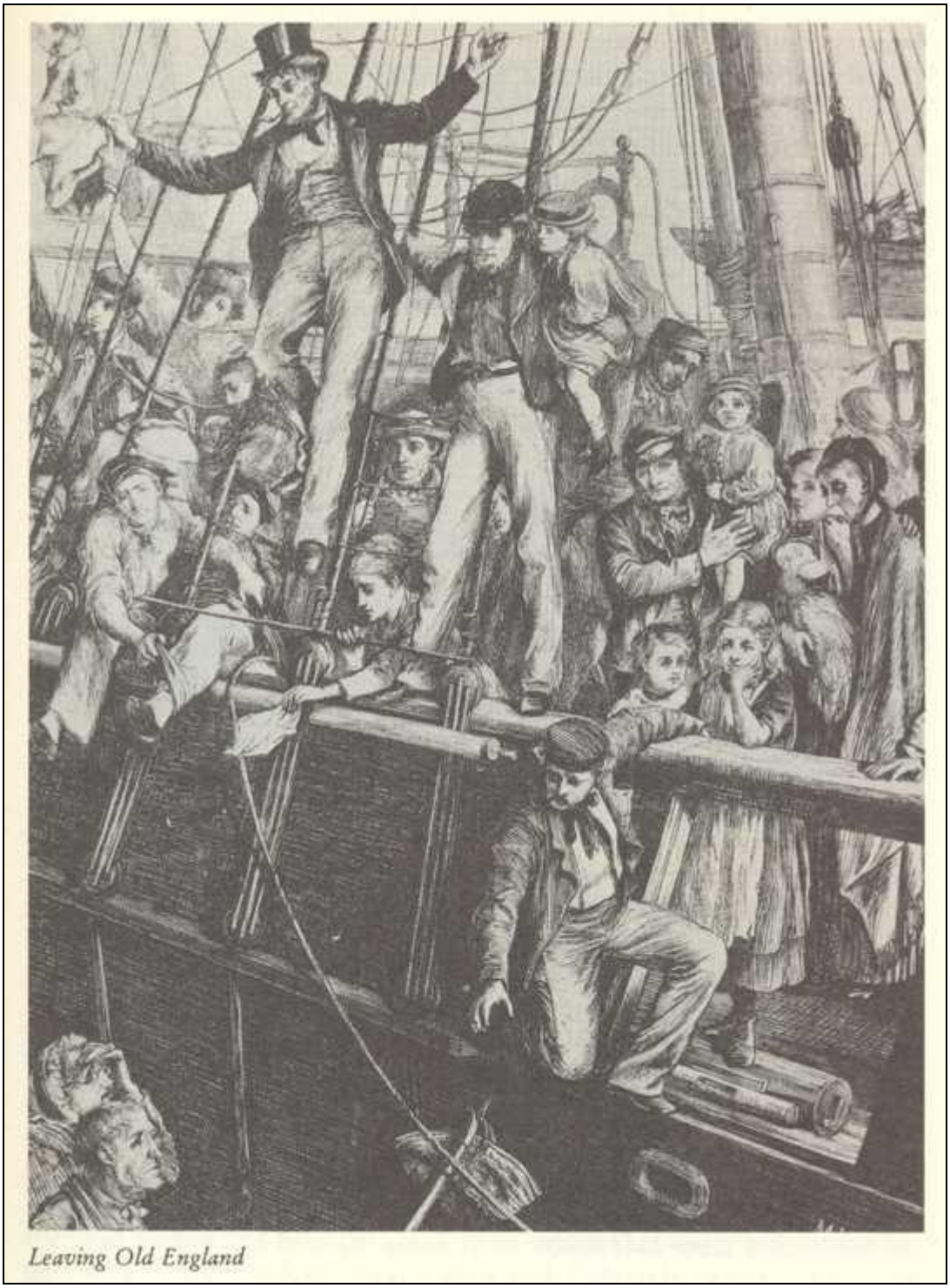
The Duckers



Leaving Old England

The Graphic 18 December 1869



(composite photo from the collection of Lee Farrow (nee Ducker)

James Ducker (1841 – 1917)

Eleanor Wright Bradley (1836 – 1929)

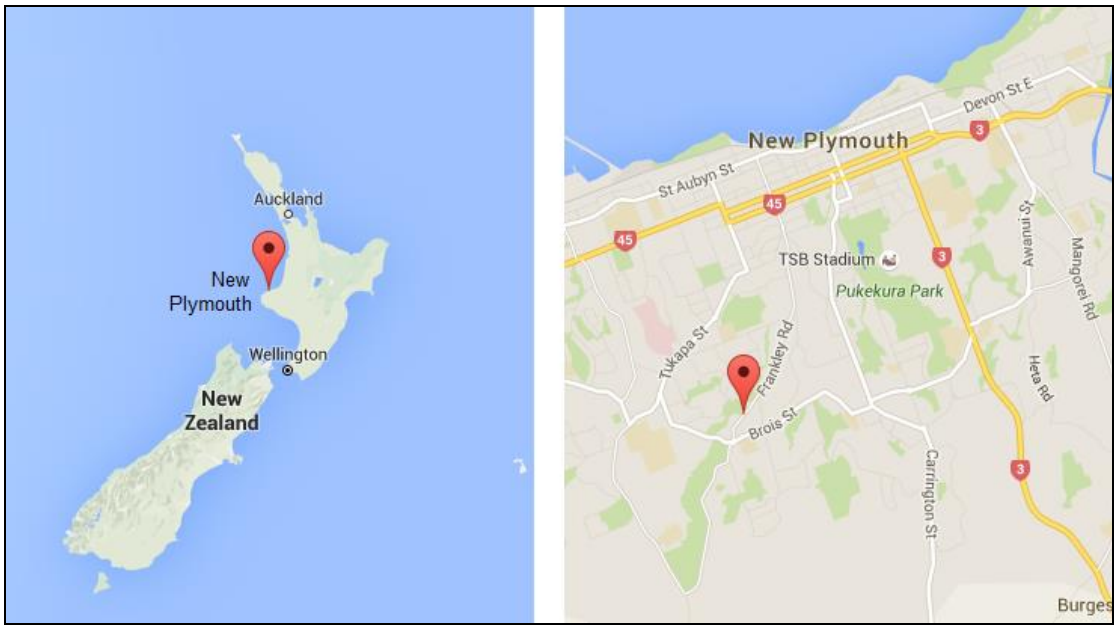
Married 29th March 1866

The family emigrated to New Zealand in 1880

Approximate location of the George Ducker homestead in Haxey
Isle of Axholme, North Lincolnshire.



Frankley Road, New Plymouth, where James Ducker and his family settled in New Zealand in 1880.



The last to arrive of my Taranaki pioneer forebears, was the Ducker family, whose ancestral home was the parish of Haxey, on the Isle of Axholm in NW Lincolnshire.

They arrived in New Zealand in 1880, and settled in New Plymouth.

Marian Ducker was 13 years of age when the family emigrated.
She married Richard Hooper six years later, and became my great grandmother.

This is a scrap book compilation of documents, news clippings and images relating to the Ducker family, its origins and its story up to the first generation of New Zealand pioneers.

A great deal of help, research and encouragement came from Beryl Ward, whose family roots are in Haxey. I am very grateful to Beryl, who gave her time generously, shared her experience and local knowledge, sourced books and information and made available the results of her own family research.

Descendants of the Ducker family in New Zealand gave access to their collections: Bradley Walter, Janet Fleming, Ron Henderson, Karen Erni, Ian Rumball, Margaret and Richard Cardiff, Lee Farrow, Brian Ducker, Joan Morrison, Evelyn Williams, Elizabeth Kilmister, Jenni Barr and Leslie Ducker.

Special thanks to Leslie Ducker for generously sharing his memories and photographs.
Special thanks to Margaret Cardiff, family historian whose sharp eyes found many errors.

Thanks also to Mrs. Barbara Williams, owner of Hikurangi Gardens on Newall Rd. (originally the homestead built by James Ducker) for showing us the site of the Ducker's Mill dam and tunnel, and for sharing the heritage of the Woolshed Museum.

Other sources:

"***Farthest Promised Land***" by historian Rollo Arnold
*"**Settler Kaponga**"* by Rollo Arnonld
"***From the mines to the Mountain***" by genealogist and Ducker descendant Judie Lannam
New Zealand Archives
New Zealand BDM Online
Papers Past
NZ Electoral Rolls (accessed via Ancestry.com)
1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 UK Census records (accessed via Ancestry.com)
Familysearch (Emigration Registers)
Ancestry.com website
Red1st.com website
The Haxey B.D.M. Transcripts (Haxey Family History Society)

To report errors or omissions please contact graemekenyon@hotmail.com

Contents

Page		
1		**Introduction**
7	**Part 1**	**A Constructed Ancestral Line for James Ducker**
17	**Part 2**	**James Ducker of Haxey**
23		**Elizabeth Waddington and John Bradley**
27		**James Ducker and Eleanor Wright Bradley**
30		**The 1870s Westwoodside, Haxey**
37	**Part 3**	**Emigration to New Zealand**
43		**Arrival in New Zealand**
45		**The first ten years in New Zealand**
48		**The 1890s**
53		**The 1900s**
59	**Part 4**	**The Children of James and Eleanor Ducker**
61		**Marian Ducker**
72		**Herbert Ducker**
73		**Ada Ducker**
79		**Ernest Ducker**
87		**Frank Ducker**
127		**The Ducker Bros. James and Alfred Ducker.**
165		**Elizabeth Ducker and Walter Rumball**

- -

175	**Appendix 1**	**Letters from Puniho**
203	**Appendix 2**	**Leo Ducker Memoirs: "Early Days of Ohiwa"**
229	**Appendix 3**	**Leslie Ducker Memoirs: "Tales of Fiji"**
253	**Appendix 4**	**Olive Ducker: her early life in Taranaki**
259	**Appendix 5**	**The Remittance Man of Ducker's Island**
265	**Appendix 6**	**Burton and White – Taranaki immigration agents**
275	**Appendix 7**	**The Location of George Ducker's Farmhouse in Haxey**
279	**Appendix 8**	**Emanuel Ducker - Farmer and potato merchant, Haxey**
285	**Appendix 9**	**Church History of the Duckers**
289	**Appendix 10**	**The *Plough* Inn**
291	**Appendix 11**	**The Talented Duckers**
292		**The American Duckers**
294		**James Ducker - Dry goods merchant of Joliet**
299		**George Ducker – Businessman, Red Cloud, Nebraska**
300		**William Ducker - Scholar, scientist and philosopher**
302	**Appendix 12**	**The Will of George Ducker**
305		**The Will of Elizabeth Bradley**
306		**The Deed of Roger de Mowbray**
307	**Appendix 13**	**The Descendants of James Ducker**
		Chart of NZ Ducker Ancestral Families: 3 generations

Introduction.

The Isle of Axholme

The ancestral home of the Ducker family was the parish of Haxey, on the Isle of Axholm, in NW Lincolnshire.

The ancient Isle of Axholme, in the North Western corner of North Lincolnshire, was bound in the North by the River Ouse, the River Don in the North-West, the River Trent in the East, the River Idle in the South and the lowlands of the Thorne and Hatfield Moors in the West. The Isle was a marshy area, much of it under water in winter. People lived in small villages on the high ground and developed a functioning economy, hints of which remain today in the medieval agricultural strips which can still be seen on Google Earth. They had enjoyed common land and grazing rights since medieval times, granted to them by decree (1359) of Roger de Mowbray, who had been Lord of the Manor at that time.[1]



Exploiting the waters of Axholme in medieval times

Idyllic impression: Before the great drainage scheme of Cornelius Vermeyden. [2]

It is said that in ancient times the area of Axholme was a broad forest, which gave safe retreat to native Briton tribes when they sallied forth to raid the camps of the invading Roman army. Eventually the Romans tired of fighting off these rebellious natives, set fire to the forest and destroyed it.

This caused major ecological changes to occur, resulting in the rivers becoming blocked, overflowing, and changing the low lands into peat marshlands and swamps, surrounding fertile ground on the higher parts, and creating an inland "island."

The next major change to the topography was also man-made:

[1] See Appendix 12: "The Deed of Roger de Mowbray"

[2] Illustration from: "The Isle of Axholme - Man and the Landscape".
Sent to me by Beryl Ward who informs: "The material in the book was produced in 1989 by the Isle of Axholme field survey team, they were part of Humberside Archaeology Unit."

In the 17th century a deal was made between Charles 1st and a Dutch engineer[3] called Cornelius Vermuyden, to drain a large area of what was thought of as a watery waste land, including much of the Isle of Axholme. A kind of Royal "joint venture", the deal was that the King and Vermuyden with his Dutch shareholders (called Participants) would each receive a portion of the reclaimed land. Though the plan was touted as a way of bringing wealth to a poor and undeveloped area, little thought was given to the rights which belonged to the local people, which had been granted to them by the decree of 1359.
And no appreciation was given to the fact that this area already had a viable economy.

The drainage scheme was also hydraulically flawed, and in the event some flooded land was drained, but other land which had never flooded became submerged, and much of the best land was taken from the Islonians .
Until the advent of pumping stations in the mid 1800's major flooding continued.

A functioning *pastoral* economy was merely replaced by a new *arable* economy.
Violent riots took place, which flared up again during the Civil War, which took place soon after the drainage. In the civil war (1644) the local Axholm people sided with the Parliamentarians in the hope of ridding themselves of the Participants, who they saw as aligned with the King.
Taking advantage of the situation, locals recommenced rioting and sabotage.
For the rest of the century the rights issue continued to cause violence and chaos.



Illustration taken from *The History and Topography of the Isle of Axholme*
by Rev William Brocklehurst Stonehouse MA. 1881

[3]Peter F. Fleet refers to Vermuyden as an "adventurer." Later he goes further: "an out and out liar, cheat and hypocrite." (PhD Thesis: *"The Isle of Axholme. 1540-1640: Economy and Society"*)



Illustration taken from *The History and Topography of the Isle of Axholme*
by Rev William Brocklehurst Stonehouse MA. 1881

Until the time of the drainage, the main occupations of the parish were wild-fowling, fishing and pasturage with some arable farming on the higher land. The inhabitants, with those of the neighbouring parishes were referred to by the antiquarian Abraham de la Pryme as being ***"little better than heathens"***, and the independent spirit shown during the drainage disputes continues to the present day. …."

From the website http://www.isleofaxholme.net

A full and clear description of the economy of the Isle of Axholme before the drainage is given by Joan Thisk and may be read at:
http://www.bahs.org.uk/AGHR/ARTICLES/01n1a4.pdf

Joan Thirsk concludes with the following:

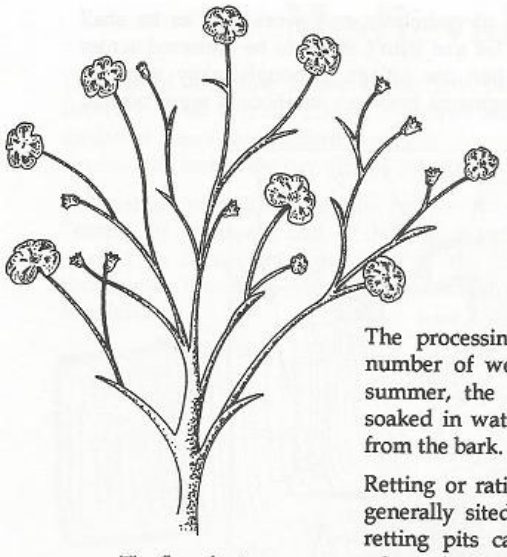
The charge that the islanders were stubborn and ignorant in opposing the drainage of the fens was made at the time, and is still current. It was a charge that ought with justice to have been made against Crown and Parliament, for they were utterly ignorant of conditions in Axholme before the drainage. Small wonder, indeed, that the islanders answered Parliament's demand for obedience in 1650 by saying it was "a Parliament of Clouts," and "they could make as good a Parliament themselves."[1]

The drainage schemes of the seventeenth century changed the course of farming history in the fenland, and finally made it the richest arable region of Lincolnshire. But in his lifetime Vermuyden did nothing to prove his contention that the drained fen of Axholme could be made more profitable than the undrained. He proved only that it could be put to a different use.

Hemp growing and sack and rope manufacturing was an important industry in the area. "Retting" pits can still be seen on aerial photographs.

Flax and Hemp

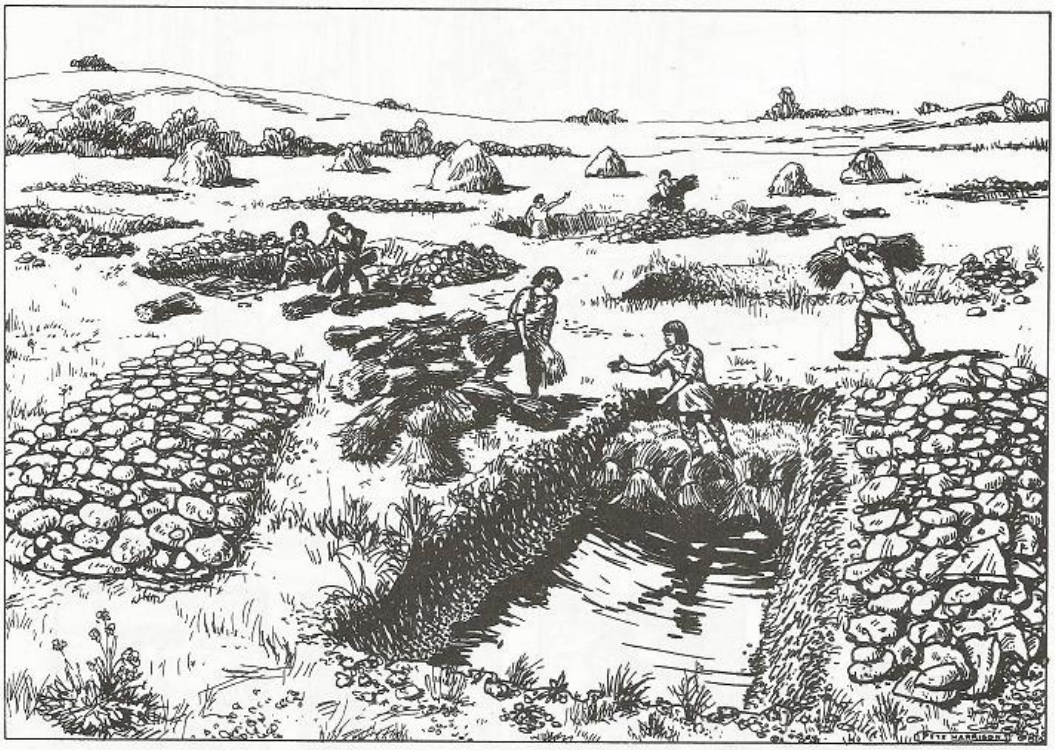
Flax, from which linen is made, and hemp which provides a similar though coarser fibre, were the basis of Axholme's principal industry from medieval times until the later nineteenth century. Flax and hemp were cultivated in the open fields and most households were involved in either growing it or spinning and weaving the fibres.



The flax plant
(Linum usitatissimum)

The processing of flax and hemp to make textiles involves a number of well-documented steps. After harvesting about mid-summer, the plants were carted away to "retting pits" to be soaked in water for about three weeks. This separated the fibres from the bark.

Retting or rating was an evil-smelling process and the pits were generally sited well away from the village centre. Traces of old retting pits can be seen on aerial photographs of East Lound where the land is still called "The Rates". Pits are also known at Belton.



Filling the retting pits

After retting, the flax or hemp plants were dried for several weeks and then "scutched" or beaten to loosen waste from the fibres. A device called a break was also used for this purpose. Finally the fibres were pulled through a heckle or iron comb to straighten them. They were then ready for spinning.

From "The Isle of Axholme - Man and the Landscape."

Retting was said to be a malodorous process, the pits best situated some distance from dwellings.

The local historic society (**http://www.axholme-fhs.org.uk)** points out that Haxey is one of the few parishes remaining in England where remnants of the old strip system can be seen, and many inhabitants referred to themselves as farmers whereas in reality they only farmed an acre or less.



Strip farming at Epworth. http://www.isleofaxholme.co.uk

Epworth, just a few miles north of Haxey, was the birth place of John and Charles Wesley

In the 1870s rural England had been feeling the effects of closures, low prices, low wages and reduced prospects for farm workers, culminating in the so-called "revolt of the field."

In precisely the same period, on the opposite side of the world, New Plymouth was recovering from a decade of war and destruction, and the New Zealand colonial government had embarked on a programme of borrowing, building, and economic growth, underpinned by ambitious immigration schemes which were to peak in the mid 1870s.

Initially Taranaki tended to be overlooked as a destination but by 1874 the Province had established its own farm labour recruitment scheme, concentrating in North Lincolnshire. The efforts of Taranaki agents Burton and White, after many difficulties, had resulted by the end of the decade in some 2,000 emigrants from Lincolnshire. James Ducker and his family may have been influenced by this programme, but did not participate while it was at it peak. Perhaps as a result of favourable reports, they decided to follow, but by 1880, when they departed, active recruitment had ceased and, due to a recent economic downturn, the Colonial Government was actually attempting to reduce the flow of immigration.

The Duckers arrived in Wellington in 1880 on the immigrant ship Geraldine Paget, and made their way to New Plymouth in the province of Taranaki.
They settled on Frankley Road, a rural area a little outside the town of New Plymouth, and James, a joiner by trade was soon working at the New Plymouth Sash and Door Company.

. . . . . .

Part 1 A Constructed Ancestral Line for James Ducker

We can trace the presence of our Ducker family in the village of Haxey, on the Isle of Axholme, from Elizabethan times. This is due to the survival of birth/death/marriage records from the 900-year-old **St Nicholas Parish Church of Haxey**. Fortunately the records of this church seem to have escaped the worst excesses of the Civil War.



The Parish Church of St Nicholas. http://www.isleofaxholme.co.uk

From these records, a line descending to our James Ducker has been constructed.
Part of this construction is based on a wiki website named red1st.com.
The marriages and births upon which this construction is based are authentic, and based on the ancient church records, transcriptions of which have been made by the local Historical Society. The linkages between marriages and births down through the generations all "fit". But, as any genealogist knows, a "fit" does not constitute a proof. The small number and repeated use of Christian names makes some of the relationships a little uncertain.

From 1841 the government introduced a census every 10 years, and from then on the family linkages can be accepted with more certainty.

Shortly after 1841 the Duckers ceased recording their events in the St Nicholas Church. They joined the non-conformist movement.
However, the non-conformist Haxey chapel records are also complete.

Let us allocate the generation number "zero" to James Ducker, our ancestor who brought the Ducker family to New Plymouth in 1880.

The constructed family line can thus commence with generation -7.

Johis (John?) Ducker, said to have been born 7 generations before, in 1550: "generation -7"

Marriage of Johis Ducker to Elizabeth Newborn 2nd October 1575
(Marriage Certificate) (Haxey Marriages, Isle of Axholme FHS.)
(Elizabeth Newborn is said to have been born in 1555, in Lincolnshire.)

The marriage took place at St Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey
Johis and Elizabeth recorded at least five children:

Hezekiah Ducker	**Haxey**	**(about 1576-1627)**	*generation -6*
Johes Ducker	Haxey	(1578)	
Elizabeth Ducker		(1581)	
Katherina Ducker	Haxey	(1581)	
Ricardi Ducker			

The eldest son, Hezekiah Ducker, was christened at St Nicholas Parish Church on 9th Sept 1576**.** (Haxey Baptisms, Isle of Axholme FHS)

King Henry VIII had died just three years before Johis Ducker was born.
In his lifetime, Johis saw the last of the Tudor dynasty.

In 1553, when Johis Ducker was three years of age, the reign of Queen Mary 1 commenced. Five years later she was beheaded, and the Elizabethan age began. Queen Elizabeth took the throne in 1558 and her reign continued for the next 47 years.

During this time religious separatism was brewing – and not too far from the swamps of Axholm. Separatist groups in nearby Nottinghamshire organised their own church groups, two of their leaders (Barrowe and Greenwood) were later executed.
Around this time Walter Raleigh founded the colony of Virginia. Within a decade this group of Puritan separatists had formed a relationship with one of the Virginia trading companies, left Amsterdam and relocated to America. Their ship was the Mayflower, and they were later to become known as the "Pilgrim Fathers."
The Mayflower set sail for the New World in 1620.

Meanwhile the Duckers farmed in nearby Haxey and evidently remained conformist, as subsequent baptisms marriages and deaths continued over the generations, to be recorded at the St Nicholas Parish Church of Haxey.

Around 1600 Hezekiah Ducker married "Dorithie"

Marriage of Hezekiah Ducker and Dorithie about 1600
(Marriage Certificate) (Haxey Marriages, Isle of Axholme FHS.)
Records show that they had the following children:

Dorothy Ducker	Haxey	about 1600	
Ellen Ducker	Haxey	1601	
Katherine Ducker	Haxey	1603	
Mary Ducker	Haxey	1606	
Johan (John?) Ducker	Haxey	1608	
Ann Ducker	Haxey	1610	
William Ducker	**Haxey**	**about 1613**	*generation -5*
Thomas Ducker	Haxey	1615	
Elizabeth Ducker	Haxey	about 1618	
Jacobus (James) Ducker	Haxey	1621	

William Ducker was the second son of Hezekiah Ducker. He was christened at St Nicholas Parish Church Haxey, on 21st February 1613.

This was now the time of the House of Stuart.
James1 had taken the throne in 1603 and adopted a Protestant religious policy. (Moderate Protestants only. Both Catholics and Puritans were forbidden to practice their religions.) In 1605 the Gunpowder Plot was hatched by Guy Fawkes and his friends, Catholics, who tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament.



The Gun Powder Plotters.

James I authorised the translation of the King James Bible.
He also had Sir Walter Raleigh executed
In 1625 (when young William Ducker was just twelve years old) James 1 was succeeded by Charles 1.
Puritanism was on the rise. But Charles considered that his power exceeded that of parliament. The country now faced political and religious turmoil, and revolution.

And the Isle of Axholm was also to face its own local turmoil, which continued through the next four generations: Dutch engineer, Cornelius Vermuyden, was given permission to drain a large area, including the Isle of Axholm.

When the drainage project commenced in 1627, young William Ducker was 14 years of age. Within his lifetime he would witness the end of the old lifestyle of ancient Axholme, and the end of the rights to the commons which his family had enjoyed for many generations past.

In 1643 William Ducker, 30 years of age, married Jane Taylor who was then 23.

Marriage of William Ducker and Jane Taylor 29th June 1643
St. Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey. (Marriage Certificate.)
(Jane Taylor was christened 17th Sept 1620).
The following children are recorded:

Hezekiah Ducker	Haxey	about 1644	
Jacob Ducker	**Haxey**	**about 1648**	*generation -4*
James Ducker	Haxey	about 1649	
John Ducker	Haxey	about 1649	

Jacob was the second son of William and Jane Ducker.
He was christened at St. Nicholas Parish Church on 15th February 1648.

The Royalists and the Parliamentarians were arming at this time, and civil war was to break out within a year. The Isle of Axholm was within the area controlled by the Parliamentarians.
In 1649 Charles 1st was beheaded, and the Monarchy was temporarily at an end. Young Jacob Ducker grew up as a child in the period now referred to as the "Commonwealth". Oliver Cromwell became "Lord Protector" in 1653 and was succeeded briefly in 1658 by his son Richard.

Jacob Ducker was 12 years of age when, in 1660, the Commonwealth ended and Charles II of the House of Stuart was restored to the throne.
Although Charles II was considered to favour religious tolerance, he presided over the shoring-up of the re-established Church of England. Effectively this amounted to discouragement of non-conformism (for example, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer became compulsory in churches, an Act of 1664 banned religious assemblies of more than five people outside of the Church of England, and soon after, came an Act which prohibited expelled non-conformist clergymen from coming within 5 miles of their Parish.)

These were the times of the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London, and the building of great Churches such as Westminster Cathedral.
Charles II fathered no legitimate heirs (though he is credited with a rather impressive number of children outside his marriage) and on his death in1685 (at which time he suddenly and inexplicably decided to become a Roman Catholic) he was succeeded by his brother James II. The reign of James II was short-lived. Although he had lost popularity when he too converted to Catholicism, his popularity had returned somewhat, and his accession to the throne was orderly. He favoured religious tolerance, (though not to the Scots Presbyterians.) However his moves towards religious tolerance soon became offensive to the established Anglican Church, and in 1688 when he and his wife produced a son, the prospect of a Catholic heir to the throne and the start of a Catholic dynasty prompted Protestant Nobles to seek the assistance of the Dutch Protestant William of Orange to depose him. He was deposed in 1688, and legislation saw to it that he was the last Catholic Monarch.

In November 1688 William of Orange came over from the Netherlands, and from 1689, with his wife Mary, jointly ruled Britain until the death of Mary in 1694 - and then on his own until his death in 1702

In the same year as the accession of William and Mary, 1689, Jacob Ducker, now 29 years of age, married Maria Waterland.

Marriage of Jacob Ducker and Maria Waterland 30th Nov. 1689
St. Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey. (Maria Waterland was born about 1870.)
The following children are recorded:

Elizabeth Ducker	Haxey	about 1693	
James (Jacob) Ducker	**Haxey**	**about 1696**	*gen. -3*
Mary Ducker	Haxey	about 1699	
Robert Ducker	Haxey	about 1702	
Martha Ducker	Haxey	about 1709	

James (Jacob) Ducker, the eldest son of Jacob and Mary Ducker, was christened 28th March 1696 at St. Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey.

The last of the Stuarts (Mary and Ann) reigned until 1714.
For next 200 years the throne was to belong to the House of Hanover, culminating in the reign of Victoria.

At around the same time as James Ducker was born in Haxey, just a few miles away to the north in the town of Epworth, the founders of Methodism were born.
(John Wesley born 1703 and Charles Wesley born 1707.)

It is quite possible that the Ducker boys, James and Robert of Haxey, might have known the Wesley brothers, whose father Samuel was the vicar at Epworth Parish Church.



Market Cross, Epworth, where John Wesley used to preach his sermons.
https://axholmecameraman.shutterfly.com

Marriage of James (Jacob) Ducker and Juliana Noddell 30th May 1722
St Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey. (Juliana was 24 years of age.)
The following children were recorded:

James Ducker	Haxey	about 1723
Daniel Ducker	Haxey	about 1724, died age 0

Juliana died in September 1724.

Marriage of James (Jacob) Ducker and Mary Taylor 25th June 1728
St. Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey. (Mary Taylor was born about 1705.)
The following children were recorded:

Wlliam Ducker	Haxey	about1729	
Robert Ducker	Haxey	about 1732 (probably died before 1750)	
Mary Ducker	Haxey	about 1735 (died as infant 2 yrs)	
Mary Ducker	Haxey	about 1737 (died 1741) (Roy Stringer)	
John Ducker	Haxey	about 1740	
Elizabeth Ducker	Haxey	about 1743	
Robert Ducker	**Haxey**	about **1750**	*generation -2*
Mary Ducker	Haxey	about 1753	
Julian Ducker	Epworth	about 1757	

Robert Ducker, the fourth surviving son of James, and the third surviving son of Mary, was christened on 28th September 1750 at St Nicholas parish Church, Haxey.

In 1744 a serious fire raged through the village of Haxey which, in about 3 hours consumed 62 houses, furniture, clothes, corn, hemp and farming equipment to the amount of abut 5,000 pounds. "The inhabitants were driven naked into the fields." Evidently the home of our James and Mary Ducker above, escaped damage. James, however, did have a brother called Robert, married and with small children at the time of the fire, who may be the Robert Ducker in the list fragment below.

May 22nd, 1744. An account of the Loss sustained by the dreadful Fire which happened at Haxey, the 28th and 29th days of February last.
Estimate of the goods was made by indifferent neighbours: of the buildings by experienced workmen.

Sufferers' Names	*Occupations*	*Families*	*Loss in Goods* £	s.	d.	*Loss in Buildings* £	s.	d.
Wm. Cooper	Farmer and small owner	Himself, wife, and two sons, one very lame	58	3	0	182	0	0
Robert Ducker	ditto	Himself, wife, and four small children	43	7	4	53	0	0
Robert Pullan	ditto	Himself and wife aged and three sons	29	11	1			

A charitable trust was established, which collected sufficient funds to indemnify all sufferers for their loss.
(Information from "The History and Topography of the Isle of Axholme" by Rev. W. B. Stonehouse.)

Marriage of Robert Ducker and Ann Read 25th Nov 1777
St Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey. (Ann Read was born about 1758.)
The following children were recorded:

Ann Ducker	Haxey	about 1780 (died as infant 9 years)	
Robert Ducker	Haxey	about 1784	
William Ducker	Haxey	about 1782	
Elizabeth Ducker	Haxey	about 1787	
George Ducker	**Haxey**	**about 1794**	*generation -1*
James Ducker	Haxey	about 1791	
John Ducker	Haxey	about 1797	

Our ancestor is George Ducker who was christened on 5th July 1797
at St. Nicolas Parish Church, Haxey.
(Isle of Axholme FHS: Parish Transcripts, Haxey Baptisms Vol 4 Pg 14)

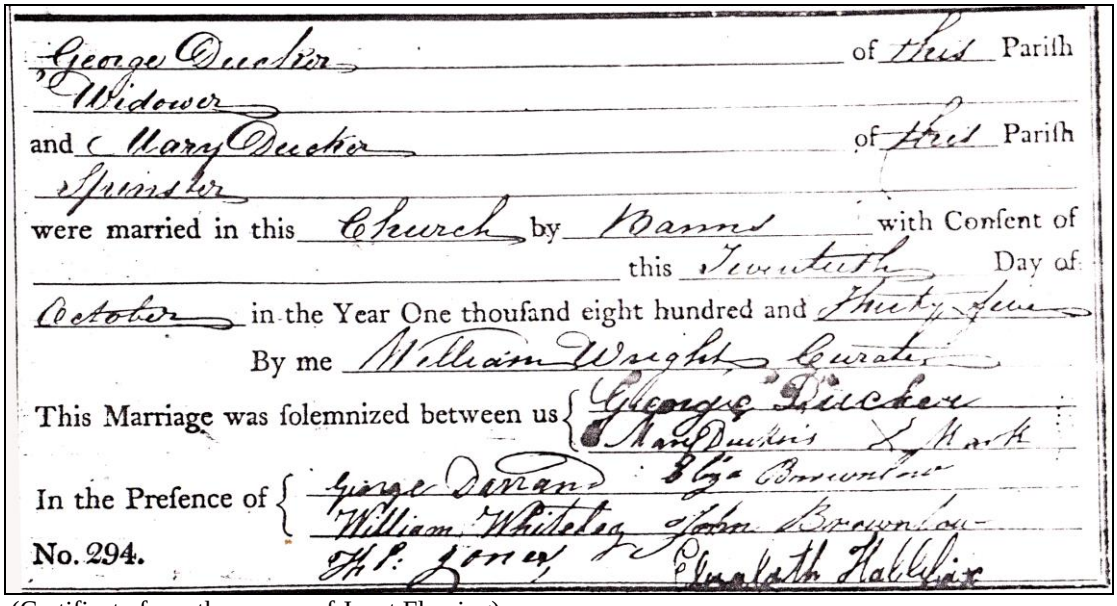
The 1790s saw the French Revolution.
The wars with France continued until Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo in 1815.

Marriage of George Ducker and Mary Starkey on 13th October 1825
(Isle of Axholme FHS: Parish Transcripts, Haxey Marriages Vol 3 Pg 29)
(Mary Starkey was born about 1798.)
The following children were recorded:

Mary Ann Ducker	Haxey	before Nov. 1828
George Ducker	Haxey	about 1832

Mary Starkey died in 1832.

Marriage of George Ducker and Mary Ducker on 20th October 1835


George Ducker of this Parish
Widower
and Mary Ducker of this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of
this Twentieth Day of
October in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Thirty five
By me William Wright Curate
This Marriage was solemnized between us { George Ducker / Mary Ducker's X Mark
In the Presence of { George Durand / William Whiteley / John Brownlow
No. 294. W. P. Jones / Elizabeth Habblix

(Certificate from the papers of Janet Fleming)

Mary Ducker, a very distant relative of George, was born in 1811[4]

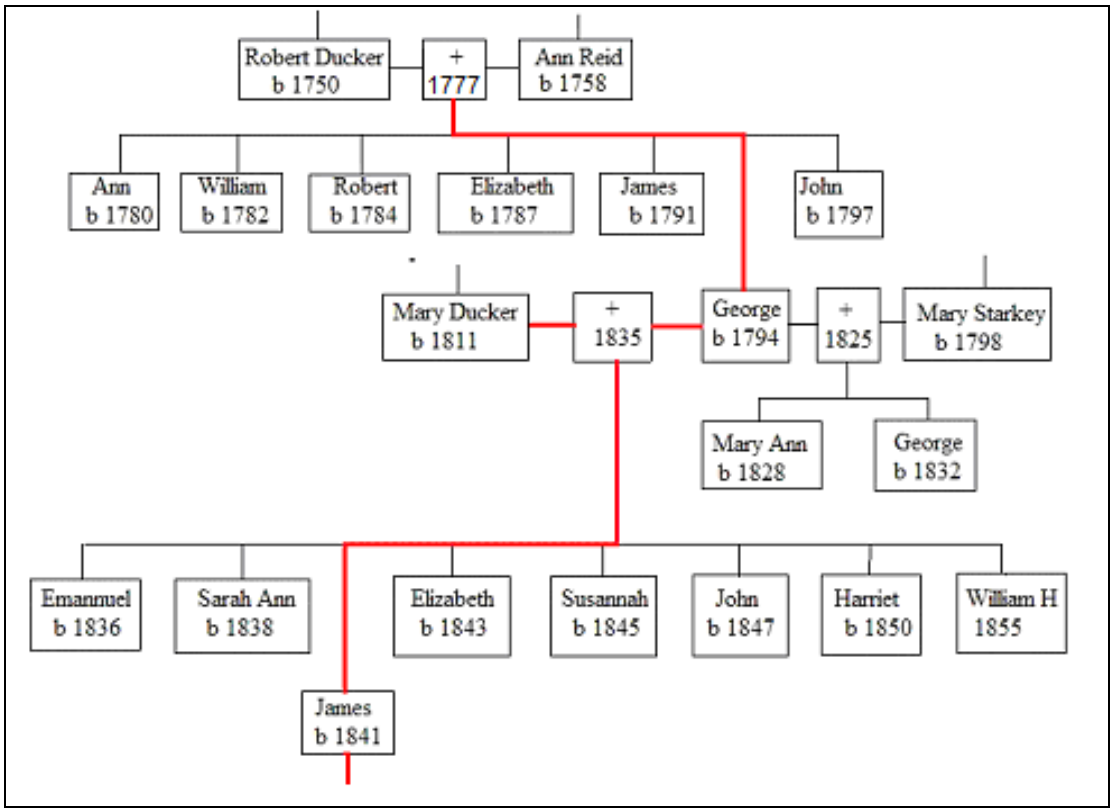
[4] The common ancestor of George and Mary is William Ducker who married Jane Taylor in 1643

From the marriage certificate on the previous page we can infer that George Ducker was literate as he seems to have signed his name quite proficiently.
Evidently his wife Mary was not, as evidenced by her "Mark."

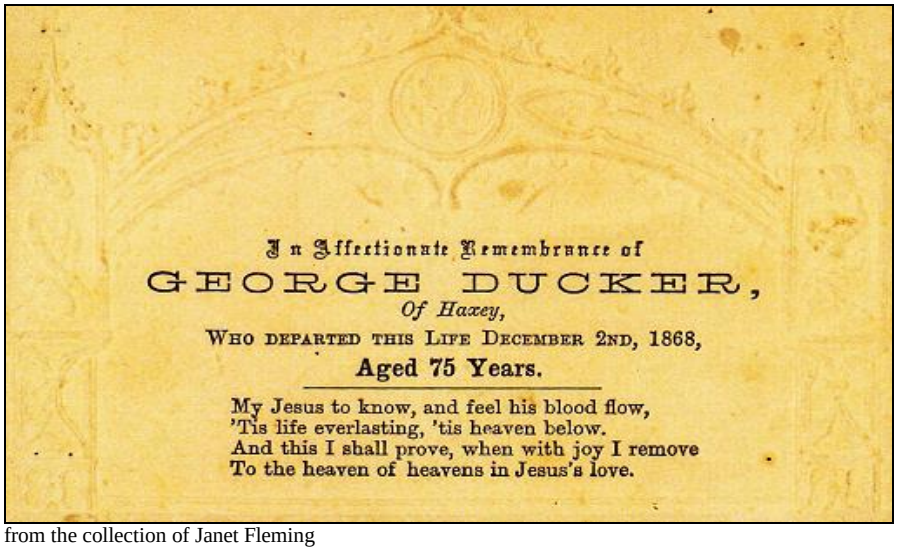
The following children were recorded:

Mary Ann Ducker	Haxey	1828 (Possibly Mary Ann above)
Emanuel Ducker	Haxey	before 14th Jul 1836
Sarah Ann Ducker	Haxey	14th Nov 1838
James Ducker	**Haxey**	**3rd Jan 1841**
Elizabeth Ducker	Haxey	about 1843
Susannah Ducker	Haxey	26th Jan 1845
John Ducker	Haxey	27th July 1847
Harriet Ducker	Haxey	28th March 1850
William H Ducker	Haxey	18th Sept 1855 died before 11 Jan 1858

Our ancestor is James Ducker who was christened on 11th Jan 1841
at St Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey.
(Isle of Axholme FHS: Parish Transcripts, Haxey Baptisms Vol 5 Pg 21)



George Ducker died on 2nd December 1868.



In Affectionate Remembrance of

GEORGE DUCKER,

Of Haxey,

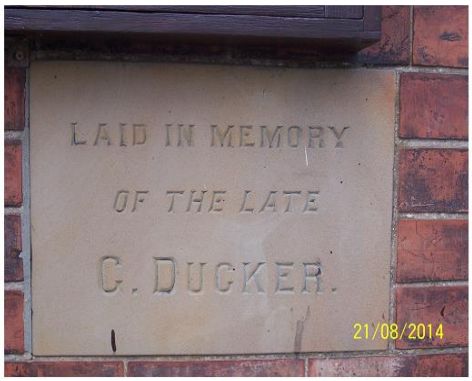
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE DECEMBER 2ND, 1868,

Aged 75 Years.

My Jesus to know, and feel his blood flow,
'Tis life everlasting, 'tis heaven below.
And this I shall prove, when with joy I remove
To the heaven of heavens in Jesus's love.

from the collection of Janet Fleming

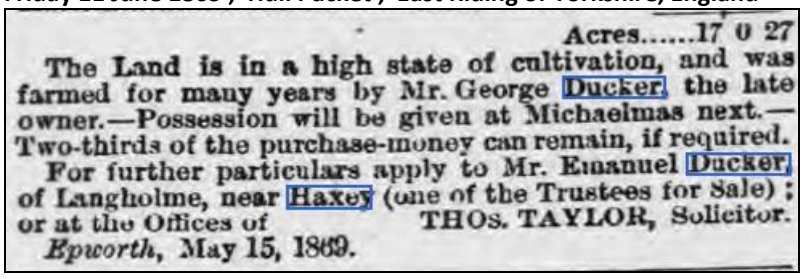




The headstone for George Ducker is missing from the Parish cemetery, and Janet Fleming says that when she inquired, she was told that it had been broken up for roading as it had been damaged. Beryl Ward, however, found and photographed this "memorial brick" which had been placed in the later chapel (built in 1901.) According to his will, the assets of the deceased estate were to be managed by the trustees (Mary Ducker, his wife, and Emanuel Ducker, his eldest son) for the benefit of Mary, and that after her death the assets were to be divided among his children and grandchildren. (See Appendix 12: "The Will of George Ducker")

17 acres was put up for sale in 1869.

Friday 21 May 1869 , Stamford Mercury , Lincolnshire, England SALE BY AUCTION
Friday 11 June 1869 , Hull Packet , East Riding of Yorkshire, England



Acres.....17 0 27

The Land is in a high state of cultivation, and was farmed for many years by Mr. George Ducker, the late owner.—Possession will be given at Michaelmas next.—Two-thirds of the purchase-money can remain, if required.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Emanuel Ducker, of Langholme, near Haxey (one of the Trustees for Sale); or at the Offices of THOS. TAYLOR, Solicitor.

Epworth, May 15, 1869.

It is not certain when Mary Ducker died, some time after 1881, possibly 1886.

Evidently after the death of George, Mary shifted from the family home near Eastlound and moved to a residence a little closer to town, near to a street called "The Nooking", as can be inferred from the enumerator's route in the 1881 UK census.

Mary Ducker	Head	Wid.		69	Farmer's Widow		Haxey
Susannah Do	Dau.	Unm.		36	School Mistress	Do	Do
Robert J Sykes	Grandson		10		Scholar	Yorks Adlingfleet	
Herbert Do	Do		9		Scholar	Do	Do

On the day of the 1881 census Mary was accompanied by her unmarried schoolmistress daughter Susannah, and two grand children Robert and Herbert Sykes.

There is a Haxey burial record for a Mary Ducker (b. abt 1810) dated 13th May 1886.

DUCKER,
— Mary. 76 ..... Gainsbro' 7 a. 431

There appears to be no record of our Mary Ducker in the 1891 census.

Ducker's Field.



Bradley Walter at "Ducker's Field." (Bradley Walter's collection)

This is a 40 acre block of land at Graiselound, a short distance south of Haxey Village, referred to by its current owner as "Ducker's Field".

A little research, with the assistance of Beryl Ward, soon proved that this is not where George Ducker lived.

Opposite Bridge Farm, it was probably named after George's eldest son Emanuel, who was living near there in the 1860's and 70's. In the 1861 census Emanuel Ducker was recorded as farming 40 acres. This may be the block referred to.

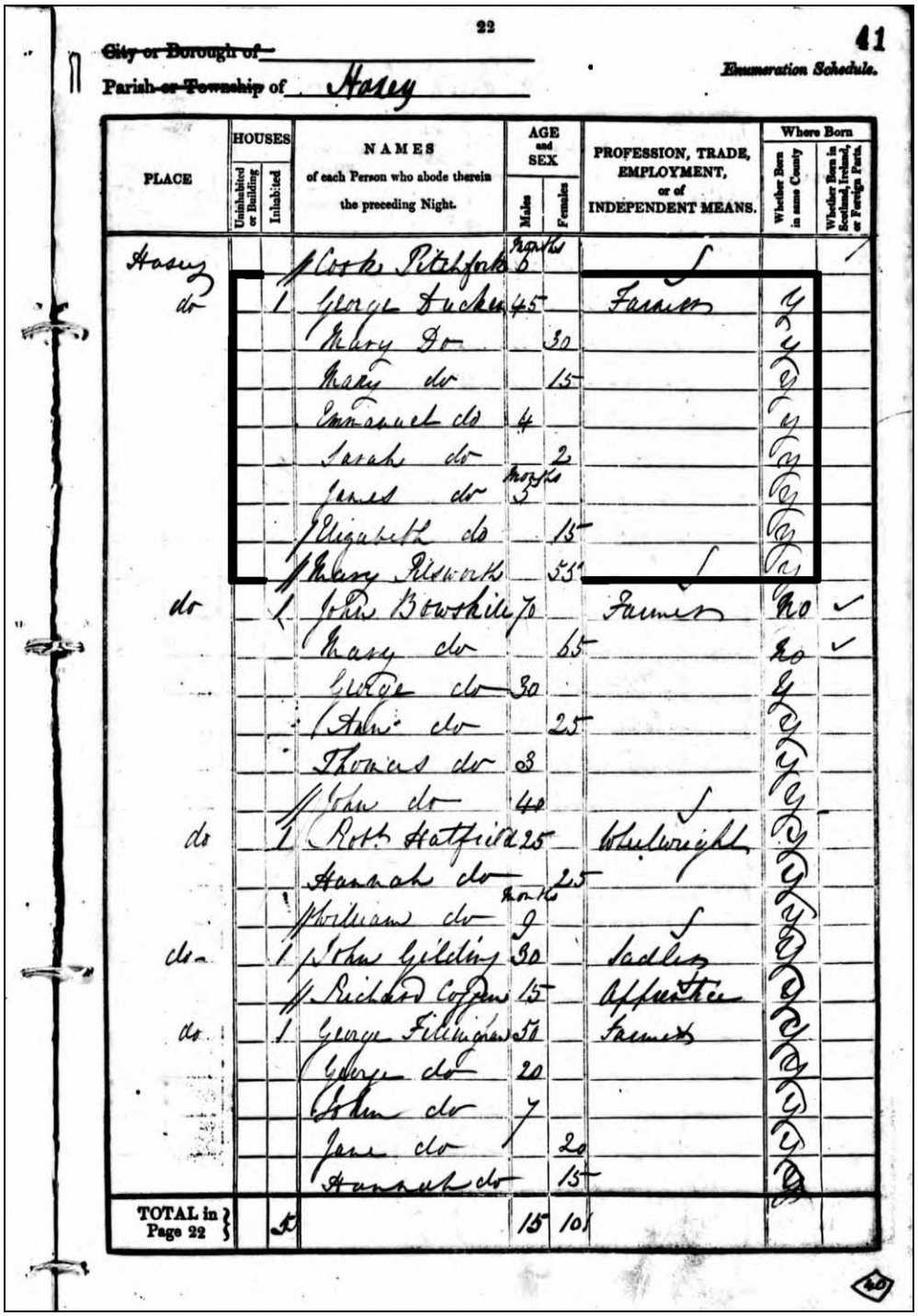
Emanuel Ducker lived at nearby Langholme in 1861, at Bridge House (in 1876) and also at nearby Thinholme Grange (in 1871), and for a period of time farmed some relatively large holdings in this area. (See Appendix 8)

Part 2 James Ducker of Haxey

James Ducker, second son of George and Mary Ducker, was born 3rd January 1841 and christened eight days later at St Nicholas Parish Church, Haxey.
(Isle of Axholme FHS: Parish Transcripts, Haxey Baptisms Vol 5 Pg 21)

A glimpse into the Ducker household, shortly after James was born, is given by the census of 1841.

1841



22 41

~~City or Borough of~~

Parish ~~or Township~~ of Haxey

Enumeration Schedule.

PLACE	HOUSES Uninhabited or Building	HOUSES Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX Males	AGE and SEX Females	PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born: Whether Born in same County	Where Born: Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Haxey			Cooke Pitchford	6 months		S		
do		1	George Ducker	45		Farmer	Y	
			Mary Do		30		Y	
			Mary do		15		Y	
			Emanuel do	4			Y	
			Sarah do		2		Y	
			James do	3 months			Y	
			Elizabeth do		15		Y	
			Mary Stevens		55	S	Y	
do		1	John Bowskill	70		Farmer	Yo	✓
			Mary do		65		Yo	✓
			Susan do	30			Y	
			Ann do		25		Y	
			Thomas do	8			Y	
			John do	40		S	Y	
do		1	Robt Hatfield	25		Wheelwright	Y	
			Hannah do		25		Y	
			William do	9 months		S	Y	
do		1	John Gilding	30		Saddler	Y	
			Richard Coppin	15		Apprentice	Y	
do		1	George Fillingham	50		Farmer	Y	
			George do	20			Y	
			John do	7			Y	
			Jane do		20		Y	
			Hannah do		15		Y	
TOTAL in Page 22		5		15	101		10	

40

The address of the Ducker residence is given here only as "Haxey".
However the description of this enumeration district states that the census recorder was to begin his door-to-door survey in the village of Haxey, and finish in the vicinity of "Mr. George Duckers in the Field."
From this we know that the census recorder has worked his way from Haxey Village in an easterly direction, almost as far as today's Eastlound, finishing up in the vicinity of the Duckers and their neighbours.

