

Hampden Historical Timeline

The Wards and the Howies were undoubtedly among the very first pioneer families in Hampden.

Here is a timeline for Hampden, extracted from a larger work originally compiled in 2005 by late Diane Garbutt, updated and modified by the Hampden Historic Society in association with the Hamraki Rag.

<http://hamrakirag.blogspot.co.nz/p/way-we-were-hamraki-timeline.html>

- 1836** John Hughes establishes whaling
- 1852** Runs (i.e. sheep farms) are distributed - 7 W.S. Trotter, 8 Henry McHugh, 11 Alexander and Thomas Fraser.
Accommodation House built by G.B Wright. Was the only accommodation house between Dunedin and the Rangatata River.
- 1859** [Martha Douglas Howie born in Hampden around 1859.](#)
- 1860** Moeraki Hundred proclaimed (November 30)
Survey commenced under direction of J.T. Thomson, Chief Surveyor for Otago, who named Hampden after the English statesman, John Hampden (1595-1643).
- 1861** Land survey of Hampden completed.
Hampden Hotel opened. Proprietor W. Murcott.
It is a changing station for Cobb and Co. coaches.
[Joseph and Mary Ward and family arrive in Hampden \(between 1860 and 1864\).](#)
- 1863** Frederick Wayne - first representative of Hampden electorate in the General Assembly.
- 1864** Dunedin to Oamaru road officially opened (February 24).
First police station opened, under Waikouaiti district.
Frank R. O'Brien, Postal Agency.
School opens with teacher Donald Munroe (June 21).
Presbyterian Church holds first service at the school (June).
Storekeepers and bakers - John Young, W.T. Kirby, Fisher and Co.
Butchers - Thomas MacKay, H.T. Murcott
Boot/Shoe Makers - John Freeman, Robert Watson
Carpenters - Archibald Weir, W.T. Spier
Blacksmith - William Stewart
Mechanics' Institute founded by Rev. C. Connor.
Dr W.R. Hayne, MD arrives.
[Joseph Ward ordered off illegally occupied land in Hampden.](#)
- 1865** [Joseph Ward jailed for two months for assault.](#)
- 1866** Bank of Otago visits Hampden on Wednesdays.
Resident Magistrate for Oamaru, Mr T.W. Parker, also visits Hampden on Wednesdays.
- 1867** [Charles Williams jailed for stealing cheque](#)
- 1868** Police administration transferred to Oamaru.
- 1871** Population of Hampden 170 – (Otago Witness 22 April 1871, Page 10)
- 1872** [Martha Douglas Howie apprehended in Dunedin and sent back to Hampden.](#)
- 1873** Construction of Oamaru to Moeraki railway line begins.
- 1874** [Charles Williams dies](#)

- 1875** [Mary Ward marries Joseph Floyd.](#)
[Charles Walter Donald Ward marries Martha Douglas Howie.](#)
- 1876** Opening of Oamaru to Moeraki railway line on November 4.
[William Farley Ward born in Hampden.](#)
- 1878** Population 290 The first light is lit at Moeraki lighthouse on April 22.
 Hampden Railway Station completed in June.
 Coach overturns on Horse Range Road killing two and injuring 20 (on the day of the inauguration of the first passenger rail service).
 First southbound train from Christchurch to Dunedin stopped for water at Hampden on September 6. All subsequent through trains did this thereafter.
 Postal services transferred to Railway Station.
- 1879** Hampden proclaimed as a borough on September 8 occupying one square mile, with the third smallest population as a borough in the country.
 W. Murcott elected first mayor.
 Borough councillors elected were A.C. Weir, J. Douglas, T.E. Watkins, J. Doreen, H.T. Murcott, John Parker, N. Campbell, W. Famlton and [D. Peach](#).
[\(This is the Dixon Peach who married Joseph/Mary's eldest daughter Sarah in 1864\)](#)
 Flour mill at Waianakarua opened.
 Railway to Moeraki closed.
[Thomas Howie falls from cart and dies.](#)
- 1880** Depression - gold searched for on Kitchener's, Culling's and Size's properties.
 Slaughterhouse licences granted to H.T. Murcott and Thomas H. Watkins.
- 1881** Population of Hampden 326, increase of 36. (North Otago Times, 2 May 1881)
 Police operations shifted to old Telegraph Building in the Square, second Police Station.
 St Stephens Anglican Church opened on December 20.
 Rabbits become recognised as a pest.
- 1882** Hampden Roads Board merges with Waitaki County Council.
[Martha \(Howie\) Ward accused of receiving stolen honey \(acquitted\)](#)
- 1886** Population 332
- 1890** Creamery opened, first owned by John Duncan Junior.
 Port Moeraki public school established.
- 1897** [William Farley Ward marries Emily Matilda Williams.](#)
- 1899** [Joseph Ward dies in Port Chalmers.](#)
- 1891** Population was 301, decrease of 31 (North Otago Times, 7 May 1891)
- 1901** Hampden School becomes District High School (until 1908).
- 1905** Prohibition in force in Oamaru district.
- 1906** Hampden Hotel closes.