andrew was already living on the Wairoa Road at Ardmore. (See April *Sentinel*.) This must have eased the struggles of settling in. David McClymont, recorded as 56 on the *Resolute* list, had been the oldest of the Kirikiri immigrants. Judging from his given age when he died, he was in fact probably 60, but admitting that might not have been advisable when a passage was at stake, even if the couple did bring three active young men with them. Isabella was reportedly 49 (but probably 52), and Frederick (14) and Robert (9) were listed with them; Thomas Galbraith McClymont, aged 18, described as a printer, was named among the single men. They were allocated Allotment 83, closest to town, possibly in deference to David's mature years, with Thomas on Allotment 84 next door. (Mansell Field and Papakura Intermediate School occupy this land today). The blocks were developed, and later expanded with a third, by the collective effort of father and sons.

David McClymont rapidly made his contribution to the new community. He was on the Papakura Library committee, the school committee, the Presbyterian church committee in 1880/81, and active in the Mystic Tie Lodge. His death notice in 1887, at 82 years of age, named him as third son of Andrew McClymont, manufacturer of Dalmelington in Ayrshire, and father of Captain (Andrew) McClymont of Swanson Street. Isabella survived her husband, living with Frederick in Papakura and dying at the age of 92 in 1905.

Thomas Galbraith, the second son, took out a miner's right at Karaka in February 1868, but returned. In June 1871 a well-attended meeting to form a Volunteer Rifle Corps was reported at the 'Globe Hotel, Wairoa' (presumably Papakura), and he was voted as ensign. He was a farmer in Mangatawhiri in 1879 when

he married Janet McNeil, who had also been a teenage passenger on the *Resolute*. He helped build up the two Kirikiri holdings to 30 acres by 1887, the year his father died. In 1887, both Thomas and Frederick were paying rates in Papakura. Thomas and Janet had 11 children, and he was on the Papakura School Committee by 1892. In the late 1880s and early 1890s, he was paying rates on the corner of Don Street and the Great South Road (Lot 7 Sec 7): this was the probable location of the McClymont store, which was frequented by Wairoa South folks as well as locals. In July 1891 he offered for sale a 6-roomed cottage and outbuildings. Later in 1891 and 1892 notices were placed in the *New Zealand Herald* advertising 20 acres five minutes from the railway station. It was in grass and oats, had a one-acre orchard, a good 5-room house, shed, piggeries, storehouse dairy, etc. ('all necessary outbuildings'). The earlier November 1891 ad advised that stock could also be purchased, and included an additional 3/4 acre (three 1/4 acre sections). The ads do not identify McClymonts as owner, but the timing, area and distance from railway station strongly suggest it

**F**OR SALE, cheap, good 6-roomed Cottage and out buildings, at Papakura.—  
Apply T. G. McClymont. *Auckland Star* 11/7/1891

Electoral Rolls record him in 1890 as storekeeper at Kirikiri ('Allots 82 etc Kirikiri'), but by 1896 the family had left. Thomas was renting and mining at Waitekauri. In 1905 to 1911 he was at Karangahake, with a son, Frederick George mining in Waihi in those years, and Janet appears on the Roll for the first time with Amy, Annie, Jessie and Maud, 'spinsters'. He appears to have retired by 1914, and the family had moved to 61 Prospect Tce, Mt Eden. Janet, the same 4 daughters and Thomas Alan, railway employee are also listed. In 1919 he may have returned to mining in Karangahake but Janet and four unmarried daughters were in 18 Bellwood, Dominion Road. The family were at 7 Mewburn Ave, Roskill in the early 1920s, and later in Grey Lynn. He was fined £1 and costs for dangerous driving in 1928. He died in 1935 in Mt Eden, and was buried in Papakura.

**Frederick** remained in Papakura. In 1880-1 he was recorded as farmer with Allots 82,83,84— 30 acres, and also part lot 10 Opaheke in the vicinity of Beach Road where it ended at the Hingaia Creek. The Beach Road farm became his home. He tendered successfully as clerk for the Papakura District Board in 1884, with 10% on rates and dog taxes, and won other contracts. He was in the Papakura Literary Society in 1877, and on the Presbyterian church committee by 1890. He was licensed for a slaughterhouse in May 1891 in Opaheke North, and was elected to the Drury Road Board in 1905. In 1903 he married Margaret Gertrude Penman at Wairoa; her father was a Pukekohe builder, and they had two children born 1904-5, Frederick John and Jessie Gertrude. After he died 18/1/1908, Margaret married John Henderson, and they remained in Papakura (according to the Electoral Roll) till 1919.