The neighbours on one side are the farming family of old John Bowskill and his wife, with their son George and daughter Ann. It is a reasonable assumption that the others are an older son, John, and a grandson, Thomas, who are visiting the family that day. Beyond the Bowskills is the Pitchfork family. John Pitchfork is a labourer with a family of seven. Eldest son John is 13, and the youngest is little Cook who appears on the 1841 census fragment on the previous page, just 6 months old. Nearest neighbour on the other side is young Robert Hatfield, 25, a wheelwright, with his wife Hannah and 9-month-old son William. Next is another tradesman, John Gilding, saddler, and his apprentice Richard Colpin, 15 years. The final page for this enumeration district shows three more households. They are the Brock family (farmers), old John Kelsey's family (labourer) and another family of labourers living in a house called "Currygarth."

Walking the narrow lanes which connect this scatter of rural homes, the census recorder has knocked on the door of George Ducker, "farmer."
George Ducker is recorded as 45 years old on this day, and his wife Mary as 30.

Their children are recorded as follows:
Mary (15) is George's daughter from a previous marriage, usually called Mary Ann, and actually just 13.

(Mary Ann's mother was Mary Starkey who had married George Ducker in 1825, and died in 1832.)

A son, George also had been born in 1832. On this census day, George Jnr. is staying with his grandparents Abraham and Mary Starkey, in the hamlet of Graizelound, just a few miles south of here.)

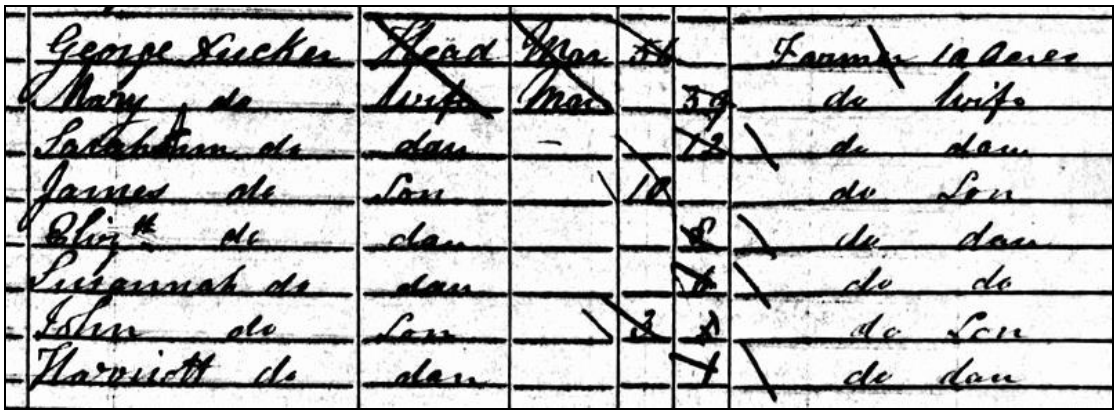
The census recorder has rounded the ages of the adults to the nearest five years.

However, with the remaining children he has to be more precise: Emanuel (4 years), Sarah (2 years), and our ancestor James Ducker, just 5 months.

It seems there are also some visitors in the house this day: Elizabeth Ducker (15), and a 55-year-old lady called Mary Pilsworth.
(According to red1st.com George's wife Mary had a sister called Elizabeth Ducker, who was born in 1822. This could be the Elizabeth who was present that day.
Census clerks in 1841 often changed adult birth dates up or down to the nearest 5.
And red1st.com records the Pilsworth family living in nearby Epworth.)

1851

"Fast forward" now to the census of 1851. This time the enumeration district has changed, and the recorder starts his door-knocking in Eastlound, before calling on George Ducker and his neighbours, then moving on towards Haxey and finally north to Low Burnham. What has changed in the last 10 years? James is now 10, of course.



George Ducker is now recorded as 56, "farmer, 10 acres."

The "10 acres" is only an approximation. In fact George is the proud owner of ten strips within nearby "East Moor Furlong", which, together with his own homestead and croft in the "Field", amount to 8 acres, 1 rood and 26 perches.
(This is 3.4 hectares.) In addition to what he owns, he is currently renting 17 more strips scattered around various parts of Haxey, which add a further 17 acres to his total. So, in all, George Ducker manages about 10.5 hectares.
(Information is from lists attached to the "Act of Tithe Redemption 1847".
See appendix: "Location of George Ducker's Homestead.")

The family has grown. The children are: "Sarah Ann (12), James (10), Elizabeth (8), Suzannah (6), John (3) and Harriott (1).
The James's eldest brother Emanuel has left home, and appears now as a farm labourer, 15, with the Brownley family a few miles north in the village of Burnham.
The children of George's first marriage are staying with their grandfather Abraham Starkey, in Graizelound. (George Jnr., 19, is an agricultural labourer. Mary Ann, 22, has no occupation recorded here.)
The neighbours John and Joanna Pitchfork are still there, but getting on in years, and the children have all left home except for the youngest, Cook, now10.

James grew up in a rural area just to the east of Haxey Village called "The Field" or "Haxey Field." Today the general area is called Eastmoor. This is where George Ducker had his croft and homestead where he and his wife lived and raised their family. For a discussion on the location of the croft and homestead, see Appendix.

Significantly, Robert Hatfield, the wheelwright who we met in the 1841 census is now well established. He and his wife now have 4 children, including son William, the same age as James Ducker, and they are next-door-neighbours to the Duckers.

It is easy to imagine young James spending time at the Hatfield's after school, with classmate William Hatfield and maybe young Cook Pitchfork too - perhaps finding an early interest in the craftsman's special tools, his woodworking skills, the spectacle of this man working with his hands, applying his useful trade.



http://www.tarland.org.uk



https://aipetcher.wordpress.com/tag/wheelwright/

"If the wright had been in business for a while, he likely had lots of tools (possibly several hundred) hanging on a wall or lying on a table. He was a carpenter who cut wood apart, a joiner who put pieces of wood together, and a blacksmith who covered the outside rim of a wheel with an iron band. He had specialty tools for all three crafts. (An apprentice spent seven years learning how to use them.) He had adzes, augers, and axes for cutting wood, calipers, chisels, and clamps for working on it, files and rasps to smooth it, and drawknives and spokeshaves to taper it. He had different templates for wooden felloes (called 'fellies; these were the curved pieces that when fitted together formed the exterior rim). This allowed him to make wheels of different sizes. There were hub cradles and a hand-cranked wooden wheel next to a wall. (A belt assembly connected to it provided power for a lathe or a band saw.) There were water tubs for cooling down wheels that had just been 'shod' with hot iron shoes (strakes)." (http://www.davidwebbfowler.com)

The wheelwright's apprentice.

Within the next few years, within five years perhaps, James Ducker commenced an apprenticeship to a wheelwright. It is quite natural to think that James would have bound himself to the neighbour, wheelwright Robert Hatfield. This is indeed possible, though the census of 1861 records Robert Hatfield as employing his own two sons as "assistants", with no mention of his employing an apprentice.

There are other wheelwrights in the district.
Master wheelwright Robert Read (38) was stationed not far away in Haxey East End, though the 1861 census makes no record of Read employing an apprentice at that time either. There is also Samuel Burrell in Eastlound, previously a wheelwright and whose son is now a journeyman in that trade.
Again, however, no record in 1861 of him employing an apprentice.

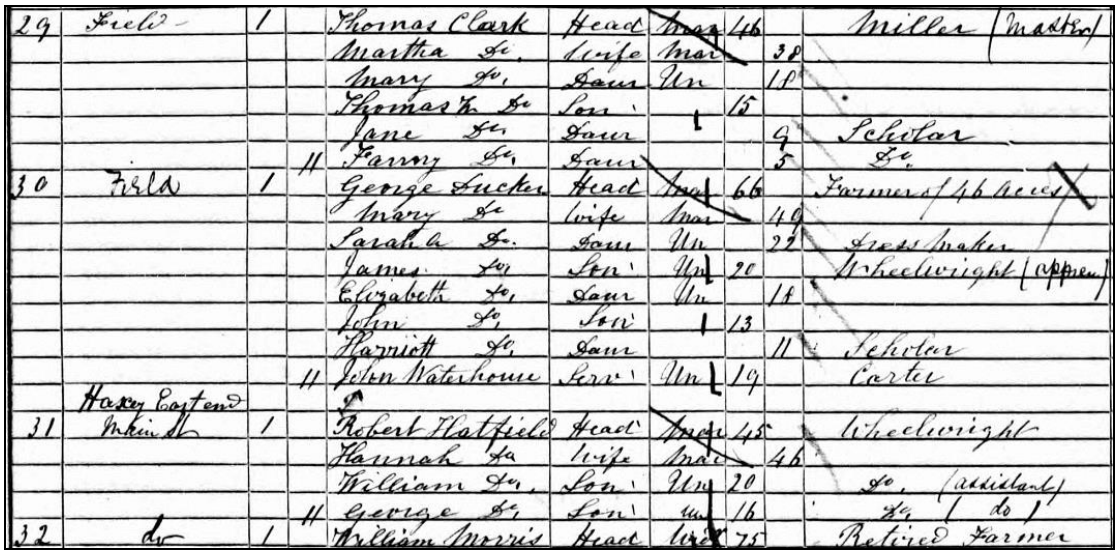
We do not know where James commenced serving his time.
We know that in 1861 James was employed as an apprentice wheelwright, and that he was at home with his parents, at least on the day the census was taken, which suggests he may have been living at home while serving his trade, and therefore his place of employment was probably close to home.

1861

Described in 1841 as "in the Field", this year the census simply records the address of George Ducker's homestead and croft, as "Field".

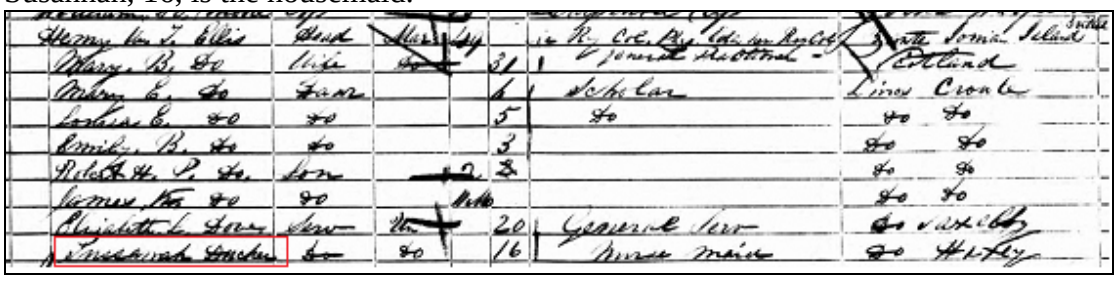
There are two households in 1861 whose address is "Field", and as in previous decades, we can locate this place as being on the western side of Eastlound, between Eastlound and the east end of Haxey village.
This other household at "Field", visited immediately before the Duckers, is occupied by Thomas Clark, 46, Master Miller, and his family.
The location of the next home visited after the Duckers, is given the address "Haxey East End Main St."[5] It belongs to the family of Robert Hatfield the wheelwright.

George Ducker is now reckoned as a farmer of 46 acres. At home that day we find George and his wife, and James (20) who is now nearing the end of his wheelwright apprenticeship. James's brother John, 13, like his sister Elizabeth (14), is evidently no longer at school, but has no recorded occupation. There are two other sisters at home: Sarah Ann and Harriot. Sarah Ann (22) is working as a dressmaker. Harriot (10) is still at school. The family has recorded a "servant" – a young man called John Waterhouse – his occupation is given as "carter."
James himself is now recorded as a wheelwright's apprentice.



29	Field	1		Thomas Clark	Head	Mar	46		Miller (master)
				Martha do.	Wife	Mar		38	
				Mary do.	Daur	Un		18	
				Thomas Jr. do	Son		15		
				Jane do.	Daur			9	Scholar
			11	Fanny do.	Daur			5	do.
30	Field	1		George Ducker	Head	Mar	66		Farmer of 46 Acres
				Mary do	Wife	Mar		40	
				Sarah A. do.	Daur	Un		22	Dress Maker
				James do	Son	Un	20		Wheelwright (Appren)
				Elizabeth do.	Daur	Un		14	
				John do.	Son		13		
				Harriott do.	Daur			11	Scholar
			11	John Waterhouse	Serv	Un	19		Carter
	Haxey East end Main St								
31		1		Robert Hatfield	Head	Mar	45		Wheelwright
				Hannah do.	Wife	Mar		46	
				William do.	Son	Un	20		do. (assistant)
			11	George do.	Son	Un	16		do. (do)
32	do	1		William Morris	Head	Wid	75		Retired Farmer

In 1861 James's sister Susannah is now living away from Haxey.
She is living in the township of Crowle, in the household of a General Practitioner Henry Ellis, a graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.
Susannah, 16, is the housemaid.



Henry Wm T. Ellis	Head	Mar		M.R.C.S.E. L.S.A. Edinburgh		Crowle Lincs
Mary B. do	Wife	do	31			
Mary E. do	Daur		6	Scholar		
Louisa E. do	do		5	do		
Emily B. do	do		3			
Robert H. P. do	Son		2			
James Wm do	do		1			
Elizabeth L. Ducker	Serv	Un	20	General Serv		
Susannah Ducker	do	do	16	House maid		

James's brother William appears to be unaccounted for in the census of 1861.

[5] Main Street has been renamed, and today the east end of Main Street is called Brackenhill Rd.

Bradford

Though the tradesmen may not yet have been aware of it, by the time James had "served his time", some time soon after 1861, the wheelwright trade was already on the verge of a rapid decline. Perhaps this is why, when we next encounter James Ducker in 1864, at Little Horton, in Bradford, he is not working in a wheelwright's shop. He is in partnership with William Cooper and they are in the joinery and building trade, but evidently the partnership is about to be dissolved.

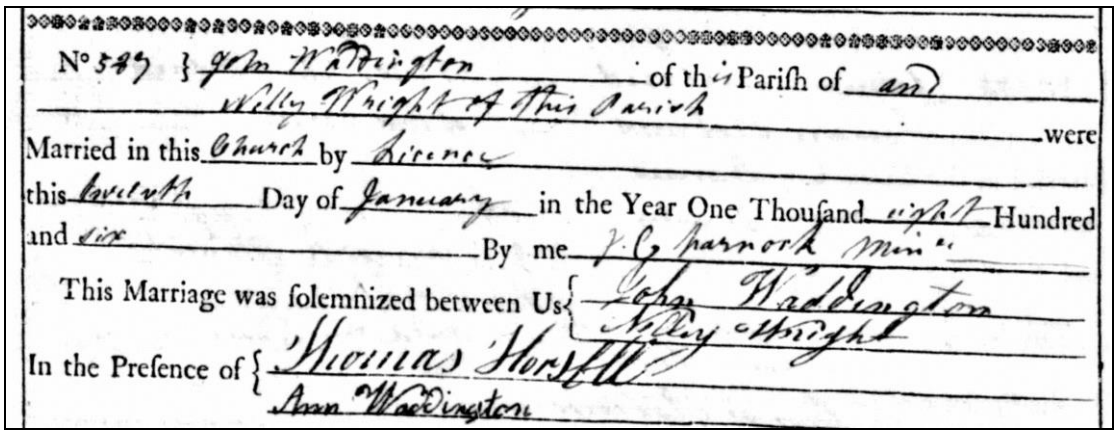
London Gazette 20 September 1864

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned, William Cooper and James Ducker, in the trade or business of Joiners and Builders, carried on by them at Little Horton, in the parish of Bradford, in the county of York, or elsewhere, under the style or firm of Cooper and Ducker, has been this day dissolved- by mutual consent. The business will in future be carried on by the said William Cooper, on his own account, and he will pay and be entitled to receive all debts and sums of money due to or owing by the said late firm.—As witness the hands of the parties this 17th day of September, 1864. William Cooper.
James Ducker.

Evidently James then found a new business partner, and carried on the business of Builders and Joiners under the name Farrar and Ducker, at Marshall Street, Park-road, Bradford.

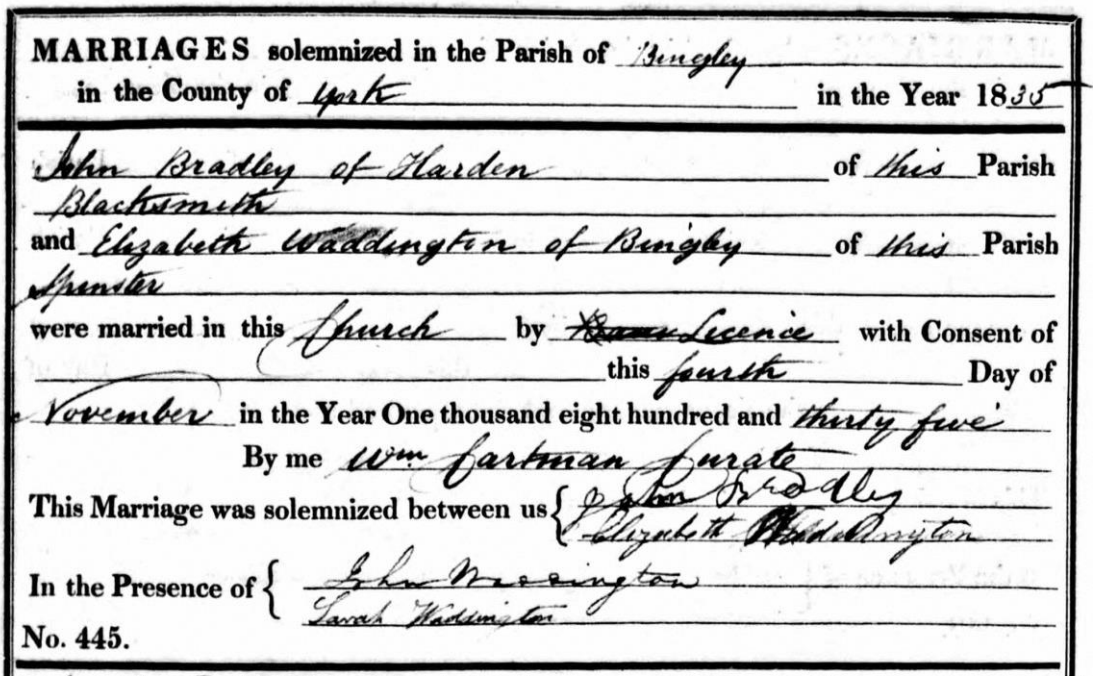
It was during this time in Bradford that James met his future wife, Eleanor Wright Bradley. We can trace the ancestry of Eleanor, and the origin of her name, back to her grandmother Nellie Wright who married John Waddington on 12th Jan 1806 at Haworth, St Michael and All Angels, Yorkshire.

Nelly Wright and John Waddington



Elizabeth Waddington and John Bradley

A daughter of John and Nellie (Wright) Waddington, Elizabeth, married a blacksmith called John Bradley, in the parish of Bingley, Yorkshire, on 4th November 1835.



MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Bingley
in the County of York in the Year 1835

John Bradley of Harden of this Parish
Blacksmith
and Elizabeth Waddington of Bingley of this Parish
Spinster
were married in this Church by ~~Banns~~ Licence with Consent of
this fourth Day of
November in the Year One thousand eight hundred and thirty five
By me Wm Cartman Curate
This Marriage was solemnized between us { John Bradley
Elizabeth Waddington
In the Presence of { John Waddington
Sarah Waddington
No. 445.

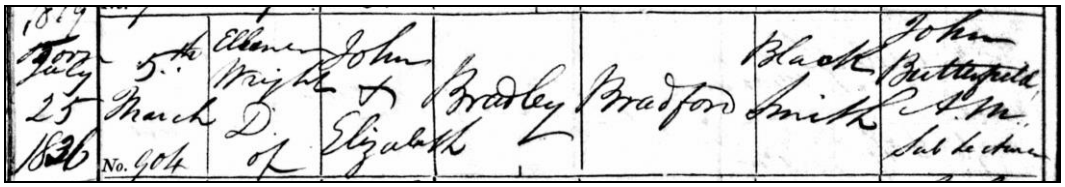
They had a daughter they named Eleanor Wright Bradley.



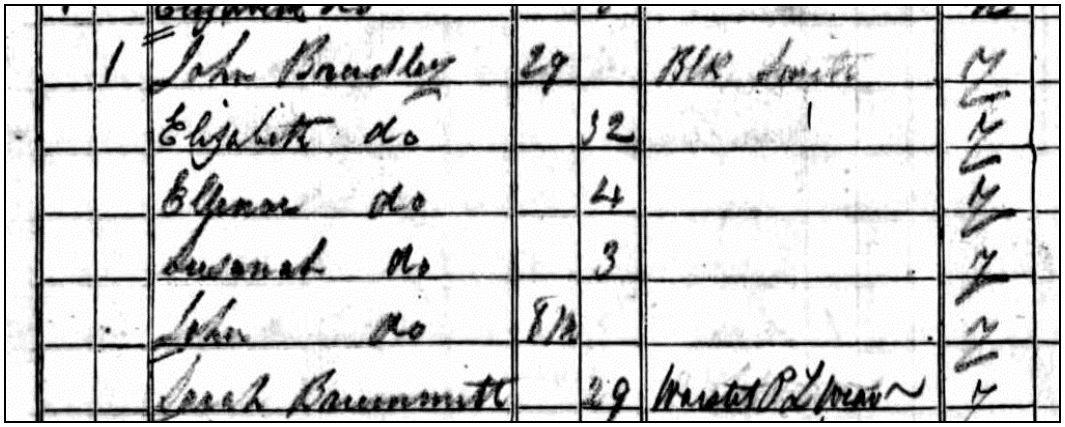
Eleanor Wright Bradley (born 25th July 1836) Eleanor's father John Bradley
(Very early photographs taken in Bradford. Ron Henderson collection.)

Eleanor Wright Bradley born 25th July 1836

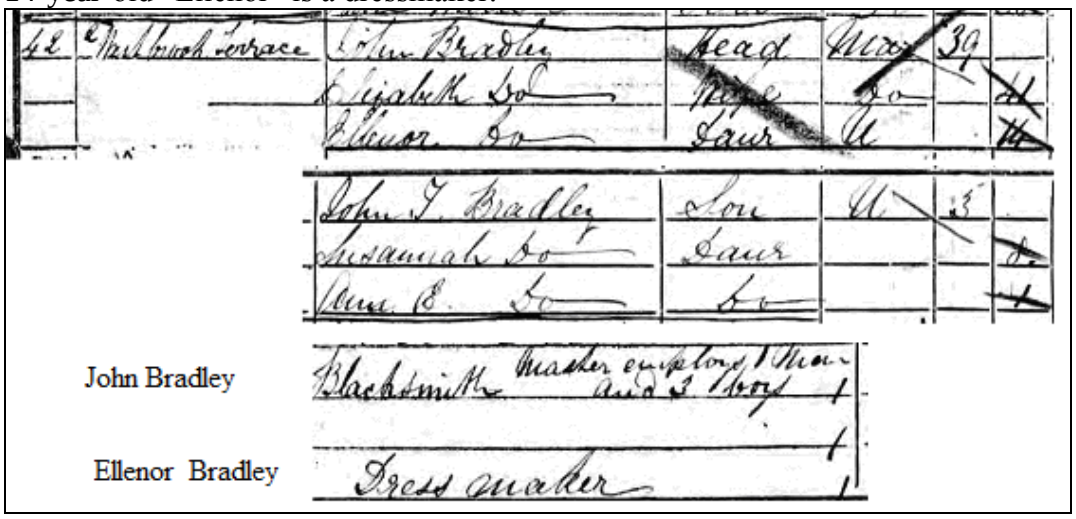
Baptism record St. Peter Catheral, Bradford.
Baptism date 5th March 1837
Date of birth 25th July 1836
"Ellenor Wright daughter of John & Elizabeth Bradley, Bradford, Blacksmith."



In 1841 the blacksmith John Bradley with his wife Elizabeth and young family ("Ellenor", 4, Susannah, 3 and John 8 months) are recorded in the UK census living in Horton, Bradford.

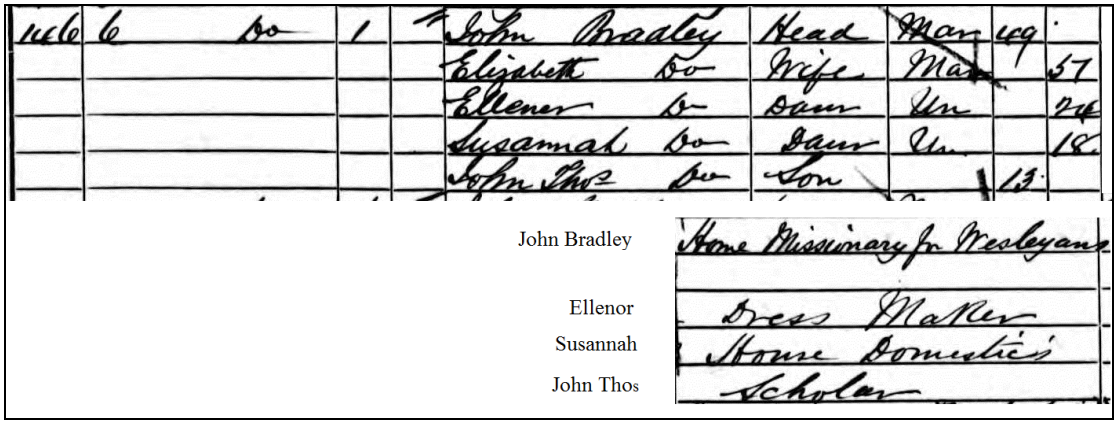


1851 census. John Bradley now a master blacksmith employing 1 man and three boys, is living with his family at 42 Milbrook Terrace in Bradford, Yorkshire.
14-year-old "Ellenor" is a dressmaker.[6]



[6] The story was passed down through my grandmother Edie, to Margaret Cardiff, that Eleanor's mother paid £40, a lot of money in those days, to have Eleanor apprenticed as a seamstress. She worked for a well-to-do family called Illingworth.

In 1861 the family is living at Number 6 Nelson Square, Bradford, Yorkshire. Interestingly, John Bradley, as recorded here, is no longer occupied as a blacksmith. He has now become a ***"Home Missionary for Wesleyans"***
"Ellenor", now 24, is a dressmaker.

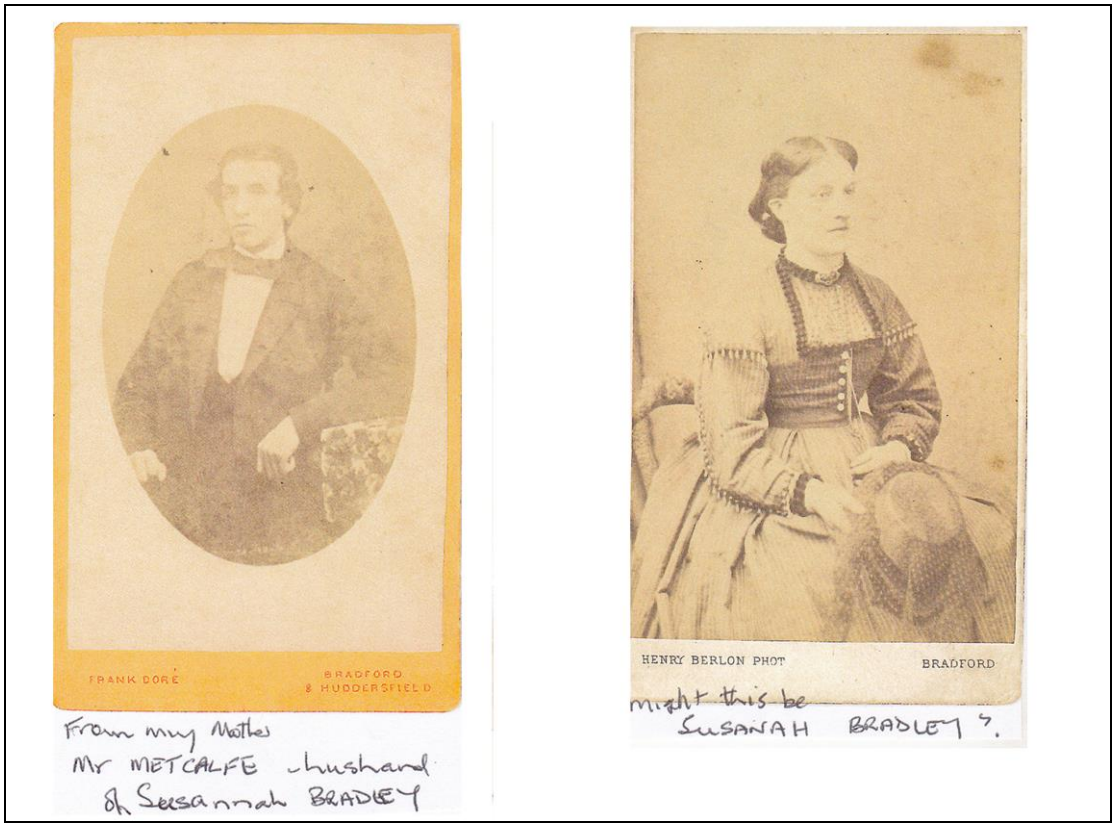




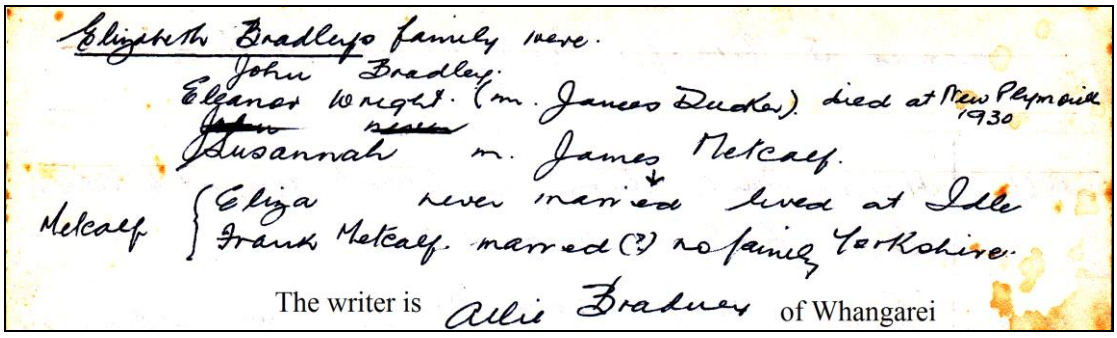
These early photographs, taken in Bradford, were left to Ron Henderson by his mother (a descendant of Eleanor.)

It seems most likely they are Eleanor's parents:
Elizabeth Bradley (nee Waddington) and John Bradley ("**Home Missionary for Wesleyans**".)

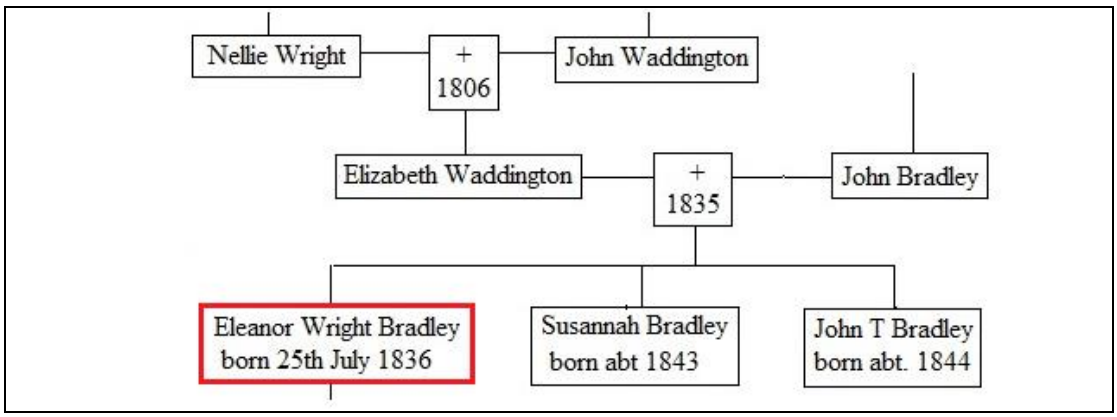
Janet Fleming has noted that the Bradford Observer recorded the death of John Bradley in 1861, so if these are of Eleanor's parents, they must be very early photographs.



More from the collection of Ron Henderson. The subjects are probably Eleanor's sister Susannah and her Husband, book keeper James Metcalf.
(Susannah and James Metcalf were married in Bradford in December 1875.)



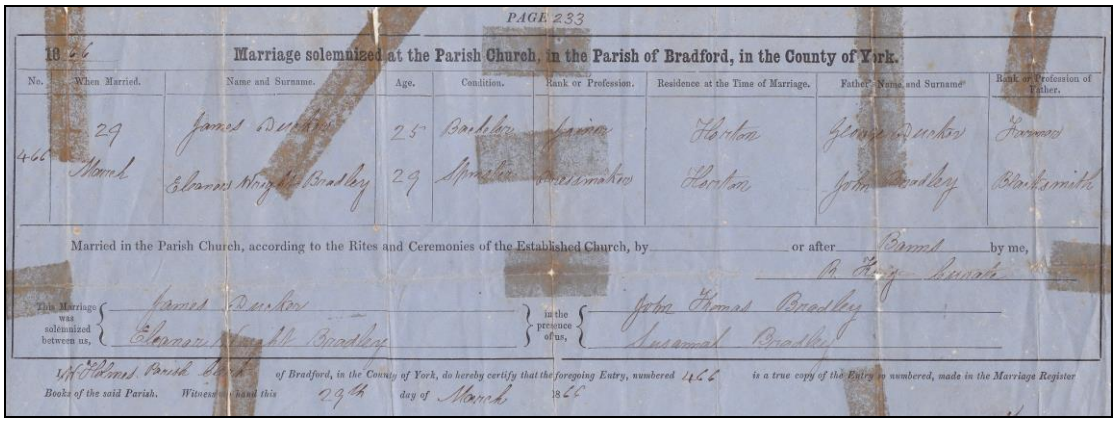
This fragment of information above, referring to Eleanor's parents and siblings, is part of Ron Henderson's collection. It may be of interest to genealogists following the Bradley family.



James Ducker and Eleanor Wright Bradley

On 29th March 1866, James married Eleanor Bradley, the daughter of John Bradley.

Despite John Bradley having referred to himself as a "Home Missionary for Wesleyans" five years before, the wedding of his daughter took place in a conformist cathedral, (St Peters, see over page) and on the marriage certificate, John Bradley (father of the bride) has reverted to his occupation of Blacksmith.



PAGE 233

1866 Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church, in the Parish of Bradford, in the County of York.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father.
466	29 March	James Ducker	25	Bachelor	Joiner	Horton	George Ducker	Farmer
		Eleanor Wright Bradley	29	Spinster	Dressmaker	Horton	John Bradley	Blacksmith

Married in the Parish Church, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by ____ or after ____ by me, ____

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Ducker / Eleanor Wright Bradley — in the presence of us, John Thomas Bradley / Susannah Bradley

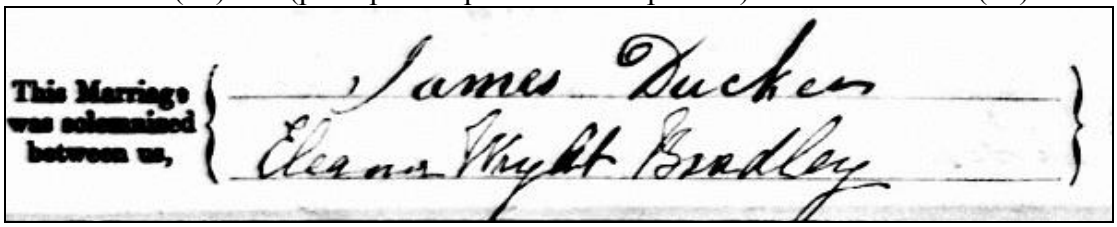
The Parish Clerk of Bradford, in the County of York, do hereby certify that the foregoing Entry, numbered 466 is a true copy of the Entry so numbered, made in the Marriage Register Books of the said Parish. Witness my hand this 29th day of March 1866

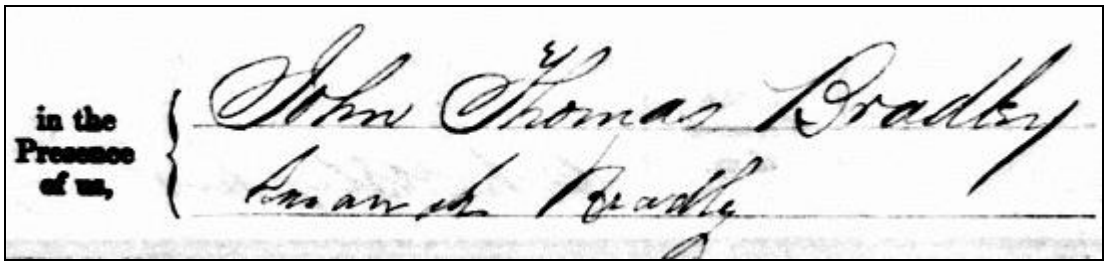
From the collection of Janet Fleming.

At St. Peter (Bradford Cathedral):

James Ducker, 25, Joiner + Eleanor Wright Bradley, 29, Dressmaker
(Witnesses were John Thomas Bradley and Susannah Bradley, bother and sister of Eleanor.)

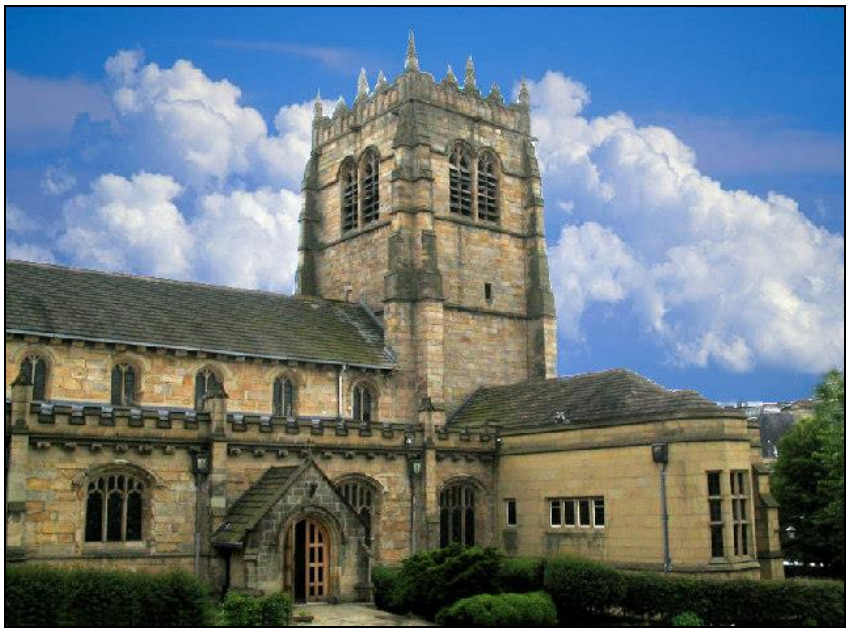
Both Eleanor and James signed, with accomplished handwriting, as did Eleanor's brother John (21) and (perhaps not quite so accomplished) sister "Susanah" (23).





From the certificate held by Yorkshire Parish Records. (via Ancestry.com)
(West Yorkshire Archive Service; Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; *Yorkshire Parish Records*; Old Reference Number: *40D90/1/3/72*; New Reference Number: *BDP14)*





St Peter Cathedral, Bradford (Mick Melvin - From geograph.org.uk)

Marian Ducker born 1866

On Nov 15th 1866 a daughter was born to James and Eleanor, who was baptised in the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Richmond Terrace, Bradford, and named Marian.
(The baptism record below gives date of birth as Feb 7 1867 but there are reasons to suspect it may be mistaken. See later.)

When Baptized.	Child's Name, Son or Daughter.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Child's Age when Baptized.	The Minister by whom the ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1867 No. 121.	Marian daughter	James and Eleanor	Ducker	Osborne St	Feb 7 1867	Richd Smetham

The next child born to James and Eleanor was a son they named Herbert.
The child died in 1869 about two years later.

In December 1868 James's father George Ducker died.

In the same month, James Ducker and George Farrar dissolved their partnership.

THE LONDON GAZETTE, DECEMBER 8, 1868.
NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, George Farrar and James Ducker, carrying on business at Marshall street, in Park-road, in Bradford, in the county of York, and elsewhere, as Joiners and Builders, under the style or firm of Farrar and Ducker, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent. All debts due to or owing by the said partnership will be received and paid by the said George Farrar, who will in future carry on the said business on his own account.—Dated this 4th day of December, 1868.
George Farrar
James Ducker.

The following year George Farrar was declared bankrupt.

The next child born to James and Eleanor was Ada, born in Bradford on 2nd July 1869

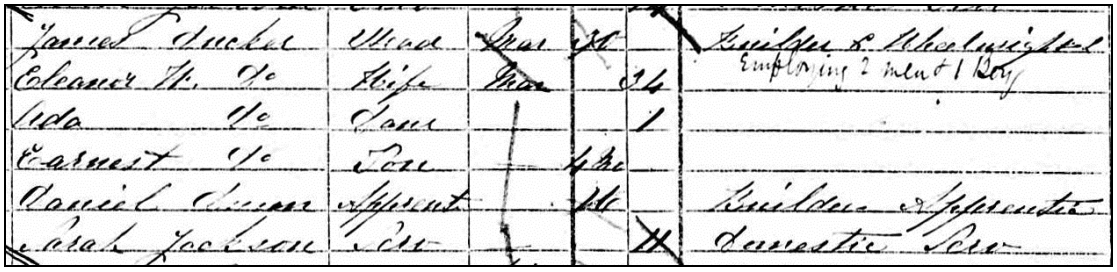
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1870 Dec 15th Born July 2nd 1869	Ada	James Eleanor	Ducker Do	Bradford Yorkshire	Joiner	George Stacey

(Taken from the baptism certificate, part of Janet Fleming's collection)

The 1870's Westwoodside, Haxey

James now returned to Westwoodside in his home town of Haxey,
where he settled with his wife Eleanor, 3-year-old daughter Marian and baby Ada,
and started a business of his own.

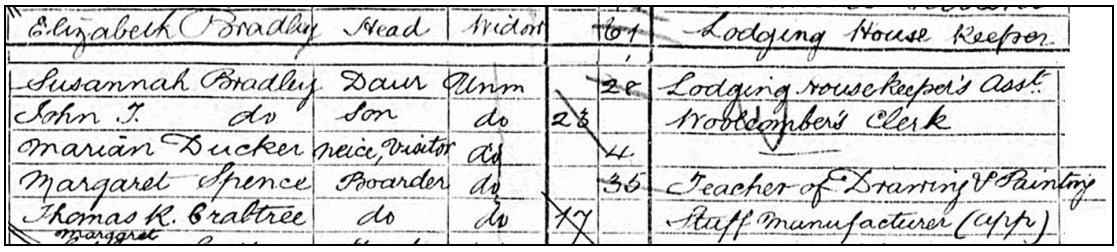
1871 UK Census provides us with the following record of James and his family, in Westwoodside, Haxey. Their house address is "Commonside"



James Ducker	Head	Mar	36		Builder & Wheelwright Employing 2 men + 1 Boy
Eleanor Ducker	Wife	Mar	34		
Ada Ducker	Dau			1	
Earnest Ducker	Son		4		
Daniel Dunn	Apprent		16		Builder & Apprentice
Sarah Jackson	Ser			11	Domestic Ser

There are a number of interesting points to note here. James is recorded as "Builder and Wheelwright employing 2 men + 1 boy".
The apprentice boy, Daniel Dunn, 16 years of age, is staying with the family.
The household also includes a domestic servant: Sarah Jackson, 11 years of age.

At the time of this 1871 census, their eldest daughter, Marian – our ancestor – was recorded as staying with her grandmother Elizabeth Bradley, now a widow and keeper of a lodging house, back in Little Horton, Bradford.
(Marian is incorrectly recorded here as "neice, visitor." In fact she is Elizabeth's granddaugter.)



Elizabeth Bradley	Head	Widow		67	Lodging House Keeper
Susannah Bradley	Daur	Unm		20	Lodging Housekeeper's Asst
John T. do	Son	do	23		Woolcombers Clerk
Marian Ducker	neice, Visitor	do		11	
Margaret Spence	Boarder	do		35	Teacher of Drawing & Painting
Thomas R. Crabtree	do	do	17		Staff Manufacturer (Appr)

Another point of interest, possibly to be significant in the near future:
James Ducker is not the only wheelwright in Commonside.
The 1871 census shows, just 22 houses away from James, the household of
John Johnson, 26, wheelwright and joiner.

Here is an extract from the Haxey trade directory, found in County Gazetteer 1872:

Ducker Emanuel, farmer
2 Ducker George, farmer
Ducker Miss Harriet, draper
4 Ducker James, florist (D. & Son), and farmer
4 Ducker James, joiner and wheelwright, Common
Ducker James, farmer
Ducker John, farmer
4 Ducker John Haywood, florist (D. and Son)
1 Ducker Joseph, farmer
Ducker and Son, nurserymen, seedsmen and florists
Ducker Miss Susannah, day school

Our James is the one listed here as a joiner and wheelwright, Commonside.
George Ducker (in the directory above) is James's father, still living at Eastlound,
and Emanuel is James's eldest brother. School mistress Susannah is James's sister.



Commonside (https://axholmecameraman.shutterfly.com)

James and Eleanor had four children during this time living at Commonside, in Westwodside, Haxey.

Their birthdates and baptisms are recorded in the "Haxey Transcripts", from which the following records have been extracted:[7]

DUCKER	Ada	James	Eleanor	02 Jun 1869 13 Dec 1870 Joiner	CP Westwoodside
DUCKER	Ernest	James	Eleanor	21 Nov 1870 13 Dec 1870 Joiner	CP Westwoodside
DUCKER	Frank	James	Eleanor Wright	21 Aug 1872 11 Sep 1872	CW Westwoodside
DUCKER	Alfred	James	Eleanor Wright	26 Dec 1973 28 Jan 1874	CW Haxey
DUCKER	James	James	Eleanor Wright	18 Oct 1875 29 Dec 1875	CW Westwoodside

Isle of Axholm Family History Society. (CP=Primitive Methodist CW=Wesleyan)

The Haxey Transcripts tell us that in 1869:
Ada and Ernest were baptised together at the **Primitive Methodist Chapel,Westwoodside.**
Frank was baptised in 1872 in the **Wesleyan Chapel, Westwoodside.**
Alfred was baptised in 1874 at the **Wesleyan Chapel in Haxey**
James was baptised in December 1875 back at the **Wesleyan Chapel in Westwoodside.**

James and Eleanor appear now to be firmly associated with the non-conformist Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist chapels.

[7] (Ada, baptised at Westwoodside along with Ernest, was born in Bradford.
There appears to be a transcription error regarding her date of birth.
The Waddington family bible has her birth date as 2nd July 1869, not 2nd June 1869 as stated above in the Haxey transcripts.)



Westwoodside https://axholmecameraman.shutterfly.com

The decade of the 1870s was not a good time to be in business in rural England. The farming economy was depressed, wages were low, and farmers were not inclined to invest in repairs and maintenance, which was the mainstay of the local wheelwrights and blacksmiths. As we have already noted, the wheelwright trade was facing decline – and James Ducker was not the only wheelwright in Commonside.

By mid-1875, James Ducker was facing bankruptcy.

THE LONDON GAZETTE, SEPTEMBER 21, 1875.
The Bankruptcy Act, 1869.
In the County Court of Lincolnshire, holden at Lincoln.
In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted by
James Ducker, of Westwoodside, in the parish of Haxey, in the county of Lincoln, Joiner and Wheelwright.
NOTICE is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the Great Northern Hotel, Haxey Station, in the parish of Haxey aforesaid, on the 4th day of October, 1875, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.
—Dated this 14th day of September, 1875.
GEORGE NEWBORN, Epworth, near Rotherham
Attorney for the said James Ducker.

This must have been a difficult time for Eleanor, who was soon to give birth to their sixth child, James.

About the time the Duckers began to grapple with their deteriorating prospects, a meeting was held at the neighbouring village of Epworth.

It is very likely this meeting would have been attended by James Ducker.

Epworth Bells and Isle of Axholme Messenger, Saturday September 11th 1875.
(Thanks to Beryl Ward for finding this…)

EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.

A public meeting, presided over by Mr. H. Gravel, was held in the Temperance Hall last Thursday evening, when, after some remarks on the Labour Question by Mr. Bradley, delegate from the Amalgamated Labour League, Mr. J. H. White, of Laceby, Lincolnshire, and Mr. W. M. Burton, of New Zealand, spoke at some length on the above subject.

The addresses were interesting, and included a graphic description of New Zealand, and the advantages of emigrating there. It was, however, shewn that those who go to New Zealand with a hope of success as emigrants. need to be good workers, distinguished by perseverance, sobriety, and general good character. The attendance, chiefly consisting of the working classes, was large : and the interest in the subject was manifested by their remaining till the close of the meeting at half-past ten o'clock ; after which a portion of the audience remained to inspect some views of New Zealand exhibited by Mrs. Burton.

Burton, a settler from New Plymouth, New Zealand, had been appointed by the people of New Plymouth to recruit specially for the Province of Taranaki.

These meetings, organised by agents Burton and White, were held throughout Lincolnshire during the mid 1870s (See Appendix.)
While it was not a convenient moment for James, hampered as he was by his unfolding financial difficulties, it would have put some ideas in his mind, and it is likely that emigration was a hot topic of discussion among the villagers at that time.
When the family decided to emigrate, as they later did, why did they choose New Plymouth as a destination? This meeting may provide the answer.
Its purpose was to promote New Plymouth and the Province of Taranaki.
If James was not attracted to Taranaki as a direct result of this meeting, it is more than likely that at least one of his neighbours or associates was.

London Gazette Notices in October 12th 1875 and February 2nd 1876 further documented the bankruptcy procedure.

THE LONDON GAZETTE, FEBRUARY 22, 1876.
The Bankruptcy Act, 1869.
In the County Court of Lincolnshire, holden at Lincoln.
In the Matter of a Special Resolution for Liquidation by Arrangement of the affairs of James Ducker, of Westwoodside, in the parish of Haxey, in the county of Lincoln, Joiner and Wheelwright.
THE creditors of the above-named James Ducker who have not already proved their debts, are required, on or before the 4th day of March, 1876, to send their names and addresses, and the particulars of their debts or claims, to Frederick Brewster, of 50, Norfolk street, Sheffield, in the county of York, one of the members of the Committee of Inspection under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the Dividend proposed to be declared
—Dated this l1th day of February, 1876.

Eventually the Duckers were able to move away from Haxey, and they shifted to the coastal town of Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire.

Evidently they lived at Bargate, in Grimsby, and Beryl Ward has added the following: "…..without a house number it would be impossible to guess where they were in that road, but it is quite upmarket and would have been a smart place to live back then. At the city centre end of Bargate there are some houses that look as if they have been there from around that time and would have been rather splendid in their day…."

We know that in July 1878 Elizabeth, the youngest child of James and Eleanor was born at Grimsby, and that Grimsby was the Duckers' last place of residence when they embarked on their long journey to New Zealand in February 1880.
From this, it follows that the Duckers probably lived at Grimsby for at least a year and a half, maybe more

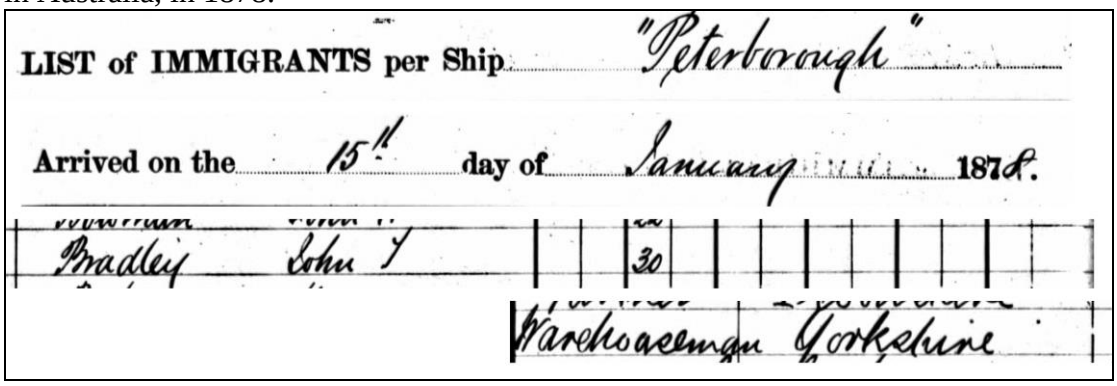
Some time in the mid to late 1870s James and Eleanor made the decision to emigrate to New Zealand. They may have made the decision as early as 1875, while James was extricating himself from his financial difficulties at Westwoodside – or it may have been as late as October 1879, before the assisted immigrant scheme was suspended.

Why did they decide to emigrate, why did they choose New Zealand – and why in New Zealand did they choose New Plymouth in the (then) somewhat depressed province of Taranaki?

James Ducker was not the first of the family to make the decision to emigrate.
His first cousin (also called James) who had grown up just a few miles away in Burnham, had emigrated to America in 1851, followed out there by two brothers.
(See Appendix: The American Duckers.)

Eleanor's brother John T Bradley had already emigrated too.

John T. Bradley had departed as an assisted immigrant arriving in New South Wales in Australia, in 1878.



LIST of IMMIGRANTS per Ship "Peterborough"

Arrived on the 15th day of January 1878.

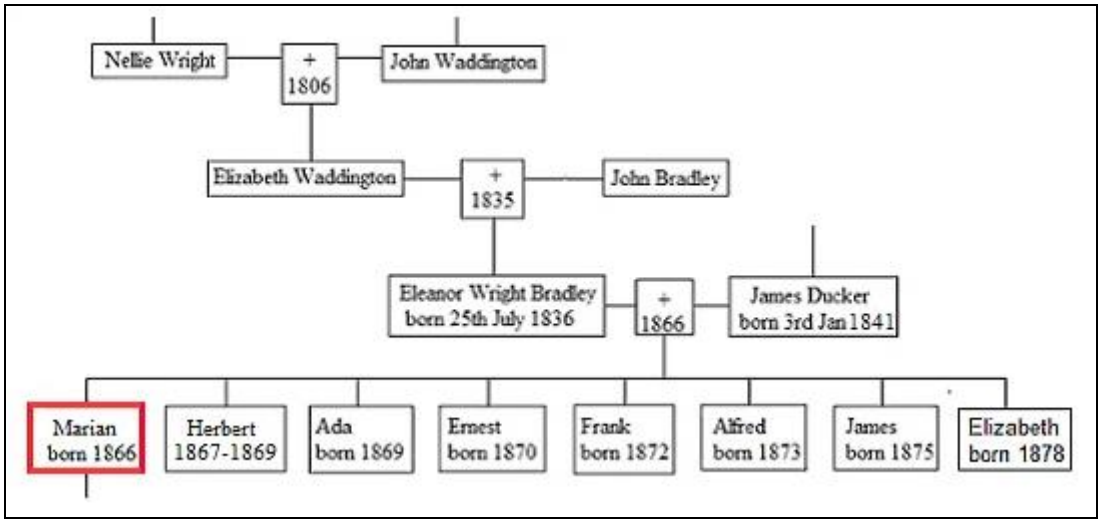
Bradley John 30 Warehouseman Yorkshire

(Somehow he was in Wellington when the Duckers arrived in 1880, but how and why he was there, and how he came to be recorded as the Duckers' "nominator" for assisted immigration, remains a mystery.)

It is obvious from what had already happened that James was probably seeking a way to better himself, and provide a future for his family. Beryl Ward has suggested another possible motive (referring to the recent death of Elizabeth Bradley, Eleanor's mother):
"…Elizabeth died 1 Dec 1879, the Will was proved 20 Dec 1879, and she left under £300 to be shared between her three children. So early in 1880 Eleanor inherited just under £100. Could this be significant in their decision to emigrate?
Decisions weren't always made by the male of the family…"

My own view is that this (not insignificant) inheritance might have arrived a little too late to influence the decision, as the cut-off for assisted immigration was 1879 and the Duckers had sailed for New Zealand as assisted immigrants by February 1880.

(It might also be pointed out here that James's father had died (in December 1868). The estate was at that time held in trust to support his mother, and she was still living at the time when James's family left England.)



Part 3 Emigration to New Zealand

Having decided to emigrate, why would James and Eleanor choose New Zealand? And, of all places, why New Plymouth, which was not a popular New Zealand destination at that time?

America or Canada were closer. Three cousins had already moved to America. Only a small proportion of the hundreds of thousands who left the UK in the 19th Century chose to travel to the least known and furtherest away colony, New Zealand.

The choice of New Plymouth as a destination can be traced quite possibly, either directly or indirectly, to the 1875 Burton and White recruitment meeting in Epworth.

Excess rural labour in the midst of an economic downturn in rural England, and the "Revolt of the Field", coincided with a shortage of labour and a period of borrowing and infrastucture-building in New Zealand, under the expansionist policies of Julius Vogel. The result was a concerted period of organised emigration from England to New Zealand as the country began to recover from its internal wars of the 1860's.

For Lincolnshire this trend reached its peak in the mid 1870's as New Plymouth reached directly into Lincolnshire for "men of the right stamp."
The story of the New Plymouth agent (Burton) and the recruitment partnership he established with the Lincolnshire grocer (White) is outlined in the Appendix.

It was well after the peak of this Lincolnshire-to-New-Plymouth flow of immigrants, that the Duckers departed their home country in 1880 for the start of a new life in New Plymouth. It is still most likely, however, that their choice of destination was made earlier, influenced by people they had known, among the hundreds of Lincolnshire families who had already emigrated to the Province of Taranaki, and may well date back to 1875 when Burton and White had held their meeting in Epworth.

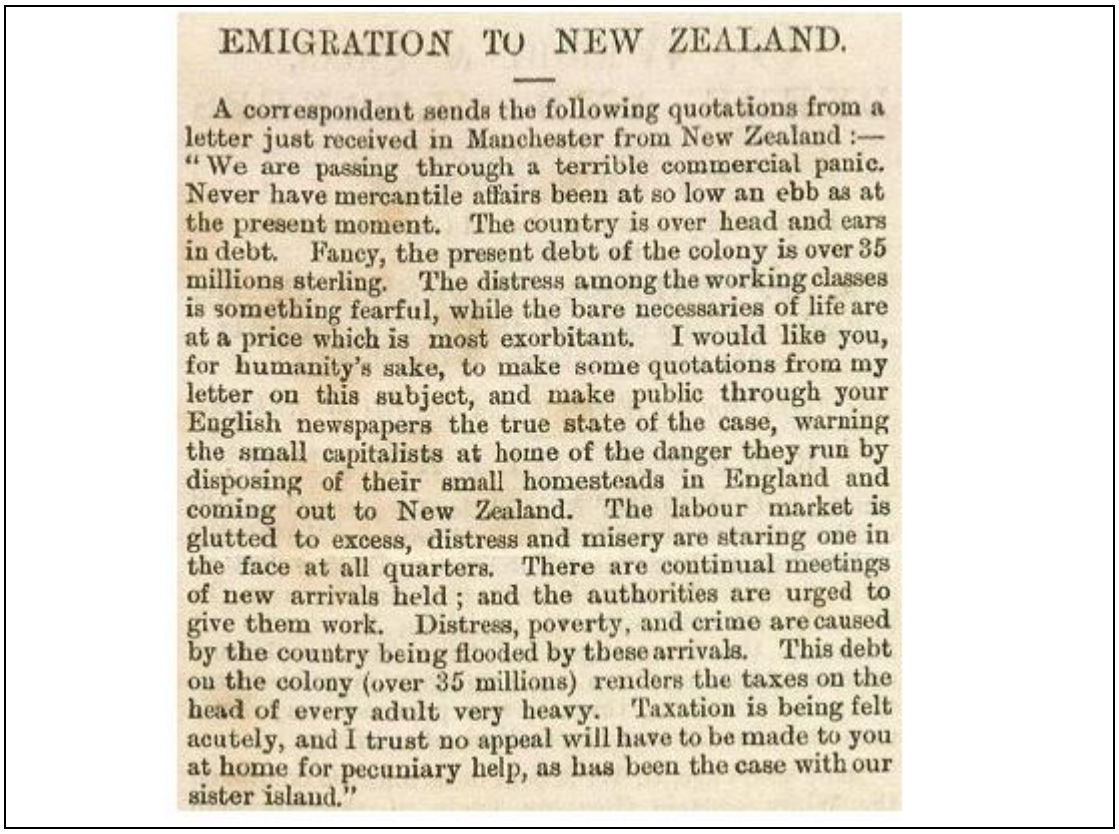
Evidence from the passenger list of the emigrant vessel on which the Duckers made their passage, suggests that they were assisted immigrants – that is, they would have been "nominated" by a New Zealand resident, and qualified for a free or subsidised passage, at the expense of the New Zealand colonial government.

The availablity of "assisted" passage may also have been a factor in the decision. There are some curious questions which arise from the evidence that they were assisted immigrants.

The first is the timing of their departure. The "high tide" of assisted imigration to New Zealand was 1874 ("Forbidden Promised Land" by Rollo Arnold). The drive, successful to an unexpected degree, continued under its own momentum through 1875 and 76 but by then alarm was being expressed by local citizens at the appearance of growing unemployment and a driving down of wages in New Zealand.
The government began to vaccilate. Dr. Isaac Featherston (since 1871 the government-appointed "Agent-General" of Immigration) had, by January 1876, received a series of telegrams instructing him to stop sending emigrants to a number of destinations in New Zealand, including Taranaki (except those already nominated.)

By 1877 the Taranaki agent Burton had been dispensed with.

Groups of unhappy New Zealand citizens were taking matters into their own hands by sending letters to the press in Britain, perhaps exaggerated, and certainly calculated to discourage would-be emigrants. Here is a later, good example of such propaganda, which found its way to the Epworth Bells newspaper in June 1880:

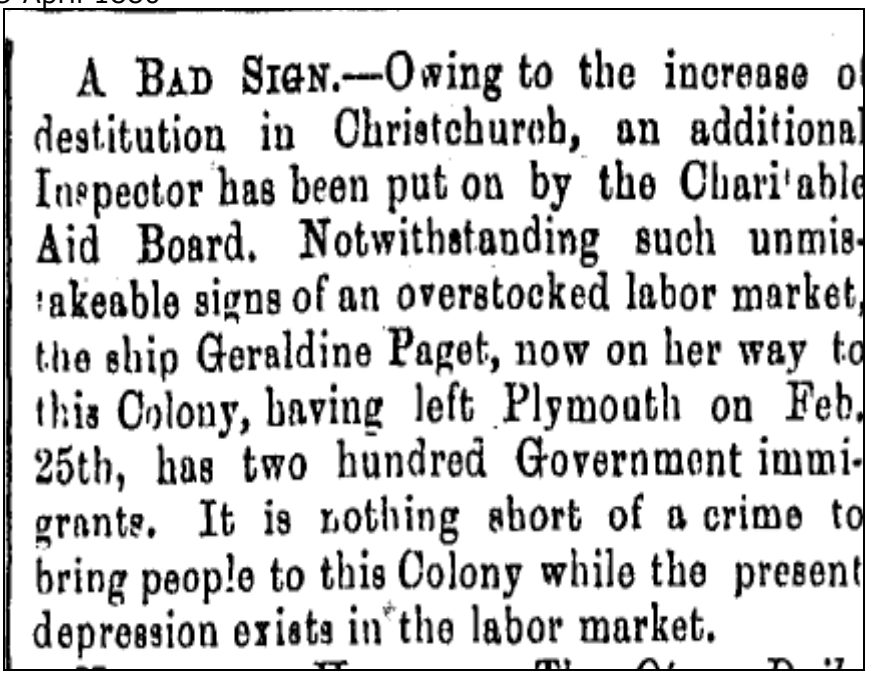


EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.

A correspondent sends the following quotations from a letter just received in Manchester from New Zealand :— "We are passing through a terrible commercial panic. Never have mercantile affairs been at so low an ebb as at the present moment. The country is over head and ears in debt. Fancy, the present debt of the colony is over 35 millions sterling. The distress among the working classes is something fearful, while the bare necessaries of life are at a price which is most exorbitant. I would like you, for humanity's sake, to make some quotations from my letter on this subject, and make public through your English newspapers the true state of the case, warning the small capitalists at home of the danger they run by disposing of their small homesteads in England and coming out to New Zealand. The labour market is glutted to excess, distress and misery are staring one in the face at all quarters. There are continual meetings of new arrivals held ; and the authorities are urged to give them work. Distress, poverty, and crime are caused by the country being flooded by these arrivals. This debt on the colony (over 35 millions) renders the taxes on the head of every adult very heavy. Taxation is being felt acutely, and I trust no appeal will have to be made to you at home for pecuniary help, as has been the case with our sister island."

Here also is a piece of local grumbling at the situation, which, interestingly, refers directly to the shipment of immigrants which included the Ducker family:

Colonist 9 April 1880



A BAD SIGN.—Owing to the increase of destitution in Christchurch, an additional Inspector has been put on by the Charitable Aid Board. Notwithstanding such unmistakeable signs of an overstocked labor market, the ship Geraldine Paget, now on her way to this Colony, having left Plymouth on Feb. 25th, has two hundred Government immigrants. It is nothing short of a crime to bring people to this Colony while the present depression exists in the labor market.

Rollo Arnold describes the end of the recruitment drive in 1879 – 1880 as follows:

> "…on 27th October 1879 Vogel was instructed to suspend all nominated immigration except those already promised, and females. On 6th November he was instructed that apart from single women the government wanted no immigrants to arrive the following winter. On 26th February 1880 Vogel was informed that the colony's unemployed were numerous and increasing. Not only should he send no immigrants, but he should also warn men without means against making their own way out.
> On 2nd April 1880 Immigration Officers thoughout New Zealand were advised to discourage all nominations….
> On 24th April 1880, officers were advised to take no more nominations.."

(Vogel, now ex-Premier, was taking rather than giving instructions, because from 1876 to 1881 he had replaced Featherston to become New Zealand's agent-general in London.)

The Duckers, if they were indeed "assisted" immigrants, had left their passage rather late, as they departed Plymouth on February 25th 1880.
The inference must be that they had been nominated and accepted as assisted immigrants some considerable time before this, probably before 27th October 1879 when acceptance of nominations for assisted immigration was suspended.

The Hutt City Council transcript: a catalogue document relating to the arrival of the Duckers in Wellington in 1880, which is held by the Hutt City Council, now becomes very interesting. The document is shown on the following page.

From the document we see that the Duckers were assisted immigrants, but were required to pay for the passage of one child, before embarkation.
It is therefore a reasonable assumption that the nomination and acceptance of the Ducker family as assisted immigrants probably took place before Elizabeth was born. (ie. before July 1878.)

However the document contains an anomoly.
John F Bradley (should be John T Bradley), wool-sorter, who we know had taken an assisted passage to Australia in January 1878, is recorded as being in Wellington to greet the Duckers on their arrival, lodging (probably temporarily) at the YMCA in Wellington. Surprisingly, he is recorded here as being the nominator for the Duckers.

At the time when assisted passages were being granted, nominators were required to have been resident in New Zealand for two years. It seems hard to believe that after emigrating to Australia in January 1878 John Bradley would have had time to qualify as a two-year New Zealand resident and be able to nominate the Duckers.
The Duckers had already left Plymouth by late February 1880.
In any case nominations for assisted passage had been suspended by 27th October 1879, "except for those already accepted and females" and this time frame for John T. Bradley is quite impossible.

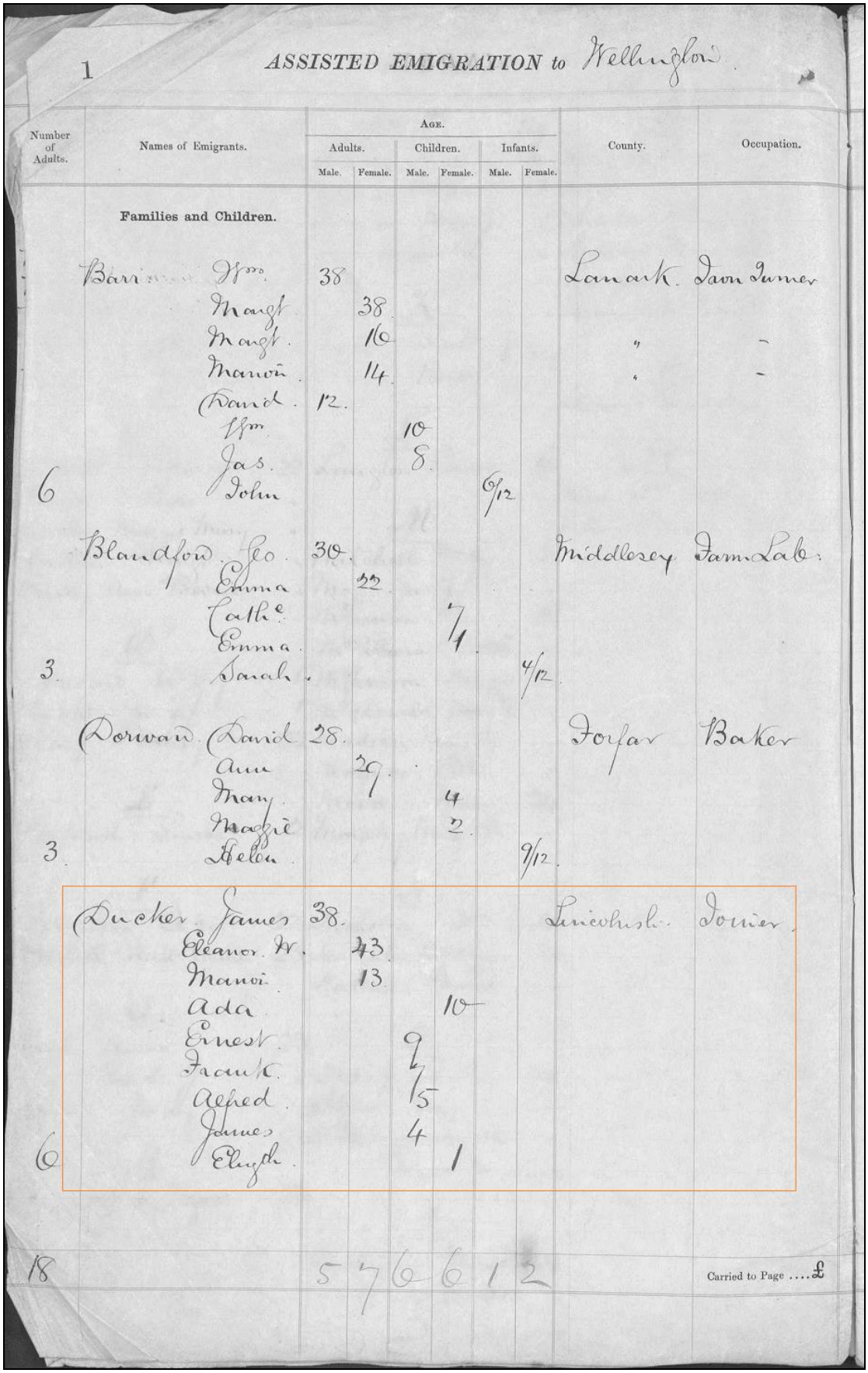
According to Hutt City Council this transcript was made from original documents held at NZ National Archives. However repeated attempts to locate the original documents have failed, so how John F Bradley came to be in New Zealand, and how he was able to act as "nominator" remains a mystery. It seems more likely that the Duckers had been nominated before the birth of Elizabeth in July 1878, by someone else resident in New Zealand.

Date Of Birth	1842
Place Of Birth	BARGATE, GREAT GURNSEY, LINCOLN.,LIMER
Date Of Death	
Place Of Death	
General Notes	
Record Source	Vogel Government Period
Voyage Details	
Voyage Number	2
Is NZCO Voyage?	False
Comments	
Vessel Name	GERALDINE PAGET
Voyage Details	Click Here
Other Fields	
Wife's first name(s)	ELEANOR W.
Mans age	38
Womans age	43
Boys name(s)	ERNEST FRANK ALFRED JAMES
Boys age(s)	9 7 5 4
Girls name(s)	MARION ADA ELIZTH.
Girls age(s)	13 10 1
Occupation or calling	JOINER
Passage order number	2236
Source	IM 15/376 'GERALDINE PAGET' NATIONAL ARCHIVES.
Nominator(s) name(s)	JOHN F. BRADLEY, WOOL SORTER, YOUNG MENS,CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, WELLINGTOI
Disposal remarks	1 CHILD TO BE PAID FOR BEFORE EMBARKATI

(Correcting the other errors in the transcript:
James Ducker's birth date was 1841, not 1842. Easy to mis-calcuate.

The place of birth, "BARGATE, GREAT GURNESEY, LINCOLN, LIMER" was puzzled out for me by Beryl Ward. It is probably meant to be the last address of the Duckers in England. It should read: "Bargate, Great Grimsby, Lincolnshire".

The "Limer" is probably meant to be "Limber", a place very near to Grimsby.)



1

ASSISTED EMIGRATION to Wellington

Number of Adults.	Names of Emigrants.	Age. Adults. Male.	Adults. Female.	Children. Male.	Children. Female.	Infants. Male.	Infants. Female.	County.	Occupation.
	Families and Children.								
	Barr Wm	38						Lanark	Farm Turner
	Margt		38					"	-
	Margt		16					"	-
	Manon		14					"	-
	David	12							
	Wm			10					
	Jas			8					
6	John					6/12			
	Blandford Geo	30						Middlesex	Farm Lab
	Emma		25						
	Cathe				7				
	Emma				4				
3	Sarah						4/12		
	Dorward David	28						Forfar	Baker
	Ann		29						
	Mary				4				
	Margt				2				
3	Helen						9/12		
	Ducker James	38						Lincolnsh	Joiner
	Eleanor Mr		43						
	Manoi		13						
	Ada				10				
	Ernest			9					
	Frank			7					
	Alfred			5					
	James			4					
6	Elizth				1				
18		5	7	6	6	1	2		Carried to Page ....£

Part of the list of Assisted Immigrants on board Geraldine Paget. 1880
(FamilySearch. **https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1609792** accessed 2014)

Press 7 June 1880

Arrived—Ship Geraldine Paget, from London, with 212 immigrants, after an uneventful passage. One death and one birth occurred during the voyage.

11 June 1880 Evening Post

THE SHIP GERALDINE PAGET, FROM LONDON.

As we mentioned on Saturday, this vessel was towed in by the Manawatu. The passengers, consisting of 209 souls, all of whom are nominated immigrants excepting a family in the saloon, arrived in good health. During the voyage there was one birth—Mrs. Noble, of a son—and one death, from malignant tumor, a Mrs. Madden. There was nothing particularly worthy of note occurred during the passage The Paget left Plymouth on the 28th February, crossed the Line on the 21st April, and made Tasmania on the 23rd May. Cape Farewell was sighted on the 3rd inst., and was off the Heads on Friday at midnight, Pilot Holmes boarding her at daylight on Saturday, and brought her in as above. She is chartered by the N.Z. Shipping Company, and was berthed at the wharf this morning. The passengers appear to be highly pleased with the kindness they have received from Captain Wilkinson, and to-day presented him with a very complimentary address, signed by about 70 of their number. We have also received a letter signed "Hibernian," speaking in most enthusiastic terms of all the officers and men, especially mentioning the captain and Dr. Crawford, the medical attendant. A large quantity of her cargo is for Lyttelton, to which port she proceeds after discharging her Wellington cargo.

The *Geraldine Paget* was a full-rigged ship of 1200 tons, built in Glasgow and owned by I. and C. Campbell. She came to New Zealand on two occasions only. Her first voyage was to Lyttelton, arriving at that port on December 27, 1874, with 380 Government immigrants……

On her second voyage the *Geraldine Paget* had a very rough passage out to Wellington. She sailed from Plymouth on February 25, and arrived at Wellington on June 5, 1880, in command of Captain Wilkinson. She met with exceptionally strong gales, heavy seas breaking on board and flooding the passengers' quarters. During one severe storm the passengers were battened down, the water at the time being up to their berths. Mrs. Madden, a lady passenger, died, and her three children were cared for by Mrs. Hogan and handed over to Mr. Madden on arrival at Wellington.

White Wings. Vol.1. Sir Henry Brett 1924 page 200.

Arrival in New Zealand

The following reminiscence, from Leo Ducker, has one or two minor inaccuracies, but is valuable since it is a direct record of the story as handed down within the family. Leo Ducker was the son of Frank Ducker who remembered arriving in New Zealand as a child of 7 years. The full memoir (see appendix) was transcribed from Leo's notes by Ron Henderson, grandson of Frank Ducker, who currently lives in Tauranga.

In the year 1881 my Father along with his family; Father, Mother, 3 Sisters and 3 Brothers arrived by ship from England to settle in New Zealand. The only way Grandad could persuade Grandma to come out to the Colony so far away, was on the condition that he lay down his pipe and never smokes again, which he promptly promised to do and never ever broke his word.

They arrived at New Plymouth on board the Ship "James Bain" after 15 weeks at sea, to be landed in New Plymouth amid a round up of Maori warriors. Hundreds of them, all lined up on the beach under military guard, and according to my Grandmother, was a most frightening experience, as there were war dances and Hukas going on all the time. She related how the ground shook with hundreds of bare feet thumping in unison and told Grandad clearly she wanted to board the ship and return to England.

He reminded her of the deal they had made about "laying down his pipe" so she condescended to stay, but very reluctantly. Grandad was a carpenter and built a very nice home while starting up a sash and door factory in New Plymouth, which he operated until he died in the year 1917.

extract from the Memoir of Leo Ducker (see Appendix)

(The Duckers did not arrive on the *James Baines*.
James Baines was a well-known owner of fast clipper ships of the "Black Ball Line, Liverpool.
There was a ship of this name, of the Back Ball Line, built by the famous Donald McKay.
She set the transatlantic sailing record of 12 days 6 h from Boston to Liverpool, but was not the ship which brought the Duckers to New Zealand.
The *James Baines* was lost in 1858, burned to the waterline and her remains were sold as a coal barge.)

After 15 weeks at sea the Ducker family arrived in Wellington, not New Plymouth - in 1880, not 1881. And the ship they arived on was on the *Geraldine Paget*.

The usual procedure then, to get from Wellington to New Plymouth, would be by coastal vessel, to land on the open beach. New Plymouth had no harbour at that time.

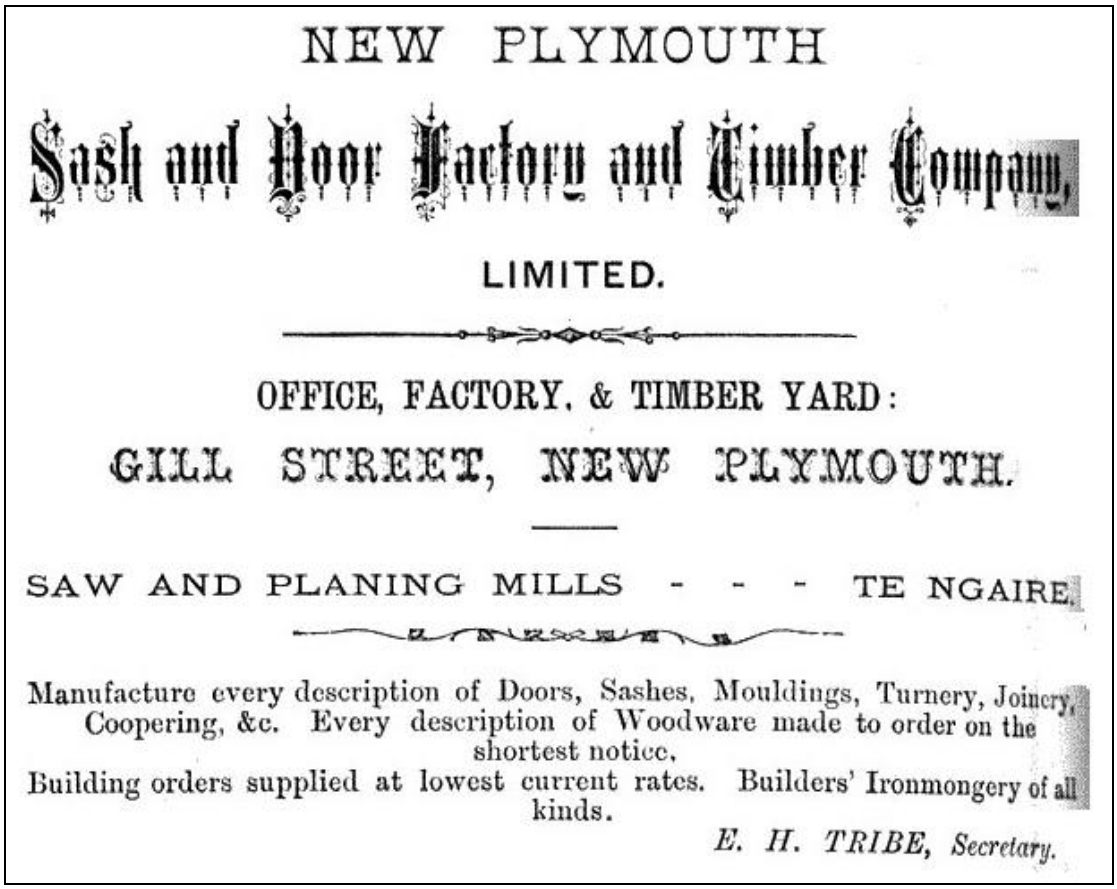
Was it at Wellington or at New Plymouth, where "Grandmother" Eleanor was frightened by the Maori haka?

The recollections handed down of James Ducker "…starting up the sash and door factory in New Plymouth….", and that he "….operated it until his death in 1917" were also perhaps a slight exaggeration.

The New Plymouth Sash and Door Company arose from a timber yard and joinery factory at Gill Street which had been trading under the name of Webster Bros. until it went into receivership in mid-1882. New Plymouth Sash and Door Company was then formed in November 1882. This was more than two years after the Duckers had arrived in New Zealand. James Ducker's position was that of employee. Evidently he was "foreman in charge", a position he held until February 1900 when he "left the company's employ to enter into private business." These facts were recorded, as we will see later, at a function which was held for him at the time, at which he was presented with a marble clock bearing the inscription "1880-1900."
From this inscription we may infer that James may have started out working for Webster Brothers soon after his arrival in 1880. As a qualified tradesman he would quite possibly have had an important role to play when the new Sash and Door company was formed in 1882. Soon after formation, the company made a decision to enlarge the factory and upgrade the machinery and as a qualified tradesman there seems little doubt James would have played a leading technical role.

It has been said that when the Duckers emigrated to New Zealand they brought with them their furniture, which had been made by James.

James Ducker had come to New Zealand as an assisted immigrant. By occupation he was not a farmer or a farm labourer. He was a tradesman joiner. Despite the over-supply of labour by 1880, such "mechanics" were in demand. It is quite likely he had been recruited for the job, or had his job arranged before leaving the "Old Country."



The first ten years in New Plymouth, the 1880's

It is not certain where the Duckers stayed when they frst arrived in New Plymouth,

The first newspaper references to James Ducker in New Zealand records his name on a list of sucessful applicants for a block (on deferred payment) in the newly opened-up Ngaire district. This may have been related to his status as "assisted immigrant."



Taranaki Herald 24 August 1880

Applications for Land.—The following applications for land on deferred payments were granted :

Ngaire District :

Block 5 : James Ducker, section 1 ;

TH 29 November 1881

Payment of Instalment.—The Receiver of Land Revenue was authorised to receive payment of second instalment of purchase money due by James Ducker on 21st July last, for section 1, block 5, Ngaire.

However this is not where the Duckers settled, and evidently a few years later that block was sold.

HNS 8 December 1886

CAPITALISATIONS.

The undermentioned applied and were allowed to capitalise :—R. J. Allsworth, section 30, block 14, Kanpokonui ; W. J. Green, section 28, block 8, Ngaire ; J. Ducker, section 1, block 5, Ngaire.

As early as 1882 James Ducker was recorded as living within Fitzroy District, New Plymouth.

Taranaki Herald 18 and 19 October 1882



LAND TRANSFER ACT NOTICE.

NOTICE is hereby given that the parcel of Land hereinafter described will be brought under the provisions of "The Land Transfer Act, 1870," unless caveat forbidding the same be lodged at this office within one calendar month after the date of the *Gazette* containing this notice :—

Name of Applicant, THE NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND (LIMITED.) Area, 20 Acres, 1 rood. Description : Part of Rural Allotment No. 42 Fitzroy District. Occupied by James Ducker, of New Plymouth, Carpenter.

Diagrams may be inspected at this office.

Dated this 16th day of October, 1882, at the Lands Registry Office, New Plymouth.

W. STUART,
District Land Registrar.

b24 o19

The Fitzroy District included a portion of Frankley Road in the area called Westown, now a suburb of New Plymouth.

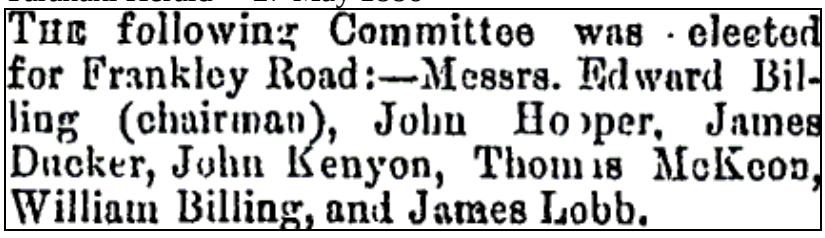
It is likely the above 20 acres 1 rood (8.3 hectares) was at Westown, and that this is where the Duckers first settled.

Eventually the Duckers had 100 acres (40 Hecatres) of leasehold land on Frankley Road.

(In October 1899 the lease was offered for sale.
In the advertisement for the lease (Taranaki Herald 9th Oct 1899) the farm location was described as 6 miles from New Plymouth and a mile from the co-operative dairy factory. From the advertisement description, the farm seems to have been well developed, with out-buildings, orchard and piggery, and the house had four rooms.)

During the first 10 years on Frankley Road, James Ducker was on the **Frankley Road School Committee**.

Taranaki Herald 27 May 1886



THE following Committee was elected for Frankley Road:—Messrs. Edward Billing (chairman), John Hooper, James Ducker, John Kenyon, Thomas McKeon, William Billing, and James Lobb.

On the same committee we see **John Kenyon** and **John Hooper.**
John Hooper's son Richard was about to marry James Ducker's daughter Marian. Many years later, Richard and Marian's daughter Edie would marry John Kenyon's grandson, my grandfather John Wilson Kenyon.)



Taken in the later 1890's

From the collection of Bradley Walter.

The Duckers' first home in New Zealand, cottage on Frankley Rd. New Plymouth.
Back L to R: Alfred Ducker, James Ducker jnr., Walter Rumball
Front: James Ducker snr., Eleanor Ducker, daughter Elizabeth Ducker.

A man named Ducker, who is employed at the New Plymouth Sash and Door Factory, had his hand severely cut with a circular saw yesterday. Dr. Leatham was at once called in, and pronounced the injuries to be not dangerous.

Taranaki Herald
5 December 1885

James, was injured at work in 1885.

1886 **Marian** Ducker, 19, married Richard Hooper. The marriage took place at the New Plymouth Registry Office, and there had been some need for urgency.
Marian and Richard followed Richard's father to South Taranaki where they settled as farmers and raised their family.

Taranaki Herald 12 April 1887

Hearth Rug, 1st prize Miss A. Ducker.

Ada Ducker (age 18) won a prize at the Autumn Show.

Taranaki Herald 12 October 1889

A Band of Hope meeting was held at Westown on Thursday night, when a varied programme was gone through. Appropriate recitations were given by Misses Langman, Wallath, Hilda Eva, and Cowling, Messrs Billing and Frank Ducker.

Frank Ducker (17) performed at a Band of Hope Meeting.
This is the first of many newspaper articles which would appear in the decade to come, which record the emergence of the Duckers as a talented musical family, in frequent demand to provide music at various social events in New Plymouth and beyond. In fact for a time, Frank was to become a professional entertainer.

The 1890s

To-morrow (Saturday) afternoon the employees at the Egmont Boot Factory meet the Sash and Door Factory team at a game of football. The racecourse is to be the ground. The following are the names of the players:—Sash and Door Team: W. Birch (captain), D. James, E. Ducker, F. Scrivener, E. Smith, J. Robson, F. Pepperell, R. J. Jury, J. Millar, C. Bayly, J. Laing. Boot Factory: M. Flynn (captain), R. Kelly, F. Oakes, G. Parker, A. Hartly, B. Basano, G. Miller, N. Street, W. Kivell, J. Trevin, C. Hargraves, T. Tapp. Emergencies: W. Way, H. Way.

Ernest Ducker (age about 18) was in the Sash and Door Factory football team in 1889.

Taranaki Herald 5 July 1889

1891 **Ada** Ducker (22) married John W. Rawlinson at St Mary's Anglican Church. Ada and "Jack" settled on a farm just out of New Plymouth, and raised their family.

1892 **Ernest** Ducker (22) married Mary Rawlinson at St Mary's Anglican Church

Although Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan flocks were strong in New Plymouth, it is interesting to note that the above two marriages took place in St Mary's, the local conformist Parish Church.[8] Even more interesting: in January 1894, the youngest daughter, **Elizabeth** was 16 years of age and attending a convent school.
Schooling was provided in New Plymouth at that time, for those who cared to educate their children, by a variety of denominations.
Religious preference does not seem to have been a major issue for the Duckers.

James Ducker (43) retired (by rotation) from the Frankley Road Board in 1894
TH 14 April 1894 repeat 16th April repeat 26th April

FRANKLEY ROAD BOARD.

ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS FOR THE ABOVE BOARD.

I HEREBY appoint my residence, Frankley Road, as the place and until the 28th April, the time for which nominations will be received for the election of TWO MEMBERS for the Frankley Road Board, in place of Messrs Ducker and Tatton, who retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election.

An election, if necessary, will take place at the Frankley Road Schoolhouse on SATURDAY, 5th of May, 1894, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

EDWD. BILLING,
Returning Officer.
Frankley Road, April 12th, 1894.

Around this time James Ducker sponsored a young immigrant called Walter Rumball. Walter Rumball was one of a group of 118 immigrants organised by "Mr. Courtney of New Plymouth" who left England on June 25th 1894 and travelled by ship Ruapehu. They arrived in New Plymouth in August that year, and were treated to a reception by an enthusiastic crowd at the New Plymouth Railway Station.

Walter boarded with the Duckers and initially worked for James Ducker on his farm at Frankley Road. He soon made the acquaintance of **Elizabeth**, the youngest daughter of James and Eleanor, just turned 16 and currently still at school.

At age 53 James Ducker was now planning an ambitious scheme.

[8] Janet Fleming has pointed out: "The Rawlinson family were fairly staunch members of the Church of England."

The first step was to acquire a block of forested land at Warea, some miles south of the town of New Plymouth.

Land Board Taranaki Herald 16 October 1894

The following perpetual lease transfers were also agreed to :—W. Rawson to H. Linn section 1, block 5, Omona ; C. Simons to W. C. Simons, interest in section 22, block 12, Huiroa. Jas Hooker applied to transfer sections 8, 9, and 10, block 10 Cape, to Jas Ducker. Consideration was deferred till next meeting.

In October 1894 an application was made to transfer three sections (8, 9 and 10) to James Ducker.

These three adjacent sections were in a district called Warea, to the south of New Plymouth.

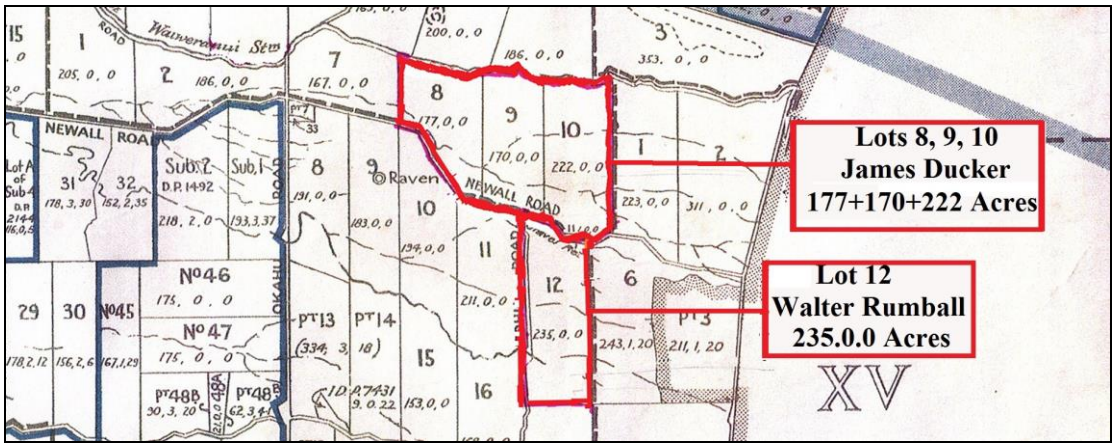
Taranaki Herald 6 November 1894

Transfers.—The application of James Hooker to transfer perpetual lease sections 8, 9 and 10, block 10, Cape, to James Ducker was again laid on the table. Mr George said that he was not interested in the sections in any way. He acted as agent for Mr Hooker. Mr Hooker stated that the contract in hand was now finished. It was decided to agree to the transfer provided the ranger verifies the statement re the improvements. W. G. Blight applied to transfer

The application was approved in 1894. At this time the status of the land ownership was "perpetual lease."

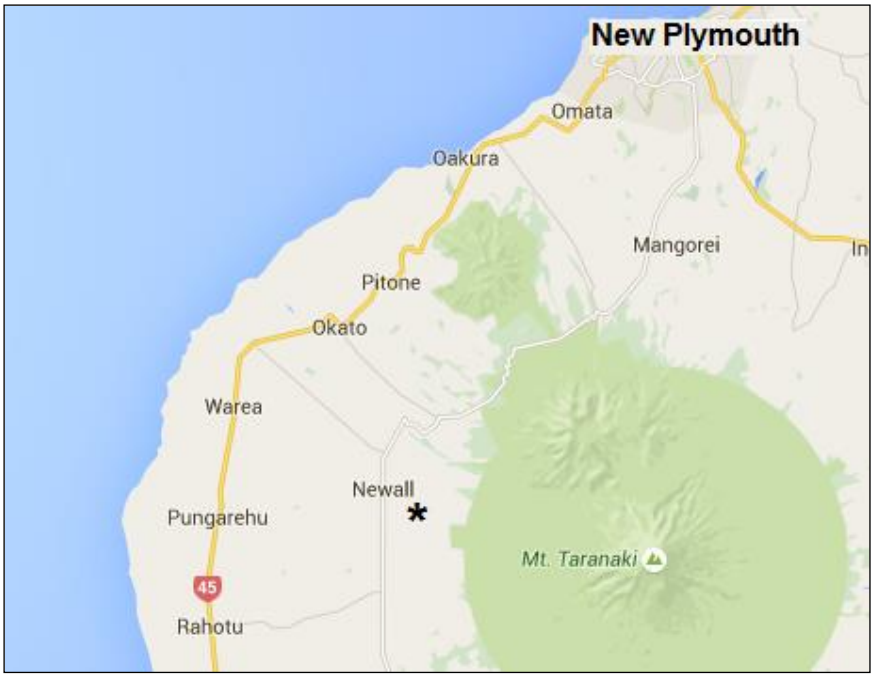
Evidently there was a right to purchase freehold, and this right was exercised six years later.

When Walter Rumball had first arrived, with a small loan from his sister, he also began looking land. Walter applied for a section adjacent to the sections James Ducker had just bought. In March 1895 his application was granted, comprising 235 acres Sec 12 block 14 Cape. "O.R.P." (Occupation with right of purchase.)
Walter's land and Duckers' land were opposite each other, on opposite sides of what is now Newall Road, but in 1895 Newall Rd. was merely a survey line and a track through the bush.



NZ Cadastral Map NZ M177 Egmont Sheet N118 1st April 1963 M. and R. Cardiff collection

The unsurveyed area on the right of the map, marked XV ("15 Cape"), is the steeply rising side of "Mount Egmont" - today we use its original Maori name, Mt. ***Taranaki***. (This area is now part of the Egmont National Park.)



Upper Newall Rd.

Approximate location of the first land bought by the Duckers - sections 8, 9, 10 (Block X Cape),

and the first land bought by Walter Rumball section 12 (Block X1V Cape).



Today the distance by road from New Plymouth to the Newall Road properties is about 36km, the journey taking an estimated 32 minutes to drive by car.

(From Upper Newall Rd. today. Photograph Aeron Pollard)

In 1885, however, Newall Road stopped well short of where Upper Newall Road now is, and the property was accessible only by a muddy track which had been cut through the bush.

As Bradley Walter wrote:
"About this time, a neighbour, Clem Sole, described Newall as 'an inhospitable land of swamp, mud and rimu trees. Roads were lines of fallen trees and scrub, bridges non-existent, and New Plymouth might well have been on the other side of the world."

Ernest's marriage had not lasted more than a few years and he was now working in Warea, possibly with James and Alfred. By 1895 the couple's marital problems had become public, with the newspaper report that Mary Ellen had applied to the Hospital and Charitable Board for assistance for herself and their child.

By 1898 Ernest had taken himself off to Australia.

Frank had left home and was working as a ship's steward on the Sydney run, and he had also worked for a time in Australia as a vaudeville artist for the famous entertainment entrepreneur J. C. Williamson.
He met up with Lily Eyes and they were married in Papakura, near Auckland in 1898.

In October 1899 James Ducker put the Frankley Road farm (lease) up for sale.

Taranaki Herald 9th October 1899

FOR SALE.

GOODWILL OF LEASE of 100 Acres on the Frankley Road, 6 miles from New Plymouth, 1 mile from Co-operative Factory, which has paid 3d per gal., 3 6 test and a bonus of 3 1 per gallon, sub'divided, partly laid down in oats and grass; 4 room house, out-buildings, orchard, garden and piggery.
For particulars apply to,
J. DUCKER,
b470 Sash & Door Factory.

Taranaki Herald 17 October 1899

Timber rights over sections in block 14, Cape, held by W. J. Murphy, C. H. Arden, J. M. Lilford, and W. Rumball, were granted to J. Ducker on certain conditions.

The timber rights to W. Rumball's land were transferred to J Ducker under "certain conditions."

Mr Samuel appeared before the Board, in company with Mr J. Ducker, in support of the latter's application for consent to timber rights over the leaseholds of W. J. Murphy and others.—The Board decided to rescind the previous resolution, and upon condition that ½d per 100 superficial feet of the royalty derived from the timber is paid to the Road Board by Mr Ducker, the Land Board agrees to accept as for credit of rent of sections from which timber is taken a royalty of 2½d for 100 superficial feet, the sawmill books to be open to the inspection of Ranger.

The conditions were that royalties from the timber would be paid to both the Land Board and the Road Board, and that the sawmill books would be "open to inspection"

Taranaki Herald 7 November 1899

By 1899 all was going to plan. **James jnr. and Alfred** were breaking in the land at Newall Road. Often in the evenings the brothers provided the music for local social occasions. Soon another musician, a young lady named Mary Frances Louisa Gill, enabled the formation of a small orchestra ,

At the end of December 1899 **James jnr**. and Mary Gill were married.

Taranaki Herald, 16 January 1900

A. J. Ducker's application for freehold of secs 8, 9, and 10, block 10, Cape, was agreed to.

Duckers exercise right to purchase, and become freeholders.

The newspaper records around this time are not always clear when referring to J. Ducker, James Ducker, Mr. Ducker etc, it is not always certain whether it is James Ducker snr., or James Ducker jnr.being referred to.
"A. J. Ducker" in the article above is probably a typographic error, intended to refer to the two sons A. & J. Ducker (Alfred and James jnr.) who ultimately did settle here.

James Ducker now resigned his position as foreman at Sash and Door Company
Taranaki Daily News, 14 February 1900

Mr. James Ducker, who has for some twenty years filled the position of foreman in charge at the New Plymouth Sash and Door Company's Factory, has resigned his position in order to enter into business. On Monday the employees of the Company presented him with a handsome marble clock, suitably inscribed, the presentation being made by Mr. J. C. George, one of the directors.

Taranaki Herald, 13 February 1900 Sash and Door

Presentation.

THE employees of the New Plymouth Sash & Door Factory & Timber Company (Limited) assembled in the office of the Company on Monday morning for the purpose of making a presentation to Mr James Ducker, who is leaving the Company's employ to enter into private business.

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr James C. George (one of the directors) made the presentation. Mr George stated that the Company and the whole of the employees very much regretted that Mr Ducker was leaving them after a long and faithful service of some twenty years as foreman in charge, and they felt they could not allow him to depart without presenting him with some souvenir of the pleasant years they had been associated together. Mr George then presented Mr Ducker with a handsome marble clock bearing the inscription, "Presented to Mr James Ducker by the employees of the N.P. Sash & Co. on his retirement—1880 to 1900."

The Secretary of the Company stated that he had been associated with Mr Ducker since the inception of the Company, and spoke of the very cordial relations which had at all times existed between Mr Ducker and the employees, and concluded by calling for three hearty cheers for Mr and Mrs Ducker.

Mr Ducker said that words failed him to express his appreciation of all their kinds feelings towards him, and he trusted that they would all follow up their work as well in the future as they had done in the past.