The youngest son **Robert**, was probably working on the Ardmore farm of his oldest brother in 1880, but moved to Auckland and had become a carpenter, aged 27, when he married Sarah Bell from an established Ardmore family in 1887, at the home of his parents. By 1900 he was a carpenter in Northcote. In 1931 Sarah was buried in the Ardmore churchyard of the Anglican Church of St James, with several generations of the Bell family. An unmarried daughter, Josephine, a teacher, was also buried there when she died in her 89th year in 1972. Robert died in 1953 aged 97.

The gravestone for the parents in the Papakura Cemetery also lists the names and dates of death of the sons.

### **Backing on to the McClymonts was the 10 acres of Robert and Margaret Stewart.**

**Robert** (39, a cotton spinner) and Margaret (37) Stewart, had come on the *Resolute* from Paisley with six children, ranging from 18 year old Emily to 9 month William. They were from Glasgow, but one daughter had been born in Manchester. Two further children were born in New Zealand, Margaret (1866) and Douglas Brown the following year. Years later, the latter was the son who moved on to the Stewart land, and his oldest son Douglas Brown jnr, has left a valuable account of the family (kindly lent by a descendant, Elaine Croskery).

On the list allocating land, their allotment was 79 (on Willis Ave.). The family recounted how Robert and Margaret walked to Auckland and back, she carrying the baby, a distance of 20 miles each way. On the return trip Thomas carried a sack of flour on his back.

Robert was drawn to the gold rush at Thames. Records show him at Waikawau in March 1868, then taking out two claims in July and November 1868 at Tapu Creek, and another in December at Karaka Creek. He continued to take out claims and a miner's right at Karaka until July 1870. Our chronicler also mentioned taking the family to Port Charles, and commented: 'I doubt if his goldmining was a success, at least we never heard of it', although there were stories of the many hotels and fights in the streets. In any case they returned.

Times were hard. Douglas Brown (youngest son) remembered that during the depression years there was no sale for butter; farmers would salt the butter and store it under the house in anticipation of improved market, and sugar bags were used for boys' trousers and women's underclothes. Once Margaret told her young son Douglas to light the fire for her husband's tea. She was hanging out the washing, and Robert was away working in Hunua, probably as a sawyer. Douglas broke up a barrel for wood, quite a common practice in those days. The fire was so fierce that the house burned down. 'The only thing that was saved was the clock that now stands on our mantelpiece'. The *Daily Southern Cross* reported the fire, including the detail that the house was insured for £40.

In the 1890s, Douglas jnr described the house that took its place: 'The house had only four rooms and no inside conveniences, no verander (sic) and no back porch. Water had to be drawn from a well with a windlass to draw up the bucket, near the back door. There was another well in a paddock'.

Margaret died in 1884, aged 56, and Robert in 1893, aged 69.

The oldest daughter Emily had married William St George, and the couple continued living in the house: William paid the rates in 1895, the year Emily died, aged 48; William and a daughter remained there with the family of his brother-in-law Douglas Brown.

One of the sons, probably Peter, was in the armed constabulary, deployed in the Waikato to protect men working on railway construction in the 1870s. Of the sons, William and Alexander worked cutting timber in the Kirikiri hills, Peter and Robert as gold and gum diggers: one of them used to carve the gum. In 1887 a W Stewart, perhaps William, pleaded guilty to having lit a fire on land not his own, causing damage to the bush of Coulthard Bros.: he was fined 40s and 17s cost. Robert was paying Papakura rates in 1928,

Douglas Brown, the youngest son, had started work with a baker when he was 11. He married Ellen McMillan, who was Irish, in 1886 in Auckland.

He then began working with R and W Hellaby Ltd in Shortland St, butchering. He was put in charge of the tinned meat packing department, and remained there for the remaining 40 years of his life. In about 1896, after his father had died, he returned to buy the family allotment, apparently because Auckland rents of 8s a week were too high. The furniture was put on a wagon with four horses, the family travelled south by train, and walked along 'what was then known as Keri Keri Rd'. The road was nothing but an earth track covered on each side with tall fern, ti tree and gorse.' Two children joined their father to meet the driver of the wagon at the Papakura shop and direct him the rest of the way.