The 1900s. Duckers' Sawmill

It now became known what James Ducker and his two sons had been planning in the months leading up to James's resignation from "New Pymouth Sash and Door Co."

In April 1900 Walter Rumball had written "home" to his sister in England:

Mr. Ducker has not got his mill going yet, having had a bigger job than he anticipated. He has dammed the river up nearly twenty feet and this has taken a lot of time and trouble. He has made a big water race in addition, and this has had to be cut out of almost solid rock for the most part. The water wheel is the next thing to be fixed up, and then he will be able to start. There is a great demand for timber in the district, and he should do a big trade when he does start. I should like to see him do well. It will benefit me considerably if ever he takes

(See Appendix: "Letters from Piuniho"

PEOPLE are saying—
That Mr Ducker is starting a sawmill on the Newall Road.

The word is out…
Taranaki Herald,
5 May 1900

"Mr. J Ducker" adds to the the three sections recently purchased on Newall Rd.

A seven years lease of sec 7, block 14, Cape, was granted to Mr J. Ducker.

Taranaki Herald, 26 July 1900
Adjoining already owned sections 8,9,10

"Mr. Ducker" makes application to add a little to his property on Frankley Rd.
Taranaki Herald, 21 August 1900

H. Okey, J. Veale, and C. Carter applied to purchase half of enclosed road between secs 42 and 56, Fitzroy district, Mr Ducker wishing to purchase the other half. The matter was referred to the Ranger for report.

August 1900, James Ducker is still advertising to sell the (now slightly enlarged) farm on Frankley Rd.
Taranaki Herald, 30 August 1900

FOR LEASE BY TENDER,—105 Acres on the Frankley Road, six miles from New Plymouth; one mile from co operative factory, subdivided; 4-room house; orchard, &c. For conditions and further particulars apply to J DUCKER, Sash & Door Factory, or FRANK L. GILL, Okato. Tenders to be addressed "Ake," c/o HERALD office, and close on the 5th September, 1900.

James jnr. with his wife Mary, and his brother **Alfred** were now settling on the land which had been purchased at Newall Road, helping to set up and ultimately to manage the Duckers' sawmill.

In 1902 Walter Rumball and **Elizabeth** Ducker were married and Walter, having sold his first land at Newall Rd., was breaking in his new bush farm, not far from Duckers' Sawmill.

Local history gleaned by Margaret Cardiff has it that some of the time during the decade after leaving the Sash and Door Company, James Ducker was building in New Plymouth in partnership with a Mr. Took (whose descendants still live in the district.)

Frank and Lily shifted back to New Plymouth where Frank built up a reputation as a poultry farmer (and local entertainer.) Around 1905 Frank and his growing family moved first to Opotiki then to nearby Ohiwa. James Ducker (and his associate Took) travelled to Ohiwa to build a house, store and post office for Frank and Lily to live in and operate as a business. The building was completed by 1910.

It was probably then that Frank's only daughter Olive was sent (or brought) back to New Plymouth to attend school and be raised by her grandparents James and Eleanor.

Ernest, now back in New Zealand and divorced from Mary Ellen Rawlinson, had also moved to Opotiki at about the same time as Frank. There he met Lilia Croon.
Ernest and Lilia were married in 1907 and they eventually settled, raised a family and farmed in the Hamilton district.

In 1912 **Frank** and Lily parted, Lily taking the youngest child with her.
Frank, who was now bankrupt, subsisted on an island in the Ohiwa Harbour with his other sons. He married again in 1916 (to Amy Grace Turner) then left what remained of his family in the care of his new wife, joined the army and went off to war.
He returned wounded in 1917. In 1919 Frank and Amy and new family commenced farming in Opotiki, where Frank quickly built up a pedigree herd of Friesian cattle.

December 1917 Death of James Ducker Snr.

DUCKER.—On December 27, 1917, at New Plymouth Hospital, James Ducker, beloved husband of E. W. Ducker, Frankley Road; aged 77 years.

After James had died, Eleanor was left with a sixteen acre farmlet on Frankley Road which, at 81 years of age, was more than she could manage on her own.

Needing help, Eleanor made an application to the Military Services Board for her unmarried son **Alfred** to be returned on furlough from the theatre of war.

Taranaki Daily News, 28 August 1918

SOLDIERS AT THE FRONT.

FURLOUGH AFTER THREE YEARS' SERVICE.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT.

Reference was made at yesterday's sitting of the Military Service Board at New Plymouth, to the Government decision to grant furlough to men on active service who had been at the front for three years or more.

Mrs Ellen Wright Ducker, New Plymouth, made application for the return to New Zealand of her son, Alfred Ducker, who had been away three years, and who is at present on active service with the Expeditionary Forces in Egypt. Appellant stated she was 82 years of age, and her husband had died six months ago. She was left with a house and a farm of sixteen acres at Frankley Road. She had three sons—one married, with three children, and living at Hamilton, another living at Bay of Plenty, having ten children, and who had returned from the front, and another, with four children, living at Warea. The son Alfred was the only single son. The son at Warea was the nearest to appellant's home. Appellant stated that since her husband's death the farm had gone back a good deal. She had a garnddaughter living with her, aged seventeen. At present there were only two head of stock on the farm. Six heifers had just been sold. There were two cottages belonging to appellant which returned 24s per week in rent. She could not afford to pay hired labor to work the farm. Appellant also had a cottage property in the Bay of Plenty, which had only just been re-let after having been vacant for some months. She said if her son was not returned the farm would go to further ruin, and she was afraid she would have to give up the home that had been made on the property. Her son at Warea helped her with buying and selling but was not able to undertake any work. She had employed some casual labor for a week or a fortnight at a time.

At the request of the chairman, Major Cox stated that the Government had recently made a statement to the effect that, as opportunity offered, soldiers at the front, who had been on active service for three years or more, were being given an opportunity to return to New Zealand on duty. He intimated to appellant that without any application by her, it was likely her son might be returned to New Zealand in the course of a month or two.

The board intimated that it had no recommendation to make.

The son with three children living at Hamilton was Ernest.

Frank was the son in the Bay of Plenty with 10 children, who had returned from the front.

The son with four children living at Warea was James jnr.

The grand daughter, 17, living with Eleanor was Olive, daughter of Frank.

Evidently the application was unsuccessful.
Alfred was not returned from Palestine until the following year.



(Photographs from Ron Henderson collection)

Eleanor Wright Ducker (nee Bradley) 1836 – 1929

Eleanor Wright Ducker died in 1929 aged 93. (NZ BDM Record 1917/7924)

Bradley Walter, a Ducker descendant has recorded:

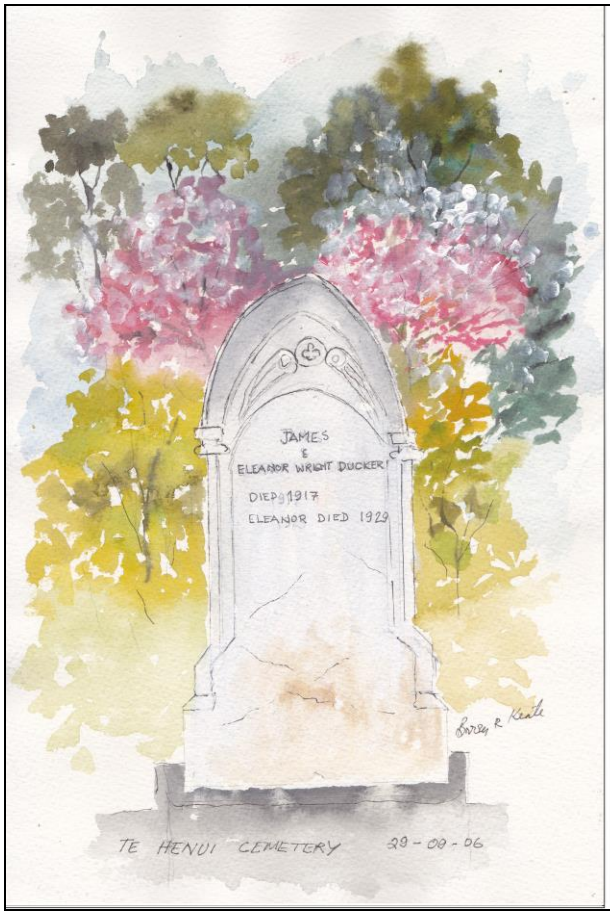
"*They are both buried in the Primitive Methodist section of the Te Henui cemetery, New Plymouth. According to New Plymouth District Council records, also buried in their plot is a stillborn infant [Ducker] b/d 19/8/1908…….*

Olive Bassett [nee Rumball] was about 6 when Eleanor died. Olive remembers Grandma as a little old lady dressed in black, living with her daughter Ada Rawlinson on Watson Street, New Plymouth, where she had her own room.

James Ducker is believed to have made a glass-doored bookcase that, along with a side-board, featured in the Rumball house in Douglas. Mary Walter [nee Rumball] inherited the bookcase when her sister Florrie died, and it is now owned by Mary's daughter Elizabeth Kilmister. ....."

The book case appears at the end of this chapter. There are independent anecdotes that the Duckers had brought at least some of their furniture with them when they came out from England. It is interesting to speculate if this book case was an early example of James's work, or whether it was made after the family arrived in New Zealand.

It does look like native New Zealand timber and Elizabeth is sure it is made of rimu.



JAMES
&
ELEANOR DUCKER

DIED 1917

ELEANOR DIED 1929

Te Henui Cemetery 22 – 09 - 06

Painting by Barry Keate From the collection of Bradley Walter



Photograph from Bradley Walter collection Te Henui Cemetery



The wood working skill of James Ducker

This book case cabinet was made by
James Ducker who served his apprenticeship
as wheelwright and joiner in Haxey
in the 1860's.

It is in the possession of Elizabeth Kilmister,
a grand daughter of Elizabeth Ducker and
great grand daughter of James and Eleanor.

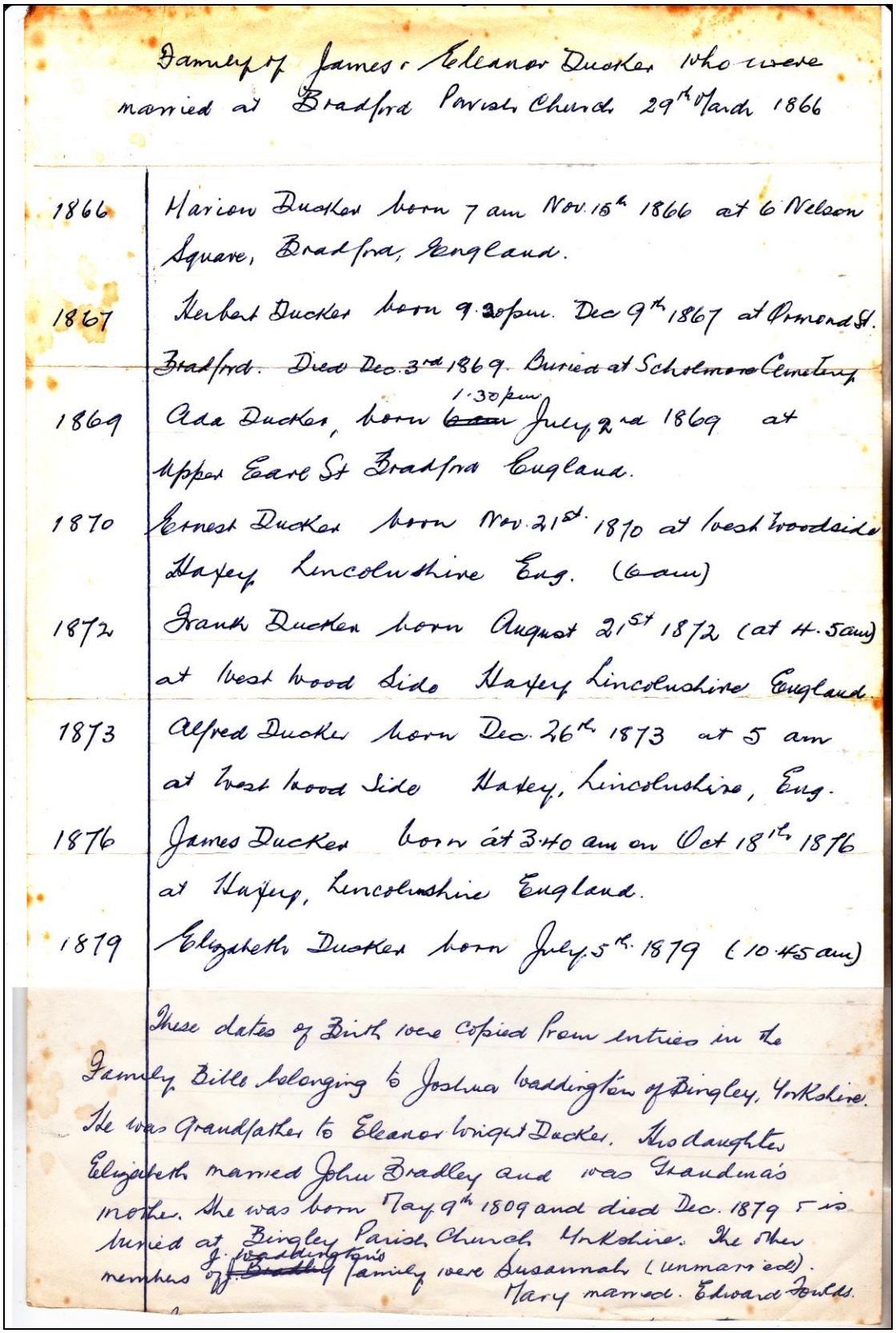
The photograph below shows in more detail
carvings of the Yorkshire rose
at the top of each door.



Presentation clock
We are currently trying to find a photograph of the presentation clock which was awarded to James Ducker when he resigned from the New Plymouth Sash and Door Factory & Timber Company Ltd. in February 1900.
So far, no photograph has been found.

Bradley Walter recalls that it went to the family of Eleanor and Jim Hill
(Eleanor being the daughter of James Ducker jnr.)
So far we have been unable to make contact with descendants of this family.

Part 4 The children of James and Eleanor Ducker



Family of James & Eleanor Ducker who were married at Bradford Parish Church 29th March 1866

1866	Marion Ducker born 7 am Nov 15th 1866 at 6 Nelson Square, Bradford, England.
1867	Herbert Ducker born 9.30 pm Dec 9th 1867 at Ormond St. Bradford. Died Dec 3rd 1869. Buried at Scholemoor Cemetery
1869	Ada Ducker, born ~~6 am~~ 1.30 pm July 2nd 1869 at Upper Ecclesall St Bradford England.
1870	Ernest Ducker born Nov 21st 1870 at West Woodside Hatfield Lincolnshire Eng. (6 am)
1872	Frank Ducker born August 21st 1872 (at 4.5 am) at West Wood Side Hatfield Lincolnshire England.
1873	Alfred Ducker born Dec 26th 1873 at 5 am at West Wood Side Hatfield, Lincolnshire, Eng.
1876	James Ducker born at 3.40 am on Oct 18th 1876 at Hatfield, Lincolnshire England.
1879	Elizabeth Ducker born July 5th 1879 (10.45 am)

These dates of Birth were copied from entries in the Family Bible belonging to Joshua Waddington of Bingley, Yorkshire. He was Grandfather to Eleanor Wright Ducker. His daughter Elizabeth married John Bradley and was Grandma's mother. She was born May 9th 1809 and died Dec. 1879 & is buried at Bingley Parish Church Yorkshire. The other members of ~~Bradley~~ J. Waddington's family were Susannah (unmarried). Mary married. Edward Foulds.

(From the collection of Ron Henderson.)

This detailed information regarding the family of James and Eleanor Ducker was copied from the family bible of Eleanor's grandfather , Joshua (John?) Waddington.

Birth Date of Elizabeth

The Waddington family bible transcription (previous page) was done by Alice Bradney (Janet Fleming's mother.) The date of birth given for Elizabeth Ducker (7th July 18**79**) is at variance with a copy of a birth certificate (transcribed and certified in 2014, see beginning of Part 4) which gives the date as 7th July 18**78**. Elizabeth's recorded age at marriage , age at death and age on the passenger list of the immigrant ship all point to the birth date probably being 1878.

An Illingworth connection for Marian?

Eleanor Bradley married James Ducker on 29th March 1866.

Their first child, Marian Ducker was born 7 ½ months later on 15th Nov 1866.

A generation later, when Marian's first daughter was born in 1889,
that child was named
Minnie **Illingworth** Hooper.

Where did the name "Illingworth" come from?

Here is the explanation, as related to Margaret Cardiff
by Marian's second daughter Edie (my grandmother):

"Eleanor was the seamstress for a well-to-do family by the name of Illingworth and was very well thought of for her demeanour and expert needlework. The son of the household was in love with her but was not allowed to marry a "common seamstress." However for many years after their arrival in New Zealand parcels of clothes and materials would arrive for Eleanor, from the Illingworths. (Whether from the son or from the mother we do not know.)"

(Notes from Margaret Cardiff.
Margaret asks also: Did James know from whom these parcels came?)

It seems rather remarkable that the Illingworth memory was preserved in this way.

Marian Ducker



Photograh from R & M Cardiff collection

According to the Baptism record below, Marian was born in Bradford on February 7th 1867. The birth date recorded is suspect.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel

When Baptized.	Child's Name, Son or Daughter.	Parent's Name. Christian.	Parent's Name. Surname.	Abode.	Child's Age when Baptized.	The Minister by whom the ceremony was performed.
1867	Marian daughter	James and Harriet	Ducker	Osborne St	Feb 7 1867	Richd Smetham

No. 121.

The date of the baptism itself is recorded only as "1867"
(The next baptism on the page was recorded on 28th Feb. 1867 and the previous baptism was recorded on 17th Jan 1866)
The "Child's Age when Baptised" field normally records the child's birth date, and suggests that Marian was born on Feb 7 1867.
However "England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915 for Marian Ducker" states that the birth was registered some time in Oct Nov Dec 1866.

BIRTHS registered in October, November, and December 1866.

DUCKER, Emma J.	Tunstead	4 b.	50
—— Eshmall F.	Nottingham	7 b.	217
—— George P.	Rochford	4 a.	212
—— John.	Chorlton	8 c.	524
—— Julia.	Nottingham	7 b.	217
—— Marian.	Bradford, York	9 b.	137
—— Mary A.	Hull	9 d.	225
—— Richard.	Walsingham	4 b.	277
—— Samuel.	Docking	4 b.	293

A transcript from the old Waddington family bible probably records the correct date of birth. (From the documents of Ron Henderson.)

1866 Marion Ducker born 7 am Nov. 15th 1866 at 6 Nelson Square, Bradford, England.

Marian must have been no more than about 3 years old when the Duckers moved from Bradford (in Yorkshire) back to the old Ducker home town of Haxey (in North Lincolnshire) around 1870[9]

Despite her young age when leaving Bradford, Marian seemed to have retained some of her Yorkshire identity. Judie Lannam records that "when anything bothered any of her family she would ask them 'where's your Yorkshire determination?'"
The Yorkshire side of her family came, of course, from her mother Eleanor Wright (nee) Bradley.

Marian was 13 years old when the family emigrated to New Zealand and her teenage growing up years were on the family farm at Frankley Road New Plymouth.

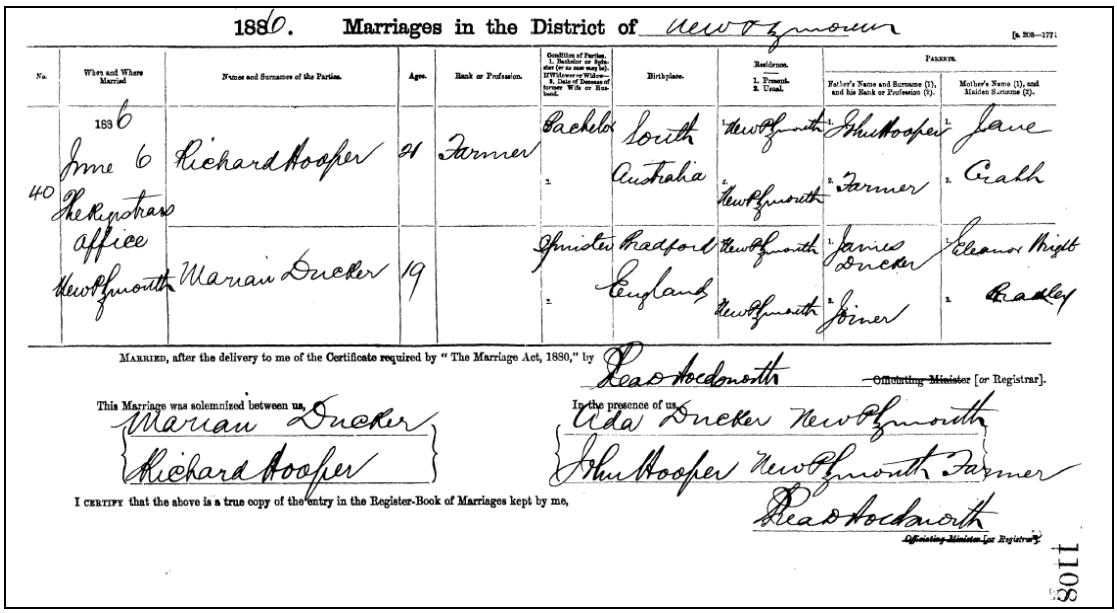
Not far away lived the Hooper family.

John Hooper and his wife Jane, who had come from the mines of Cornwall, had emigrated to Australia and then moved on to the Thames gold mines in New Zealand. There was a son called Richard who had been born during their time in Australia.

The Hoopers had moved once more and were now farming at New Plymouth. They had bought land on Elliot Rd (now known as Tukapa Street) and also on nearby Frankley Rd, so were now living not far from the Duckers.

In fact, as we have seen, James Ducker and John Hooper served together on the Frankley Road School Committee. (Taranaki Herald 27 May 1886)

On 6th June 1886 my Hooper great grandparents Richard Hooper and Marian Ducker were married. The marriage took place in the New Plymouth Registry Office.
The certificate records that Richard was 21 and Marian 19.



1886. **Marriages in the District of** New Plymouth

No.	When and Where Married	Names and Surnames of the Parties.	Ages.	Rank or Profession.	Condition of Parties. 1. Bachelor or Spinster (or as case may be). If Widower or Widow, 2. Date of Decease of former Wife or Husband.	Birthplace.	Residence. 1. Present. 2. Usual.	Parents. Father's Name and Surname (1), and his Rank or Profession (2).	Parents. Mother's Name (1), and Maiden Surname (2).
40	1886 June 6 The Registrar's office New Plymouth	Richard Hooper	21	Farmer	1. Bachelor 2.	1. South Australia 2.	1. New Plymouth 2. New Plymouth	1. John Hooper 2. Farmer	1. Jane 2. Crath
		Marian Ducker	19		1. Spinster 2.	1. Bradford England 2.	1. New Plymouth 2. New Plymouth	1. James Ducker 2. Joiner	1. Eleanor Wright 2. Bradley

MARRIED, after the delivery to me of the Certificate required by "The Marriage Act, 1880," by Read Hockenorth —~~Officiating Minister~~ [or Registrar].

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Marian Ducker, Richard Hooper

In the presence of us, Ada Ducker New Plymouth, John Hooper New Plymouth Farmer

I CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of the entry in the Register-Book of Marriages kept by me, Read Hockenorth ~~Officiating Minister~~ [or Registrar]

1108

Witnesses were Richard's father (John Hooper) and Marian's 17-year-old sister Ada.

[9] Younger sister Ada had been born in Bradford in Jul. 1869 and was baptised in Haxey in Dec. 1870.



(Photograph from the collection of Richard and Margaret Cardiff)

Judie Lannam records that the young couple Richard and Marian first lived on Elliot Road, with the Hooper family. Their first child was Herbert, born on 3rd August 1886.

Over the next six years, Marian and Richard had three more children: Minnie Illingworth Hooper (January 1889), my grandmother Edith Adelaide Hooper (October 1890) and Doris (1892.) Doris died at 15 months, of meningitis.[10]

[10] Doris was buried in Hurdon cemetery which backs onto what was the Hoopers' farm (note from Margaret Cardiff.)

By 1890 the Hoopers had sold their land and stock on Frankley Road, and in 1890 Richard and his parents had travelled to Australia to attend the graduation of Richard's brother Will from the Adelaide Theological College.
Evidently Marian, who may have been pregnant with Edith at that time, remained in New Plymouth.

(It is said that Edith Adelaide Hooper got her name from the fact that Richard Hooper had been impressed with the town of Adelaide on the occasion of this trip to Australia. Maybe so. Adelaide was also the first place the Hoopers had settled when they emigrated to Australia, and Richard had been born not far away from Adelaide, at the mining town of Moonta.)

In the early 1890s vast tracts of land in South Taranaki had been taken over following the Taranaki Wars. Some of this land was confiscated outright, and some was designated as "reserve" from which the Maori owners were almost as effectively excluded, as much of the reserve land was parcelled into blocks and offered up by tender to settlers, as leasehold.

Along with many other settlers in New Plymouth, the Hooper family was attracted by the chance to obtain and break in some of this potentially good dairy farm land on the Waimate Plains in South Taranaki.

In May 1893 Richard's father was successful in a bid for 310 acres of leasehold land on Skeet Road[11], of which 100 acres was later subdivided off for Richard and Marian.

Some of the details relating to this land can be found in Judie Lannam's "*From the Mines to the Mountain*", and further details are given in the "*The Hooper Family from Cornwall to Taranaki*", a scrapbook of family history compiled by G. Kenyon.

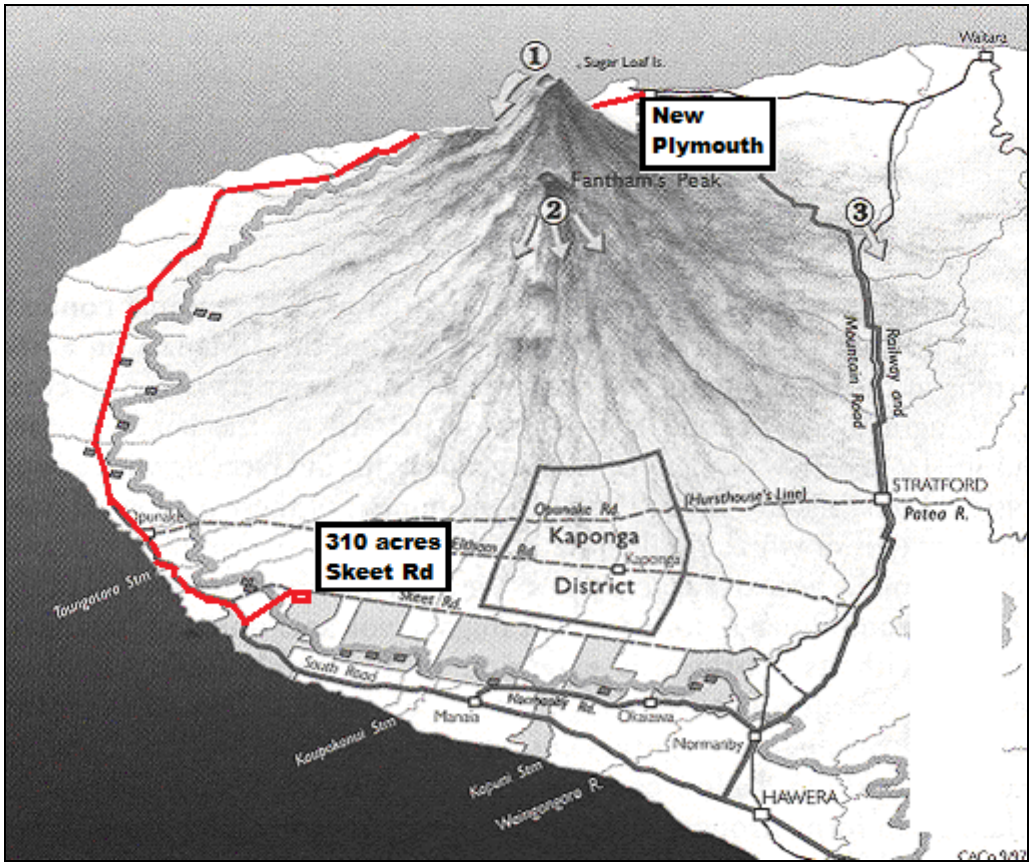
Richard and other family members then went ahead to South Taranaki to make preparations for the family, including building some primitive accommodation at Skeet Road, while Marian and the children remained behind in New Plymouth.

In May 1894 the land and house at Elliot Road was sold[12], and Marian and the three little children made a trek, on their own, from New Plymouth to the Skeet Road block in South Taranaki.

The two day trip overland by horse and trap was recorded many years later by Marian's daughter Edith who must have been no more than 3 or 4 years old at the time.

This valuable recollection (on the following pages) has been circulating in print for some time, one of the earliest of our recorded family memories.
Judie Lannam has also published it in her book "From the Mines to the Mountain."

[11] Taranaki Herald reported the successful bids, as did the Hawera and Normanby Star on 6th May 1893.
[12] Taranaki Herald 2nd May 1894 reports the sale of the farm at Elliot Rd



Marian made the journey, with three small children and all their belongings, from New Plymouth to the new home at Skeet Road, South Taranaki.

(The diagram has been taken from a map depicting the main survey tracks in 1881, from "*Settler Kaponga*" by Prof Rollo Arnold.)

The distance today, by road, is about 80 km and would take about 1 hour to drive.
It took Marian 2 days by horse and trap, with an overnight stop on the way.

Marian's daughter Edith (my grandmother), in her record of the journey, recalled that her brother was born two months later.
(Richard Leslie Hooper was born 8th July 1894.)
Also the Elliot Rd farm and home was sold in May 1894. (Taranaki Herald 2nd May1894)

This enables us to state with some confidence that the journey took place around May 1894.

Marian's Trek from New Plymouth to South Taranaki
(From the recollection of Marian's daughter Edith Adelaide Kenyon (nee Hooper.)

"*My mother and father came to live on Skeet Road, Pihama when I was just over three years of age. Mother had driven a trap from New Plymouth with three children and all our belongings, plus a tin copper chimney on board from Frankley Road, New Plymouth. I think we stayed one night at Opunake en route, as the first thing I remember was a peacock in a window, with its tail spread out. We now know it was at Rahotu with the Hughson family. The house is still standing today, behind the grocery store at Rohatu. Whether it was alive I do not know but the beauty of this big tail spread infatuated me but it may have been a stuffed bird. Also someone gave me some lollies, which had to be divided amongst us all.*

My brother and sister were older than me and Mother had always taught us to share whatever was given us. Of course I didn't know then we would be having another brother or sister in the near future, actually only two months later. I remember father had to carry everything up a little hill as the track was too steep and a lot of small logs were laying on the track. Father and Grandfather had ridden from New Plymouth during the previous year about 50 miles now and then to build two small homes. Ours was just two rooms and grandfather had three rooms. When they had built the house Mother packed up all our gear including the chimney and I remember also a very big trunk, which for a while was big enough to make a bed for us two little girls to sleep on in Mother's room. Mumma and Papa, as we were told to call our parents in those days, had their double bed and my brother slept on a small couch my mother had brought also on the trap.

Father had his job driving a few cows for us and Grandfather by road from New Plymouth. That was in the month of June so the cows were dry, but could not be hurried on the trip."

(More likely the departure point was Elliot Road.
The Frankley Road farm had been sold shortly before Edith was born.)

Judie Lannam inserts into the story:

"Marian's drive with the horse and trap took two days with the overnight stay at Rahotu. The following day near the end of their journey, they had to cross the Mangahume Stream on the South Road between Opunake and Pihama. When Marian got to the bridge the trap would not fit across as the chimney had been packed across the trap. The sides of the bridge were too high to allow the laden trap to cross over. While contemplating what to do, a good Samaritan, a kind gentleman, came to Marian's rescue. The trap was unloaded, the chimney stowed lengthwise, the remainder of their possessions reloaded so they were able to cross the bridge and complete their journey."

Edie's narrative actually tells us quite a lot about the character of her mother.
Evidently Marian (nee Ducker) was courageous, resourceful and capable.
Strict as a parent but a good provider of all that the children needed, including a concern for their education, and in addition an early introduction to the religious faith of her and her husband. It seems too that Marian had the Ducker talent for music, as there is reference to singing, the purchase of a piano, and music lessons for the eldest daughter.

1894 Life at Skeet Rd.

Edie's account of the journey is followed by her recollection of the first few years living at Skeet Rd.

"Well finally we got a fireplace made of stones, also the hearth. My brother slept in the living room and one night a rat ate a hole in his stocking I remember. Mother was able to manage one way or another and I guess she did not forget to bring black wool for mending those stockings. There was no door on the bedroom but mother soon had a curtain there. Every day Mother and us three children started picking up wood and chips and trying to get a garden going. Mother had a big bath which served for washing and bathing, also a camp oven. Mother made our own bread. A new baby did not seem to prevent Mother carrying on as usual and baby (Richard Leslie) was no trouble. He got his meal about the same time as we got ours or very soon after that, depended on how hard he yelled, I guess. We soon had a flower garden in front of our little home and I still remember Mother telling me to try to walk straight and sent me walking round and round the garden path. She tied a scarf in front of my neck and somehow crossed it at the back and tied my shoulders back to keep my head up. My older sister who was two years older than me always seemed to do the right thing. My oldest brother and sister (Herbert and Minnie) were school aged by that time. They had a pony to ride to school which was nearly four miles away.

Father had made a cowshed made of slabs with a shingle roof and slabs for the floor. The rails around the yard were also split timbers. When I got to seven years of age they decided it was time I started school so they let me go to New Plymouth to stay with Auntie Minnie who had no children. I was always quick to learn and my sister and brother often showed me what they learnt at school and when my Uncle Bob took me to a little private school opposite St. Mary's Church in New Plymouth, the teacher told Uncle Bob when he called for me at the end of the first day to get me a slate, a pen and pencil and copy book as well as a third primer reading book. My mother had told the older ones to help me to read and Mother also helped whenever she could and talked to us. Mother often sang about her work too and though there was no Sunday School or Church within miles, we learned a lot of hymn tunes from Mother and Father. She also taught us the Lord's Prayer and "Gentle Jesus" before school age. In fact Mother and Father often sang hymns together. As the years went by, Father improved the house and added to it. He also bought a stove (Dover) which stood on four legs. We were quite proud of our kitchen even though we had to use a big milk pan for a sink. A kerosene tin of water heated on the stove and a big bath on the floor with cold water added, was the weekly bath for the kids, one after another, but every night we all had to wash our feet before going to bed. I might add there was no toilet in the house, and it was no joke having to go out in the rain and cold. That place was also built of slabs.

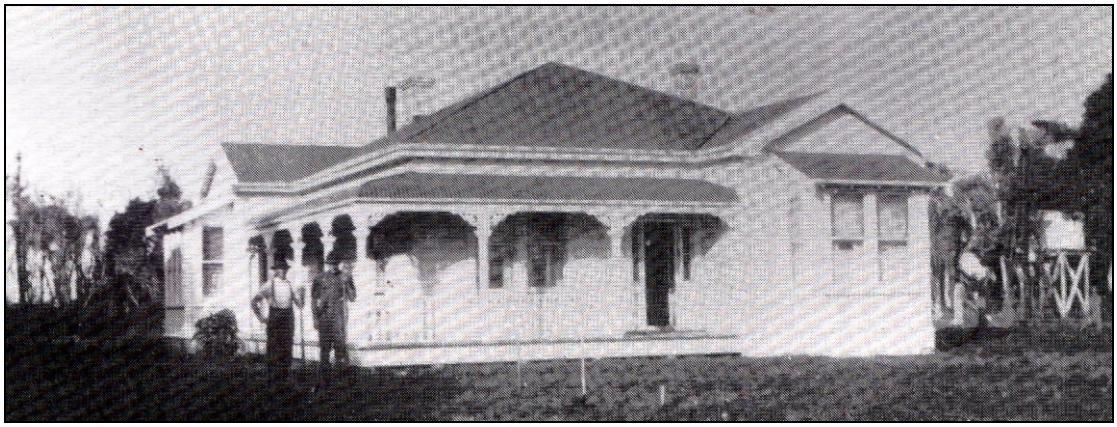
Within a few years a factory was built about a mile away. Father and mother decided we were to go to another school, so we left Pihama and started at Auroa. I was ten years of age by then, and had just passed into standard three. My sister who was 12, started to learn music as by that time mother had bought a piano. As the years passed, the farm was cleared and had more grass, there were more cows to milk and so each one as we got older had to learn to milk. I forgot to tell at the beginning that there was lots of wild pigs in the bush and we were scared to go too far from the house for quite a long time. Father and some of the neighbours

sometimes went pig hunting and a nice young pig seemed quite a treat occasionally. There was also pheasants and pigeons. We also had pigs in a sty. Father always killed two pigs a year, so we had plenty of bacon all the year. Father was the usual one called on by the neighbours to kill and dress their pigs also. Most people had their bacon hanging to the ceiling after it was cured and what a lovely breakfast it was, especially if the hens were laying, there is nothing like home cured bacon and eggs. I'll never forget the lovely pork pies Mother made with the small pieces of flesh left over after Father had cut up the pig ready to be cured for bacon.

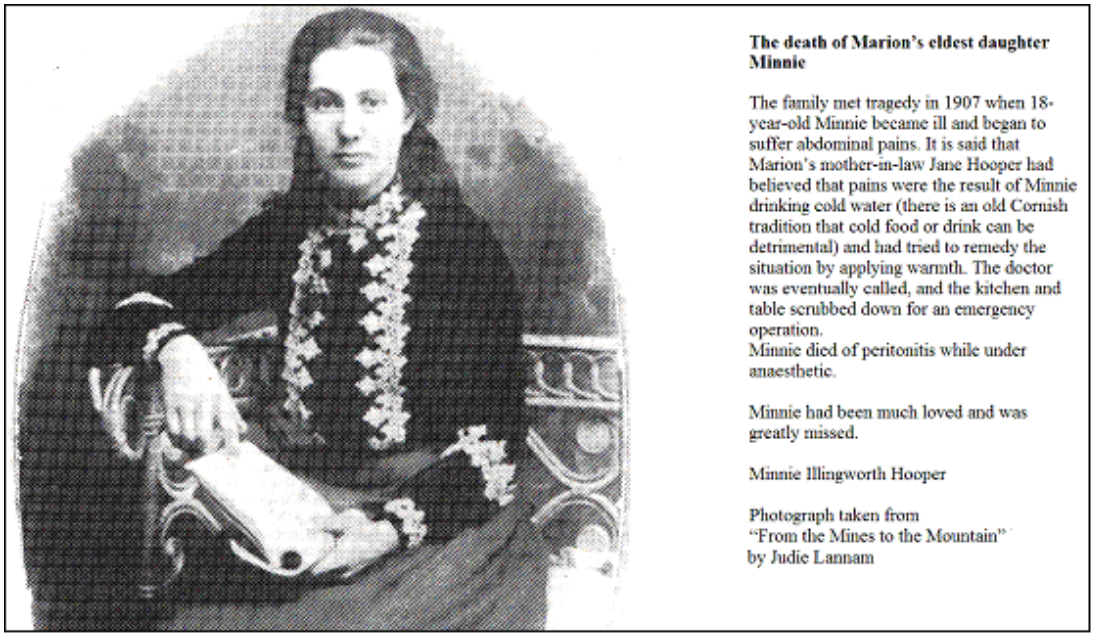
A few weeks after we started at that new school, practically all the family had whooping cough. My sister and I slept out in our bedroom but Mum had all the rest of the family (except Father and an uncle who was staying with us at the time) settled down in the sitting room which seemed to be a sort of hospital. Mother had four of the children and a baby she was feeding at that time all in with her for six weeks and the open fire was never let go out. Each day she would take out ashes and save a few coals to start the fire in the morning after sweeping out the ashes. In those days they thought children had to be kept inside with whooping cough. They never got a doctor and every one of us was sick after coughing, so there was several "jerries" needed amongst us all, and poor old Dad had to be "night man" and "day man" to dispose of the vomit etc. etc. My sister and I were allowed to sleep in our own room but we had to stay inside all day….."

The story of Marian's life as a pioneer continues, described in some detail by Judie Lannam in her book "From the Mines to the Mountain":
"Being all standing bush there was precious little food for the stock that first winter and the horses at least were grazed at the neighbours. Parp (Marian's husband Richard) supplied the first creamery in the area, the Pihama factory, with split rata for firing the boiler, to earn the keep for his family in those early difficult years. When they could feed enough cows, the cream was taken to Pihama until the Kaupokonui Dairy Factory opened. In the meantime Richard and Marian's family had increased, their tenth child was due when Parp (Richard) sold his lease in 1906 and took over his father's 210 acres. As the family grew the older ones assumed more duties and responsibilities. Minnie and Edie took turns at milking the cows and doing the housework before dashing the four miles to school and heaven help any child late for school. The boys were helping with the clearing and splitting of logs after the bush was felled and general breaking in of the land….."

Eventually, after years of toil, the farm prospered. Marian, Richard and family were finally able to move from their little cottage into this wonderful new home.



(Photograph taken from "From the Mines to the Mountain by Judie Lannam)



The death of Marion's eldest daughter Minnie

The family met tragedy in 1907 when 18-year-old Minnie became ill and began to suffer abdominal pains. It is said that Marion's mother-in-law Jane Hooper had believed that pains were the result of Minnie drinking cold water (there is an old Cornish tradition that cold food or drink can be detrimental) and had tried to remedy the situation by applying warmth. The doctor was eventually called, and the kitchen and table scrubbed down for an emergency operation.
Minnie died of peritonitis while under anaesthetic.

Minnie had been much loved and was greatly missed.

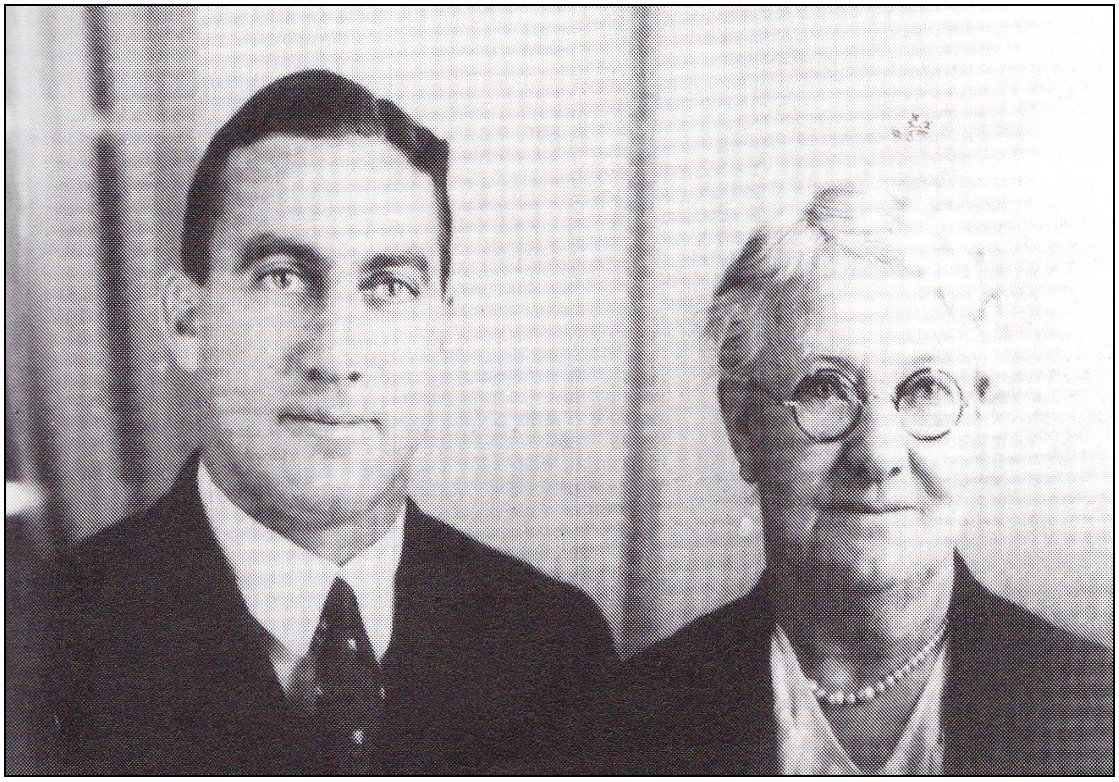
Minnie Illingworth Hooper

Photograph taken from
"From the Mines to the Mountain"
by Judie Lannam

Marian's eldest daughter Minnie Illingworth who died at age 18 in 1907

Marian and Richard retired in 1920 and moved back to New Plymouth.

Marian made three trips back to England, twice with Richard and youngest daughter Mary in 1931 and 1934, and again possibly on her own in 1937.
One reason was to visit her son William ("Son") who had joined the RAF.
There is no record now of whether she visited Bradford, where she was born, or whether she visited Haxey where she had spent her early childhood.

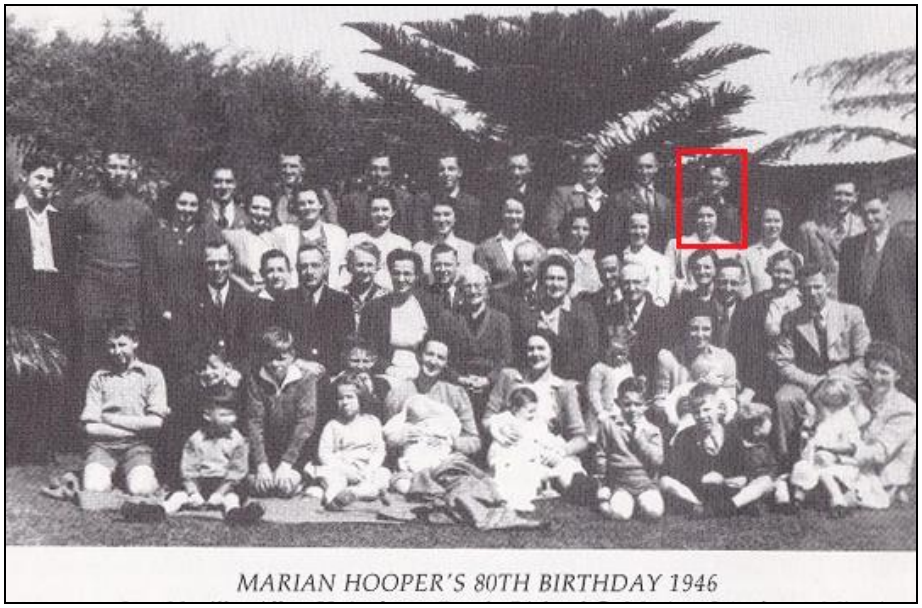


Photograph taken from "From the Mines to the Mountain" by Judy Lannam.

Marian with her son William Ernest in 1937. (William always known in the family as "Son")



Richard and Marian Hooper Family 1928 (from the collection of R. & M. Cardiff)
Back Row L to R: John, Tom, Herbert, Mamie, Dick, Edie, Jim, William Ernest ("Son").
Front Row L to R: Mary, Richard Hooper, **Marian (Ducker) Hooper**, Eleanor ("Girlie")



This photograph was taken from "From the Mines to the Mountain" by Judie Lannam.
(Names corrected by Richard Cardiff after consultation with Mavis Herbert. 22 September 2015)
Front row: Ian, Neville, Allan H, in front, Frank, Richard C, Marian C in front, Minnie with John, Rita with Shirley, Janice, Ken B in front, Lucy holding Jean, Barry C, Irwin, Dorothy with Pauline.
Second Row: Jim, Gordon, Dick, Emma, Girlie C, Arthur C, Marian, Alf Brown, Maimie B, Wilf, Herbert, Allie, John, Ollie, Tom
Third Row: Joyce, Jean, Mavis, Elsa, Joy, Maisie, Gwynneth, Kath, **Kath Kenyon**, Eleanor, Doug Ward, Edgar
Back Row: Ern, Rex, Wilson, Ernest Herbert, Ivan, Alf, John Oliver, Geoff, Tom, **Clive**

My parents (Kath and Clive Kenyon) are there, but I was not born until 1947.



This is the house where Marian Hooper lived
after moving back to
New Plymouth.

6 Rawhiti St. Vogeltown

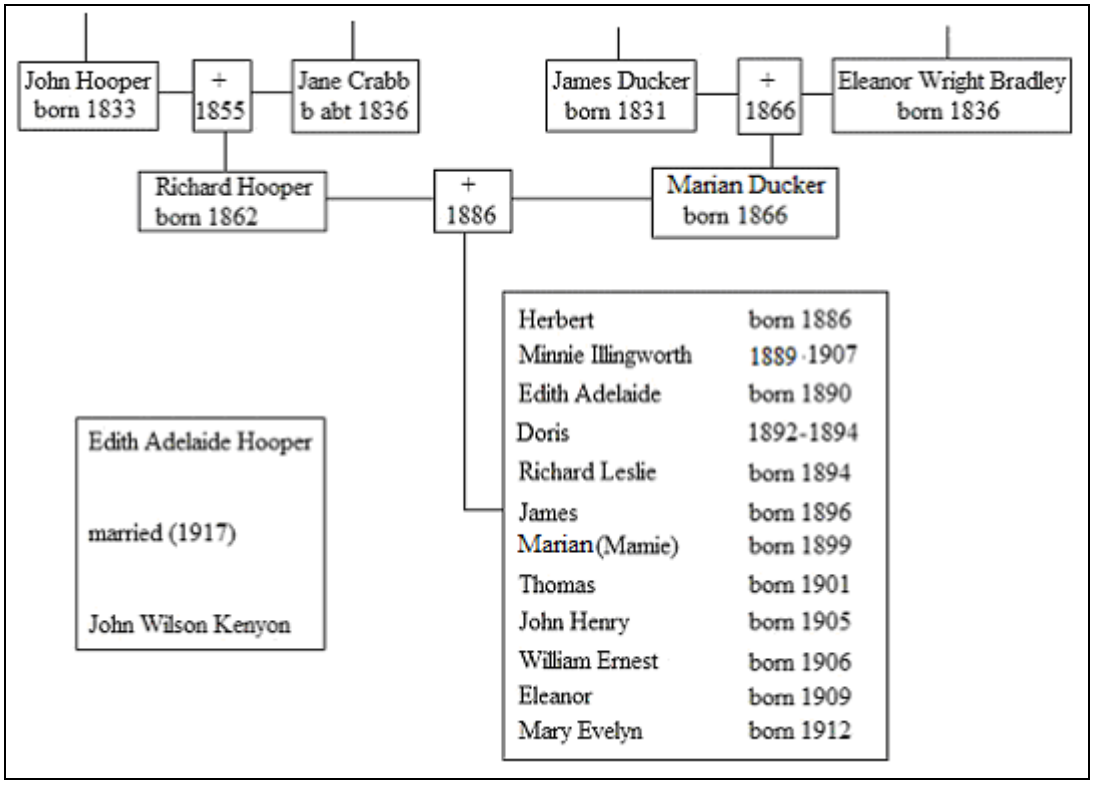
(From the collection of R&M Cardiff)



Marian Hooper
(nee Ducker)

Died in November 1955

aged 89

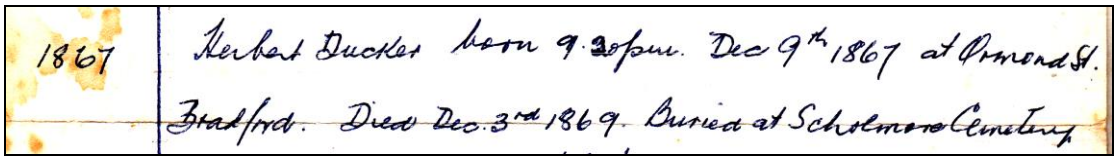


The family of Marian (nee Ducker) and Richard Hooper.