His son explained: 'Apparently my grandfather had mortgaged the property (Stewart Trustees paid the rates in 1894-5) and after his death the mortgagee had put it up for sale and my father bought it for 200 pounds.' Widowed uncle St George and his daughter stayed with them for some time. Douglas Brown junior described the living arrangements: 'There were seven of us, and uncle and daughter made nine. We five children and the grown up daughter had to sleep on one bed lying crossways.' Uncle worked on the farm and cut ti-tree firewood in vacant town sections. The boys had to sledge it home. Meanwhile Douglas Brown snr continued working at Hellabys in Shortland Street, taking the train up on the Monday and returning on Saturday night, until he found that traversing 20 miles of rough roads on a bicycle was more convenient than the limited services of trundling mixed trains, where the guard and stationmaster would gossip at intermediate stations. It meant he could spend more of the weekend at home. He did revert to using the early morning train around 1912.

Ellen his wife, kept the home and family that grew to 15 children. In the three years since grandfather Robert had died the land had become overrun by blackberry among the stumps of the departed forest. [The family chronicler described the occasion when Robert had first discovered blackberries on the land: 'When he saw a blackberry bush on his property, the first he'd seen since he left Scotland, he took off his hat and put the blackberries into it. When he got home he said to his wife "Margaret, ye'll nae ken what I hae in my bonnet. Some blackboys! Black boys!']

Only one paddock of 2½ acres had been cultivated, and even that was mainly blackberry. This appears to have been one of the less 'improved' farms by the 1890s. On all the properties around 'were abundance of pheasants, quail, hares and rabbits. One could shoot anything without hindrance.'

Douglas snr's weekends were occupied on the house and land, cutting down a tree for firewood, shooting. He made a sledge 'from a large box sitting on iron slides' and the children used it to bring home the firewood, or on at least one occasion, manure from a neighbour's farm. There was a house cow and calf, and the family kept a garden. A neighbour's cows (from over the road) got in and made short work of the garden on one occasion, and a freak summer frost also caused damage. On another occasion Ellen lit a fire to burn fern and blackberries, and getting out of control, it burned down a boundary fence. The neighbour, described as 'the old Highlander', came over and said, 'My hedges Missus, if it were not for the fact that we are on good terms this would be a court case.' (Old issues from the first years remained. From the layout of the farms, the 'old Highlander' sounds like the long widowed Robert Brydon, who had lived in Glasgow.)

Transporting a heavy colonial oven and bricks home from the railway station involved a long walk with a borrowed wheelbarrow. Douglas jnr had the job of meeting the 5.30 train to collect the *Auckland Star*, and if he got there early he might be able to ride in a shunting engine with the driver.

Later in the 1890s, the Stewarts bought another 10 acres (Allot 86), according to their son, and moved into its five roomed house. It also had 'a large workshop attached to the house, two big sheds, a barn containing a hayloft, a cowshed, a stable and a large lean-to for storing potatoes, pumpkins etc. He bought it for 200 pounds. There was no connection between the two properties except by walking through the old Highlander's property. 'Consequently when our herd of cows increased they were kept in the new property during the night and on the original place during the day. It fell to my lot to drive them round the roads which encircles the block of 100 acres (ten 10-acre lots) of which our properties formed a part. I had to take them round in the morning on my way to school and drive them home when returning to school.' (This involved Settlement, Kelvin and Willis roads. There was no Laurie or Scott Road in those days.) They had tenants in the smaller house on the original section. By 1900, when Robert Brydon sold., they had bought a third, linking, allotment (86), along with Brydon's old horse. Douglas jnr used to ride it without saddle or bridle, to draw the sledge or to take the home-made butter or eggs to the shop. They got 9d per pound for the butter and 6d a dozen for eggs. On dry sunny weather the wrapped butter would be brown with dust.

Meanwhile the hard work of clearing the blackberry, fern and stumps on the old allotment had been achieved, all the family contributing their labour, then the twitch grass removed, and the various paddocks put into potatoes. The boys had the job of preparing the fields, planting and harvesting a huge crop of big potatoes, bagging them using buckets and loading them on to the sledge which Ellen drove to the shed. They earned the family £2 per ton. On one occasion some of the potatoes were stolen by a neighbour.

Christmas might involve spending time with Ellen's Irish mother in Auckland, with all the business of a proper town. (Ellen also headed for town periodically for a month at a time as a birth neared. There were 14 children.) Douglas Brown jnr also wrote about a lot of Auckland relatives taking the train down to Papakura and the social (rather than commercial or material) Christmas celebration in Papakura. But the holidays were also a time for hard work. Haymaking involved harvesting with wooden rakes and forks, carrying it on a wide dray, then father forking it up into the hot hayloft, and the boys carrying it into the corners and stamping it down. -Christmas lunch might be merely break in the work, or if the hay was already stacked,

playing cricket, listening to the older generation telling the Settlement's story (that we are currently laboriously trying to recapture. Wouldn't we like to have ear-wigged!)

In time Douglas jnr was able to go to Auckland Grammar school, commuting by train, and later, after enduring World War 1, he became a Presbyterian minister, working often in rugged rural conditions.



Left: the Stewart home. Right: Ellen and Duncan Brown sen Stewart with their family of 14. Photos permission Elaine Croskery.

Meanwhile Douglas Brown snr maintained his busy schedule, working at Hellabys in Auckland and running the farm at the weekend. In addition he maintained a busy public life. He was a member, and chairman, of the Papakura Town Board till 1916, was on the School Committee, involved with the Masonic Order (Scottish Conference). He was chairman of the Patriotic Farewell Committee during the Great War, engaged with the Papakura Orphans Club, Kirks Bush Committee and Athletics Committee.

In November 1916, the Papakura Town Board and ex-members honoured Douglas Brown Stewart as he was stepping down as chairman, for his long and faithful service on the Board. The chairman Robert Willis presented a smoker's companion, and spoke of all the various reforms he had advocated. Another Kirikiri settler and former board member, Gavin McMurray spoke of the good work done in the past with very limited budgets. Weeks previously an article on the increased popularity of the Papakura area, reported that 'to Mr D Stewart, the late chairman of the Town board, to a great extent does the district owe its thanks for the improved (railway) service. Mr Stewart worked silently but assiduously and it was to him that the intimation came that the (Railway) Department had agreed to run the extra train.' (The very next item of the 10 November article in the *Pukekohe and Waiuku Times* mentioned that his son Ernest had discarded his shoes and a nail had entered his ankle.

His public service did not end with his retirement from the Board, and he could be trenchant in his criticism of succeeding boards. He attended the July 1920 meeting with a sheaf of complaints about the poor lighting in town and round the station, the lack of metal on 'Kerekere' roads, and inadequate railway services, all this despite increased revenue. He graciously accepted explanations made and withdrew.

It's worth repeating some of his complaints though, because they portray a picture of the area at the time. 'He and his family had never experienced such difficulty in getting to their home during his residence as he did that night, due to the fact that the township was not lit. He stated that he came off the train that evening and attempted to cross the reserve, but owing to no light being on the Settlement Road side he could not find the way... He lived at the Kerekere settlement, and claimed that the residents along the road had not had a fair amount of metal for one month during the last two years, and no gravel on the footpath. They all ought to have a fair share of metal at their end of the district. They paid a fair share of rates, and were entitled to a fair share of consideration.' (Kirikiri no longer dominated Town District business as it had in the 1880s.)

In addition the family contributed in other areas. They were active in the Presbyterian church and Sunday School – three of the sons became Presbyterian ministers, the Papakura Musical Society, Highland Dancing

and the Papakura flower show. The large family was well spread out. The day their last children, twins, were born in 1911, their oldest sister Margaret Evelyn, who had married Bill Croskery, gave birth to her first-born.

Douglas Brown Stewart died in 1928, aged 61, but his widow and members of the family remained in the area.

**Robert Brydon** has already featured as ‘the old Highlander’, although before he, his wife Euphemia with three sons had arrived on the *Resolute* he had been living in Glasgow. He was widowed in 1879. The couple had been in their forties when they had arrived. He had described himself at the time as a farm servant, but when his eldest son Robert married Sarah Oliver in Dargaville in 1888, he was pleased to call himself a farmer; he held three allotments between Willis and Settlement roads by 1887. By 1895 he owned another, Allot 88, while Robert Junior owned Allot 87. He was one of the initial members of the Papakura District Board and served on the Papakura School Committee in 1888. He sold in the late 1890s - he was paying rates for himself and his son up to 1898— and died in 1900, aged 78, at his son’s house in Dargaville.