Margaret Cardiff informs: The first 10 of Marian's children were born at home – the first 4 at Hurdon New Plymouth, the next 6 at Skeet Rd (referred to variously as Auroa, Pihama or Otakeho).
Eleanor (Girlie) was the 1st to be born in a Maternity Home, in New Plymouth.
Marian was nearly 43 , yet nearly 3 years later she had Mary- in Manaia Nursing Home.April 1912.

Herbert Ducker

The transcript of the family page of Joshua Waddington's bible states that Herbert Ducker was born on December 9th 1867.

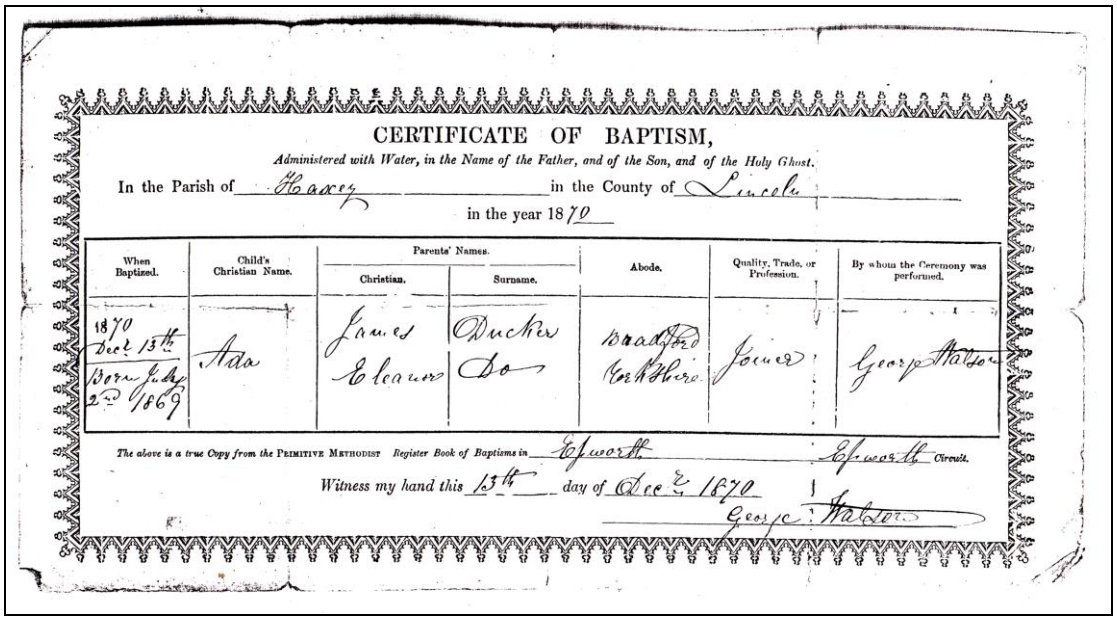


Herbert died as an infant, and Janet Fleming's collection of documents includes the child's death notice:

In Affectionate Remembrance of
HERBERT,
Infant son of James and Eleanor Ducker,
who died on Friday, 3 Dec 1869,
Aged 1 year 11 months.
Interred this day at Scholemore Cemetery.
"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"

Ada Ducker

Ada was born in Bradford on July 2nd 1869, and baptised eighteen months later on Dec 13th 1870 in the Primitive Methodist Church in Haxey.



CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM,

Administered with Water, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

In the Parish of Haxey in the County of Lincoln

in the year 1870

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Names. Christian.	Parents' Names. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1870 Dec 13th Born July 2nd 1869	Ada	James	Ducker	Bradford Yorkshire	Joiner	George Watson
		Eleanor	Do			

The above is a true Copy from the PRIMITIVE METHODIST *Register Book of Baptisms in* Epworth Epworth *Circuit.*

Witness my hand this 13th *day of* Dec. 1870

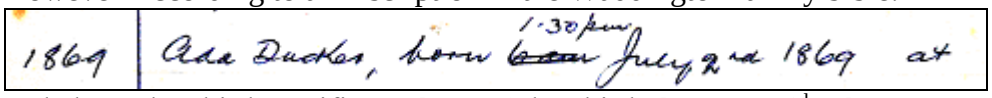
George Watson

From Janet Fleming's collection of documents.

(The transcripts of Combined Isle of Axholme Methodist Baptisms (by Axholme FHS and referred to as The Haxey Transcripts) records Ada's combined baptism with brother Ernest, and gives the birth date as 2nd June 1869.)

DUCKER	Ada	James	Eleanor	02 Jun 1869 13 Dec 1870 Joiner	CP Westwoodside
DUCKER	Ernest	James	Eleanor	21 Nov 1870 13 Dec 1870 Joiner	CP Westwoodside

However According to an inscription in the Waddington family bible:



1869 | Ada Ducker, born 1.30pm July 2nd 1869 at

and also Ada's birth certificate above, Ada's birth date was 2nd July 1869.)

Ada was about 11 years old when the family emigrated to New Zealand.

She grew up on the Frankley Rd. farm, New Plymouth.

Taranaki Herald, Volume XXXVI, Issue 7344, 12 April 1887, Page 4

FIFTH AUTUMN SHOW.

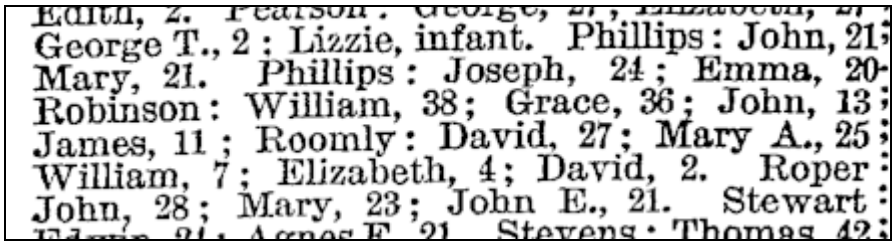


Hearth Rug, 1st prize Miss A. Ducker.

In 1891 Ada Ducker married John William Rawlinson in New Plymouth.

The Rawlinson family
Janet Fleming informs me that the Rawlinson family came from Lancaster, and that documentation is difficult to find because the children were all listed as "Ashton."

It is almost as difficult to find a document relating to their passage to New Zealand because the shipping list published in the newspaper has serious errors.
The family (**William and Grace Rawlinson and their children John William, James, Mary Ellen, Annie Elizabeth and baby Benjamin**)
arrived in Auckland on the 19th of October 1878 on the ship ***May Queen***.
A lengthy description of the voyage and the full passenger list may be found in
Auckland Star, 19 October 1878
Here is a fragment of the passenger list showing errors in regard to the Rawlinsons.


Edith, 2. Pearson: George, 2?; Elizabeth, 2?;
George T., 2 : Lizzie, infant. Phillips : John, 21;
Mary, 21. Phillips : Joseph, 24 ; Emma, 20-
Robinson : William, 38; Grace, 36; John, 13;
James, 11 ; Roomly : David, 27; Mary A., 25;
William, 7; Elizabeth, 4; David, 2. Roper :
John, 28; Mary, 23; John E., 21. Stewart :
Edwin, 21; Agnes E., 21. Stevens : Thomas, 42;

In place of Robinson, the entry should read:

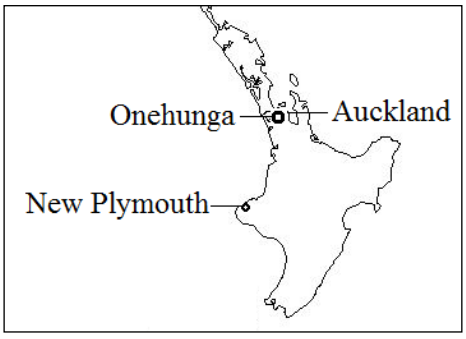
Rawlinson: William, 38; Grace, 36; John, 13; James, 11 ;

Also, missing from the list: Mary Ellen, Annie Elizabeth and Benjamin[13]
Janet informs us that the family settled in Panmure and three more children were born. Two of them appear in NZ BDM Online:

1879/4112	Rawlinson	Emma Jane	Grace	William
1880/19376	Rawlinson	Sarah	Grace	William

A major employer in Panmure was Ireland's Tannery and it is said that both John William Rawlinson and his brother James Rawlinson worked there as tanners.[14]

Today we do not know how John William Rawlinson of Panmure, Auckland met Ada Ducker who lived on Frankley Road in New Plymouth.



Communcation between New Plymouth and Auckland in those days involved a coastal passage between the open beach of New Plymouth and the dangerous Manukau Harbour with its port of Onehunga on Auckland's west coast.
From Onehunga a short overland journey could be made to the town of Auckland on the east coast of the isthmus.

[13] This is not a typesetting error. Janet Rawlinson has seen the actual passenger list for the May Queen in 1878 and there too the Rawlinsons are recorded as Robinson – and on this list the two girls are missing but this time all three boys James, John and Benjamin are recorded.
[14] Janet Rawlinson: "All the boys in the family including Adam born in NZ worked at Ireland's Tannery. At least one of them, Benjamin, was apprenticed by Mrs Ireland who ran the tannery on her husband's death. His son has the apprenticeship papers.

Marriage of Ada Ducker and John William (Jack) Rawlinson

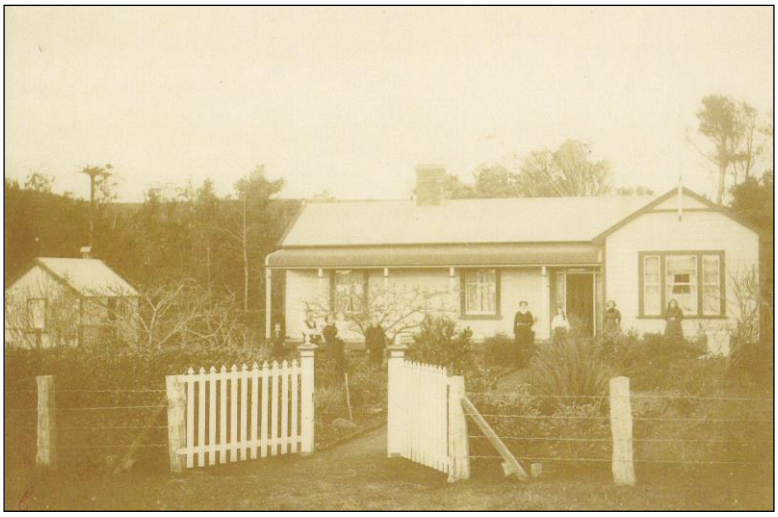
Taranaki Herald 3 April 1891

RAWLINSON — DUCKER. — On April 2nd, at St. Mary's Church, by the Ven Archdeacon Govett, JOHN WILLIAM, eldest son of William Rawlinson, Auckland, to ADA, second daughter of James Ducker, Frankley Road, New Plymouth. — Auckland papers copy.

Although the wedding took place in New Plymouth, the new Rawlinson family first lived at Panmure, which was then a village on the outskirts of Auckland, and this is where the first child of Ada and John was born.
Their child did not survive (or was perhaps stillborn) and the birth was not registered. The information has been handed down through the family. Ada told Janet Fleming's cousin that the child was buried at the back of the church, under some trees.

1. John Rawlinson born and died 30 Dec 1891 Panmure, Auckland
Buried St Mathias Churchyard, Panmure.

The Rawlinsons took up farming in New Plymouth, initially on Frankley Rd.



By 1905 they were registered on the electoral roll as farmers, Carrington Rd.

Carrington Road 1910

(Photograph from the collection of Janet Fleming)



Left to right: Ken, **Jack, Ada** (holding Elsie), Charles, Ida, Alice, Gwen, Gay.

Jack and Ada's children were born as follows:

2. Ida May	b. New Plymouth	15th May 1893	
3. Gwendoline	b. New Plymouth	21st Sept 1895	(m. Brabant)
4. Eleanor Grace (Gay)	b. New Plymouth	15th Aug 1897	(m. Shaw)
5. Charles Leslie	b. New Plymouth	10th Jul 1899	(m. Waters, m. Riorden)
6. Alice	b. Carrington Rd.	2nd Aug 1901	(m. Bradney)
7. Kenneth	b. Carrington Rd.	28th Jan 1904	(m. Gunn)
8. Victor	b. Carrington Rd.	20th Apr 1906	(d. 21 Dec 1907)
9. Elsie	b. Carrington Rd.	17th Apr 1908	
10. Evelyn	b. New Plymouth	19th Feb 1911	(m. McClennan)
11. Mona Jean	b. New Plymouth	20th Mar 1914	(d. 20 Mar 914)

(information provided by Janet Fleming, the daughter of Alice Rawlinson.)

By 1921 the family was able to move into New Plymouth township in some style:



Photograph from the collection of Janet Fleming. Written proudly on the reverse side is the caption:

"Straspey" Gover Street.
Our first home in New Plymouth.
June 1921
Bought for £800 House, cottage & extra building site
J. W. Rawlinson

Many years later this large house was structurally altered and shifted to another site.

Electoral Roll

1896	Ada	Rawlinson	Frankley Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Frankley Rd	farmer
1900	Ada	Rawlinson	Frankley Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Frankley Rd	farmer
1905	Ada	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	farmer
1911	Ada	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	farmer
1914	Ada	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	farmer
	Ida May	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	spinster
1919	Ada	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	farmer
	Ida May	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	spinster
	Eleanor Grace	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	spinster
	Gwendoline	Rawlinson	Carrington Rd	spinster
1928	Ada	Rawlinson	Watson St	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Watson St	engine driver
	Ida May	Rawlinson	Watson St	spinster
	Charles Leslie	Rawlinson	Watson St	builder
1935	Ada	Rawlinson	Watson St	Wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Watson St	engine driver
	Charles Leslie	Rawlinson	Watson St	builder
1938	Ada	Rawlinson	Watson St	wife
	John William	Rawlinson	Watson St	engine driver
	Charles Leslie	Rawlinson	Watson St	builder
1949	Ada	Rawlinson	Watson St	widow



Ada Rawlinson's house in later years, corner of Watson St. and Leach St. New Plymouth

(Photo from the collection of Richard and Margaret Cardiff)

Richard Cardiff recalls Ada living there "in the darkened front room."
Gwen (Brabant) lived with her, and often Evie (McClennan) was there.
When he was about 12 it was Richard's job to mow the lawns for Evie and Mac.



Ada (Ducker) Rawlinson
(from the collection of Elaine Winter.)

Ada's grand daughter Janet Fleming also has this photograph.

Janet told me it was taken at the time of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ada and John William (Jack) Rawlinson.

This would have been in 1941.

John William Rawlinson was not in the photograph because he was in hospital at the time.

NZ BDM Online

1941/27262	Rawlinson	John William	76Y

1955/19239	Rawlinson	Ada	85Y



Two Ducker Sisters
Ada Rawlinson on left with her sister Marian Hooper on right.

(Marian's daughter Mamie in background.)

Taken outside the then BNZ on Devon St. near the corner of Brougham St. New Plymouth, by a Crago Studios street photographer.

(From the collection of Richard and Margaret Cardiff)

Ernest Ducker

Ernest was born on the 21st November 1870 and was baptised in Haxey at the Westwoodside Primitive Methodist Chapel on 13th December 1870
(on the same occasion as his elder sister Ada.)
(Combined Isle of Axholme Methodist Baptisms 1/10/2002 Axholme FHS)

The first reference to Ernest in the Taranaki Herald is his appearance in the New Plymouth Sash and Door football team in 1889. Ernest was nearly 19 then and perhaps he was working with his father, for the Sash and Door Company.

In 1892 Ernest married Mary Ellen Rawlinson, the sister of John Rawlinson who had married Ada in the previous year.

Taranaki Herald 16 January 1892



MARRIAGE.

DUCKER—RAWLINSON.—On January 3rd, 1892, at St. Mary's Church, New Plymouth, by the Ven. Archdeacon Govett, ERNEST DUCKER to MARY ELLEN RAWLINSON, eldest daughter of William Rawlinson, Panmure, near Auckland.—Auckland papers please copy.

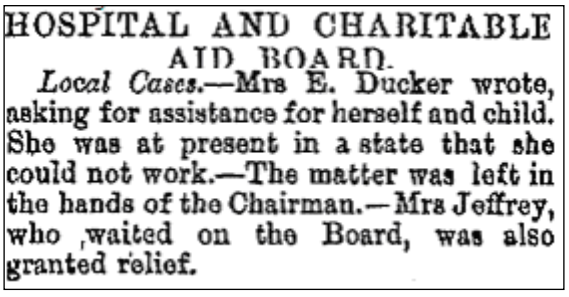
The following year their daughter Ivy Myrtle was born in Auckland.

1893/10405	Ducker	Ivy Myrtle	Mary Ellen	Ernest

(NZ BDM Online)

Evidently within a couple of years Ernest had abandoned the marriage.
Under the headline "Mrs. E. Ducker in Distress" the Taranaki Herald reported that Mary Ellen made an application to the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board:

Taranaki Herald 20th August 1895



HOSPITAL AND CHARITABLE AID BOARD.

Local Cases.—Mrs E. Ducker wrote, asking for assistance for herself and child. She was at present in a state that she could not work.—The matter was left in the hands of the Chairman.—Mrs Jeffrey, who waited on the Board, was also granted relief.

Publicity such as this, in a local newspaper, must have caused embarrassment to the Duckers.

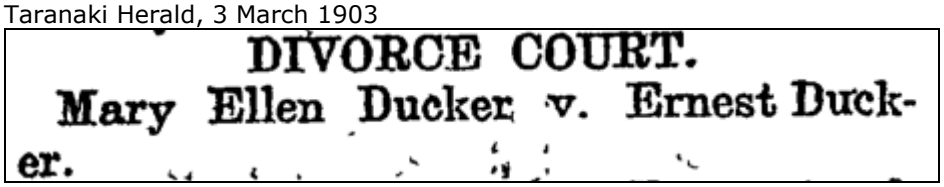
That the situation was allowed to occur suggests a serious rift within the family.

Mary Ellen went back to Panmure (then on the outskirts of Auckland) which was the home of her parents, the Rawlinsons.

Janet Fleming has said that Mary Ellen (Nell) lived with her parents some of the time, and that school records for Panmure School show that the daughter, Ivy Myrtle, "came and went several times and it seemed mainly between Panmure and Sydney so presumably to see her father……Ivy Myrtle's next of kin for school records was her grandmother on several occasions."

In 1903, when Ivy Myrtle was 10 years of age, things came to a head and Mary Ellen went to Court seeking a divorce from Ernest.

Supreme Court Sessions.
Taranaki Herald, 3 March 1903


DIVORCE COURT.
Mary Ellen Ducker v. Ernest Duck-
er.

The case was reported at length.

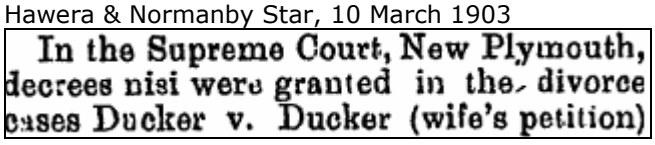
In Mary Ellen's evidence, Ernest had been a cooper when they were living in New Plymouth. They did not get along very happily.

Evidently their domestic quarrels were over money, and the couple's lack of a home of their own. Mary Ellen was reported as stating that Ernest was under-age when they were married,[15] and they were living across the road from Ernest's parents, in a home provided for them in trust by the parents. (The newspaper article seems to suggest that James Ducker was holding the title of the property "in trust" for his son Ernest because he was under-age, but this is not correct and can not have been the reason.) Whatever the reason, Mary Ellen when on to state that they were paying the interest and most of Ernest's money was going to the parents "making a difference to their own home."

This contentious issue had been made worse by the fact that when Mary Ellen wanted the property to be put into Ernest's name,[16] part of the property was then conveyed to her brother John Rawlinson (who had married Ada Ducker) and eventually the rest was sold to a stranger. It does seem that Mary Ellen was somewhat alienated from the Ducker family, in fact in her evidence she stated as much. It is quite possible that during these troubles, Ernest was "on the outer" with his parents too.

Ernest was unsettled at that time. In 1895 he had left Mary Ellen and gone to work in Warea, a few miles away. By 1898 was in Australia. By 1902 he was back in Taranaki working at Rohatu. Various attempts were made by Mary Ellen to get money and support from Ernest, but in the words of her brother John "…after the bickerings and long separation, he did not think his sister and her husband would live happily together again for any length of time…."

Hawera & Normanby Star, 10 March 1903


In the Supreme Court, New Plymouth, decrees nisi were granted in the divorce cases Ducker v. Ducker (wife's petition)

[15] I think this is a mistake made by the reporter. Mary Ellen had already stated (correctly) that when they were married Ernest was 21 and she was 20.
Mary Ellen may have stated that she was under age when they were married.
[16] Perhaps the trigger for this conflict was Mary Ellen "coming of age" – not Ernest as reported.

Supreme Court.

DUCKER V. DUCKER.

Saturday, March 7.—Before His Honor, Justice E. T. Conolly.

This was the petition of Mary Ellen Ducker for a divorce from Ernest Ducker on the ground of desertion.

Respondent was not represented.

Mr Samuel, for the petitioner, detailed the case, and called,

Mary Ellen Ducker, the petitioner, who stated she was married to Ernest Ducker on January 3, 1892, at New Plymouth, by Archdeacon Govett. Her husband's age then was 21, and she was 20. Her husband was a cooper. They lived together in New Plymouth. There was one child of the marriage, a girl, Ivy Myrtle, now nearly 10 years old, who was born in Auckland. They did not get on very happily in their married life. He never complained of her conduct that she was aware of. They were never jealous of each other. They used to have domestic quarrels, but she did not know why. The quarrels were over money and property mostly. He used to take most of his money to his parents, and she saw it was making a difference to their own home. His parents lived across the road from them. He was under age when they married and the house they lived in belonged to his father in trust for him, and they paid the interest. When he came of age she wanted the property put in his name, and this caused trouble. Part of the property was conveyed to her brother, who married a Miss Ducker. The house and remaining 4 acres were afterwards sold to a stranger and she had no home. She did not get on well with her husband's relations in May 1895 her husband went to work at Warea, between 20 and 30 miles from New Plymouth. They parted good friends. The letters (put in), dated May 17, June 8, and July 12), were written by her husband to her; the first from Warea, and the other two from Pihama. She only receive £1 from him by one letter. She afterwards heard that he had gone to Australia. She took in work for a few months, and then got a situation where she remained for several years. When she heard he had gone away she went to the Court to take out a warrant, but they would issue one for New Zealand free of cost, but would not issue one for Australia unless she paid the expenses. She kept her girl with her for a few months, and then left her with the grandfather Mr Ducker for a time; then got her back and had her since. Mrs Evett, for whom she worked, went to Australia, and witness and her child went with her; this was about 5 years ago. She received no letter from her husband till she wrote from Sydney to him to support the child. He was in Queensland. She received eight letters (produced) from him in 1899, each enclosing £1. Each letter started, "Mrs Ducker," and stated it enclosed £1 for the child, and was signed "E. Ducker." (His Honor said there was no word of affection in them, and the letters were a queer lot). The last letter was dated in August 1899, and she had not heard from him since. In November last she returned to New Zealand to her mother in Auckland. She came to New Plymouth on a visit in December last, and was staying with a married sister. She met her husband in Queensland where she was working in a clothing factory. She met him and he was surprised. They spoke for about five minutes but nothing pleasant was said. They met as she was coming out of the post office. She asked him if he proposed doing anything and he replied no. The next time she met him was in New Plymouth in December last on Christmas Eve in the street. He said he had been back here some time and was working at Rahotu getting timber in; and that he had no home. He was talking to the girl mostly that evening. Next evening they met on the beach and had a long talk. He asked her to go home to her mother for six months and he would see what he could do in the way of making a home for her, but she did not believe he was sincere. She then consulted her solicitor. His manner was very distant. She was advised to take divorce proceedings. Letter (produced) was received from him after the divorce writ was issued.

The letter stated that it was better they should part as their natures were not suited to each other. He also stated that it was better she should retain charge of the girl.

By His Honor: She was at present supporting herself and child.

John William Rawlinson, farmer, and brother of petitioner, gave evidence that after the bickerings and long separation he did not think his sister and her husband would live harmily together again for any length of time.

His Honor made a decree nisi, with costs, and custody of the child; leave given to apply for the decree to be made absolute in three months.

After the divorce, Mary Ellen Ducker married Charles Edward Smith.
The daughter Ivy Myrtle appears to have taken the name Smith.

SMITH —On May 30, 1932, at her mother's residence, 34, Kingsland Avenue, after a lingering illness, Ivy Myrtle, dearly beloved only daughter of Mrs. Mary E. Smith; aged 38 years. "God our help in ages past." The funeral will leave the above address at 2 p.m. to-morrow (Tuesday) for Panmure Cemetery.

Ivy Myrtle (Ducker) (Smith) died in 1932

Auckland Star
30 May 1932,

The headstone in the Panmure cemetery has the date of Ivy Myrtle's death incorrect.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

IVY MYRTLE	CHARLES
DIED 31 MAY 1933	*LOVED HUSBAND OF*
AT REST	MARY ELLEN SMITH
ALSO	DIED 22 MAR 1944
MARY ELLEN SMITH	AGED 77 YEARS
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE	
13 NOVEMBER 1947	
AGED 76 YEARS	

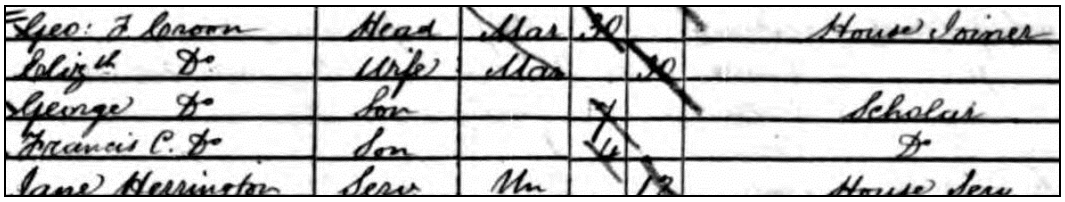
ABIDE WITH ME

(Photograph from Karen Erni)

Four years after the divorce from Mary Ellen Rawlinson, Ernest Ducker re-married, to Lilia Croon.

Lilia Croon was a daughter of George Croon who had emigrated to New Zealand at about the age of 11, with his father George Francis (Frank) Croon.

According to the1861 UK census George Croon was born in Cold Waltham, Sussex, around 1854 and his father Geo. F. Croon (Frank Croon) was a "House Joiner."



Geo: F Croon	Head	Mar	30		House Joiner
Eliz[th] Do	Wife	Mar		30	
George Do	Son		7		Scholar
Francis C. Do	Son		4		Do
Jane Herrington	Serv	Un		18	House Serv

There is a younger brother, Francis C. Croon, and the mother's name is Elizabeth.[17]

We do not know what became of the younger brother, or Elizabeth.
The two George Croons (father and son) emigrated together on the ship **Pegasus,** departing Gravesend on 22nd Dec.1864 and arriving in Auckland on 28th Mar 1865.[18]

The passenger list, second cabin and steerage, includes:

George and George Croom,

Significantly, the list of assisted passengers includes also:

Mary Jane Boyd

[17] George F. Croon (Frank) married Elizabeth Smith in 1853. Information from Karen Erni.
[18] Details of voyage, and passenger list may be found in Daily Southern Cross, 29 March 1865

George Croon the son was about 11 years old when he arrived in New Zealand, and there is no record now of his first few years.

GAZETTE.—In a New Zealand *Gazette* issued on Sept. 16, it is notified that

Enquiries having been made at the Colonial Defence Office respecting George Croon, carpenter by trade, who emigrated to New Zealand about two years since, and is supposed to have joined the Colonial Forces, any person who can give any information respecting him is requested to communicate with that office.

Lyttelton Times, 19 September 1867

However there must be an interesting story to be found here, because it was thought his father may have joined the colonial forces, and enquiries regarding his wherabouts were made by the Colonial Defence Office.

(In 1865 the war in the Waikato was over, but the second Taranaki war had commenced, and uprisings had also broken out on the East Coast.)

In fact, in October 1867 George (Frank) Croon was established in Opotiki.[19]
In 1870, the Daily Southern Cross, 19 March, reported intense fighting in the vicinity of Opitiki, causing great fear to the residents, of an attack by the notorious Te Kooti. Frank Croon's property was adjacent to the garrison redoubt and a bank was knocked down to make it part of a defensive line. These were interesting times.



(Image held by Whakatane Museum, copy from Terry Hollis)

George's father, by now usually known as **Frank Croon**, became established and well-known as a builder in Opotiki from at least 1867, until his death in 1884.

Karen Erni writes: "Between 1867 and 1883 Frank Croon and **Mary Jane Boyd** had eight children….."

There are numerous newspaper records of Frank Croon, building contractor of Opotiki, including reports of the tragic deaths of two of his children (one by drowning at age about 4 and the other by "congestion of the brain" at 11), and of his own death in 1884.

Frank Croon and Mary Jane Boyd (nee Wilson) registered their marriage in 1881.

George Croon (jnr) married Elizabeth Wood in 1878 (NZ BDM Online)

1878/2553	Elizabeth	Wood	George	Croon

The marriage was said to have been in Wanganui, and George Croon was reported in the newspaper as a builder, working in Wanganui in 1880 and 1883.[20]

By July 1883 George and Elizabeth Croon had moved from Wanganui to Opotiki and George, now 30, became established there as a builder.[21]

[19] 30th Oct 1867 a dispute in Opotiki involving Mr. Frank Croon (NZ Archives, Auck. ref **R24121386**)
[20] Wanganui Herald, 29 December 1880 and Wanganui Herald, 3 March 1883
Also George Croon, recorded as carpenter, Wanganui, in Electoral Roll 1880/81
[21] Bay of Plenty Times , 26 July 1883,

Perhaps it was to take over from his father, Frank.
(Frank Croon died in July the following year, "after a long illness.")[22]

Recorded births of George and Elizabeth Croon NZ BDM Online

1880/18425	Croon	Elizabeth May	Elizabeth	George
1882/6170	Croon	Frank	Elizabeth	George
1883/18180	Croon	Amy	Elizabeth	George
1885/10140	**Croon**	**Lilia**	**Elizabeth**	**George**
1891/13044	Croon	Harry	Elizabeth	George

(Harry Croon died in 1892, aged 8 months. NZ BDM Online)

In addition there were two more children whose births were not registered:
Alma born in 1887, and George born in 1889. (Information from Karen Erni)

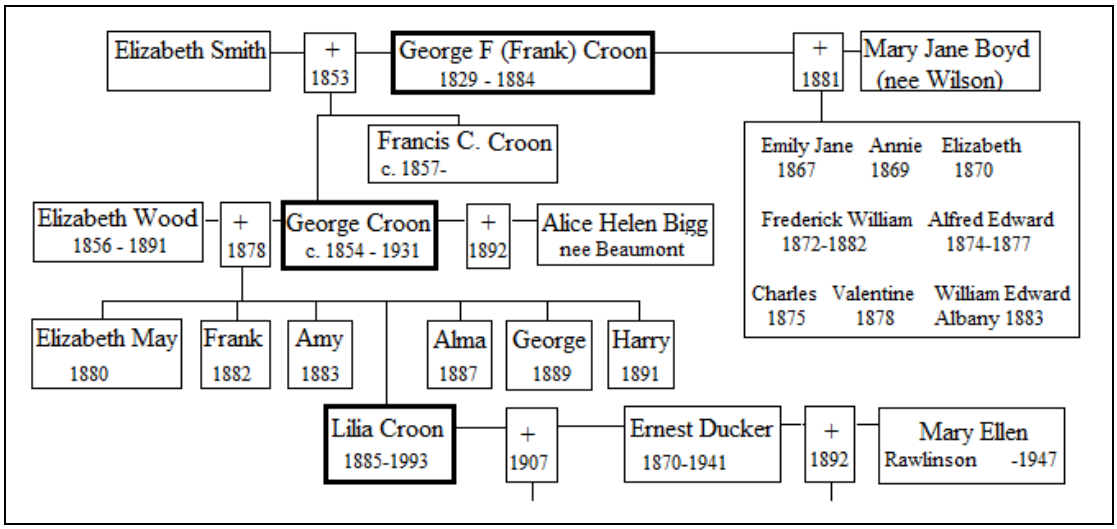
In 1891, when Lilia Croon was 6 years old, her mother died.[23]

George Croon re-married, to Alice Helen Bigg in 1892[24] NZ BDM Online

1892/2945	Alice Helen	Bigg	George	Croon

Lilia Croon thus grew up in Opotiki, the daughter of George Croon, builder, and her step-mother Alice Helen (prev. Bigg.)[25]

……



(Names and dates of children of Frank Croon and Mary Jane Boyd provided by Karen Erni)

Ernest Ducker, last reported in 1902 working in Rohatu, Taranaki, now appears on the electoral roll in Opotiki, working as a sawmill hand. (Bay of Plenty Electorate 1905/06).

It may not be a coincidence that during this time Ernest's newly-married brother Frank Ducker also shifted to Opotiki, probably around 1904/05.
Frank had purchased an island in the nearby Ohiwa Harbour, but for the time being he and his wife Lily were living near to Opotiki in the small settlement of Ohiwa.

[22] Bay of Plenty Times, 12 June 1884, Page 3
[23] Elizabeth Croon (nee Wood) b. 8 Dec 1856 Gloucester d. 12 Dec 1891. (Research of Terry Hollis.)
[24] Alice Helen Bigg nee Beaumont marriage took place on 22 Dec 1892 (Research of Terry Hollis)
[25] In 1905 George Croon shifted to Te Puke (Bay of Plenty Times, 3 November 1905.)
He died in 1931, and Alice Helen died in 1946, both buried in Te Puke (Te Puke Cemetery record)

Taranaki Herald,1 August 1907

ARRIVED.
August 1.—Rotoiti, s.s., 1159 tons, S. Holford, from Onehunga. Passengers: Misses Nurse Wright, Cleave, Nurse Barnett, Topito, Curnow, Barnett, McGregor, Shick, Croon, Grant, and Yon,

In August 1907 a Miss Croon arrived in New Plymouth, from Onehunga.
It is very likely this is Lilia Croon, who had reason to travel to New Plymouth.

Lilia Croon was about to be married.

She would have made a sea passage from Opotiki to Auckland's east coast port, travelled the short distance across to Onehunga on the west coast, then another passage by sea from Onehunga to New Plymouth.

In 1907 Ernest Ducker married Lilia Croon. NZ BDM Online

1907/3598	Lilia	Croon	Ernest	Ducker

The wedding was on 14th August, in New Plymouth at the home of Ernest's parents James and Eleanor Ducker.[26]

According to the 1911 electoral roll, Ernest and Lilia moved to a farm in Whangarei. (Another 1911 electoral roll also records Lilia at Newall Road in Taranaki, where Ernest's brothers James jnr. and Alfred had established a sawmill.)
Ernest and Lilia then moved to the Hamilton district where they settled, raised a family, and farmed for the rest of their lives, retiring in Claudlands.



Ernest and Lilia Ducker
(Photograph from Karen Erni)

Children of Ernest and Lilia
(Information from Karen Erni)

1. Dorothy Ducker
   b. 11 Apr 1910
2. Elsie Ducker
   b.24 Feb 1916
3. Allan Wright Ducker
   b. 7 Nov 1917
4. Leslie Basham Ducker
   b. 23 Jun 1919
5. Nancy Evelyn Ducker
   b. 17 Apr 1923

Allan Wright Ducker
drowned, Greymouth
29 July 1946
body never found.

(Information from Karen Erni, whose grandmother was Dorothy, the eldest of the above Ducker children.)

[26] This information from Karen Erni. It is interesting that James and Eleanor hosted the wedding, suggesting that Ernest was no longer "on the outer" with his family, if indeed he ever had been.

Electoral roll

1896	Ernest	Ducker	Frankley Rd	cooper
1896	Nellie	Ducker	Frankley Rd	married
1900	Ernest	Ducker	Frankley Rd	cooper
1905	Ernest	Ducker	Opotiki	sawmill hand
1911	Ernest	Ducker	Whangarei	farmer
1911	Lilia	Ducker	Whangarei	married
1911	Lilia	Ducker	Newall Rd	married
1914	Ernest	Ducker	Dawson St Hamilton	farmer
1914	Lilia	Ducker	Dawson St Hamilton	married
1919	Ernest	Ducker	Ohaupo Rd Hamilton	farmer
1919	Lilia	Ducker	Ohaupo Rd Hamilton	married
1928	Ernest	Ducker	Tramway Rd Claudlands	farmer
1928	Lilia	Ducker	Tramway Rd Claudlands	married
1935	Ernest	Ducker	Tramway Rd Claudlands	farmer
1938	Ernest	Ducker	Tramway Rd Claudlands	farmer

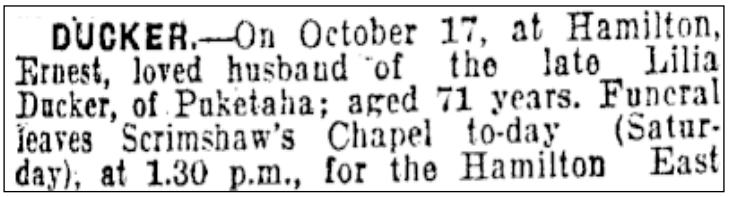
Lilia Ducker (nee Croon) died in 1933 (NZ BDM Online)

1933/5805	Ducker	Lilia	46Y

Ernest Ducker died eight years later. (NZ BDM Online)

1941/26903	Ducker	Ernest	70Y

New Zealand Herald, 18 October 1941



DUCKER.—On October 17, at Hamilton, Ernest, loved husband of the late Lilia Ducker, of Puketaha; aged 71 years. Funeral leaves Scrimshaw's Chapel to-day (Saturday), at 1.30 p.m., for the Hamilton East

Karen Erni has written that both Lilia and Ernest were buried at Hamilton East Cemetery. No inscription except for **"Mother."**

CROON Alice Helen 18 Feb 1946
CROON George 12 Mar 1931

Te Puke Cemetery records.

…….

An afterthought…. Looking at the electoral rolls leaves one with a faint impression that at two key points in the life of Ernest Ducker, his brother Frank was residing in the background.

Ada married John Rawlinson in 1891, and Ernest married Mary Ellen Rawlinson in 1892. How did the Rawlinsons of Panmure become known to the Duckers of New Plymouth? The Rawlinson brothers were said to have worked for Ireland's Tannery in Panmure. Indeed James Rawlinson is on the **1896** electoral roll for Panmure, occupation "tanner." Frank Ducker was also registered on the 1896 electoral roll, Panmure, "beamsman." (Beamsman is an occupation associated with the leather industry.)

Then in **1905** Frank and Ernest were registered together on the Opotiki electoral roll. Opotiki was the home of the Croons. In 1907 Ernest Ducker married Lilia Croon.

Perhaps these two rather different, but both restless Ducker brothers had some long ago forgotten influence on each other's early lives.

Frank Ducker

Frank was born in Haxey on 21st August 1872
and baptised 18th September 1872 at the Westwoodside Wesleyan Chapel
(Combined Isle of Axholme Methodist Baptisms 1/10/2002 Axholme FHS)

Just 8 years old when the family emigrated, Frank grew up on the Frankley Road farm.

The first recorded example of a public performance from Frank Ducker was at the age of 17 when he gave a recitation at the Westown Band of Hope meeting.
(Taranaki Herald 12th October 1889.)

From this time on, for the next decade and a half, there were to be regular musical performances, often referring to "Ducker", "Mr. Ducker", "Messrs. Ducker", "Ducker Bros" etc. both in singing, and in a variety of musical instruments, as the Ducker family were all musically talented. Undoubtedly Frank would have featured in many of these news articles, but unfortunately the individual Ducker musicians seem to be too numerous, so that Frank is often not referred to by name.

Taranaki Herald 12th Dec 1893

Mr F. Ducker scored an encore for the song, "Drink up Boys," and responded.

Mr F. Ducker scored an encore for the double dummy character song, "Silly Billy," in which he puzzled the audience as to which of the figures represented was the dummy and which was the man. In response to an encore he gave an additional topical verse.

In 1893 a Gymnastic carnival was staged at the Alexander Hall. In addition to the gymnastic performances, a great variety of other entertainments was also presented.

Frank was named twice in the newspaper report. In each case an encore was requested.

In 1894 the New Zealand Herald (8th May) reported a Ducker performance in Auckland, in this case a recitation, and this is certain to have been Frank.

Likewise, the Ducker reported as giving a song at the Mt. Eden Literary and Debating Society concert is certainly Frank. (Auckland Star 3rd Nov 1898.)

Frank was frequently in Auckland in the late 1890s, and it was probably also at this time that he was making regular trips to Sydney on passenger ships, and performing as a vaudeville artist, as recorded by his son Leo (see Appendix: Leo Ducker Memoirs.)[27]

It was during this period that Frank met another performer, with the exotic name of **Lily Antigone Eyes**.

[27] In the 1896 and 1900 electoral rolls Frank persisted in registering himself as "beamsman" and "currier", both occupations associated with the leather industry.
Frank never registered himself as actor or entertainer.
However no anecdotes seem to have survived regarding Frank and the leather industry at the turn of the century. All that seems to be remembered from that time is his brief career as an entertainer.

Amos and Sarah Eyes

The parents of Lily Eyes were from Cheshire, emigrating in November 1863, and arriving in Auckland, on the ship ***Golden Castle*** on 5th March 1864.[28]

Amos Eyes' parents were Thomas Eyes (1813-1887) and **Lois** Lightfoot (1804-1881)[29]

Amos had worked for the Railways in Wolverhampton, where he met Sarah **Ward**,[30] and they were married in 1862. Two years later they joined an emigration society under the auspices of the Church of England.

Amos, Sarah and 7 month old baby Charles (born May 1863) were part of a group of who were selected for a "Special Settlement" planned at Pakiri.

The first electoral roll record of Amos Eyes in New Zealand is in 1870 when he appears in Newton, Auckland. His occupation is station master.

After arriving in New Zealand Amos and Sarah Eyes recorded the births of the following six more children:

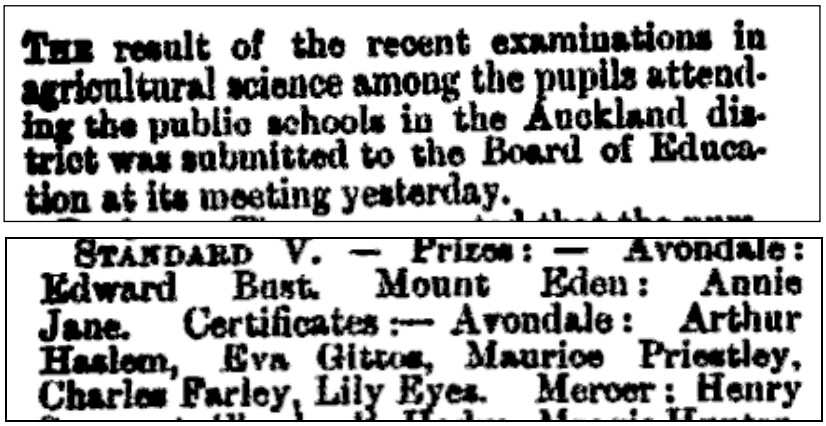
Births (BDM online)

1867/11818	Eyes	Amos John Thomas	Sarah	Amos
1869/12476	Eyes	Minnie	Sarah	Amos
1872/16185	Eyes	Joseph Edward	Sarah	Amos
1877/558	**Eyes**	**Lily Antigone**	Sarah	Amos
1880/9301	Eyes	Lois Mabel	Sarah	Amos
1882/5749	Eyes	Daisy Effie	Sarah	Amos

In addition, Amy Caduceus Eyes was born at sea in 1871 during the return voyage from a brief return to England during 1970/71. The ship's name was Caduceus.

Minnie died after 16 days, and Joseph Edward died at the age of three.[31]

The next record we have of Lily Eyes is a newspaper report of Lily winning a certificate of merit as a result of examinations in Agricultural Science among pupils attending Auckland schools.



THE result of the recent examinations in agricultural science among the pupils attending the public schools in the Auckland district was submitted to the Board of Education at its meeting yesterday.

STANDARD V. — Prizes: — Avondale: Edward Bust. Mount Eden: Annie Jane. Certificates:— Avondale: Arthur Haslem, Eva Gittos, Maurice Priestley, Charles Farley, Lily Eyes. Mercer: Henry

New Zealand Herald, 11 July 1891

Lily Eyes became a school teacher and there is a record of her registration in the New Zealand Gazette in 1896 and 1897.

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[28] Newspaper article entitled "SPECIAL SETTLEMENT EMIGRANTS" New Zealander, 9 February 1864

[29] Genealogical details from records sourced via Ancestry.com

[30] Later the names "**Ward**" and "**Lois**" were given to the first two of Lily Antigone Eyes' children.
Lily's mother's surname was Ward.
Lily's grandmother and great grandmother were both named Lois.

[31] Information from NZ BDM Online.

Frank Ducker (26) Married Lily Antigone Eyes, (21) in Papakura, in 1898

Auckland Star 22 December 1898

Marriages

DUCKER—EYES.—On December 21, at Christ Church, Papakura, by the Rev. O. R. Hewlett, Frank, second son of Mr James Ducker, Frankley Road, New Plymouth, to Lily Antigone, second daughter of Mr Amos Eyes, station-master, Avondale, Auckland.

The new Mr. and Mrs. Ducker must have departed for New Plymouth the same day. (Or, maybe it was Frank's parents returning home.)

Auckland Star, December 1898

DEPARTURES

Gairloch, s.s., W. F. Norbury, for New Plymouth. Passengers: Ducker (2),

Frank and Lily must have made a handsome pair.





Lily Antigone Eyes

Frank Ducker

(Photographs from the collection of Ron Henderson, a grandson of Frank Ducker)



(Photograph from the collection of Lee Farrow, a granddaughter of Frank Ducker)

After her marriage, in the years 1899 – 1903, Lily Ducker maintained her registration as a teacher, as recorded in the New Zealand Gazette, as "Miss Lily Eyes."[32]

32 Janet Feming has pointed out this was not unusual. In those days, as a married woman Lily would have lost her registration and not been able to teach.

In his memoir (see Appendix "Early Days of Ohiwa") Leo Ducker records that Frank had gone to Australia and joined a Vaudeville company (J.C. Williamson) and became their leading comic singer, and that it was during his singing career that Frank met Lily (ie in the late 1890's).
Frank Ducker's name appears on two electoral rolls in 1896.
He was registered at Frankley Rd., New Plymouth, occupation "carrier."[33]
On another roll in 1896, indicating he was also based in Auckland during this period: he was registered at Panmure, occupation "beamsman."[34]

Frank and Lily were married in Dec. 1898 at Papakura where Lily's father had been railway stationmaster.[35] The Eyes family probably still retained a home and property there, although there is a record of Lily attending school in Avondale, West Auckland, in 1891[36], and in 1898 Lily's father was employed as stationmaster at Avondale.[37]

Leo then records that at the time they were married (Dec. 1898) "Mother lived in Papakura while my Dad was working as a steward on ships plying between Auckland and Australian ports." The record of the birth of their first child, **Bradley Ward**, and a couple of other news clippings from 1899 and up to June 1900 indicate that Frank and Lily had made their first home in Avondale. In 1900 the electoral roll records the married couple Frank and Lily had registered in Avondale and Frank had again recorded his occupation as "currier."

Leo records that Lily then left Avondale and went to New Plymouth where the next child, **Olive Lois** was born. Indeed, newspaper clippings from August 1900 onwards show that Lily and Frank had moved back to New Plymouth and Frank was breeding prize-winning birds and establishing the Egmont Poultry Farm. Evidently they were living at Frankley Rd,[38] probably on the farm of Frank's parents James and Eleanor.

In September 1902 Frank sold his Egmont Poultry farm and was appointed Manager of the Eltham Co-operative Poultry Company. Frank and Lily then shifted to Eltham and it was there that their next child, **Ronald Dudley** was born in 1903. (Leo Ducker Memoirs.)

A legal document records that Frank and Lily now moved from Eltham to Martinborough where they lived for a prief period.[39]

In 1904 Frank began advertising his poultry in the Auckland newspapers, and it may have been at this time that the family moved to Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty.
Frank and Lily's fourth child **Cecil James** was born there in 1905.
Leo recalls that Frank had obtained the lease of an island in the nearby Ohiwa Harbour, but the family was at that time not able to take up occupancy.
The 1905 electoral roll records Frank (labourer) and Lily registered at Opotiki.

Also around this time Frank's brother Ernest was working in Opotiki.

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[33] "carrier" probably meant to be "currier"
[34] The occupations "beamsman" and "currier" are both associated with the manufacture of leather.
[35] Auckland Star 16 Aug. 1880 records Amos Eyes as stationmaster at Papakura
[36] New Zealand Herald, 11 July 1891 records Lily representing Avondale School
[37] Auckland Star, 22 Dec. 1898 records Amos Eyes as stationmaster at Avondale
[38] Taranaki Herald 21 Mar. 1902 records "…Frank Ducker of the Frankley Road…."
[39] Supreme Court papers 3rd Sept 1915 #885 Dissolution of Marriage. (collection of Jenni Barr.)

The following news clippings cover this period from Avondale to Opotiki:

Frank and Lily in West Auckland

Frank and Lily Ducker registered to vote in Avondale in the 1900 electoral roll. (Frank's occupation at this time was given as "currier".)

Their first child was born in 1899. NZ BDM Online

1899/1102	Ducker	Bradley Ward	Lily Antigove	Frank

Auckland Star 3 August 1899,

DUCKER - On July 23rd, at her residence, Avondale, Auckland, the wife of Frank Ducker, of a son (premature). Both doing well.

Concert at Avondale in connection with Avondale Presbyterian Church

Auckland Star 20 September 1899 and NZ Herald 21 September 1899

a very popular item with old and young; song, comic, by Mr. Ducker, proved as great a success as ever; piano solo, Miss Hoffman, was very pleasing; song, Mr. Kennard, was

Concert at New Lynn

Auckland Star 27 September 1899

A very successful concert and dance in aid of the Piano Fund was held at New Lynn on September 22nd, and was well attended. The following programme was admirably rendered:— Pianoforte duet, Misses Hepburn; comic song, Mr May; song, Mrs Hepburn; song, Mr Ducker; song, Mrs Cartwright; skipping rope dance, Mr Johnson; song, Mr Fairwether; song, Miss Wilson (encored); song, Mr A. Bollard; song, Miss Brassey; song,

Concert at Avondale in connection with St. Jude's Church

Auckland Star, 7 November 1899

On Thursday evening to a crowded audience a concert and comedietta of a most perfect and original kind were given in the Avondale Hall by the Dramatic Club, and the proceeds most kindly tendered towards the debt on S. Jude's Church. The various items were admirably sustained by Mesdames J. R. Simpson and Ducker, the Misses M. Tatton, Bluck and Binsted, A. Bollard, B. Bollard; also Messrs Bluck, A. Bollard, Ducker, Binsted, Ingram, A. Tatton and H. Bollard. The whole entertainment gave satisfaction and was one of the best ever given in Avondale.

At the Avondale Waikumete Show: Mrs Ducker, 1st Best dressed shirt.

Auckland Star, 5 March 1900

handkerchief: Mrs C. Best. Best dressed shirt: Mrs Ducker 1, Miss C. Mc-

Avondale Literary Society

Auckland Star, 25 June 1900

On Friday the lady members of the Avondale Literary Society gave an evening's entertainment in the Avondale Public Hall before a large and appreciative audience. A miscellaneous programme was presented as follows: Pianoforte duet, Misses Perry; song, Miss Barker; vocal duet, Mrs. Ducker and Miss Harper; children's chorus; reading, Miss Read; vocal duet, Misses Tatton; tableau, "The Seasons"; recitation, Miss A. Ingram; dance of the twentieth century, juvenile members; pianoforte duet, Misses Hogwood and Robertson (2), vocal duet, Misses Barker; song, Mrs Walker; tableau, "The Harvesters"; song, Mrs Ducker; vocal trio, Mrs Ducker and Misses Har-

Frank and Lily Move back to Taranaki and Frank creates a poultry business.

Poultry: Frank Ducker

Taranaki Herald, 3 August 1900

AT 2.30 o'clock this (Friday) afternoon the annual show held by the Taranaki Poultry, Pigeon, and Canary Society, was opened in the Theatre Royal, and will be continued to-morrow (Saturday).

Game

Indian, cock: J. T. Sinclair, 1; F. Ducker, 2. Hen: W. Beals, 1 and special; J. T. Sinclair, 2; W. Ambury, 3. Pullet: W. Ambury, 1 and special; J. T. Sinclair,

Taranaki Poultry Pigeon and Canary Society

Taranaki Daily News, 4 August 1900

ORPINGTONS.

Black, single-comb, cock: F. Goodacre, 1st and special; W. F. Way, 2nd Cockerel: F. Ducker, 1st; F. Good

Goldfinch: J. Ducker, 1st.

ANDALUSIANS.

Cock: W. Hall, 1st and special. Cockerel: W. Beals, l.o.b., 1st; F. Ducker, 2nd; W. Hall, 3rd. Pullet: Wm. Hall, 1st and 2nd.

CANARIES. J. Ducker, cock, 1st

Poultry

Taranaki Herald, 15 November 1900

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Taranaki Poultry Association on Wednesday night, the following officers were elected:—President. Mr S. Oliver; Vice-Presidents, Messrs Dixon, F. Goodacre. E. M. Smith. T. Haywood. W. Ambury, R. Cock, D. McKinnon Bain, Ducker, A. H. Martin, A. G. Bishop, J. S. Fox (Okato), G. Port (Lepperton), A. C. Johnstone, W. McEwen, W. Hall,

Taranaki Agricultural Society

Taranaki Herald, 29 November 1900

The New Plymouth Co-operative Society had on view the De Laval and Turbine separators, Miss Retford sewing and washing machines, Mr D. McKinnon Bain, of the Colonial Piano Importing Company, a number of first-class musical instruments, Messrs Kempthorne, Prosser & Co., an exhibit of manure, Mr F. Ducker (of the Egmont Poultry Farm) an exhibition of poultry, Mr Maynard Ramson a quantity of stylish and serviceable harness, and Mr Wilkinson (Eltham) a reaper and binder and mowing machine.

Egmont Poultry Farm

Taranaki Daily News, 1 December 1900

agents. There was also a small collection of poultry exhibited by Mr. Ducker, of the Egmont Poultry Farm, and celebrated for the excellence of his Orpingtons (buff and black), as well as Indian Game fowls.

Taranaki Poultry Pigeon and Canary Society

Taranaki Herald, 3 June 1901

Indian Game: Cock, F. Ducker, 1;

Buff single comb cockerel: F. Ducker,

MINORCAS. F. Ducker (11 months), 3;

Brown pullet: F. Ducker (9 months),

TABLE POULTRY.

Indian Game, pure or cross, cockerel: McEwen Bros, 1 and special; F. Ducker, 2 and 3.

GIFT CLASSES.

Hen or pullet: F. Ducker, 1;

Boer War 7th Contingent Vacancies

Taranaki Herald, 7 January 1902

LOCAL QUOTA.

The local Recruiting Board has picked the following men from whom to select the 10 required from this district to fill vacancies in the Seventh Contingent :—P. Mackay, T. Stockwell, L. Ramsay (Midhirst), C. Hill, Geo. Templeton, W. G. Beckett, Frank Ducker, J. Wearne P. Hendry, F. Brennan, J. B. Coburn, George Pugh, Walter Stanson (New Plymouth), P. J. Fitzgerald,

Taranaki Daily News, 7 January 1902

In connection with the men who are to be sent to South Africa from New Zealand to fill vacancies in the Seventh Contingent the local Recruiting Board has selected twenty men from whom the ten allotted to this district will be chosen. The men are as follows :—P. Mackay, T. Stockwell, L. Ramsey (Midhirst); C. Hill, Geo. Templeton, W. G. Beckett, Frank Ducker, J. Wearne (New Plymouth); P. J. Fitzgerald, P. Downes, A. Simmons, D. Campbell, W. Fleetwood (Stratford); T. Vincent, W. A. Lightfoot, G. Wilson (Inglewood); W. N. Stoddart (Pungarehu); W. A. Doombridge, H. Graham (Opunake); E. C. King (Bell Block); L. Greenway (Egmont-road).

These men are requested to attend at the Guards' Club at 11 o'clock on Thursday morning. The riding tests will take place in the afternoon, and the final selection will be made on Thursday night. The candidates should take note that they must provide their own horses. The picked men will leave New Plymouth for Wellington on Monday morning.

Evidently Frank was not one of the ten men chosen to be sent to South Africa.

11 17 19 21 24 2 Feb Mar Apr May

POULTRY. — Mr F. DUCKER, Frankley Road, has a plentiful supply of Young Ducks and Fowls for table purposes. Orders promptly attended to.—P.O. Box 46. 9

Frank Ducker, Egmont Poultry Farm, imports pedigree Orpingtons

Taranaki Herald, 31 January 1902

Mr F. Ducker, of the Egmont Poultry Farm, New Plymouth, is a breeder of Buff Orpington fowls. Not being satisfied with his Buffs which won first prize at last New Plymouth show, he decided to try and improve his stock of this most popular breed. He has just imported from W. Cook and Sons, Kent, England, a splendid trio of Orpingtons. The cockerel is by far the best bird Mr Ducker has seen of the breed in the colonies, a beautiful deep, rich, clear buff throughout. The two hens are a good colour and far in advance of any yet seen here. A trio of Houdans, also from Mr Cook, have given great satisfaction.

Taranaki Herald, 21 March 1902

Mr Ducker, of the Frankley Road, last week forwarded 50 pairs of ducks to Wellington through the Government Poultry Grader, the price realised per pair being 4s 6d net. A small percentage rejected on account of being under weight realised 3s 6d per pair.

The Poultry, etc., Show.

Taranaki Herald, 19 July 1902 **6 prizes**

Hawera and West Coast Fanciers' Association

Hawera & Normanby Star, 6 August 1902 **5 prizes**

News and Notes

Hawera & Normanby Star, 7 August 1902 **8 prizes**

Frank Ducker appointed Manager of the Eltham Co-operative Poultry Company
Hawera & Normanby Star, 1 September 1902

ELTHAM, September 1.

The first annual meeting of the Eltham Co-operative Poultry Company was held in the Town Hall on Saturday. The statutory report was read and adopted, and directors appointed for the ensuing year. Mr Ducker, formerly of New Plymouth, was appointed manager, and the work of erecting poultry houses, etc., will be commenced immediately.

Frank Ducker appears as Don Albambra in the Opera "The Gondoliers"
Hawera & Normanby Star, 29 August 1902

"THE GONDOLIERS."

A very successful performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's pretty opera was given, on Thursday evening, at the Opera House, by the New Plymouth Amateur Opera Club. The piece lends itself to considerable spectacular display, and it was well mounted. The music was very well rendered, although one or two of the choruses left a little room for improvement. The principals without exception were well conversant with their parts. Mr John Ryan was the Duke of Plaza Toro. His singing was very good, and his acting ditto. Mr Frank Ducker was Don Albambra del Bolero, and his bye-play, acting, and singing compared very favorably with that of some professionals we have seen. His singing of "No Shadow of Doubt Whatever" was a good effort. Mr Ernest Clarke was cast as Luiz, and did justice to the part, his singing being excellent. The parts of Marco and Guiseppe were filled by Messrs J. H. Rowe and W. Perry respectively, and they were responsible for a good deal of the success of the opera, both being good in dialogue and both singing well. Mr A Hawkins and Messrs R. and K. Mc Allum capably played small parts Miss Hester Burr, as the Duchess o Plaza Toro, was an able director o the "liability company," and earned fo herself a hearty encore. As Casilda Miss Kate Connell created a very favourable impression. Her singing was first-class, her song in the second act being particularly well sung. Vivacious was Miss Alice Tood as Gianetta and she showed a keen sympathy with the humour of the piece, acting and singing with much spirit. Similar praise may be accorded Miss Pawson, in the part of Tessa. Misses A. Irwin, Miss F. Perry, and Miss D. McAllum were good in subsidiary parts. The chorus was a strong one, and the orchestra, led by Mr A. L. Cooke, was very good. The dancing was quite a feature, and was admirably performed. Mr Sid. Cottier acted as conductor. Limelight effects, supplied by Mr A. Donroy, added to the prettiness of the many pretty scenes. The general opinion was that the production throughout was a credit to the New Plymouth Society. We are glad to say they had a bumper house, and that the audience were most enthusiastic in their applause, and part of the evening over-exacting in their recalls, but the company were ever willing to accede.

A lengthy article and favourable review was given in:
New Zealand Illustrated Magazine, 1 October 1902

The Stage.

"OPERA NON VERBA."

By "RUSTICUS"

the Inquisitor, was excellently represented by Mr F. Ducker.



Mr. Frank Ducker – "Don Alhambra del Bolero, the Grand Inquisitor"
(From the collection of Lee Farrow (nee Ducker).

This photograph also appeared in
New Zealand Illustrated Magazine, 1 October 1902

Taranaki Herald, 6 September 1902

At the Mart, a large number of fowls were sold. Mr Ducker's stock selling at from 2s 6d to 8s. Ordinary fowls 1s 10d to 2s 3d, ducks 2s 4d to 2s 6d, geese 4s 2d. A quantity of furniture and sundries made low rates.

Frank Ducker sells his poultry farm Taranaki Herald, 27 September 1902 repeat 9th Sept

EGMONT POULTRY FARM.

MR F. DUCKER wishes to inform the public that this up-to-date Poultry Farm has been purchased by Mr A. H. MARTIN. The business will be carried on by him as a breeder of first-class prize stock. He is prepared to supply eggs from his splendid stock at reasonable prices. Eggs for hatching:—Indian Game, Black Langshans, and Plymouth Rocks, 10s per doz.; Buff Orpingtons, Black Minorcas, Silver Wyandottes, and White Leghorns. Also, eggs from Mr Ducker's ducks—Pure Aylesburys, 1st and special; Buff Orpington Ducks, 1st, 2, and 1st prize. All breeds of Fancy Pigeons for sale.

A. H. MARTIN,
d745 Frankley Road.

The Eltham Co-Operative Company Hawera & Normanby Star, 1 October 1902

I see Mr Ducker, of Buff Orpington fame, from New Plymouth, has been appointed manager of the Eltham Poultry Company.

Taranaki Herald, 4 October 1902

Next comes the pen of Buff orpingtons. This popular breed is well-represented. The cockerel is the biggest bird of his breed in New Zealand. He was imported with two splendid Buff hens. Mr F. Ducker, of Egmont Poultry Farm, New Plymouth, getting them direct from the celebrated Orpington breeder W. Cook, of Kent, England. Perfectly sound in colour throughout when he arrived from England, he has developed a little white at the base of his sickle feathers, otherwise he is without blemish. He is the most even coloured dark Buff and has won wherever shown.

Frank and Lily now move from Eltham to Martinborough

(2) AFTER his said marriage the Petitioner lived and cohabited with his said wife at Avondale in New Zealand for about one year at New Plymouth for about two years at Eltham for about one year at Martinborough for about one year and at Ohiwa aforesaid and Opotiki for about 11 years and

Extract from Supreme Court Papers dated 20th September 1915.

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(Jenni Barr collection.)

In 1904 Frank Ducker began to advertise in Auckland Auckland Star, 11 June 1904

WANTED, an Auckland Agent or Partner to handle Consignments of Poultry and Eggs, for London and Local Markets. I grow Poultry by hundreds. I can incubate and rear successfully. £3 per week salary and no hard manual labour attached—A suitable person, fond of Poultry, business like, energetic, and a fair scholar with not less than £250 capital can join in a well established and profitable business at once. — For particulars, apply by letter, to FRANK DUCKER Auckland G.P.O. — Auckland firms willing to advance on shipments of Frozen Poultry for London and S. African Markets, drop me a card: I will call.

Ducker's Ducks New Zealand Herald, 13 June 1904

Poultry, etc.

"DUCKER'S DUCKS" will be exhibited at Auckland Show, June 13. Champion Pekin Ducks of New Zealand.—Frank Ducker, Auckland P.O.

DUCKER'S WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, Lay 200 Eggs a Year.
Splendid Export Fowls, early maturing; pure white, beautiful, and profitable.

If you are fond of Poultry, here is a Chance for you. FRANK DUCKER,

New Zealand Herald 17 June 1904

FRANK DUCKER secured more Prizes for Ducks than any other breeder of ducks, Auckland Show, to-day. Order Eggs.

DUCKER'S White Rocks, beauties—First, second, third prize Cock or Cockerel; first, second, third, and very highly commended Hens or Pullets.

The Move to Ohiwa

Some time around 1904/1905 [40] Frank and Lily Ducker moved to the Bay of Plenty, first to Opotiki, not far from what was then the coastal port of Ohiwa.



Location of Opotiki and Ohiwa Harbour and Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty.

There was a coastal trade between Ohiwa and Auckland.



Ohiwa Harbour as it is today.

The site of the original Ohiwa settlement has disappeared through erosion.

Frank had taken up a long term lease on Uretara island in the Ohiwa Harbour, but was unable to move there until around 1911 – 1912.
In the meantime the family lived in a "little unpainted house" not far from Ohiwa, then later they moved to a shed on two acres of flat land in Ohiwa proper.[41]

Leo Alfred was born in 1906 and **Clarence Edward (Clarry)** was born in 1909.

Frank's father James Ducker, and another builder called Took, travelled from New Plymouth to build a house, store and post office, and some time in 1910 Frank was the post master at Ohiwa, and also the small port's stevedore.

The post office and store was run by Lily while Frank took care of the stevedore work.

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[40] The extract from the Supreme Court document on the previous page implies the move from Martinborough to Ohiwa could have been some time around 1904.
(The document is dated Sept 1915 and refers to 11 years at Opotiki and Ohiwa.)
Also the Auckland advertisements in June 1904 for an agent, and the prizes taken at the Auckland Show at that time, would appear to mark a move north from Martinborough.
By 1905 Frank and Lily were registered on the electoral roll as residing in Opotiki.

[41] See the Appendix: "Early Days of Ohiwa" written by Leo Ducker and transcribed by Ron Henderson.

Page 2 Advertisements Column 2
New Zealand Herald, 29 January 1910

Poultry, etc.

LEGHORN Cockerels, Padman's Brooks', for sale. Guaranteed from record pen, 1538 eggs; 5s to 10s each, cash with order.—Frank Ducker, Postmaster, Ohiwa.

NORTH ISLAND EGG-LAYING COMPETITION.
Auckland Star, 9 May 1910

1024; J. Riley, Cambridge, white Leghorns, 1021; F. Ducker, Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty, white Leghorns, 1020; "Waikato Independ-

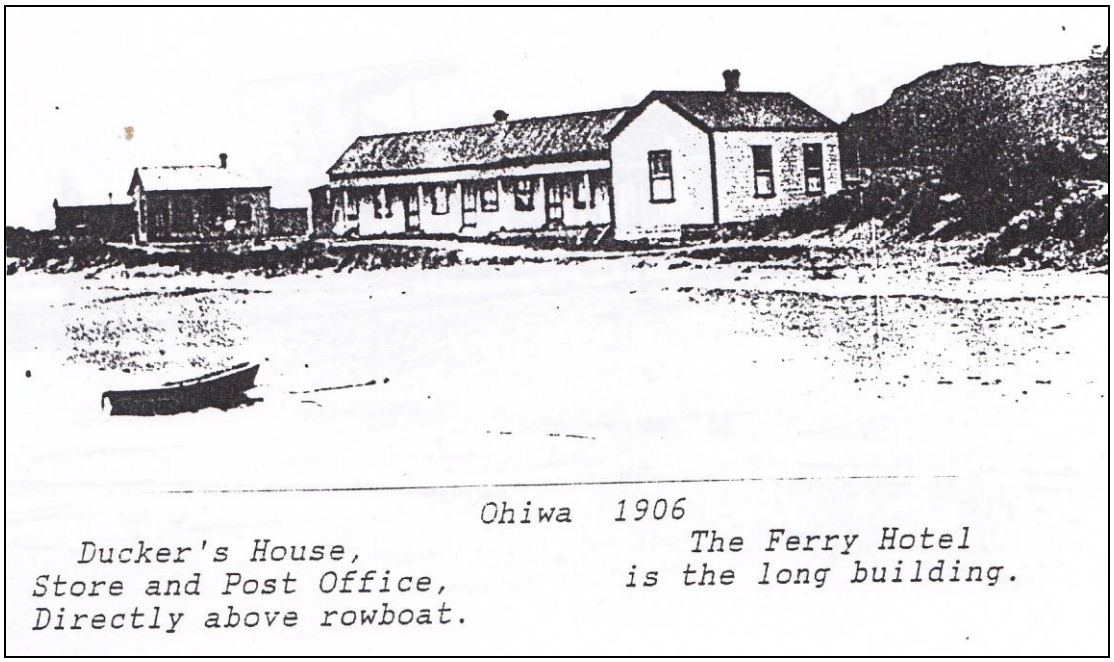
HARBOUR FATALITY.
New Zealand Herald, 10 September 1910

not reached the settlement. Mr. Ducker, postmaster at Ohiwa, immediately left and explored the river in the direction of Uretara Island.

(This refers to the drowning of a Mr. Evans. Frank Ducker searching for the body.)

Poverty Bay Herald, 12 January 1911 **Leo Ducker nearly downed**[42]

During the absence of Mr and Mrs Ducker on Sunday afternoon their five-year-old-son Leo fell off the wharf at Ohiwa and would certainly have been drowned but for the prompt and plucky act of Mr T. Morrison, of Opotiki, who was on the wharf at the time. Hearing a splash, he looked to see what caused it, and noticed a boy's straw hat come up. He dived at once, and rescued the boy by swimming with him to the shore.



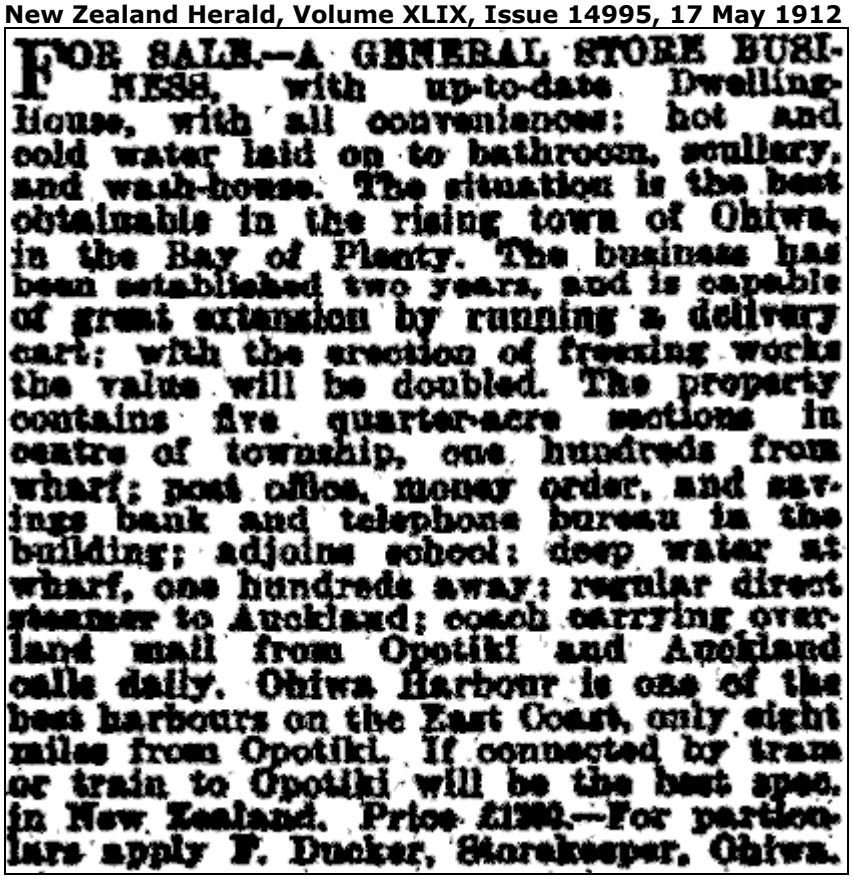
From Leo Ducker's Memoir (see appendix) The date seems a little early.

[42] Leo refers to this incident in his memoir of Ducker's Island. See appendix.

1912 was a turning point for the family.

In May 1912 the house and store/post office business was put up for sale.

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLIX, Issue 14995, 17 May 1912

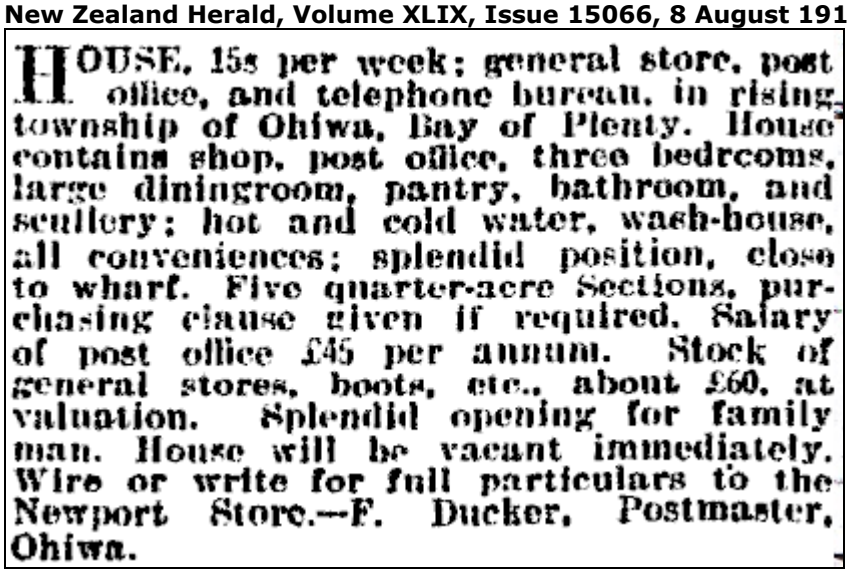


FOR SALE.—A GENERAL STORE BUSINESS, with up-to-date Dwelling-House, with all conveniences; hot and cold water laid on to bathroom, scullery, and wash-house. The situation is the best obtainable in the rising town of Ohiwa, in the Bay of Plenty. The business has been established two years, and is capable of great extension by running a delivery cart; with the erection of freezing works the value will be doubled. The property contains five quarter-acre sections in centre of township, one hundreds from wharf; post office, money order, and savings bank and telephone bureau in the building; adjoins school; deep water at wharf, one hundreds away; regular direct steamer to Auckland; coach carrying overland mail from Opotiki and Auckland calls daily. Ohiwa Harbour is one of the best harbours on the East Coast, only eight miles from Opotiki. If connected by tram or train to Opotiki will be the best spot in New Zealand. Price £1300.—For particulars apply F. Ducker, Storekeeper, Ohiwa.

From the advertisement we can infer that the store business was established around 1910, and so the buildings had probably been completed around then.

Evidently the building and business were not sold, and a few months later were advertised again, this time for lease.

New Zealand Herald, Volume XLIX, Issue 15066, 8 August 1912



HOUSE, 15s per week; general store, post office, and telephone bureau, in rising township of Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty. House contains shop, post office, three bedrooms, large diningroom, pantry, bathroom, and scullery; hot and cold water, wash-house, all conveniences; splendid position, close to wharf. Five quarter-acre Sections, purchasing clause given if required. Salary of post office £45 per annum. Stock of general stores, boots, etc., about £60, at valuation. Splendid opening for family man. House will be vacant immediately. Wire or write for full particulars to the Newport Store.—F. Ducker, Postmaster, Ohiwa.

(Years later Frank shifted the building to Opotiki.)

The move from Ohiwa to "Ducker's Island" (Uretara Island)

Some time in 1912 the family shifted to the island inside Ohiwa Harbour.
Living conditions were primitive and undoubtedly there must have been some stressful times for the adults.[43] Frank and Lily now had seven children: Brad, Olive, Ron, Cecil, Leo, Clarry – and Norm. (**Eric Norman** had just been born in 1912.)

Frank and Lily argued and quarrelled a lot, and eventually Lily left, taking the youngest child Norm with her.

The family broke up.

Their eldest daughter Olive went, or had had already gone to New Plymouth in the care of Frank's parents James and Eleanor. Ron Henderson recalls: "*My Mum, Olive Ducker, never lived with her mum and dad at Ohiwa. "No place for a girl" said her dad. She stayed with her grandmother at Frankley Road, New Plymouth right up to leaving High School.*"

Other family members have related an anecdote that it was Olive's grandparents, James and Eleanor, disturbed at the knowledge that the growing up girl was running around "barefoot", who insisted on taking her back to New Plymouth. In fact it was probably obvious to all that the girl could not stay in this rough, all male-environment.

Our first record of Olive at school in New Plymouth is in 1915. (See Appendix.)
Leo's recollection is that she went back to New Plymouth with her grandfather.[44]
If that is so, it may well have been some time in 1910 as this seems most likely to have been about the time when the buildings were completed.
Olive would then have been about 9 or 10.[45]

However it also might have been in August 1912, perhaps at the time when Lily left.[46]
This record of a Miss Ducker and an adult female Ducker arriving in New Plymouth, from Onehunga, probably refers to Olive and her mother or grandmother:

SHIPPING NEWS Taranaki Daily News, 10 August 1912

ARRIVED.

Friday.—Rarawa, s.s., 1072 tons, Norbury, from Onehunga. Passengers:—Misses Ducker, Harrison, Holder, Hogan and Hayward, Mesdames Ashcroft (2), Ducker, Cartcheon, Anderson, Rae and

The only other "Miss" Ducker that this could refer to is Olive's cousin Ivy Myrtle, 18, daughter of Ernest Ducker.

Somehow this seems unlikely.

At this time Frank was also facing bankruptcy.

New Zealand Herald, 15 October 1912

Gazette Notice: Frank Ducker, storekeeper, in bankruptcy 9th October 1912.

[43] Leo describes the accommodation: "A lean-to hut with a dirt floor and two tents…" The boys slept in the tents, Frank and Lily in the lean-to "..with a big open fire over which all our cooking was done…"
[44] Leo in his memoir states: "My only sister Olive had gone back to New Plymouth with Granddad Ducker for her schooling. She never came back to live in Ohiwa, only twice for holidays ….."
[45] According to an article in Bay of Plenty Times Aug. 6th 1977 (Appendix) Olive left Ohiwa in 1911.
[46] Lily had left before October 26 – see the following news clipping "Country Storekeeper's Troubles".

By October 1912 Lily has left, taking Norm with her, Olive and Clarry are with the grandparents in New Plymouth, Frank has resigned his stevedore job and he and the rest of the boys are living on the island in a *whare* and a couple of tents.

Auckland Star, 26 October 1912

COUNTRY STOREKEEPER'S TROUBLES.

Frank Ducker, of Ohiwa, storekeeper, in his statement forwarded to the Official Assignee shows unsecured creditors £253 9/6, secured creditors £321 14/5, less estimated value of securities £250, leaving a surplus to contra £71 14/5, other liabilities £50, total indebtedness £625 3/11. The assets are stock in trade Ohiwa £280, book debts estimated to produce £20, cash in hand £23, furniture £15, total assets £338, leaving a deficiency of £287 3/11. The debtor states that in 1909 he was agent for the Northern S.S. Co. at Ohiwa at a salary of 25/ per week, raised to 30/ a few months later on. He occasionally made extra money by labouring on the wharf and attending to beacons. He was also appointed postmaster and telephonist at Ohiwa at £45 per annum. He had a wife and six children, the oldest being 11 years of age. His wife started storekeeping in her own name, and he assisted her in working the business. All takings were booked, also any money made in his own name. He wrote cheques but his wife kept the books. A fair business was done during 1910. On October, 1911, he resigned his position. October, 1911, he resigned his position with the Northern Co. and withdrew from the business, paying off all accounts with the money he had. He had made £100 in cattle dealing. His wife left the home, children and business in July, 1912, and he took steps to wind up affairs, selling the remaining stock at invoice price, the proceeds, £36 11/9, being banked for the disposal of the creditors. His wife had kept the books and done all the business during the past year. Being threatened in all directions, he was obliged to file. He did not know the whereabouts of his wife. The cattle he had running would hardly realise the price paid for them owing to loss by death of a number. At present he was living on an island in a whare, and his children were sleeping in a tent. His only income was a few shillings for eggs, and he was milking six cows lent him by a neighbour. He separated the milk and made a few pounds of butter. He was obliged to leave four boys alone on the island for a week to attend the meeting of creditors in Auckland. Apart from what was secured, his total possessions would not realise £30 if put up to auction.

New Zealand Herald, 31 October 1912

A BANKRUPT'S TROUBLES.

LOW PRICES FOR CATTLE.

A MEETING of creditors in the bankrupt estate of Frank Ducker, of Ohiwa, storekeeper and farmer, was held yesterday in the office of the official assignee (Mr. W. S. Fisher), who presided, five creditors and the debtor being present. The latter was not represented by a solicitor.

The bankrupt's statement, said Mr. Fisher, showed a deficiency of £325 3s 11d, and he also held some timber, which he stated he retained as the agent of the Tauranga Sawmilling Company. The assignee was satisfied that such was the state of affairs. In the debtor's estate there was practically nothing.

In answer to Mr. A. J. Entrican, bankrupt stated that he had an interest in a grazing lease of an island, where he had cattle grazing. A year ago he had made £100 on his cattle-dealing, besides repaying to the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile money advanced on 45 head of cattle. As he now had 90 head running on the island, he had thought it probable that he would have doubled that profit. Instead he had received such low prices (£7 to £8 per head, as against £10 to £12 last year) that he had not done so.

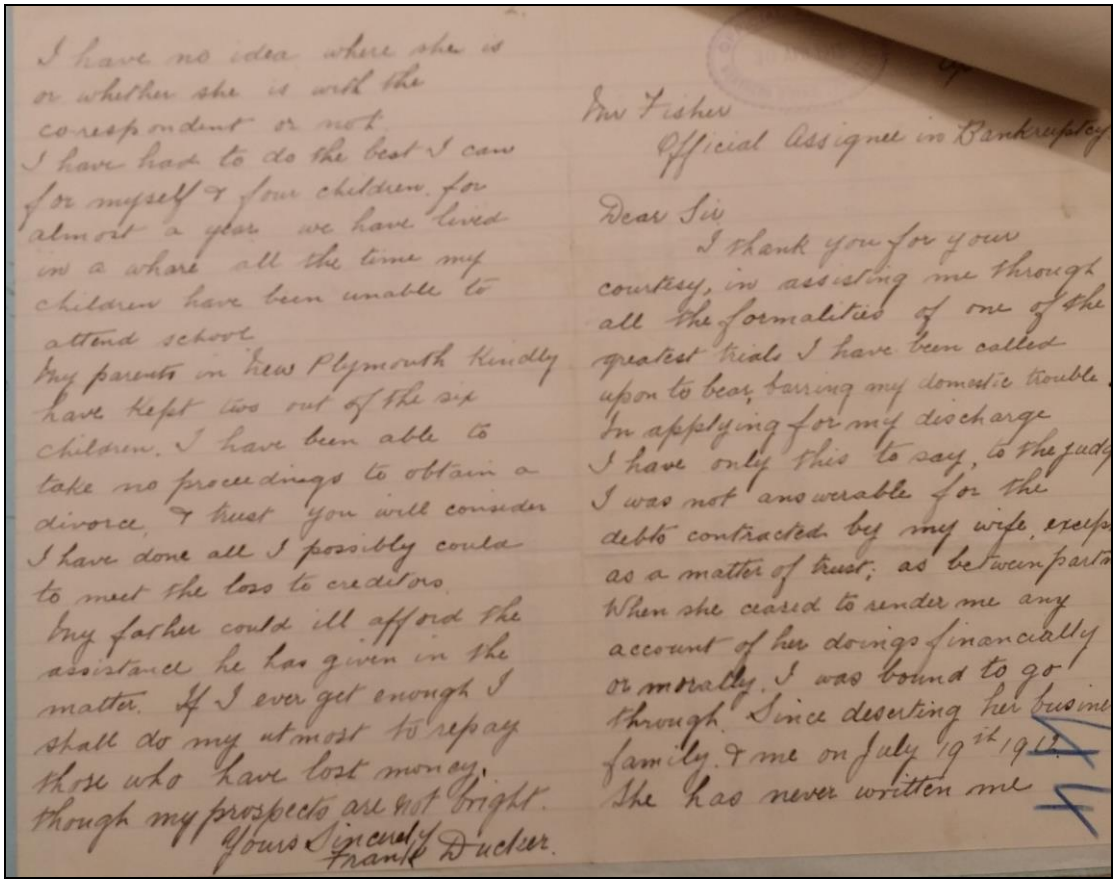
A creditor mentioned that prices for cattle, except for a dairy herd in full profit, were 20 per cent. less than last year.

The debtor said that the store was run by his wife in her own name. With the £100 profit for last year he had paid pressing debts.

The assignee remarked that the debtor had made no investigation as to the business of the store, and did not appear to know his position. Debtor had said that since October 11, he had retired from the business. He had since paid debts of the business.

The debtor stated that when he had paid £100 in debts, he considered if all he possessed were sold up, he could pay all his remaining liabilities.

It was proposed by Mr. Entrican, and seconded by Mr. Graham, that three weeks should be given debtor to make some arrangement satisfactory to his creditors, failing which the matter would be placed in the hands of the assignee to inquire as to whether the provisions of the Bankruptcy Act had been complied with.



I have no idea where she is or whether she is with the corespondent or not. I have had to do the best I can for myself & four children. for almost a year we have lived in a whare all the time my children have been unable to attend school. My parents in New Plymouth kindly have kept two out of the six children. I have been able to take no proceedings to obtain a divorce, & trust you will consider I have done all I possibly could to meet the loss to creditors. My father could ill afford the assistance he has given in the matter. If I ever get enough I shall do my utmost to repay those who have lost money, though my prospects are not bright. Yours Sincerely Frank Ducker.

Mr Fisher
Official Assignee in Bankruptcy

Dear Sir
I thank you for your courtesy, in assisting me through all the formalities of one of the greatest trials I have been called upon to bear, barring my domestic trouble. In applying for my discharge I have only this to say, to the Judge I was not answerable for the debts contracted by my wife, except as a matter of trust; as between partners. When she ceased to render me any account of her doings financially or morally, I was bound to go through. Since deserting her business family & me on July 19th 1912 She has never written me

Ducker, Frank. NZ Archives R23417378

This letter by Frank written to the Official Assignee gives some idea of the pressure Frank was under during his bankruptcy, ".. one of the greatest trials I have been called upon to bear..", and his state of mind at the time. He blamed Lily for his debts.

Transcription:

Mr. Fisher
Official Assignee in Bankruptcy
Dear Sir
I thank you for your courtesy in assisting me through all the formalities of one of the greatest trials I have been called upon to bear, barring my domestic trouble. In applying for my discharge I have only this to say, to the Judge, I was not answerable for the debts contracted by my wife, except as a matter of trust, as between partners. When she ceased to render me any account of her doings financially or morally I was bound to go through. Since deserting her business family and me on July 19th 1912 She has never written me. I have no idea where she is or whether she is with the co-respondent or not. I have had to do the best I can for myself and four children. For almost a year we have lived in a whare all the time my children have been unable to attend school. My parents in New Plymouth kindly have kept two out of the six children. I have been able to take no proceedings to obtain a divorce, & trust you will consider I have done all I possibly could to meet the loss to creditors.
My father could ill afford the assistance he has given in the matter. If I ever get enough I shall do my utmost to repay those who have lost money, though my prospects are not bright.
Yours sincerely Frank Ducker.

Observer, 7 June 1913

IN BANKRUPTCY.

Ducker, Frank, of Ohiwa, Storekeeper, 1st and final, 5s 10½d in the £.

Frank and the four remaining boys now subsisted on the island, while Frank grazed cattle, farmed 100 ducks, sold eggs, and harvested potatoes, corn – and wild mussels which they sent out by coastal boat by the sack full.
Life on the island with three brothers[47] was rich and exciting, as seen through the eyes of the small boy Leo. Fish and shellfish were plentiful, the family grew their own potatoes and corn - and of course there was always plenty of poultry.
The boys speared flounder for tea, boiled mussels in a kerosene tin, ate home baked bread dripping with butter and honey taken from wild hives.

Frank petitioned for divorce in 1915, naming Walter Joseph Menges.
His plea included: "that in or about the month of December 1911 and in or about the month of September 1912 and on divers occasions between these dates the Petitioner's said wife committed adultery with the abovenamed Co-Respondent Walter Joseph Menges of Tauranga in New Zealand Seaman at Ohiwa aforesaid at Palmerston North and at other places in New Zealand…"
(DUCKER Frank - Lily Antigone **(R16697497)** New Zealand Archives.)

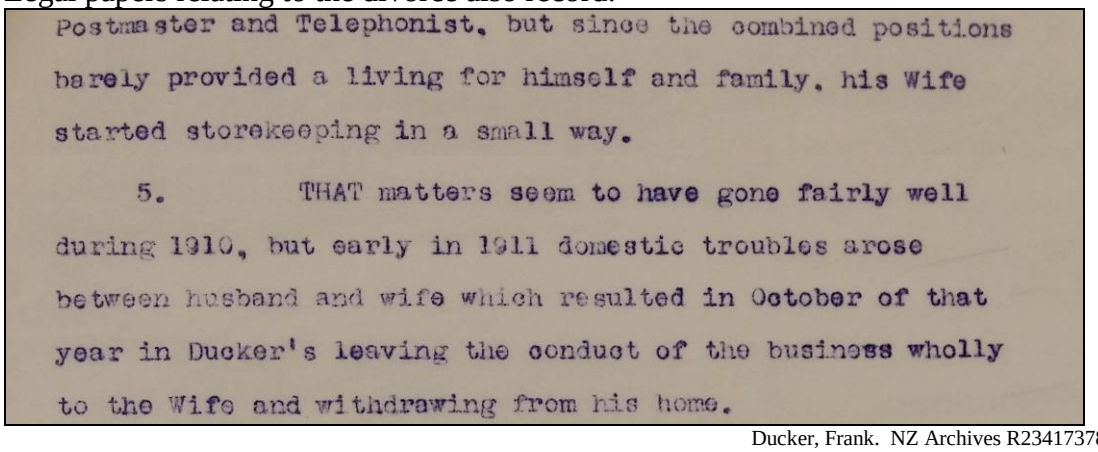
New Zealand Herald, 22 November 1915 Decree nisi granted November 1915

"LOVED ANOTHER MAN."

WIFE WHO WENT AWAY.

Frank Ducker asked for a divorce from Lily Antigone Ducker on account of misconduct with Walter Joseph Menges. Mr. J. R. Reed, K.C., with him Mr. W. P. Endean, appeared for the petitioner.
The marriage took place at Papakura in 1898, and the couple lived together for some years at Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty, where co-respondent was in charge of a ferry. Petitioner's story was that in July, 1912, his wife told him that she loved the co-respondent—she could not help it. Shortly afterwards she left him, and for 18 months lived with Menges at Palmerston North under another name. In September, 1913, she wrote asking for forgiveness, and petitioner agreed to take her back. Within a few days, however, she again became rebellious, stating that she had not come back to him for his own sake, but in order to get her children. She then left him again. Later on she sued for a separation order, but the magistrate dismissed the case. Again he took her back in order that, as she was a certificated teacher, she might educate his children, with a condition that she was to see no more of co-respondent. But in November, 1914, she left him finally.
After further evidence, His Honor granted a decree nisi, with costs against co-respondent.

Although Frank succeeded in portraying himself to the newspaper (and indeed to the Court) as the injured party, it is likely that things were not quite as simple as that.
Legal papers relating to the divorce also record:



Postmaster and Telephonist, but since the combined positions barely provided a living for himself and family, his Wife started storekeeping in a small way.

5. THAT matters seem to have gone fairly well during 1910, but early in 1911 domestic troubles arose between husband and wife which resulted in October of that year in Ducker's leaving the conduct of the business wholly to the Wife and withdrawing from his home.

Ducker, Frank. NZ Archives R23417378

[47] Norm had gone with their mother Lily, and Clarry was for part of that time ("in the early days") with the Ducker grandparents in New Plymouth, along with his sister Olive. This leaves Brad, Ron, Cecil, and Leo on the island with Frank. See Appendix "EARLY DAYS OF OHIWA" by Leo Ducker.

After Lily left, Frank acquired a governess named **Amy Grace Turner**.
Amy Grace Turner also had a boy of her own, Douglas, who was three years old.

1913/17371	Turner	Douglas Norman	Amy Grace	Father 's name NR

In 1915 Frank joined the Army
The First World War had begun, and in 1915 Frank joined up.
His name appears on a list of men from **No. 2 Group, 11th Reinforcements** as
Private Ducker, F., Ohiwa. (Ohinemuri Gazette 6th Dec 1915.)

Decree absolute was granted 28th Feb 1916, Frank's marriage to Lily now over.[48]
Frank Ducker married Amy Grace Turner in Whakatane on 3rd March 1916.[49]



Frank and Amy Grace Ducker (photograph from the collection of Leslie Ducker)

When army service required that Frank leave home, he would be able to leave his boys (and Amy's 3-year-old Douglas[50]) in the care of his new wife Amy Grace.

Evening Post, 17 March 1916 **Pte. F. Ducker to be Corporal**

The following temporary appointments have been approved by the Camp Commandant at Featherston

Telephone Exchange: Pte. F. Ducker to be corporal; G Company, 11th

In October 1916 **Sergeant Frank Ducker**, Postmaster, Papawai Military Camp P.O. [51]
Taranaki Daily News, 5 October 1916

Sergeant Frank Ducker, a son of Mr. James Ducker, of Frankley Road, New Plymouth, has been appointed postmaster at the Papawai Military Camp Post Office. He enlisted and went into camp with the 11th Reinforcements as a private. After undergoing his infantry training, he was transferred to Headquarters Staff at Featherston Military Camp as corporal and sergeant in Headquarters Telephone Exchange.

[48] Supreme Court papers #885 dated 28th February 1916 relating to divorce. Collection of Jenni Barr.
[49] Copy of marriage certificate Frank Ducker + Amy Grace Turner, District of Whakatane, #266
[50] Les Ducker recalls that Frank refused to formally adopt Douglas, causing furious arguments with Amy. But Douglas went by the name Ducker anyway, and his children continued as Ducker.
[51] A satellite of Featherston Military Training Camp, Papawai Military Camp was located near Greytown.

The following year (1917) Frank was sent overseas.



A Company 24th Reinforcements.
(Photograph from collection of Ron Henderson)

Frank and Amy's first child **Neville Frank** had been born on April 3rd 1916.

Their next child **Leslie Herbert** was born on May 29th 1917, soon after Frank embarked for England.

Evidently Amy Grace must have temporarily left Ohiwa and accompanied Frank while he was doing his military training at Featherston, as both boys were born in nearby Greytown.

Evening Post, 3 April 1917 **Pte. F. Ducker to be Lance-Corporal**

24th Reinforcements.

A Company: To be sergeant, Cpl. H. R. Thayer; to be lance-sergeants, Cpls. A. B. Nolan, R. J. Thompson; to be corporals, L.-Cpls. R. G. Wrightson, E. W. L. Bullot, F. J. Graham; to be lance-corporals, Ptes. G. A. Booth, H. J. T. Osborne, S. Phillips, J. E. Wareing, A. Stretton, H. B Wright, F. Ducker.

Service Form

STATEMENT of the SERVICES of Ducker (Surname.) Frank (Christian Name.) No. 16620

Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank.	Date.	Authority for Entry.
A Coy 11th	Posted to	Pvt	13/12/15	R.O. 378
Telephone H.Q.S.	Trans to	"	16/2/16	" 152 F
do	Promoted to	Corp	14/3/16	" 175 F
do	do	Sergt	12/4/16	" 199 F
do	Reverts to	Pvt	23/2/17	" 459 F
A Coy 24th	Trans to	"	23/2/17	" 459 F
"	Promoted A	L/Cpl	31/5/17	" 812
4 Res Bn. a&w Regt.	Proc overseas with N.Z.R.B. from Auck. Rg	Pte	6.7.17	From roll 6.7.17.
" a&w. R.	marched in ex 24 Regts (Auckland)	"	11.6.17	" "
" " " "	on joining 4 Res Bn reverts to rank	"	11.6.17	" "
1 Bn Auck Rgt	joined 1st Bn a. R.	"	5.8.17	Pl 034 Rouen 21.8.17
4 " "	Class unfit by Med Bd & placed on 2nd	"	21.12.17	" " 4 " 22.1.18

(Document from the collection of Jenni Barr)

Frank embarked for England on 5th April 1917 and arrived on 12th June 1917.

Within a few months he was reported wounded.

ROLL OF HONOUR
Evening Post, 20 October 1917

Following Reported Wounded.

Ducker, F., 16620, A.I.R. (Mrs. A. G. Ducker, Ohiwa, w.)

Casualty Form

Army Form B. 103. Regimental Number 1662.0.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1st BN AUCKLAND REGT.

Rank Pte. Surname Dunbar Christian Name Frank

Religion Age on Enlistment years months

Enlisted (a) 13-12-15 Terms of Service (a) ~~Duration of War~~ Service reckons from (a) 13-12-15

Date of promotion to present rank Date of appointment to lance rank

Extended Re-engaged Qualification (b) or Corps Trade and rate

Occupation Signature of Officer

16 APR 1918

Report Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
		Embarked	New Zealand	5-4-17	Emb. Roll
		Disembarked	Devonport	11-6-17	Do. Roll
12-6-17	O/C 2nd W.I. Regt	Marched into camp – reverts to ranks	Sling	11-6-17	Pt II 160
6-7-17	1066 Rec. Sgt.	Left for France	– do –	6-7-17	Nom Roll
10-7-17	O/C N.Z.I.B.D.	Att Stn N.Z.I.B.D.	Etaples	10-7-17	– do – X 3146
11-8-17	O/C 1st Batt. A.I.F.	Joined 1st Batt A.I.F.	Field	5-8-17	B.213
15-9-17	– do –	Evacuated Sick	– do –	9-9-17	B.213
10-9-17	O/C 14 Stat Hosp	Adm N.Z. 14 Stat Hosp	Aryues	9-9-17	Scabies W.3034 X 21429 (39/Gen)
16-9-17	– do –	Duchgd to Unit	Field		Scabies W.3034 X 21460
22-9-17	O/C 1 Batt. A.I.F.	Rejoined 1st Batt. A.I.F.	– do –	16-9-17	B.213 (40/Field)

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
(b) Signaller, Shoeing-smith, &c.

W. 9838—M.1879 250m 8/17 (30/11) C. F. & S. Ltd. A. Forbes Ltd. Auckland. P.T.O.

Report Date	Report From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, &c., during active service, as reported on Army Form B.213, Army Form A. 36, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B.213, Army Form A.36, or other official documents.
7-10-17	O/C 1 Batt. A.I.F.	Wounded in Action	Field	4-10-17	B.213 (2.C.S.H.)
4-10-17	O/C 3 N.Z. Fd Amb	Adm N.Z. 3 N.Z. Fd Amb	– do –	4-10-17	G.S.W. Buttock & Scalp A.36 X 3300 (43/461)
5-10-17	O/C N.Z.A.C.C.S.	Adm N.Z. Aust. C.C.S.	– do –	5-10-17	G.S.W. Buttock & Scalp. A.36 X 3278
6-10-17	O/C 13 Gen Hosp	Adm N.Z. 13 Gen. Hosp.	Boulogne	5-10-17	W 3034 X 3331
19-10-17	– do –	Transfd to Eng. for H.S. "St Andrew"	– do –	19-10-17	G.S.W. L. Buttock W 3034 X 3906
29-10-17	Hdqrs N.Z.E.F.	Adm Mil. Hosp. Kingsland Rd	London	30-10-17	G.S.W. Buttock & Scalp D.H.R. X 4539
7-12-17	– do –	Transfd to 2nd N.Z. Gen. Hosp.	Walton	4-12-17	D.H.R. X 5603
21-12-17	– do –	Classified unfit by Med Bd & placed on N.Z. Roll	England	21-12-17	G.S.W. L. Buttock N. Roll 19/1/x 6295 (4/47)
2-2-18	Base Camp	EMBARKED FOR N.Z. Rangitane	Liverpool	c. 2-18	NOM ROLL

Date of Casualty	4-10-17 G.S.W. Buttock & Scalp

(Documents from the collection of Jenni Barr.)

The first document tells us that:
Frank left for France on 6th July, arriving at Etaples on the 10th July 1917.
He was in the field on 5th August. On 9th September he was evacuated sick, discharged on the 16th September and rejoined his battalion on the same day, 1917.