**On the other side of the Settlement Road**, their neighbouring properties were Everslie farm, the house up a long drive and Smith’s ‘Oaks’, and until the flu outbreak of 1892 carried the old couple away within days of each other, the 10 acres of the Livingstones. (I have previously written of them.)

**Beyond Kelvin Road** was another block which continued up to what was then known as the boundary road (now Dominion Road). On it were the farms of the Richardsons—she was from a *Viola* family, William and Ellen Clarkson and the McKinstry, and on the other side— on the corner of Hunua Road—land belonging to the Williams (see next story), John Carmichael and the Neillies/Nealies. (I cannot be dogmatic about the spelling of their name.) Behind the Williams’ was the 20 acres of James and Ellen Croskery. In the previous *Sentinel*, the photo of gumdiggers at Glenora Park features three of these families, a Croskery and a Neillie along with two Stewarts.

**William Richardson** was English and a Wesleyan and had arrived in Papakura around 1880, the year he married into one of the *Viola* families that had settled initially in Otau. Mrs Richardson was **Eliza Lawson McLean** who had been 7, the oldest daughter of Andrew and Catherine McLean, when they arrived. The couple married on New Year’s Day 1880 at the home of her father at Wairoa South. Both were 22, she was a housemaid and he a joiner. Her parents also made the move to Papakura and bought some of the land formerly owned by William and James Hay in Opaheke. Eliza’s younger sister Esther married James Walker junior in 1886. William Richardson was skilled mechanically and entrepreneurial, a trait inherited by their sons. He set up a joinery factory next to Coulthards’ sawmill, complete with its own dam and steam engine. After the sawmill burnt down and a flash flood destroyed his factory early in the new century, he shifted it to the south end of Papakura village next to the courthouse until it was moved to the north of the village in the 1920s. The Richardsons were involved in many areas of Papakura’s life and business. (Michelle Smith has written much on the Richardson family. See *Open all hours*.)

**William and Helen (Ellen) Clarkson** held two allotments on the north side of the road between Kelvin and Dominion roads. I have already told part of their story, including the role that they played in looking after their sister-in-law Janet and her family. Ironically, from a family where only the sons had survived, both families consisted mainly of girls. (I am indebted for information and photos to Jan White, descendant.)

Ellen became an assistant school teacher at Papakura school in 1873. In addition to their land in Kirikiri the *Return of the freeholders* in 1882 records her as owner of a farm of 170 acres at Pukekohe valued at £1225, while William owned a section at Papakura worth £210. When women were first recorded on the Franklin electoral roll, Ellen Clarkson was one of the minority of women who did not record ‘domestic duties’. Her entry reads, ‘Ellen Clarkson, farmer, Pukekohe’. Presumably William or a manager helped her with the farming. Later entries dignified her role in the conventional way: ‘domestic duties, residential’. It would be interesting to know how the farm was managed. There was only one son, young William.

William died in Papakura in 1905 aged 69, and in keeping with Scottish Presbyterian tradition, the funeral service was at Papakura Cemetery. Ellen died at St Mary’s Road, Ponsonby, at the home of one of her daughters, in August 1919, aged 72.



Above: William and Ellen with their family.



Left: Isobella and Thomas Beckett on their wedding day. They lived in Papakura for some years, before moving to Karangahape Road where she was a milliner.

Below: The Robertson shop at Clevedon.

Photos from Jan White

Most of their daughters and son William ended up in Auckland where they worked in trades or retail. Most of their marriages took place in Auckland, but Isobella married Thomas Bennett in Papakura, and their first children were born and went to school here. She kept a store in East Street. Later she was a milliner on Karangahape Road. Ellen married David Robertson in 1896, and the youngest, Rosina, married John Robertson in 1907; the brothers had immigrated from Scotland in the 1890s. The brothers bought a shop in Clevedon in about March 1901. Three or four years later they bought a farm of 128 acres at Ardmore. In 1909 John left the business and shortly after the shop was burned down and had to be rebuilt. Financial woes caught up in 1904, and Ellen and David moved into Auckland.

Beyond the Clarksons on Dominion Road the **McKinstry**s had 20 acres, one of which had been Janet Clarkson's. I will tell the story of the McKinstry's in another *Sentinel* in connection to the Opaheke and Pukekiwiriki districts.



**F**OR SALE, at **Papakura**, in the Estate of John Carmichael, deceased. Homestead, 10 acres of first-class land and Cottage, within half mile of railway and school.—Apply Willis Bros., **Papakura**.