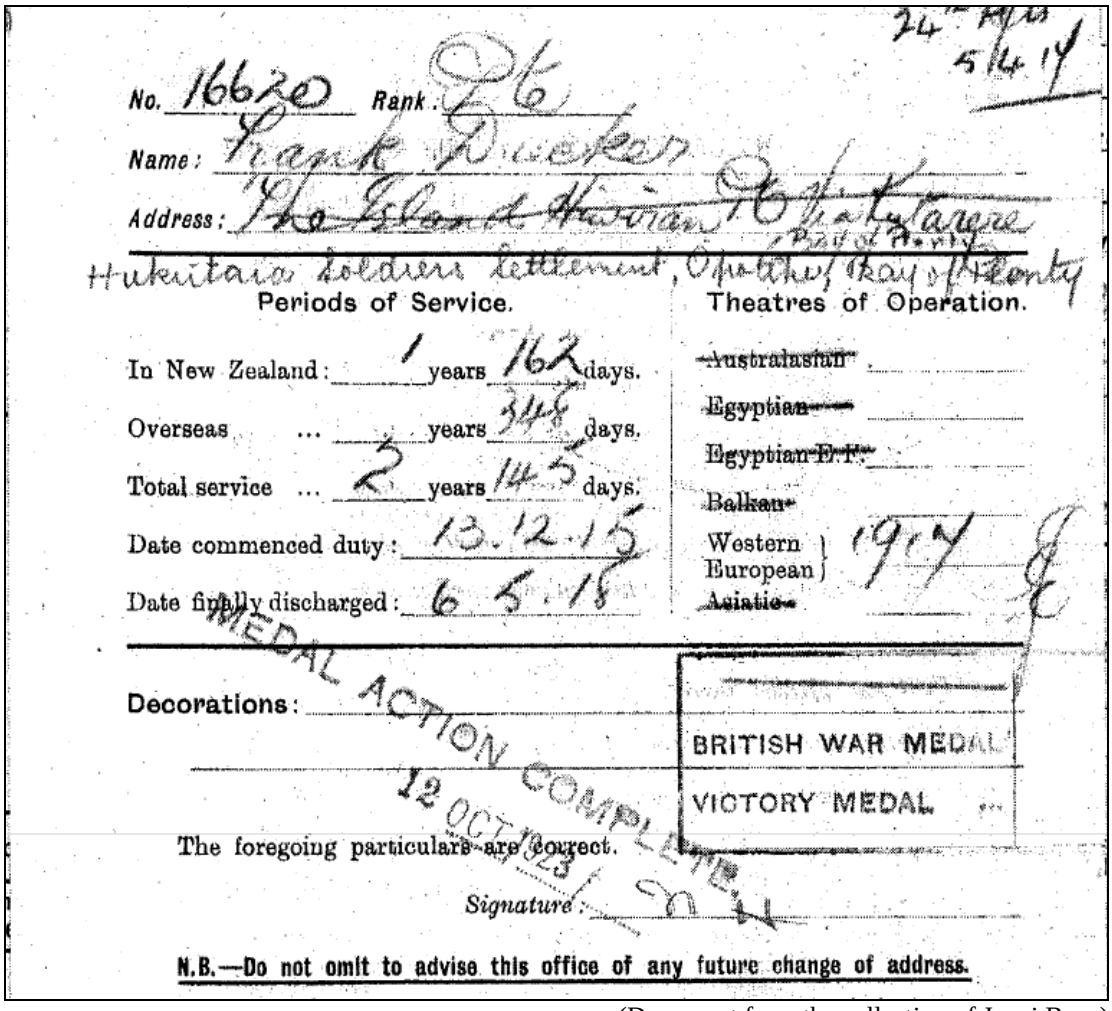
The second document tells us Frank was wounded in action on 4th October 1917.
G.S.W. (Gun Shot Wound) Buttock & Scalp.

Frank was wounded in action on 4th October 1917
A bullet creased his scalp, and he received a more serious injury to his left buttock. The injury was serious enough to warrant transfer to England on 19th October.
On the 29th October he was seen at a military hospital on Kingsland Rd., London.
He was transferred to Walton on 7th December, and on the 21st December his wound "G.S.W. L. Buttock" was deemed serious enough for him to be declared unfit for further service.

On 2nd February 1918 Frank embarked on the Maunganui, Liverpool, for return to New Zealand. He was officially discharged on 6th May 1918.

Evidently the wound continued to trouble him for some years, as Les Ducker recalls that some time after 1927, after he returned from Fiji, Frank set off for California with the intention of taking up an offered position to manage a ranch there.
He was briefly hospitalised en route, evidently because of his war wound, and as a result lost the opportunity.
(Leslie Ducker interview October 2015)

Frank qualified for the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



No. 16620 Rank. Pte
Name: Frank Ducker
Address: The Island Hiwirau P.O. via Kutarere Bay of Plenty
Hukutaia Soldiers Settlement, Opotiki, Bay of Plenty

Periods of Service.

In New Zealand: 1 years 162 days.
Overseas ... years 348 days.
Total service ... 2 years 145 days.
Date commenced duty: 13.12.15
Date finally discharged: 6.5.18

Theatres of Operation.

~~Australasian~~
~~Egyptian~~
~~Egyptian E.F.~~
~~Balkan~~
Western European 1917
~~Asiatic~~

Decorations:

MEDAL ACTION COMPLETE 12 OCT 1923

BRITISH WAR MEDAL
VICTORY MEDAL

The foregoing particulars are correct.
Signature:

N.B.—Do not omit to advise this office of any future change of address.

(Document from the collection of Jenni Barr.)

Note the change of address, from Ducker's Island: "The Island, Hiwirau PO, via Kutarere, Bay of Plenty" to the farm at Woodlands, Opotiki: "Hukutaia Soldiers Settlement, Opotiki, Bay of Plenty."



Victory Medal
and
British War Medal
(multi coloured ribbon)

The inscriptions on
their rims read:
16620 PTE. F. DUCKER
N.Z.E.F.

(The medals are in
the possession of
Brian Ducker)

Frank and Amy had one more child, **D'Arcy Clive Melville** Ducker born in Feb 1919. (There is an anecdote that D'Arcy's name was chosen to represent the military honour that Frank reckoned he should have got when he was wounded: **Ducker, D.C.M**.)
(Leslie Ducker 2015)

Before returning home from the war, would Frank have taken the chance to visit his ancestral home of Haxey?

He may have.

Janet Fleming (whose mother and Frank's daughter Olive were friends) wrote:
"I understand at least Frank visited before he came home after WW1.
Cousin Ollie told me that."

I put the same question to his son Leslie Ducker in 2015.
Les said that his father had never spoken to him about a visit to Haxey.

It had been Frank's hope that on returning from the war he would be able to get the freehold of Uretara Island.
Family history has it, however, that when he returned, the government had declared the island to be a reserve (Memoirs of Leo Ducker. Appendix: "Early Days of Ohiwa")

Then in August 1919, as a returned serviceman, Frank won a ballot and was assigned a farm of 59 acres at Woodlands, Opotiki. (Hukutaia settlement)
He was lucky. There had been 45 applicants for the block Frank opted for.

The family now left the island.

1919 Woodlands, Opotiki

Auckland Star, 1 August 1919

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

TO-DAY'S BALLOTS.

FOR HUKUTAIA, WAIARE, AND NGAHINAPOURI.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

The remarkable demand which exists amongst returned soldiers for land was demonstrated this morning, when the ballots were conducted by the South Auckland Land Board for the sections on the Hukutaia, Waiare and Ngahinapouri settlements. The ballots were commenced at 10 a.m., and the passages of Government Buildings in the neighbourhood of the Land Board offices were thronged with applicants who assembled from all parts of the North Island.

The ballot was conducted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the district and Mr. Eadie, of the Returned Soldiers' Association Property Bureau, acted as scrutineer.

The ballot resulted as follows:—

Section 10, 59 acres, 45 applicants—F Ducker, Uretara Island.

Frank built a cowshed, and they lived in that until the house at Ohiwa was shifted to Opotiki. (The house built for them by Frank's father, James) (Leo Ducker memoirs, Appendix)

New Zealand Herald, 25 November 1920

BUTTER-FAT—805lb. from a heifer.—Netherland Princess IV. Grandsons. Soldier settlers on Crown lands, cut this out. If you are desirous of obtaining purebred Friesian Bulls through the Commissioner of Lands write for particulars to

FRANK DUCKER,
Dux Friesian Herd, Opotiki.

New Zealand Herald, 31 December 1920

ALBIZZIA Lopantha Seeds, 4s 6d per lb., post paid. Quickest growing shelter tree known. Send for free illustrated leaflet. —Frank Ducker, Opotiki.

Page 10 Advertisements Column 1
New Zealand Herald, 31 December 1920

Trees, Plants, Etc., For Sale.

ALBIZZIA Lopantha Seeds, 4s 6d per lb., post paid. Quickest growing shelter tree known. Send for free illustrated leaflet. —Frank Ducker, Opotiki.

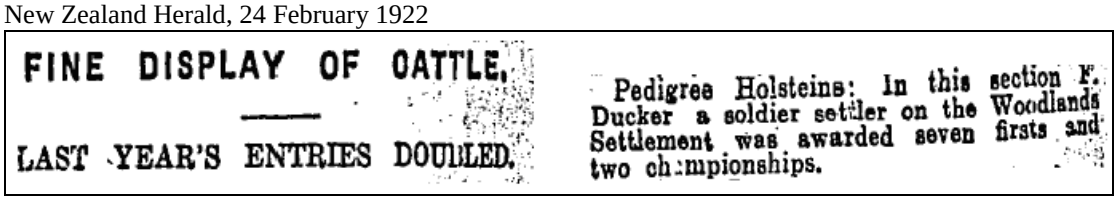
RETURNED SOLDIER SETTLERS.

Every Soldier Settler sending his address will receive valuable information, illustrated, free. Quick-growing shelter and purebred, highest-producing Dairy Cattle.

FRANK DUCKER.

There is no doubt Frank had a talent for breeding pedigree stock, not only birds but also cattle. Within just a few years Frank built up a prize winning pedigree herd. Les remembers a prominent sign on the farm gate "**Dux Friesian Herd**"

THE OPOTIKI SHOW.
New Zealand Herald, 24 February 1922



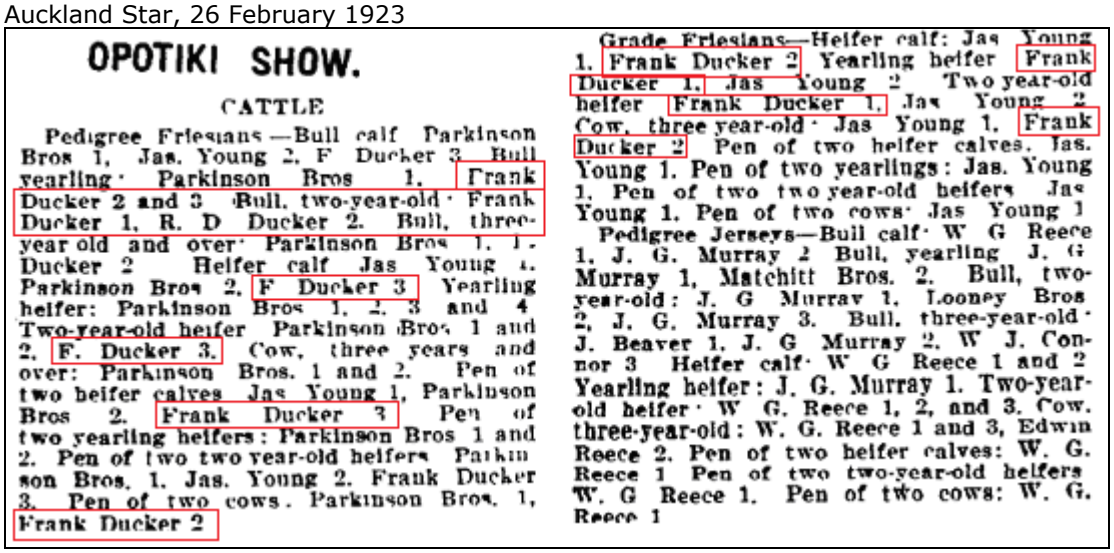
FINE DISPLAY OF CATTLE.

LAST YEAR'S ENTRIES DOUBLED.

Pedigree Holsteins: In this section F. Ducker a soldier settler on the Woodlands Settlement was awarded seven firsts and two championships.

In 1923 and 1924 at the Opotiki Show, not only Frank but also his son Ron (R. D. Ducker) won prizes for pedigree cattle. Ron's pedigree bull was called "Pieby"

OPOTIKI SHOW.
Auckland Star, 26 February 1923



OPOTIKI SHOW.

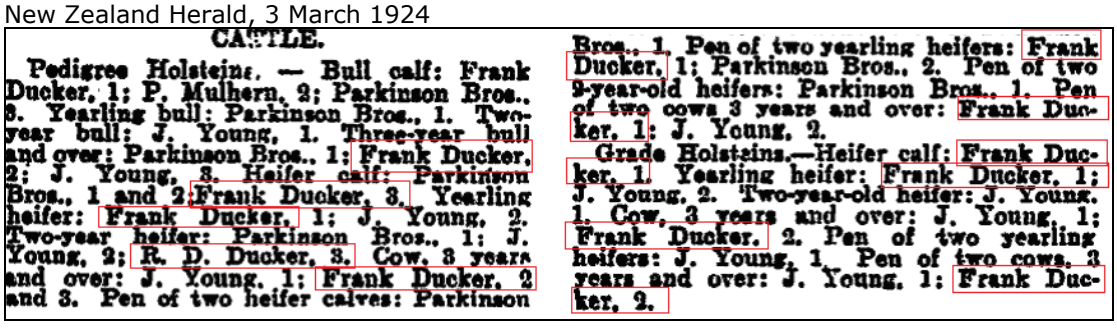
CATTLE

Pedigree Friesians.—Bull calf Parkinson Bros 1, Jas. Young 2, F Ducker 3 Bull yearling Parkinson Bros 1, Frank Ducker 2 and 3 Bull, two-year-old Frank Ducker 1, R. D Ducker 2. Bull, three-year old and over Parkinson Bros 1, F. Ducker 2 Heifer calf Jas Young 1, Parkinson Bros 2, F Ducker 3 Yearling heifer: Parkinson Bros 1, 2, 3 and 4 Two-year-old heifer Parkinson Bros 1 and 2, F. Ducker 3. Cow, three years and over: Parkinson Bros. 1 and 2. Pen of two heifer calves Jas Young 1, Parkinson Bros 2. Frank Ducker 3 Pen of two yearling heifers: Parkinson Bros 1 and 2. Pen of two two year-old heifers Parkinson Bros. 1, Jas. Young 2. Frank Ducker 3. Pen of two cows. Parkinson Bros. 1, Frank Ducker 2

Grade Friesians—Heifer calf: Jas Young 1, Frank Ducker 2 Yearling heifer Frank Ducker 1, Jas Young 2 Two year-old heifer Frank Ducker 1, Jas Young 2 Cow, three year-old Jas Young 1, Frank Ducker 2 Pen of two heifer calves, Jas. Young 1. Pen of two yearlings: Jas. Young 1. Pen of two two year-old heifers Jas Young 1. Pen of two cows Jas Young 1

Pedigree Jerseys—Bull calf W G Reece 1, J. G. Murray 2 Bull, yearling J. G Murray 1, Matchitt Bros. 2. Bull, two-year-old: J. G Murray 1, Looney Bros 2, J. G. Murray 3. Bull, three-year-old J. Beaver 1, J. G Murray 2, W J. Connor 3 Heifer calf W G Reece 1 and 2 Yearling heifer: J. G. Murray 1. Two-year-old heifer W G. Reece 1, 2, and 3. Cow, three-year-old: W. G. Reece 1 and 3, Edwin Reece 2. Pen of two heifer calves: W. G. Reece 1 Pen of two two-year-old heifers W. G Reece 1. Pen of two cows: W. G. Reece 1

SHOW AT OPOTIKI.
New Zealand Herald, 3 March 1924



CATTLE.

Pedigree Holsteins. — Bull calf: Frank Ducker, 1; P. Mulhern, 2; Parkinson Bros., 3. Yearling bull: Parkinson Bros., 1. Two-year bull: J. Young, 1. Three-year bull and over: Parkinson Bros., 1; Frank Ducker, 2; J. Young, 3. Heifer calf: Parkinson Bros., 1 and 2; Frank Ducker, 3. Yearling heifer: Frank Ducker, 1; J. Young, 2. Two-year heifer: Parkinson Bros., 1; J. Young, 2; R. D. Ducker, 3. Cow, 3 years and over: J. Young, 1; Frank Ducker, 2 and 3. Pen of two heifer calves: Parkinson Bros., 1. Pen of two yearling heifers: Frank Ducker, 1; Parkinson Bros., 2. Pen of two 2-year-old heifers: Parkinson Bros., 1. Pen of two cows 3 years and over: Frank Ducker, 1; J. Young, 2.

Grade Holsteins.—Heifer calf: Frank Ducker, 1. Yearling heifer: Frank Ducker, 1; J. Young, 2. Two-year-old heifer: J. Young, 1. Cow, 3 years and over: J. Young, 1; Frank Ducker, 2. Pen of two yearling heifers: J. Young, 1. Pen of two cows, 3 years and over: J. Young, 1; Frank Ducker, 2.

Frank's son Leslie Ducker has written a delightful memoir, commencing with his childhood at Woodlands, where the family was now farming "in a lovely quiet countryside of rolling green pastures, happily enjoying a modest prosperity…."

…..and he recounts Frank's restlessness and desire to move his pedigree herd to a new place he had discovered on the tropical island of Viti Levu.
(See Appendix "Tales of Fiji" for the full text of Leslie Ducker's memoir.)

In 1924 Frank sold the farm at Woodlands and shifted the family to Fiji.

Like Leo's memoir of Ohiwa, Leslie Ducker has written of this time from the point of view of the small boy and he describes the joys and excitement of living on an exotic island. We can only speculate now on the financial burden this must have imposed on the family, the emotional cost of breaking the family yet again, as Leslie's mother Amy Grace refused to live in Fiji and would not join Frank and the boys there until about two years later. The boys were then separated from her again by being sent to boarding school in Suva, a move which must have delivered the final blow to the dwindling Ducker finances.

FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION. Auckland Star, 27 August 1925

MEETING OF N.Z. COUNCIL.
DELEGATES FULLY ENTERTAINED

Mr. F. Ducker's application to register Fiji-born pedigree Friesians was declined, as the New Zealand Friesian Association controlled only New Zealand animals

New Zealand Herald, 28 February 1927

FIJI.—Dairy Farm to lease, suitable city milk supply, poultry; 110 acres; House, 6 rooms; rent £50 yearly; good motor road; 9 miles from Suva.—Frank Ducker, 12, Wakefield St., near Town Hall, Auckland.

It had been an exciting time for he boys, but when the family returned to New Zealand in 1927 Frank now had no farm, he had lost his pedigree herd, his second marriage was on the rocks, and he had just £11.0.0 in his pocket.
Frank now had to take whatever work he could find.

It was 1930, the time of the Great Depression which was starting to deeply affect the New Zealand economy. Up to 30% of the work force was unemployed.
Frank Ducker was 58, moving from job to job and unable to support the family.

Amy petitioned for divorce.

Auckland Star, 21 August 1930

CHILDREN LEFT STARVING.

Reduced to a state of destitution by the desertion of her husband, Frank Ducker, Amy Grace Ducker (Mr. Steadman) was granted a decree. They were married in March, 1916, and there were three children. The parties had lived in various parts of the North Island and in Fiji.

When they were living in Fiji in 1920, said petitioner, her husband became abusive towards her, and alleged that she stole the meals that she served to him. He repeatedly suggested that she should go out to work. He said he had three other women he could marry if only he could get rid of her. When later they came to Auckland, he continued to ill-treat her, and on occasions locked her out. Replying to a suggestion that she had deserted her husband, she said that she had been granted a maintenance and guardianship order by the Magistrate's Court, but not a separation order as the magistrate had thought that that might affect her husband's mental condition. She did not, however, return to him, as he did not seem quite sane at times.

Mr. Steadman quoted an extract of a letter from respondent: "God help me if ever I have to live with you again," as evidence of respondent's attitude towards his wife.

"Petitioner has been destitute for the past three years. I had to take her children on occasions because they were starving," said a woman called to substantiate petitioner's story.

Mr. Justice Herdman granted the decree.

New Zealand Herald, 22 August 1930

STORIES OF UNHAPPINESS.

A story of ill-treatment by her husband was told by Amy Grace Ducker (Mr. Steadman), who petitioned for divorce from Frank Ducker, to whom she was married in March, 1916.

The petitioner stated that when they were living in Fiji toward the end of 1926 and the beginning of 1927 her husband was continually abusing her. He would not pay bills and she had to obtain goods on credit. On that account he never sat down to a meal without accusing her of having stolen the food. He repeatedly suggested that she should go out and work and keep herself and the children. He told her there were three other women prepared to marry him if only he could get rid of her. When they returned to Auckland they were frequently turned out of houses because he would not pay the rent.

"Put Us in the Street."

His Honor: Did he ever strike you?

Petitioner: Yes, he struck me on the head, and said he would make me go queer, so that he could have me put in a mental hospital. He put us all out in the street one evening.

Petitioner said her husband had persuaded her to go to him to a place near Thames. Afterwards, while staying with relations at Ponsonby, she received a letter from her husband accusing her of deserting the home and asking her to return. She did not think this was a genuine offer of reconciliation.

The magistrate gave her a maintenance order for £1 a week, and the guardianship of the children. Her husband did not seem quite right at times, and she was afraid of him. In one letter he expressed his determination never to live with her again.

Evidence that the petitioner had been left destitute, with her children starving, was given by a friend with whom she had stayed in Ponsonby.

His Honor granted the decree nisi, and ordered the husband to pay costs.

The above articles speak of poverty at this time, and also hint at the mental stress which seemed to be affecting Frank's behaviour.

Here is what Les recalls in 2015 of those days now so long ago:
"My mother went over (to Fiji) two years later. That marriage lasted until 1927 – it wasn't a goer in the first place I believe he was chased out by his creditors, because within 2 years, he wanted to go back. He was going on about another island in Fiji where he'd been put ashore when he first went over there. And he said its a beautiful bit of land, not occupied, and well watered, all the rest of it and he talked about it[52] - then a little while after that he latched on to a lady who was high up in education in the United States. I don't know how he got in touch with her, but she had a ranch in California and she offered Frank Ducker the management of the Ranch.
He went over there while all this business was still going on *apres* Fiji, they were suing him and all that, and he was going to take the management of this ranch over in California. But his war wounds interrupted that because he had to go to the hospital en route (must have been on his way there because he never mentioned Loss Angeles) and he was in hospital so long that he missed out on his right for entry into the United States. He lost his job before he got it." [53]

[52] Evidently Frank did make a trip back to Fiji in October 1929 – he is on the passenger list of the Tofua bound for Suva in Shipping News Auckland Star, 5 October 1929

[53] Press, 25 February 1930. Frank appears on the passenger list for Aorangi inbound from North America. It is possible this is a record of Frank returning from his aborted trip to America.
The vessel appears to have sailed from Vancouver and stopped at Suva on the way.
Les Ducker thinks now that it may have been in Vancouver where Frank stayed in hospital, and missed his chance to work in the U.S.A.

"Next thing he was back here, digging drains on the Hauraki plains, down in the mud up to his waist in water."
(*Ron Henderson also remembers hearing an anecdote about the drain digging on the Hauraki Plains – Frank had Brad and Neville with him at the time, and one of them put a fork through his foot – "Frank said:*
Come on, hurry up, get it tied up and get back to work!")
Les continues: "Everything seemed to melt, he wanted to do things, but he did them the wrong way round. Probably had initiative I suppose, but he didn't think things out before he made the move. When he went to the United States he still had the family, he still had the divorce proceedings in New Zealand at that time - you don't get out of things that easily, by just exporting yourself!"

"Next thing I knew he had taken a job with Hellaby's, plucking chickens – he hated it. We lived at Lorne St., behind the Majestic, Dad would come home at nights and complain how much he hated it."

…….

The family was broken up again. Norm was with his mother (Lily.)
Olive was with her grandparents James and Eleanor Ducker, in New Plymouth.
D'Arcy and Les were in a children's home in Auckland.
Neville was with his mother (Amy Grace.)
The older boys, in their early 20's now, were fending for themselves.

Some time between 1930 and 1931 Frank found himself back on a dairy farm, this time at Waerenga, in the Waikato.

Leslie Ducker's recollection is that Frank had got lucky again and won a second ballot. There seems to be no record now of the circumstances.
The farm at Waerenga was a Crown Leasehold farm, with Right of Purchase.

Les recalls:
"By this time all the family had washed their hands of Dad.
We sheeted most of the unfortunate things that happened to us over the formative years to Dad's pig-headedness. But, mind you, we were influenced by our mother's misery over the years, when he was trying to get a job or find some stability back in New Zealand, and she was sort of dragged around with us kids as an afterthought. So we attributed our misery to Frank Ducker's inability to provide us with a home.

So in 1927 when my mother got her divorce Darcy and I were sent up to Manurewa children's home. We were shoved in there, my mother didn't have any ability to keep us, and Neville stayed with Mother. She went down housekeeping to a place called Otakere in the Bay of Plenty, Whakatane, and she was housekeeping for a farmer there. And funnily enough she took Neville with her – next thing I know Neville was shunted out to a farm, doing farm work for a bachelor. He was a kid of 11, had to learn to cook, generally housekeep for a farmer, and I thought, if my mother couldn't look after him… and he had to do all sorts of things like work in the cowshed… and there was even worse to come. I was 10 and the same thing happened to me.
I ended up down the same place.

My mother shifted back to Auckland for some reason – but she kept D'Arcy with her – we were all pleased about that because nobody wanted anything to hurt D'Arcy."

(An aside from Les:
"D'Arcy was the youngest, and he was a bright kid. She stuck with him until he passed his proficiency, way up in Hokianga where she was housekeeping for another farmer, that's what she did mainly. D'Arcy finished his schooling there. He was a bright kid, and where he learned his trigonometry and all that sort of stuff – he took correspondence courses – he used to carry a piece of chalk around with him when he was working in the cement mill in Portland up here.")

"My mother divorced from Frank Ducker and married Bert Pocock, from Yorkshire. Quite a nice bloke.
D'Arcy went and boarded with them and worked in Portland."

……

Amy Grace Turner born 1890 NZ BDM Online

1890/9689	Turner	Amy Grace	Elizabeth	James Henry



Amy Grace Ducker
(nee Turner)
1890 - 1974

1916 m Frank Ducker

1934 m Albert Henry Pocock (NZ BDM Online)

Albert Henry Pocock d.1919 (NZ BDM Online)

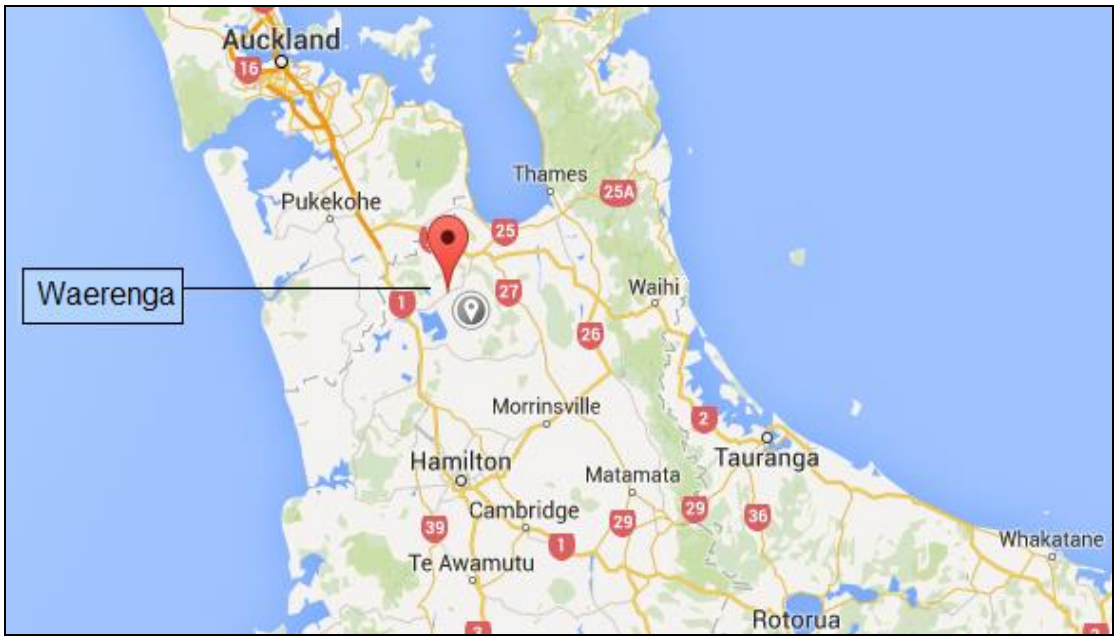
Later Amy Grace married ARCHER

Amy Grace Archer d.1974 (NZ BDM Online)

(Image from the collection of her son Leslie Ducker)

Amy Grace Turner was the grand daughter of James and Mary Turner who had emigrated from Yorkshire on the "Annie Wilson" to the Albertland settlement on the Kaipara Harbour

The 1930's. Dairy farming in the Waikato.
Frank, now single again, at times with remnants of his family, had moved to a leasehold dairy farm of 115 acres, located at Waerenga.
Waerenga is a district in the Waikato, a little east of today's "Hampdon Downs", south of the Maramarua river.



New Zealand Herald, Volume LXVIII, Issue 20944, 6 August 1931

During a severe thunderstorm in the Waerenga Valley, near Te Kauwhata, the other night, lightning struck a splendid macrocarpa tree on the farm of Mr. F. Ducker, and split it from top to bottom. A young Jersey cow which was sheltering underneath the tree was killed by the flash. Mr. Ducker saw a lurid flame and a blinding flash, and he described the sound as like the explosion of a huge bomb.

The farm at Waerenga was fairly isolated, metals roads in those days and the farm was down the end of a very long muddy driveway.

Les recalls there was a succession of housekeepers.

Page 1 Advertisements Column 6
New Zealand Herald, 19 November 1932

HOUSEKEEPER for father, son; able milk preferred; own mistress.—Frank Ducker, Waerenga

Page 1 Advertisements Column 6
New Zealand Herald, 6 December 1933

MARRIED Couple, with children; wife Housekeeper; man all Farm Work; or Woman and Daughter, able milk, machines. —Frank Ducker, Maramarua.

Page 1 Advertisements Column 6
Auckland Star, 22 September 1934

FARM HANDS.

MARRIED Couple, machine milking, all farm work, wife housekeep, state wages required.—Frank Ducker, Waitanga

X22

Leslie Ducker worked for his father on the farm, for a time, but they did not get on. Frank had a tendency sometimes to lose his temper, and Les described one occasion, which led to him leaving for good. Frank had gone away for a few weeks, for some reason, and just left the boy (Leslie) to manage on his own, which he did. But when Frank arrived back, just as unexpectedly as he had left, Les was milking at the time and at the moment Frank walked into the shed, a bucket of milk was accidentally spilt. Instead of praising the boy for managing the farm while he was away, Frank's first reaction was to "tear a strip" off him for letting the milk get spilt.

That was the last straw for Les, who left shortly after.

This tendency of Frank's, at this time, to fly into uncontrollable rages, later earned for him on at least one occasion, a spell at "Avondale" Hospital.

In 1935 Frank decided to put the farm on the market.

Page 2 Advertisements Column 6
New Zealand Herald, 3 December 1935



115 ACRES.—NICE DAIRY FARM. Going Concern, 4-cow milking plant; concrete separator room, shed and yard; 30 Jersey milking cows and heifers, 10 in-calf heifers, 15 heifer calves, well butter-fat-backed pedigree Jersey bull, 2 farm horses, and implements.

4-ROOMED BUNGALOW, with bathroom, electric light, hot-point and power in shed.

Daily rural mail delivery; Cream lorry daily. Metalled road.

Splendid stream right through centre of farm.

Good metal quarry close to shed.

Rich land, flat to undulating.

A Crown Leasehold, with Right to Purchase. Price, £20 per acre. Government mortgage.

The Farm will easily milk 50 cows if handled by practical farmer.

Ill-health of owner the reason for selling.

£850 CASH.

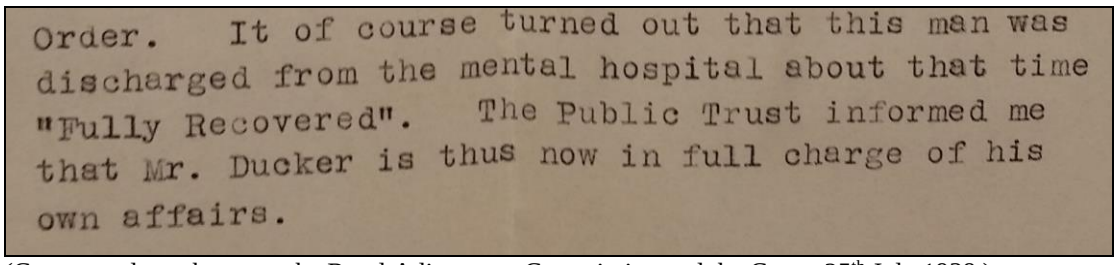
OR EQUITY IN CITY PROPERTY.

NO AGENTS.

FRANK DUCKER,

WAERENGA, R.D.

Evidently it did not sell, and once again Frank was finding himself under stress and immersed in financial difficulties. In 1937 he made an application for an adjustment of his liabilities, the lengthy file of documents relating to this is archived (R24581006) and during this period, when the pressure possibly became too much, Frank was hospitalised. The legal records show that the Public Trustee had been handling his affairs in 1837, until December when he had been discharged as once more mentally sound and capable of handling his own affairs.

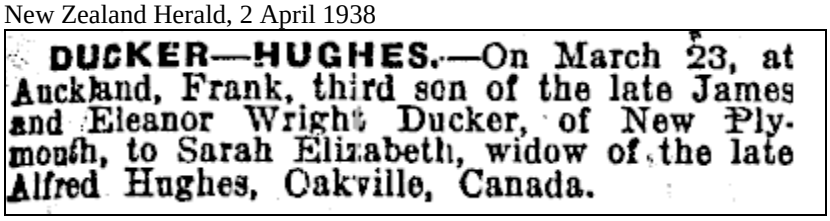


Order. It of course turned out that this man was discharged from the mental hospital about that time "Fully Recovered". The Public Trust informed me that Mr. Ducker is thus now in full charge of his own affairs.

(Correspondence between the Rural Adjustment Commission and the Court, 25th July 1938.)

In March 1938 Frank married Sarah Hughes.

New Zealand Herald, 2 April 1938



DUCKER—HUGHES.—On March 23, at Auckland, Frank, third son of the late James and Eleanor Wright Ducker, of New Plymouth, to Sarah Elizabeth, widow of the late Alfred Hughes, Oakville, Canada.

A few months later the farm at Waerenga was finally sold.

New Zealand Herald, 4 June 1938



LAND Agents.—Please note that Mr. Ducker's Farm, Maramarua, has been sold.—Huntly Land Agency.

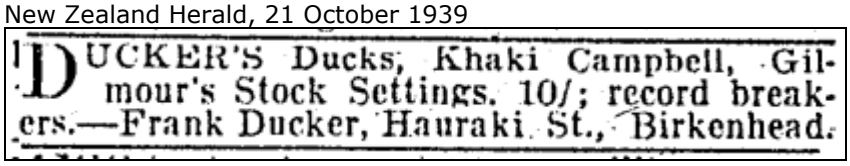
When they were first married Frank and Sarah Ducker lived at 19 Cameron Street, Onehunga, and Frank's occupation was recorded as gardener. (1938 electoral roll.) The newspaper advertisement below tells us that by 1939 they had shifted to Hauraki St. Birkenhead. [54]

Janet Fleming has seen the house**. "**She and Frank lived in a **grand** old villa in Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead built by a man called Hawkins who was a prominent builder in Birkenhead in the early days. The house is still there."

"Ducker's Dux Ducks"

Frank now resumed an occupation he had enjoyed and succeeded at for much of his working life – breeding pedigree poultry.

New Zealand Herald, 21 October 1939



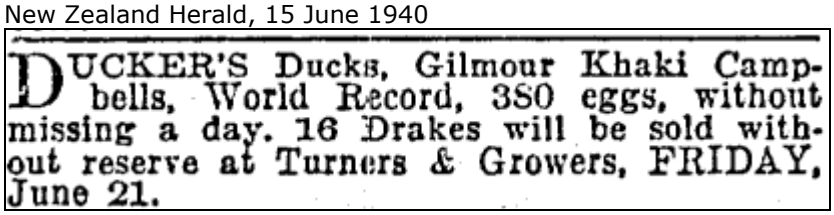
DUCKER'S Ducks, Khaki Campbell, Gilmour's Stock Settings. 10/; record breakers.—Frank Ducker, Hauraki St., Birkenhead.

New Zealand Herald, 13 April 1940



DUCKER'S Dux Ducks, Gilmour, Khaki Campbell Drakes, Ducks; 15/ each; world's record, 380 eggs.—Frank Ducker, 41 Hauraki St., Birkenhead.

New Zealand Herald, 15 June 1940



DUCKER'S Ducks, Gilmour Khaki Campbells, World Record, 380 eggs, without missing a day. 16 Drakes will be sold without reserve at Turners & Growers, FRIDAY, June 21.

We do not know for sure now, but there are indications the next five years may have been a better time for Frank, perhaps at last a happier, more peaceful domestic life.

Sadly, however……

[54] In 1967 Hauraki St. Birkenhead became a continuation of Hinemoa Street.

Sarah Ducker died in 1944

New Zealand Herald, 14 March 1944

DUCKER.—On March 12, 1944, at Green Lane Hospital, Sarah Elizabeth, dearly-beloved wife of Frank Ducker, 30 Carlton Terrace, Birkenhead, and sister of Samuel Charles Smith, Te Kuiti; aged 71 years. Funeral will leave W. H. Tongue and Son's Chapel to-day (Tuesday), at 2.30 p.m., for the Crematorium.

The above obituary tells us that before she died, Frank and Sarah had shifted once more, and were now living at nearby 30 Carlton Terrace (today known as Le Roy Terrace.)

New Zealand Herald, 16 DEC 1944

BEQUEST TO HOME

The bulk of the estate of Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Ducker, of Birkenhead, whose death occurred on March 12, has been bequeathed to the Knox Home for Incurables at Tamaki on the termination of a life interest. The estate has been valued for probate purposes at under £500.

This newspaper clipping above does not reveal the name of the "life interest."
It was Frank.

The probate for Sarah Ducker shows that apart from household items and jewellery (which were to be left to a niece called Amey Irene Donoghue) all her property was to be held in trust, no item to be sold without the permission of her husband, that the income from the earnings of the trust-held assets were to be paid to her husband during his lifetime – and that the trustees "permit my husband to use, occupy and enjoy any dwelling house owned and occupied at the time of my death by my said husband and myself for such time as he shall desire."

After his death all property would <u>then</u> become the property of the
Knox Home for Incurables.

6. I DIRECT my trustees to pay the income arising from my trust fund: to my said husband during his life and after his death to stand possessed of the same for the Knox Home for Incurables at Tamaki absolutely.

7. I AUTHORISE my trustees to permit my husband to use occupy and enjoy any dwelling house owned and occupied at the time of my death by my said husband and myself for such time as he shall desire.

Extract from: DUCKER Sarah Elizabeth - Birkenhead – Wife of Frank NZ Archives (R9363942)

So far little has been discovered on the earlier life of Sarah Hughes.

The two news clippings and her probate tell us that:

She died on March 12 1944 at Greenlane Hospital, Auckland.
She was aged 71 *(therefore date of birth around 1873)*
She was the sister of **Samuel Charles Smith** of Te Kuiti *(therefore maiden name Smith)*
She married **Frank Ducker** on March 23 1938
She had been previously married to **Alfred Hughes** of Oakville Canada (deceased)
She had, in 1944, a niece: **Amey Irene Donoghue** of Richard St., Titahi Bay, Wellington
Her estate was valued at under £500 for probate purposes.



A "tree" on the wiki site Ancestry.com suggests she was born Sarah Elizabeth Smith; her parents were Thomas Smith (stevedore) (1848-1924) Yorkshire and Emma (nee Chapman) (1846-1923) of Yorkshire. Details show that this Sarah Elizabeth Smith had a brother called Samuel Charles Smith, who had a daughter called Amey Irene Smith.

Sarah Elizabeth Smith photo from Ancestry.com family tree owned by "Ngawaro21"

From electoral rolls, we can infer that for at least five years after Sarah died, **Frank continued living at 30 Carlton Terrace, Birkenhead**, presumably in the house which Sarah had left to him to use for as long as he wished.

(Although in the Ponsonby electoral district, Carlton Terrace was in Birkenhead. It was a small cul-de-**sac** off today's Hinemoana St. In 1937 it was described as "10 chains long, with 17 residences." It was renamed Le Roy Terrace in February 1967.



Frank continued living at Birkenhead.

He had taken up playing bowls.

Frank in the white hat, on the right.

(From the collection of Joan Morrison)

Auckland Star, 4 November 1944 BOWLS

Craig (Carlton), F. Ducker (Waitemata),
H. M. Dykes (Seatoun). M. R. Buchan.

Auckland Star, 10 January 1945 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

One-liners—R. P. Haw
F. Ducker (Waitemata) 16,

Auckland Star 23 October 1945 Bowls at Birkenhead

Birkenhead.—Tournament for teams of three: A. Woodhams, K. Matthews and J. Martin, A. Revell, F. Ducker and C. Bridge, S. Jones, P. Darcy Irvine and V. Keightley tied and will divide the trophies.

Frank married Annie Kathleen Turner on 26th March 1945
(Sighting recorded by Linda Smith.)



(Photo above from the collection of Leslie Ducker)

Annie Kathleen







The three photographs above are of Annie Kathleen Turner, and are from the collection of Pam Jordan, who was the partner of the late Lacey Turner, Annie Kathleen Turner's son.

Mystery Woman

The photograph above is of Frank Ducker around 1950.
There is now no one in the Ducker family able to identify the woman in the photo, though it is assumed she is Annie Kathleen Turner. I believe it probably is.
Linda Smith, who is Annie Kathleen's grand daughter, is doubtful.

The **1946** electoral roll records Annie Kathleen Ducker (married) and Frank Ducker (retired) together at the address: 30 Carlton Terrace.

Annie Kathleen Ducker (married) appears again in **1949** still at 30 Carlton Tce.
but Frank now appears on the Roskill electoral roll as a pensioner at a veterans' home.



Leslie Ducker, who was now a crane driver on the wharf at the Port of Auckland had not seen his father, Frank, for some years.

He recalls that, to his surprise, he saw Frank in the 1950's employed "working" on the wharf.

In 1952 Frank was 80.

Frank's Waterside Union membership card, still in Leslie Ducker's possession.

Frank and Annie divorced in 1951

Archway Archives NZ

Ducker, Annie Kathleen v Ducker, Frank	1950	1951	High Court Auckland, Dept. of Justice

In 1950 – 1951 Frank and Annie went through divorce proceedings, which became absolute in 1952.

Carlton ter, Birkenhead, N5
Left from Hauraki rd
2 Stott Alex R, btchr
4 Brodie Jas K
6 Gordon Patk J, engr
8 Donahoe Les, [illegible] ppr
12 Taylor Albt T
14 Roberts E G, strc
16 Pospisil B, jrnlst
18 Tupp Roy L, P & T emp
22 Dean Edwd J, lbr
26 Messenger Albt C, engr
26a Lees Frdk, comp
28 Ducker Mrs Annie
30 Lunn H, cbtmkr

1950 – 1951
1953 – 1954
Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory

In the early 1950's Mrs. Annie Ducker was recorded here as now residing at 28 Carlton Terrace.

Perhaps when Annie and Frank parted she moved next door.



Annie Kathleen Bailey

Birth 05 Aug 1895 in Warwick, Queensland, Australia
Death 10 December 1988 in Ipswich, Queensland, Australia
From the Turner Family Tree on Ancestry.com
Owned by Pam Jordan, partner of Annie's youngest son Lacey Turner (now deceased.)

Annie was born Annie Kathleen Bailey, in Queensland.
(Father: William John Bailey. Mother: Hannah Lacey)
She married Charles Henry Turner on 3rd October 1918 and they had three children. (Stella, Randle and Lacey.)

Annie Kathleen Turner was a widow when she married Frank in 1945.
After the divorce from Frank she went back to Australia and married again, to Stanley George Gould.

She was buried in 1988 in Australia as Annie Kathleen Gould.

age	Year	FRANK DUCKER TIMELINE	Location
0	1872	**Frank was born in Westwoodside, Haxey**	England
8	1880	Emigrated to New Zealand with parents	New Plymouth
17	1889	First recorded performance as entertainer	New Plymouth
24	1896	electoral roll (occupation recorded as carrier)	New Plymouth Frankley Rd
24	1896	electoral roll (occupation recorded as beamsman)	Auckland Panmure
26	1898	**Frank married Lily Antigone Eyes**	New Plymouth
27	1899	Performance at Avondale, West Auckland	Auckland
27	1899	Bradley Ward Ducker born in Avondale, Auckland	
28	1900	Performance at Avondale, West Auckland	Auckland
28	1900	electoral roll (occupation recorded as currier)	Auckland Avondale
29	1901	Olive Louis Ducker born in New Plymouth	New Plymouth
30	1902	Manager Eltham Poultry Business	New Plymouth
30	1902	Performs in Opera Gondoliers	New Plymouth
31	1903	Ronald Dudley Ducker born in Eltham	
31	1903	Move to Ohiwa	Ohiwa
33	1905	electoral roll (occupation recorded as labourer)	Opotiki
33	1905	Cecil James Ducker born in Opotiki	
34	1906	Leo Alfred Ducker born in Ohiwa	Ohiwa
37	1909	Clarence Edward Ducker born in Opotiki	
39	1911	electoral roll (Occupation recorded as postmaster)	Ohiwa
40	1912	Move to Uretara (Ducker's) Island	Ohiwa
40	1912	Eric Norman Ducker born in Opotiki?	
40	1912	Financial difficulties	Ohiwa
41	1913	Bankruptcy	Ohiwa
42	1914	electoral roll (occupation recorded as postmaster)	Ohiwa
43	1915	**Departure of Lily and Divorce**	Ohiwa
44	1916	**Frank married Amy Grace Turner (26)**	Ohiwa
44	1916	New Zealand Army Service WW1	Featherston
44	1916	Neville Frank Ducker born in Greytown	
45	1917	Leslie Herbert Ducker born in Greytown	Europe
46	1918	Return from WW1	Ohiwa
47	1919	electoral roll (occupation still recorded as postmaster)	Ohiwa
47	1919	New farm at Woodlands, Opotiki	Opotiki
47	1919	D'Arcy Clive Melville Ducker born in Opotiki	
53	1925	Farming in Fiji	Fiji
55	1927	Fiji farm up for sale	Fiji
58	1930	**Divorce by Amy Grace Turner**	
60	1932	Dairy farm at Waeranga	Waikato
63	1935	electoral roll occupation dairy farmer	Waikato
66	1938	Waerenga farm up for sale	Waikato
66	1938	**Frank married Sarah Elizabeth Hughes**	Auckland
66	1938	Electoral roll. Frank and Sarah Elizabeth Ducker	Auckland 19 Cameron St. Onehunga
68	1940	Birkenhead. Breeding poultry.	Auckland 44 Hauraki St Birkenhead
72	1944	**Death of Sarah Elizabeth**	Auckland 30 Carlton Tce Birkenhead
73	1945	**Frank Married Annie Kathleen Turner**	
74	1946	electoral roll Frank and Annie Kathleen Ducker	Auckland 30 Carlton Tce Birkenhead
77	1949	electoral roll Annie Kathleen Ducker	Auckland 30 Carlton Tce Birkenhead
77	1949	electoral roll Frank Ducker pensioner	Auckland veterans' home Roskill
79	1951	Wise PO directory Mrs. Annie Ducker	Auckland 28 Carlton Tce Birkenhead
80	1952	**Divorce of Amy Kathleen Turner**	
82	1954	electoral roll Frank Ducker pensioner	Auckland Richmond Rd. Ponsonby
85	1957	electoral roll Frank Ducker retired	Auckland Richmond Rd. Ponsonby
87	1960	**Frank died**	Auckland

The Children of Frank and Lily (nee Eyes)

1899/1102	Ducker	Bradley Ward	Lily Antigove	Frank	23/07/1899 - 24/09/1981
1901/7294	Ducker	Olive Lois	Lily Antigone	Frank	10/04/2001 - 22/05/1994
1903/10766	Ducker	Ronald Dudley	Lily Antigone	Frank	28/01/1903 - 03/06/1982
1905/8167	Ducker	Cecil James	Lily Antigone	Frank	04/01/1905 - 12/03/1923
1906/13397	Ducker	Leo Alfred	Lily Antigone	Frank	24/06/1906 - 05/07/2000
1909/23774	Ducker	Clarence Edward	Lily Antiogne	Frank	26/08/1909 - 01/06/2009
1912/5625	Ducker	Eric Norman	Lily Antigone	Frank	03/04/1912 - 2008
NZ BDM Online					Leslie Ducker's records

The Children of Frank and Amy Grace (nee Turner)

1913 Douglas Norman Turner, known as Douglas Ducker[55] d. 1969
April 3 1916 birth of Neville Frank Ducker d. 07/04/2007
May 29 1917 birth of Leslie Herbert Ducker
February 18 1919 birth of D'Arcy Clive Melville Ducker k/a 12/12/1942
(Leslie Ducker's records)

(Flying Officer D'Arcy Clive Melville Ducker was killed in action in France in 1942 at the age of 23 while serving in the RNZAF.)



(From the collection of Ron Henderson)

From left to right:
Clarry, Leo, Bradley, Norman, Ron, Ray Broadbent (half brother)[56], and Olive

[55] Birth registration: Douglas Norman Turner. (NZ BDM 1913/17371)
Death registration: Douglas Norman Ducker. (NZ BDM 1969/38802)
Amy Grace's son, Douglas Norman appears on Frank's army records as "stepson".

[56] Frank's first wife Lily had re-married to Thomas Broadbent in 1919 (NZ BDM 1919/552)
Ray Broadbent's wife Peg said, in 2016, that it was she who took the photograph.

In **1954** and **1957** Frank Ducker (pensioner) appeared on the electoral roll living on his own at 227 Richmond Rd. Ponsonby.

Frank Ducker died in 1960 age 87

NZ BDM Online	1960/25986	Ducker	Frank	87Y



Frank Ducker (Photograph from the collection of Joan Morrison)

"The Ducker Bros." Alfred and James Ducker

Alfred and James (Jnr) were born in Haxey:
Alfred on December 26 1873, baptised on January 28 1874
James on October 18 1875 and baptised December 29 1875
(Combined Isle of Axholme Methodist Baptisms 1/10/2002 Axholme FHS)

Arriving in New Zealand at the ages of 6 and 4, Alfred and James jnr. grew up on the Farm at Frankley Rd, and like Frank they developed developed a musical talent. Throughout their lives they appeared as performers at various community events, often referred to in newspaper items as the "Ducker Bros."

The first such event on record is in 1891 at the grand opening of the Westown Hall. Alfred would have been about 18 and James about 16:
"…..song, Mr. A. Ducker;" and "1st and 2nd violins, Ducker Bros……"

Taranaki Herald 24 April 1891

instrumental quartette, "Youthful Hearts Polka" (1st and 2nd violins, Ducker Bros , cornet, Mr H. Arden, and piano, Mr Woodhead);
song, Mr A. Ducker;
instrumental quartette, "Carrie Waltz" (1st and 2nd violins, Ducker Bros., cornet, Mr H. Arden, and piano, Mr Woodhead);

Taranaki Herald 25 May 1895

VOLUNTEER SOCIAL.