AS 9/11/95

Over Settlement road on the south side was the 10 acre property farmed by **John Carmichael**. He was 41 and Ellen 36 when they had arrived on the *Viola*, with two young sons. Another three children were born in Kirikiri. As a bricklayer, he probably found some work locally in that trade: the wooden houses all had chimneys. Ellen, his wife, died suddenly in 1876, when the youngest son was 4. John remained in Papakura. His daughter Jane Rose was married at his house in 1885, witnessed by her sister Ellen. He died in 1895, aged 84. His land was put up for sale and the buyer was Bill Croskery, youngest son of a neighbour. John's son William became a farmer at Manawaru south of Te Aroha.

Beyond him again opposite the Clarksons on the corner of Settlement and Dominion roads, was the 10 acres of **William and Mary Neillie**. Wil-

liam was the older son of Thomas and Martha who had arrived in Kirikiri with two sons, aged 19 and 17, and two younger daughters. They had had a third daughter in Kirikiri, but they both died during the 1870s. William, at 19, had qualified in 1865 for his 10 acre allotment next to his parents', and he retained this land while working as a platelayer for railways. He married Mary Rhind, then a minor, at her father's



Neillies at home at Settlement Road. Permission Papakura Museum

house, in 1870, and they had 8 children (all registered 'Nealie'. Spelling is an issue here: most early spelling was Neillie, but Nealie became dominant later. I go with the flow.) William died in 1890 aged 51. A son, Alfred George, a saw mill hand, was married at his mother's house in 1904, and drowned in 1908. Another, Jack, was a gumdigger at Glenora Park in about 1900. Mary and family remained on the land, and the photo (left) shows a tidy little farm. There is still green grass, even if large rubber pipes lie on it, at the corner of Settlement and Dominion Roads.



James and Ellen Croskery.  
Permission Elaine Croskery

**James and Ellen Croskery** nee Jennings were from County Down in Ireland, and arrived on the *Resolute*, she pregnant with their first child. They went on to have another 8, the youngest born in 1883. When George Clarkson bought out their 10 acres, they moved over the road and bought the two allotments on either side of the road that bears their name, the first from John Watson by 1875, the other, originally owned by Mathieson, where they built their house. There is no record or memory of James Croskery having been in Thames, so the money he received from Clarkson would have been the basis for his first purchase. He described himself as a labourer, and worked on the land all his life.

They farmed the land, and James was a platelayer for the railways for 28 years. He was also in the Orange Lodge. Sister Croskery made a recitation at the Mystic Tie Lodge of Good Templars at an open meeting at the library in 1893. The family were also involved with Papakura Town Board, Croquet Club, Bowling Club.

Ellen died in 1907 aged 64, and James died in 1919 aged 76.

Their oldest son James went mining in Waihi, where he died, and was buried in Papakura. Another son John was a gumdigger in 1900. Charlotte married John Nicol, and their youngest, William, married Margaret Stewart.

As so often happened, it was the youngest son who inherited the Kirikiri land. Bill Croskery was born in Papakura, married Margaret locally, and died here at the age of 86. He bought the Carmichael land, took on his father's 20 acres, and in 1919 also owned or leased 40 acres on the Kirikiri slopes.

**Next issue:** Further Kirikiri—The interlinked McNeil, Fulton, McCrae, McMurray, Williams, Rhind families.

**Sources:** In addition to usual newspapers (especially *AS—Auckland Star*, and *NZH—NZ Herald*), and information in books by Elsdon Craig and Michelle Anne Smith, this article is based on archival sources, in particular Papakura Rates and Electoral Rolls. A particular debt is owed to Elaine Croskery (Croskery and Stewart, and for the loan of Douglas Brown Stewart junior's memoirs) and Jan White (Clarksons).

Citations provided on request. Further information is always welcome.



# NOTICES

## MEETINGS: (held in the Papakura Library meeting room):

August meeting, Thursday 25 August at 1 pm. AGM and Quiz from Phil Sai-louie

September meeting, Thursday 2 September at 1 pm. Curator Alan Knowles on Ancient Egypt.

## SPECIAL

Anniversary celebration: Saturday 17 September, 2-4 pm. Further notice coming.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS:

Lens on Papakura district—June to September.

50 years of the Papakura Museum—September

**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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