There was a large attendance at the Volunteer social held in the Drill Hall on Friday night. There were ninety couples present. Messrs Andrews and Ducker Bros. supplied the music. During the

Taranaki Herald 20 October 1896

CARNIVAL IN THE ALEXANDRA HALL.

The music for the exercises was contributed by an orchestra consisting of Messrs J. C. Morey (piano), J. Ducker (violin), A. Ducker (clarionet), and J. Donovan (cornet).

Taranaki Herald 16 September 1897

STAR FOOTBALL CLUB SOCIAL.

Dancing was kept up with unabated vigor till early morning to the excellent music supplied by a capable orchestra comprising Mr H. Cottier (cornet), D. McKinnon Bain (piano), T. Hughes (basso), A. Ducker (violin), and — Ducker (clarionet). A first-class supper was

Anniversary

Taranaki Herald 4 July 1898

following orchestra assisted in the service: — Violins, Messrs Ducker, A. MacDiarmid, and Jenkinson ; 'cello, Mr C. MacDiarmid ; cornet, Mr H. Cottier ; clarionet, Mr Ducker ; flute, Mr Tunbridge ; bass, Mr J. Sturmey.

Town Hall Social, Theatre Royal

Taranaki Herald 31 August 1898

the music in particular being a noteworthy feature. The orchestra included Messrs G. Garry (organ), D. McKinnon Bain (piano), Ducker and J. Garry (violins), Sturmey ('cello), Ducker (clarionet), and Tunbridge (piccolo).

St John Ambuance Assciation

Taranaki Herald 13 December 1898

an orchestral selection was played by Miss Cottier (piano), Messrs H. Cottier (cornet), R. Cottier (violin), and Ducker (clarionet), and Miss Skinner,

Miss Halse's Complimentary Concert

Taranaki Herald 7 December 1898

Mr and Mrs Cooke, Messrs H. W., S., and R. Cottier, N. Okey, and J. Ducker are contributing two orchestral numbers,

Hospital Ball

Taranaki Herald 28 April 1899

and Ducker (clarionet)

Bowlers' Special

Taranaki Herald 16 June 1899

and Mr Ducker (violin),

PUBLIC HALL AT OAKURA.

Taranaki Herald, 24 April 1896

Dancing was then begun with the Grand March quadrille, and for the next three or four hours dance followed dance in quick succession to music supplied by Miss Gill, Messrs A. H. Good, W. Putt, H. Harrison, and the Ducker Bros. (2).

From as early as 1896 there were also occasions when the Ducker Brothers accompanied another young performer, 20-year-old Miss **Mary Gill**

OMATA.

Taranaki Herald, 13 April 1897

Miss Gill and the brothers Ducker gave a couple of charming instrumental trios, and the limited time at command was the only reason why they were not called back. Every item from start to finish was clear, crisp, and refreshing.

PLAIN AND FANCY DRESS BALL AT OAKURA.

Taranaki Herald, 15 May 1897

excellent music supplied by Miss Gill, Miss A. Bayley, Mr Good, and the Messrs A. and J. Ducker, who took their different turns at playing when required.

MARRIAGE.

Taranaki Herald, 9 January 1900



DUCKER—GILL.—On December 19, at New Plymouth, by the Rev. S. J. Ferpel, JAMES, fourth son of James Ducker, of Bradford, Lincolnshire, England, to MARY F. L., only daughter of the late Carlin Gill, of Wren Hall, Pelston, Nottingham, England.



James Ducker jnr and Mary Frances Louisa Gill were married on December 19th 1899. Mary Gill was the daughter of Carlin Gill, a photographer, who had emigrated from Selston, Nottinghamshire in the 1860's – and married Julia (nee Nicholls) in 1867.

Margaret Cardiff extracted the following from Barbara Williams' notes written 2011:

….James was newly married and brought with him his beautiful 18 year old bride. There was no road past the top of Warea and Newall present roads junction….

… Maori track through virgin bush. To get heavy machinery to Mill site, the track had to be widened, but before that—the new bride's piano was carried by hand through the bush to the slab hut that was her new home….

….Mary Gill had been educated at a private school for young ladies[57], and later sent to Gt.Britain to an Aunt and attended a 'finishing school'…..

…. She was an accomplished musician so her piano was very important to her. She also played stringed instruments and with her husband and brother-in-law and one other formed a string quartet and performed around the Coast for many years…"

[57] In fact she went to New Plymouth Central School (Taranaki Herald, 23 December 1886) and then to New Plymouth Convent School (Taranaki Herald, 17 December 1890 and 17 December 1891.)
She was later an Assistant Mistress at a private school for young ladies (Taranaki Herald, 2 May 1894)

Purchase of land at Newall Road

As already discussed in a previous section (around page 50) backed by their father James, the Ducker brothers came in possession of sections 8, 9 and 10 on Newall Road in 1894 which they made freehold in 1900.
The plan was to clear the land, mill the timber on it, and create a farm.

In 1896 the brothers took up another large section, 353 acres near Stony River.

> The following is the list of successful tenderers for land recently offered :—
>
> | Section. | Block. | Area. |
> |---|---|---|
> | 3 | 11, Taihaere, Stony River
A. and J. Ducker. | 353 0 0 |

Hawera & Normanby Star, 18 August 1896

This is section 3 on the map below, northern boundary Puniho Rd.

The year before, Walter Rumball had commenced clearing the bush from his section (Section 12 on the opposite side of Newall Rd from the Ducker brothers) and in 1899 a deal was done in which Walter transferred to the Ducker brothers the timber rights on his section.

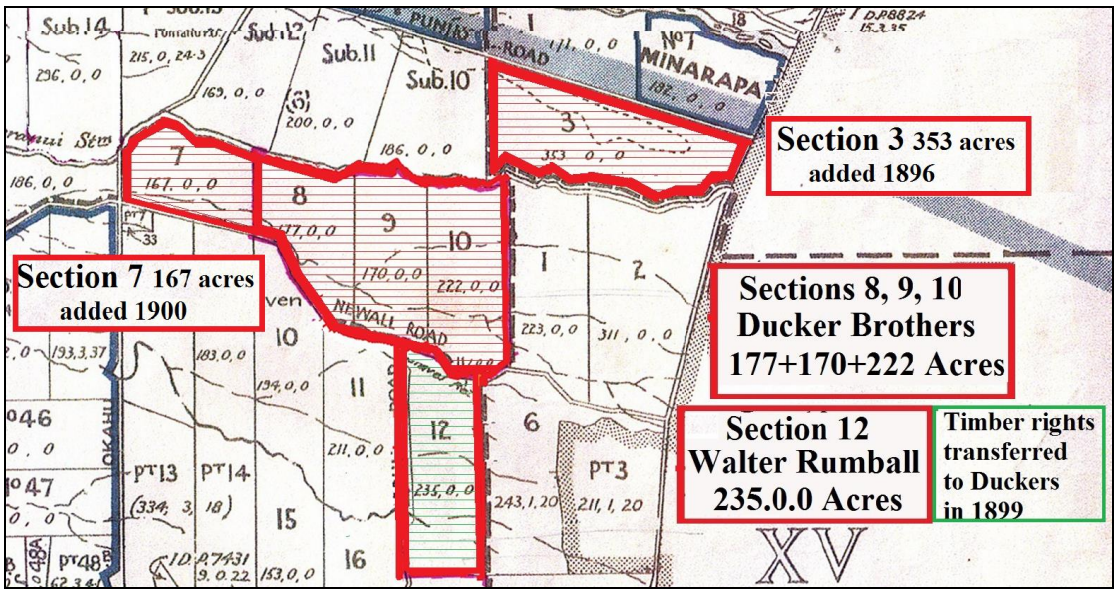
In 1900 James and Alfred added another section to their holdings, on the basis of a seven year lease.

> A seven years lease of sec 7, block 14, Cape, was granted to Mr J. Ducker.

Taranaki Herald, 26 July 1900

The map first shown on or around page 50 is part reproduced again here, so that we can now see the total area of forest which we know the Ducker Bros. had access to, for their timber mill and farm in 1900, including the timber on Walter Rumball's land.

They may well have milled more. It is said that when they sold up in 1920 their total farmland holdings were about 1100 acres (450 hectares). It is possible this may have included sections 1 and 2, all the way to the "bush line", the boundary of the unsurveyed area (XV) which forms the steeply rising side of the mountain.



Walter Rumball's land.

In 1901 Walter had cleared his section 12 (235 acres) opposite the Duckers on Newall Rd. He sold it to a neighbour and started again with a new section, described in a later chapter.

1900 Duckers' Sawmill and water turbine

"..... with the financial help of their father, the Ducker boys, James junior and Alfred, set up a sawmill to cut the local timber. The mill was powered by a water turbine, fed from the river by digging a 200 yard tunnel through a bend in the river.
The story of the tunnel and mill are told in the old woolshed-cum-museum at the Hikurangi Gardens on Upper Newall Rd."

(Bradley Walter)

Taranaki Herald, 5 May 1900

Mr Ducker is starting a sawmill on the Newall Road.

The electoral roll (1900) shows at that time James and Alfred, machinists, living at Frankley Rd with parents James and Eleanor.
(Most likely their occupations were machine operators at the Sash and Door Company where their father was foreman joiner.)

Electoral roll registrations were also often a little out of date.)

1187	Drury, William, Molesworth Street, carter, residential
1188	Ducker, Alfred, Frankley Road, machinist, residential
1189	Ducker, Eleanor Wright, Frankley Road, domestic duties, residential
1190	Ducker, Ernest, Frankley Road, cooper, residential
1191	Ducker, James, Frankley Road, joiner, residential
1192	Ducker, James, junior, Frankley Road, machinist, residential
1193	Dudley, Edward John, Opunake, contractor, residential

James (jnr) and Alfred appear again in the electoral roll for 1905 as machinists, but this time their address is Newall Rd Warea which was a newly opened up, forested area south of New Plymouth. Here James snr. and his two youngest sons, the Ducker Brothers, had purchase land rights and established a sawmill.

Bradley Walter wrote:

*"The Ducker sons **James and Alfred** bought bush blocks on the Newall Road.....*

....They cleared the virgin bush to create pasture land for dairying, and built a saw-mill, powered by water from a dam and tunnel dug by Alfred and helpers in 1900-1901. It was 200 yards long, to a chamber 20 feet by 20 feet, which housed the water-wheel."

The remains of the lake, dam and tunnel still exist near to the large homestead which was built in 1904 by James Ducker (probably by both James Senior and James Junior.)

The homestead was the residence of James Ducker jnr. and his family. After it was sold there were 34 years of other ownership before Barbara and Bill Williams bought it. Barbara and Bill developed the site, enlarged the building and moved the woolshed from near the lake to its present site.

About ten years after her husband died in 1976 Barbara enlarged the garden to 7 acres and developed the beautiful Hikurangi Gardens which became a tourist venue, along with the woolshed which she turned into a museum. (From notes by Margaret Cardiff 2015)

Along with the many interesting artefacts associated with the wool industry, the museum holds memorabilia relating to the Ducker Brothers, and Duckers' Mill. These include paintings of the tramway shown on the following pages. These paintings were made from photographs. No photo of the mill itself has been found.

The property is now once more a private residence. The Woolshed Museum, which was moved to its present location in the 1950's, is still a venue for local events.

DUCKER'S MILL
1901 – 1928

The sale of the property in its virgin state was made to Mr. James Ducker Esquire in 1900. His two sons James Junior and Alfred took up residence and proceeded to open up a timber mill. Their aim to fall and process the large timber of the area, and eventually farm the land. Because of the high rainfall (over 100 inches) and the numerous swamps and water courses in the vicinity, their problems must have been immeasurable.

The only access to the property was from Warea. The road ended at the top of the present Warea Road. From there a bush track of 5km lead to the proposed mill. A road had to be formed with cordyroyd logs to make it possible to transport mill and logging equipment, household goods and stock to the site. Only means of transport was by bullock wagons, drays and sledges. Bush had to be felled for homes to be built and the mill constructed.

The tunnel you can see in the garden was dug by Mr. Alfred Ducker and a helper. They took 18 months to complete the task with the men using a pick, shovel and wheelbarrow. PLEASE REFLECT ON THIS ACHIEVEMENT. The tunnel 600ft long – the land covered in dense bush – the stony ground and the large hole 20ft long, 20ft wide and 20ft deep, at the end with a 30ft outlet tunnel to the river. This enormous task was completed with absolute accuracy.

The river was dammed by a log dam down river from the tunnel to the large hole that housed a water wheel. This powered the mill. A turbine was installed in a water race at the head of the lake. The race as seen now diverts water into the present lake. Electrical power was produced to light the homes, Woolshed and Mill. At this early date it must have been one of the first in Taranaki to have this luxury. Tramways and small viaducts had to be constructed radiating far into the bush to transport the logs to the mill.

Many coastal homes and Public Buildings including Hampton Hall at Okato were built from timber from Ducker's Mill. Much of Parihaka Marae was built with Ducker's timber, a barter system operating between the Duckers and the Maori people.

The homestead in the present garden was built by 1904 as well as accommodation for 20 staff. The woolshed by 1906. In 1920 the Duckers sold the mill to Mr. Christofell who operated it until 1928, when it was destroyed by fire.

This remarkable achievement by one family should not be forgotten.

From written material on display at the Woolshed Museum, Newall Rd.



From an aerial photograph which is on display at the Woolshed Museum.

The Ducker homestead on Newall Rd., Warea, with Mt Taranaki in the background.
(In the days of the Ducker Bros. Mt. Taranaki was called Mt. Egmont.)
Behind (to the right of) the homestead are the remains of the lake.
On the far right the red-coloured building is the Woolshed Museum itself.



Photo Clive Kenyon 2013

The remains of the mouth of the 200 yard tunnel as it is today.







Large illustrations of the saw mill and tramways on display at the woolshed museum.

These paintings were evidently made from photographs.

These illustrations on display at the woolshed museum were assumed to depict the Duckers sawmill. However Kelvin Day (Manager, Puke Ariki) who grew up in this area, is sure they are depictions of another sawmill in Warea.



This Google sattelite image shows the Ducker homestead on Newall Rd.
This is the building nearest to the road, with a grey roof.

Observe, a little further up the road, the red building. This is the woolshed museum.

Between the homestead and the woolshed can be seen the remnants of the lake.
It is in this vicinity that the dam, tunnel and turbine were built.

.....

Taranaki Herald, 6 July 1900

The Guards' Ball

PROBABLY the largest, and certainly one of the most successful public balls ever held in New Plymouth took place on Thursday night, when the Taranaki Guards held their first annual ball. The spacious Drill Hall was gaily decorated for the occasion with flags of all sorts and sizes, seemingly numberless, and in order to increase the accommodation two large

The floor was in good order for dancing, and Mr McKinnon Bain's orchestra, comprising Mr Bain (piano), Mr Haigh (violin), Mr Donovan (cornet), Mr J. Ducker (clarionet), and Master C. Pearce (triangle), provided excellent music, extras being played by Mrs P. Webster, Misses Kirkby, M. Humphries, and Hursthouse.

Taranaki Herald, 8 November 1902

A treat is in store for those that love first-class music Ducker's orchestra providing three selections.

Taranaki Herald, 24 January 1903

The Messrs Ducker, assisted by Miss M. Frances, had control of the musical arrangements, and the music was much appreciated.

Wedding. Alfred Ducker best man.

Taranaki Herald, 24 January 1903

A very pretty, quiet wedding took place on Wednesday, 22nd January, when Mr William Jackson Robinson, who is about to conduct Mr Gibbon's Pungarehu store, led to the altar Miss Elwin, of Warea. The bride was at

tended by three of her nieces – Miss Doris May Clothier, Miss Gladys Jeken Clothier, and Miss Miriam Ida Ballard. Mr Robinson was attended by Mr Alfred Ducker, of Newall Road. The wedding took place at the Okato Church at 11 a.m, and the Rev. F. W. Young officiated.

James Ducker makes a trip "Home" to the UK

In 1903 James Ducker travelled to the UK on SS Himalaya (NZ Herald, 14 July 1903)

PERSONAL NOTES FROM LONDON.
New Zealand Herald, 4 August 1903

Mr. James Ducker and Mr. F. L. Gill (Okato) have arrived in England, and intend staying for at least three months. Just now they are visiting the Park Royal Agricultural Show; subsequently they will in all probability go to Scotland as well as to Paris.

PERSONAL NOTES FROM LONDON.
Press, 5 August 1903

Latest callers at the New Zealand Agency-General have included the following:— Mr and Mrs W. J. H. Haszard, Waihi; Mr and Mrs C. Pugh, Christchurch; Mr G. J. Carpenter, Canterbury; Mr F. L. Gill, Okato; Mr James Ducker, Warea;

COUNTRY NEWS.Taranaki Herald, 2 January 1904

Mr Frank Gill returned from the Old Country, arriving home on Tuesday last; also Mr Ducker, of Warea, who returned a few days earlier. A reception will be held in the Okato school on Tuesday evening next in honour of the occasion, when I hope to see a full school.

The Frank Gill referred to here is James jnr.'s neighbour and brother-in-law.

The "James Ducker" who made the trip back to England is James Ducker jnr., not James snr. as I had first thought.

To clarify, here is a fragment of a letter written by James jnr.'s brother-in-law Walter Rumball in 1903 to his sister Florence in England, referring to the trip, and to James jnr. "the best of the boys…"

I am glad to hear that Jim Ducker has been to see you. I believe he is expected back here about October. The next time I hear from you I expect he will have been to see you again and I shall get a few more particulars as to what you all thought of him. I think he is the best of the boys and I am sure you would like him. He will have had a very interesting trip. I know London would open his eyes a bit, as he had never seen any town bigger than Auckland before. He will have different ideas about the world than he had when he went away. Most of the young colonials think their own little township to be the hub of the universe, and when they do happen to see a little of the world it does them a lot of good.

(From the collection of "Letters from Puniho" see Appendix.)

COUNTRY NEWS.
Taranaki Herald, 25 January 1904

The music for the dancing was provided by Mrs J. Ducker, with Messrs J. and A. Ducker, and was, as usual, most inspiriting.

COUNTRY NEWS.
Taranaki Herald, 8 August 1904

The Ducker family as usual provided their excellent music for the dance.

WAREA.
Taranaki Herald, 29 August 1904

J. and Mr A. Ducker supplied most of the music for the dances.

WAREA.
Taranaki Herald, 26 September 1904

During the evening instrumental music was given by Mr A. Ducker and Miss Francis,

James Ducker patents an improved releasable snatch block

PATENTS.

Wanganui Herald, 13 October 1904

James Ducker, jun., Taranaki, an improved releasable snatch block; Chance Bros., Eng-

THE EXHIBITS.

Taranaki Daily News, 30 December 1904

McGowan's hoist and the Ducker patent snatch block are also to be seen.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Taranaki Herald, 8 May 1905

The beautiful music of the Ducker family, though luckily so often heard, never tires, and was if anything heard to greater advantage in the crowded room.

OKATO.

Taranaki Herald, 14 August 1905

The Okato Social Club's social and dance next Friday, 18th August, will be a genuine musical treat. The programme is a varied one, consisting of selections by the Puniho Brass Band, string band of 6 instruments and Ducker's orchestra, also songs from well-known and popular vocalists. The comic songs, and pillow and bladder fight on boom are bound to create a good deal of laughter, whilst those who appreciate a good step will be sure to be pleased. The dance will be a special feature, the music will be of a class in itself and well worth hearing.

Okato.

Taranaki Herald, 27 October 1905

The music supplied by the Ducker family was all that could be desired.

OKATO

Taranaki Daily News, 17 March 1906

Mr Rookes (violin). Complimentary music was rendered by Ducker's Orchestra, Miss Honan, Miss M. Daly, and Mr N. Andrews.

TARANAKI COUNTY COUNCIL.

Taranaki Daily News, 8 May 1906

E. Moore, foreman of southern boundary of Omata Riding, reported that he had been engaged during the month at general repairing. As soon as the weather cleared he would attend to Okato sidewalk. Mr Ducker, proprietor of Warea saw-mills, was putting over-weight loads on the bridge over the Stony river. Bridges were in fair order, but needed repair. The road from Puniho road to Oakura dairy was in fair repair, except in places, where a continuation of the work would be necessary. A shortage of broken metal from Stony river to Puniho road was reported.

Taranaki Daily News, 10 May 1906

The voting for five members of the Parihaka Road Board on Monday resulted as follows:—C. Sorrenson 190, J. Young 141, M. Deegan 132, W. Revell 129, J. C. O'Rorke 115, W. R. Wright 114, T. Harvey 112, J. Lawn 112, J. Ducker 101.

WAREA.

Taranaki Herald, 3 August 1906

chair. The first item was a musical selection from "La Favorita" by the Ducker family. Mrs F. Binnie sung ed a duet by the Misses Cassie, accompanied by Mrs Ducker (piano), Mr J. Ducker, clarionette, and Mr D. Ducker, violin. Mr Jones then spoke on behalf of the Pungarehu people. The Ducker family gave an instrumental piece. Miss Blake sang "The

WAREA.

Taranaki Daily News, 3 August 1906

The first item was an instrumental selection by the Duckers—Mrs J. Ducker (piano), Mr J. Ducker (clarionette), Mr A. Ducker (violin)— from "La Favourita." There is no need to emphasise the excellence of their execution.

WAREA.

Taranaki Herald, 14 September 1906

The concert opened with a musical item by the Ducker family; and songs were sung by Miss Cassie, Mr W. Larking, and Miss J. Cassie. Mr D. Y. Patterson, who had a very bad cold, was not able to sing.

Country News. WAREA.

Taranaki Herald, 11 August 1906

Messrs Ducker gave an instrumental item,

Taranaki Daily News, 11 September 1906

A concert and dance was held on Sept. 7th in aid of the Warea Hall funds. Musical items were given by the Ducker family, the Misses Cassie and Mr Larking.

PARIHAKA ROAD BOARD.

Taranaki Daily News, 15 September 1906

Expenditure on the Warea and Newall roads will be kept as low as possible, and Messrs Ducker Bros. representing settlers) will be informed that before any further work is doneon these roads the settlers should take steps to levy a special rate on account of the roads being so much overdrawn.

Alfred Ducker has a "nasty accident"

Taranaki Herald, 26 November 1906

Mr A. Ducker met with a nasty accident on Wednesday at the Newal Road Sawmills. Whilst carrying a heavy piece of timber through the river, Mr Ducker slipped, and was staked by a piece of timber in the riverbed. The patient was taken to town immediately, and at latest advices was doing well, and is likely to be out again in a few days.

The much-dreaded blight has appeared amongst the potatoes again.

NEWALL ROAD SCHOOL.

The first class room was a bushman's hut, dragged a mile down the road...

In 2015 Margaret Cardiff wrote, quoting from the writings of the Cassie sisters:

"Cassie's came to live opposite Ducker's in 1905. The "Mother and younger children invited to stay with Duckers in their newly built home" while the father and boys stayed in a whare until their home was built."

and: "*There being three school aged children among them Mr Cassie approached the education board for a school as there was a section allocated for a school in the area. Enlisting the help of his good neighbour Mr Ducker who also had a school aged son, and a whare not in use which they dragged a mile down the road for the 1st school room."*

EDUCATION BOARD. Taranaki Herald, 25 October 1906

NEW SCHOOL WANTED.

Messrs Cassie and Ducker waited on the Board in reference to a school at the junction of Newall and Carrington Roads, where 10 acres had been set aside for a school site.

The newspaper clippings on the following page outline the story of how the settlers provided their own school by making use of a surplus bushman's hut.

Taranaki Daily News, 25 October 1906

EDUCATION BOARD APPROACHED.

Messrs A. Cassie and Ducker waited upon the Education Board with a request that a new school be erected on the Newall road at its junction with the Carrington road. This would serve 26 children, twelve of whom were now of school age. There was a liklihood also of some children attending from the Puniho road, which would be conveniently served by this school. The Warea school was seven miles away, and attendance there necessitated keeping and feeding two horses for each pupil. The chairman of the Warea school committee had informed him that on account of fast-increasing attendance more accommodation and an assistant teacher would soon be required there, but the building of the new school would obviate that, by relieving the school of ten or twelve pupils.

Mr Ducker, in answer to questions, said the settlers were prepared to help themselves, and if the Board could not go to the expense of erecting the school, the settlers would provide a room.

Mr Casey told the Board, in answer to a query, that his daughter might be capable of taking charge of the children. She had been educated at Shannon, at Dunedin, and at the Palmerston North High School, with a view to entering the teaching service. If no other teacher were available, some arrangement could possibly be made with his daughter.

The deputation having thanked the Board and retired, the matter was referred to the inspector for his report.

Subsequently, after the inspector had conferred with the deputation, it was reported to the Board that the settlers were willing to clear two acres of the school site and erect a building 14ft by 12ft, the Board to pay rental until the cost had been reimbursed, when the building would become the property of the Board.

Mr Kennedy said that there was no hurry. It only affected four children who were not now attending school.

Mr Morton: Theres as much hurry for four as for ten. He moved that provided the report of the inspector is favourable, the chairman be empowered to make arrangements with the settlers for them to erect a building on the school site set apart, the building to be rented by the Board, and that when the amount of rent paid shall equal the cost of the building it shall become the property of the Board, and that as soon as the building is ready for use it be furnished and a teacher be appointed.

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.

Taranaki Daily News, 29 November 1906

Mr Spencer could not recommend the erection of a school at Newall Road as there would be only five or six children attending. He thought accommodation would be available in a building belonging to Mr Ducker. Miss Cassie could instruct the children. This teacher had passed the 6th standard and had nearly two years in secondary instruction

As the Education Board was not able to provide a school room at that time, the settlers made their own decision to drag a bushman's hut onto the site.

Referring to the family of James jnr. and Mary Ducker, Bradley Walter wrote:

"Their son **Carlin James** was one of the first pupils at the Newall Road School when it opened in 1907, in a whare sledged down the road from the Ducker mill."

Taranaki Daily News, Volume XLVIII, Issue 81918, 8 February 1907, Page 3

WAREA.

A school has just been established on the Newall road by the settlers themselves. Messrs Ducker Bros. gave the building, which was at one time their whare. It was removed to the school reserve. Messrs Cassey and Alexander built the house, and the rest of the settlers cleared the site and put in a culvert and made a track to the school. A school has been needed there for some time, as the distance to the Warea school (seven miles) is too far for small children to go. The school opened on Monday morning, Miss J. Cassey being in charge.

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The photograph was provided to the Mangorei History Group by Marlene Balsom.

Taken from the cover of "Upper Mangorei" by the Mangorei History Group, this photo depicts burned tree stumps, a bushman's *whare* and the **Hawkes'** bullock team.
A Bullock team such as this would have been used to drag the Duckers' surplus *whare* to its new location, to be used as a school classroom. Note the stark background of newly burned bush, similar to that of the Newall School site at that time (see photo 2 pages on.)
(Also, as it happens, the **Hawke** family is related to the Kenyon family.)

The following two pages were taken from the Kahui-Newall School 75th Jubilee booklet, 1982, and were sourced by Margaret Cardiff:

SCHOOL

In the spring of 1905, Mr. Alex Cassie brought his young family to the Upper Newall Road and it was through his efforts that the Newall School came into being.
At that time Ralph was 17 and Jane 16 and there were three children of school age.
The Duckers who owned the mill across the road had one of school age.
The next school was at Warea about 7 miles away over dirty 'roads' in summer and almost impassable mud in the winter, too far for his children to go to school.
The Wiremu Road had not yet been surveyed.

Let Mrs. Jessie Lancaster (nee Cassie) tell the story from her "Journal for Jane" written for the family:

"You may be right, they do all seem happy," agreed Mother, "but what about school now?"
"Yes, well, I've been thinking about that," replied her husband. "Mr. Ducker tells me there is a section a mile down the road – an education lease. If only we had a school and a teacher; I think I'll go to town tomorrow."

True to his word he set forth next morning, after the milking, driving Tam in the gig, and called on the Secretary of the Education Board. To his great satisfaction he found him quite sympathetic and was told the Board would be able to supply equipment if a temporary building could be put on the site, until the need arose for a permanent school. "But what about a teacher?" asked the Secretary. "We are so short of teachers; can you think of anyone out there who might suit?"

"Well," said Father, scratching his thick matt of white hair. "There's my daughter, Jane" – though we always called her Jean – "a very bright girl. She's had almost two years at secondary school and was to sit Matric. at the end of the year, but decided to come with us to help on the farm."

"That sounds a good idea," said the Secretary, "and we'll pay her at the rate of the school's grade. How many pupils will there be to begin?"

"Only four for a start," said Father, "but a few more have already promised to come if we have a school. Many go to the school down the coast road, which is further away."

"That will be grade 'O'," said the Secretary, "and the salary will be eleven pounds (22 dollars) a quarter."

Without delay Father enlisted the aid of his good neighbour, who also had a boy of the same age, called Carlin – this was an ancestral name.

These two men soon had the 'school' (a *whare* of Mr. Ducker's not in use) erected on the site.

As the promised equipment had not yet arrived by timber wagon, Jean called in her young pupils – with a cow bell! The excited quartet, three Cassies and one Ducker, thus began their education. Laboriously the young hopefuls, seated on packing cases, learned to make 'pot hooks' on new and greasy slates- with slate pencils, all bought by Jean from the country store at the end of their road down at the coast. There was much licking of pencil points but gradually some progress was made and a welcome break was made for 'playtime'. This was the time for tasting the 'sangwidges' as the children called them – another novelty. More lessons, counting this time, lunch with more to eat, some singing, the note given firmly by Jean, a few rules for behaviour, and the school was over almost too soon they thought. Walking home the new pupils decided school was not bad.

Gradually in two's and three's more pupils came and eventually the desks, a globe, a bell, a blackboard, a tuning fork, an easel and chalks, together with a roll book, were sent to help

Jean in her teaching efforts; but the packing cases were not abandoned as they were used for games and for the smaller children to mount their horses.

Jean was a good teacher, in spite of her youth and inexperience, for she was by then a mere sixteen, and she had no chance of any training before she began to teach. It was not long, however, before she had different classes organised and their work beginning to show results.

One problem she had to contend with, however, with little improvement, was the late arrival of some pupils who had to milk and do farm jobs before school. Some were so tired with early rising that they fell asleep at their desks. It was no use trying to keep them in after school for "We'll be late for milking," grumbled the late-comers. "Stay in at playtime then," countered Jean.

It is to her credit, that in spite of tender years, she coped with this and many other problems with courage and good sense.

--1907 –

On **February 4th 1907** Miss Jane Cassie took sole charge of Newall School. There were 4 pupils. Stewart Cassie, Alexander Cassie, Carlin James Ducker, Jessie Cassie.

On **February 18th**, Frederick, Hazel and Freda Magan started, all of whom had been previously attending Warea School. On **July 11th**, James Francis Watt began in primer 1, so the school year ended with 8 pupils.

On **May 28th** Miss Cassie began the School 'log' with the first week's entries:

May 28th: Wet and cold weather, but good attendance
May 29th: The School was closed in order that the teacher might attend the Warea School and observe the methods of teaching.
May 30th: Full attendance, good work, delightfully fine.
May 31st: Full attendance. Clear fine day.



Newall School about 1908

Fred Magan (on pony at left), Jean Cassie (teacher), Alex Cassie on pony (right).
Left to right: Marjorie Jones, Jessie Cassie, Johanna Duggan, Annie Jones, Mary Jones, Jane Duggan, Millie Jones, Mary Duggan, May Cassie.
Front row: Lucy Cooper, Tommy Duggan, Sam Jones, Jimmy Duggan, Ken Ducker, Carlin Ducker, Lil Cooper.

CAPE EGMONT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Taranaki Daily News, 8 December 1906

In the evening the Ducker family provided a musical entertainment.

RAHOTU.

Taranaki Daily News, 11 March 1907

Patterson (encored). Accompaniments were played by Mrs Ducker, and violin obligato by Mr Ducker, Misses Little (violin obligato by Mr Billow-).

Taranaki Herald, 15 February 1907

WANTED, AT ONCE,—Bushmen and Benchmen (married men preferred.) Cottage and School near. Ducker Bros., Sawmillers, Warea. 881

Duckers Dam

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

Taranaki Daily News, 21 June 1907

The heavy rain on Friday caused the rivers to flood, causing considerable damage in some cases. Messrs Ducker Bros.' dam was carried away, also a bridge and a lot of timber. This represents a substantial loss as well as of time in repairing the damage that has been done. The brothers have just about finished putting in their turbine, and were to have commenced cutting again this week, but now they will have to commence the work of vxing up the dam..

EDUCATION BOARD.

Taranaki Herald, 26 September 1907

The following were appointed to constitute the Newall Road School Committee:—C. Magan, W. Rumball, J. Ducker, A. Cassie, and J. H. N. Watt.

Education Board

Taranaki Herald, 23 October 1907

Newall Road.—That the committee be informed that the lease to Mr Ducker contained a covenant to fence, and that the Board looked to him to complete the work; that with regard to the request for assistance towards the cost of draining, filling and metalling around the school, and for spouting and tank, the committee be informed that the Board does not see its way to make any grant until such time as the permanency of the attendance is assured.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.
Taranaki Daily News, 29 October 1907

A concert and dance was held in the hall on Thursday evening in aid of the Newell-road school fund. There was a very large attendance, the hall being packed. The following programme was given: — Instrumental selection, Ducker family; song, Miss Cassie;

Ducker Bros.' Timber Yard
Taranaki Daily News, 11 December 1907

WAREA.

Messrs. Ducker Bros.' timber yards, which adjoin the hall grounds, were opened last week. A workshop is to be erected in the yards.

BUSH FIRES. Taranaki Herald, 13 February 1908

A fire broke out on Mr Cassie's farm on Newall Road, inland from Warea, yesterday, and spread across the adjacent country. It was feared Ducker's sawmill would be destroyed. Stacked timber in the yards was burned.

Later in the day a fire occurred on the Kahui Road, and last night the flames were working across towards Ducker's mill, which is in the vicinity.

It was later reported (Taranaki Herald, 17 Feb 1908) that:

"Mr. Cassie started a burn round his house and yards. Corkill's burn was advancing, and the amalgamated fires spread towards Ducker's Mill…..

Warea Taranaki Herald 19 February 1908

A message received from Warea this morning stated: News of the bush fires in the Warea district is very indefinite at present. There is no news from Ducker's mill, but the general impression is that it is safe, as there is very little around it to burn. The Newall Road School is in great danger, and it is expected nothing can save it. Several Warea residents tried to get through to the scene of the fires but were unable to do so. Yesterday the smoke was very thick, but this morning the air was clearer.

…The dwelling there caught three times but the flames were extnguished. The fence around the garden was partly burned and a stack of about 5000 ft. of timber was destroyed."

But the fire continued…

HORTICULTURAL SHOW.
Taranaki Herald, 7 March 1908

In the evening the Ducker family played soveral selections in a way which showed that the late fires had not impaired their efficiency.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.
Taranaki Herald, 1 May 1908

NEWALL.

Messrs J. Ducker (chairman), A. Cassie, W. Rumball, N. Watt, C. Magon.

WAREA.
Taranaki Herald, 20 May 1908

The hall has been seen to and a shed for the copper has been erected, which will be a great convenience for ladies when preparing for the convivialities.

The timber yard erected by Messrs Ducker Bros. adjacent to the hall is filling a want in the district. There is a substantial shed for seasoning the dressed timber and a metalled road leads round the stacks of timber, at which farmers' carts are continually loading. The yards are in charge of Mr H. Pelham, who is an acquisition both to the proprietors and customers.

PARIHAKA ROAD BOARD.
Taranaki Herald, 14 August 1908

Messrs Cassie and Ducker petitioned the Board to raise a loan of £600 to make the top end of Newall Road. The Board agreed to take the necessary steps to raise the loan.

Ducker Bros. sawmill short of water
Taranaki Daily News, 4 March 1909

Messrs Ducker Bros have ceased sawing timber at their sawmill lately owing to the scarcity of water in the Warea river, there not being enough to drive the machinery without daming the river up over night, which they used to do, but the flaxmill some nine miles down the river could not get any water to strip until nearly midday, so this was soon stopped.

TARANAKI COUNTY COUNCIL
Taranaki Daily News, 4 May 1909

Messrs. J. and A. Ducker wrote that they would pay traffic dues on all timber carted over the county road for them by Mr. F. Roebuck.

RAHOTU.
Taranaki Herald, 16 July 1909

The Ducker Bros. sent a donation of £5 for the repairs to Newall Road.

Page 3 Advertisements Column 4
Taranaki Herald, 22 July 1909

TENDERS will be received up till July 30 for Scrubbing and Falling 100 acres more or less of bush on Section 8, Block 10, Cape, for Ducker Bros., Newall Road.
Specifications may be seen at Herald Office and Timber Yard, Warea.

Page 3 Advertisements Column 3
Taranaki Herald, 6 September 1909

FOR SALE or To Let—Boarding House, Okato; easy terms.—Apply to J. Ducker, Warea. d752

Ducker Brothers head for Auckland for a holiday.

DISTRICT NEWS WAREA
Taranaki Daily News, 28 September 1909

Messrs. J. and A. Ducker, our local sawmillers, left here on Monday, en route for Auckland, where they will spend a short holiday.

FIRST MOTOR CAR IN THE DISTRICT.
WAREA. Taranaki Herald, 1 November 1909

Our local saw millers, Messrs. A. and J Ducker, have purchased a motor car. This is the first one to make its appearance in the district.

WAREA.
Taranaki Herald, 29 November 1909

Mr. J. Ducker, chairman, and Mr. Cassie, member of the Newall Road School Committee, waited on the Education Board on Wednesday last to urge the board to erect a new school. The present building was erected by the settlers themselves, and is only a small one. There are twenty-two scholars attending the school, and there is not sufficient room for all.

DISTRICT NEWS Warea Athletic Club
Taranaki Daily News, 14 March 1910

At midnight an excellent supper was handed round and very much appreciated. Mr R. Julian acted as M.C., while the music was provided by the Ducker Family (violin, flute and piano). The total door takings amounted to close on £17.

Road Board
Taranaki Daily News, Volume LII, Issue 376, 29 April 1910, Page 1

PARIHAKA ROAD DISTRICT.

GENERAL ELECTION.

MR. JAMES DUCKER, being the only candidate nominated for the Warea Ward, is hereby declared elected.

School Committee LOCAL AND GENERAL. Taranaki Daily News, 30 June 1910

At a meeting of householders held on 20th June, Messrs. J. Ducker (chairman), A. Cassie, W. Rumball, T. Raven, and O. Magon were elected a committee for the Newall school.

Sawmill
Page 1 Advertisements Column 6
Taranaki Daily News, 9 August 1910 and throughout August

WANTED — Men for bushfalling.— Apply Ducker Bros., Warea. t.c

Ducker Bros. upgrade to a "new and up-to-date motor car"

DISTRICT NEWS
Taranaki Daily News, 17 January 1911

WAREA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Messrs Ducker Bros., our local saw-mills have invested in a new and up-to-date motor car.



From the collection of Ducker's Mill memorabilia, Woolshed Museum, Newall Rd.

Thought to be Jim (jnr) and his sons in the front and wife Mary, the 2 daughters and Mary's Mother, Mrs Gill in the back. (Information from Margaret and Richard Cardiff)

They had bought their first car in 1909 (see previous page)

The littlest daughter Joyce was born in 1910 so this must be a photo of their new second car, as reported above in 1911.

PARIHAKA ROAD BOARD

Taranaki Daily News, 15 November 1910

REQUEST.

From Messrs. Alfred and James Ducker and Frederick Old: "We, the undersigned ratepayers of the Upper Puniho road, beg to draw your attention to the fact that during the last 12 years your Board has collected several rates fram the undersigned, and none of these rates have been spent on the Puniho road above the present road (Carrington crossing), and it being now about two years since the bridge across the Stoney river was opened, which gave a much shorter route to the Okato saleyards, etc., and this being our main road, we specially request your Board to allocate and spend all the rates collected on the Upper Puniho road above the Carrington road crossing; and we further request that a separate account be kept of the receipts and expenditure of the said Upper Puniho road.

It was decided to ask the Werekino Road Board to adopt the request of the ratepayers.

NEWAL ROAD SCHOOL.

Mr. Ducker asked the Board for permission to take earth off a corner of the road for filling required at the school. He put in a letter from Mr. Murray, of the Public Works Department, who was agreeable to the filling being taken, provided it was not taken from below the road level, and the Parihaka Road Board raised no objection.—The consent of the Board was granted.

ALLOCATION OF RATES.

Messrs. Young, Ducker and Willcox were appointed a committee to go into the matter of allocating where the rates should be spent, the committee to meet on the 23rd and report to the Board.

Alfred Ducker meets another "nasty accident"

Taranaki Daily News, 10 December 1910

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Mr. Alfred Ducker, one of our local sawmillers, met with a nasty accident last Wednesday week while working in the bush. It appears he had just started work after dinner, and had felled a tree, which, I understand, came back and struck another one, falling on Mr Ducker, breaking one of his legs. He was taken in to New Plymouth for medical attention and it is hoped that he will soon be able to get about again.

Bush Fires Raging (very lengthy article reporting bush fires)

Taranaki Daily News, 14 February 1911

Bush fires again threaten Ducker's mill.

Boarding House for rent

Page 1 Advertisements Column 6

Taranaki Daily News, 22 April 1911

TO LET—Boarding-house, Okato; 12 rooms; all conveniences. Rent, £1 per week. Immediate entry if required. Please apply J. Ducker, Warea. 5-3

DISTRICT NEWS. Social event

Taranaki Daily News, 24 June 1911

ily. The programme was as follows:—Selection, Ducker family; song, school children; recitation, C. Magon; song, S. Cassie; recitation, E. Smith and M. Jones; song, Mary Duggan and I. Cassie; reictation, F. Magon and C. Ducker; song, six school girls; song, Miss Cassie. The school prizes having been distributed, the floor was cleared for dancing. The new school being a fairly large building, there is ample room for a good dance. At about midnight an excellent supper was handed round. Dancing was kept going till an early hour on Saturday morning. Mr. R. Julian acted as M.C.

HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETINGS

Taranaki Daily News, 27 April 1912

Newall.—Messrs. W. Rumball (chairman, Cassie, Ducker, Magon, and Smith.

DISTRICT NEWS

Taranaki Daily News, 26 June 1912

WAREA.

The spinsters and bachelors held their annual ball on Thursday night, and the hall was crowded, although the dance had been postponed from the night before, owing to the wet weather. The music supplied was excellent, the Ducker family providing it. The splendid supper that had been catered for by May's, of New Plymouth, was very much appreciated at mid-night. Messrs R. Julian

Sale of Ducker's Mill

DISTRICT NEWS.
Taranaki Daily News, 28 January 1913

WAREA.

I understand that Messrs Ducker Bros., our local sawmillers, have sold their mill and timber rights to Mr. Burgess, of Hawke's Bay. Mr. Burgess will probably take possession at the end of February.

After Ducker's Mill was sold it continued in use until it was burned down in 1928. It is said that the fire was started by children who were cooking potatoes in the sawdust heap. The mill was never replaced. (Barbara Williams)

DISTRICT NEWS.
Taranaki Daily News, 14 February 1913

Messrs. Ducker Bros.' held a clearing sale of timber at their local yards on Tuesday. Satisfactory prices were realised. It is understood that Mr. Burgess, their successor, will not have a yard in the township.

SCHOOL COMMITTEES.
Taranaki Daily News, 7 May 1913

NEWALL.

At Newall road Messrs W. Rumball (chairman), A. Cassie, J. Ducker, A. E Magon and W. B. Smith were elected.

EGMONT COUNTY COUNCIL.
Taranaki Daily News, 16 March 1914

Messrs J. and A. Ducker forwarded advice for the National Bank of New Zealand that £400 was at the disposal of the county for work on the Carrington road. This was money which the settlers had guaranteed to advance so as to enable work to be proceeded with pending receipt of loan money from the Government.

World War 1

Taranaki Daily News, 18 May 1915
A. Ducker on a list of volunteers

EIGHTH REINFORCEMENTS.

Taranaki Daily News, 24 August 1915

NORTH TARANAKI'S QUOTA.

MEN FAREWELLED AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

Members of the Eighth Reinforcements were accorded a most enthusiastic send-off at the local station last night.

The Territorials, Railway Reserve, and Rifle Club mustered at the drill hall in strong force. Headed by the Citizens' Band, the recruits, followed by the Territorials and Riflemen, marched to the station, via Devon and Brougham Streets. Near the railway bridge a platform had been improvised, and from this point speeches were delivered by the member for the district (Mr. H. J. Okey), Rev. A. B. Chappell, and the Mayor (Mr. J. E. Wilson). There was a large crowd, numbering between three and four thousand, and the proceedings were marked by great enthusiasm. Indeed, it was the most enthusiastic function witnessed in New Plymouth since the war broke out.

Mr. Okey referred to the splendid response of Taranaki, and especially New Plymouth, to the call to arms. They may not, he said, be the first in the way of paying handsomely for Belgian flags, but he thought they were among the first with men. He referred briefly to the splendid response of all parts of the Empire to the call, and the way the colonials had sustained the glorious traditions of the race. He hoped the troopers going forth would uphold the good name of the men who had gone before, and, above all, to play the game.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

New Plymouth Men—Ian W. Pott, E Lovegrove, G. H. Knight, F. W rley, C. J. Medway.
Waitara—C. H. Tate, J. S. P. O'Neill
Inglewood—D. R. Gyde, F. L. Cumber id, A. C. Kegg. W. Thomas, W. J mpbell, J. Smith, S. D. Kidd.
Okato—A. Ducker.
Omata—G. Lepper.
Puniho—J. E. Shore.

DISTRICT NEWS.

Taranaki Daily News, 6 October 1915

NEWALL ROAD.

(Fro Our Own Correspondent).

A very successful dance was held in the Newall Road Hall on Wednesday the 29th ult. The dance was organised by the school children, and a very large crowd turned up, there being hardly standing room. The door takings, with donations, amounted to £5, a record for the hall. The duties of doorkeeper and M.C. were capably carried out by Master Sam Jones and Mr. Ted. Smith respectively. The Ducker family supplied the music in their usual capable manner. The proceeds of the dance will go towards providing a Christmas treat for the troops at the Dardanelles.

CONCERT AT OKATO.
Taranaki Daily News, 30 September 1916

CONCERT AT OKATO

A SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR.

The concert held on Thursday night at Okato in aid of a fund for helping the wounded members of the Legion of Frontiersmen proved an unqualified suc

"Lasca." A bountiful supper was then dispensed, the ladies in charge of this department being Mesdames Fraser-Jones, J. Ducker, A. Muir, Burgess and Misses Cassie (2). Mrs. Street and Miss Sterry made a number of button-holes, which, with sweets, were sold by little Misses Dorothy and Lois Fox, Phyllis and Olive Street, Eleanor Ducker, Ruth Harding, Betty Hawkins, Olga Aroa, Masters Fred Hill and Pat Hawkins, realising over £3. The takings at the door were £18 10s, and to this must

Fire again at Newall Rd. Ducker four-roomed cottage destroyed and James Ducker's ten-roomed dwelling threatened.
LOCAL AND GENERAL.
Taranaki Daily News, 6 February 1917

The settlers on Newall Road spent three anxious days last week, protecting their homes from a bush fire. One four-roomed cottage, owned by Ducker Bros., and occupied by one of their employees, Mr. F. Burgess, and his family, was destroyed early on Saturday morning. The house was insured for £100 in the National Office, and the furniture for £75 in the Victoria Office. A building owned by Gill Bros., and formerly used as a dairy factory, was also destroyed by fire. It was insured in the Phoenix office for £30. Mr. J. Ducker's ten-roomed dwelling was also in danger, but fortunately rain fell at the right time.

Sheep Shearers wanted at Newall Rd.
Page 1 Advertisements Column 4
Taranaki Daily News, 12 December 1918

WANTED, immediately—Two Good Shearers; machines used; 1000 sheep. Apply J. Ducker, Newall Road. Okato. d.w.

HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETINGS.
Taranaki Daily News, 21 April 1919

Newall Road.—W. Rumball (chairman), J Ducker, A. Luckin, W. Thomas, W. B. Smith.

1920 The Ducker Brothers' Farm is sold.

Page 8 Advertisements Column 7
Taranaki Daily News, 16 June 1920

NEWALL ROAD, WAREA.

WEDNESDAY, 16th JUNE.

NEWTON KING

HAS been favored with instructions from Messrs. Ducker Bros., who have sold their farm, to sell by auction,

WITHOUT RESERVE:

400 GOOD LAMBS

130 mixed aged ewes (in lamb)
7 2/4 tooth rams
57 yearling steers
8 yearling heifers
20 2-year steers
2 cows (in milk)
2 draught mares
1 harness mare
1 5-year draught gelding, unbroken
1 4-year do colt, unbroken
S/L plough, disc and chain harrows, sledge, 2 jacks, carpenter's bench and tools, circular saw and spindle, 2 crow bars, 1 ton chain block, hammer and wedges, 23 sheets iron, wheelbarrow, milk cart and harness, gig and harness, pony cart, 3 saddles, ladders, garden tools, lawn mower, chains, collars, hames, etc. D/B gun, quarter ton manure, 125 hinau posts.

Household furniture, including: leather dining suite, 2 duchess sets, dining table, bedsteads, chairs, bevelled mirror, mirror front wardrobe, book shelves, marble top tables, mangle, kitchen utensils, linoleums and useful sundries.

WITH SLIGHT RESERVE:

Gig, pony and harness, and sideboard.

On account of MESSRS. CASSIE BROS., who have given up dairying:—

Spring cart (nearly new), heavy spring dray, milk waggon (22cwt), 2 factory horses, 12 milk cans.

LUNCHEON PROVIDED.

SALE AT 12 O'CLOCK.



Photograph taken in 1979 by Eleanor (Girlie) Cardiff. Sourced by Margaret Cardiff.

The mill was sold in 1913 and the farm sold in 1920. It is not clear when the Ducker Bros. left Newall Rd. but probably some time after April 1919.
Evidently they first moved to this house on Carrington Street, New Plymouth.
(See photograph above.)

The Ducker Brothers now shifted to Waipipi, near Waiuku



New Zealand Herald, 4 August 1921
Westfield Fat Stock Market

20 from Messrs. Ducker Bros., Waipipi. £12 7s 6d.

Messr. Ducker Bros., Waipipi, appear regularly in stock sale advertisements at this time.

Pukekohe & Waiuku Times, 9 February 1923

A Waipipi Request.

Mr J. Ducker, Waipipi, drew attention to the state of the road known as the back road past Mr W. Hamilton's property. He urged that immediate attention be given to same. He added that Kelland's corner road required repairs, as damage had been done by recent rains. —Referred to Cr Mellsop and the engineer to attend to.

Les Ducker remembers when he and one of his brothers travelled from their farm at Opotiki to stay with their Uncle James, and cousins, at Waipipi, Waiuku.
(It must have been prior to 1924 when his father Frank sold up and took Les and his brothers, and his prize cattle, to Fiji.)
They made most of the journey by train, a long way in those days. However the stay was short. Les and his brother were given access to a pool table that their cousin Duckers had, and perhaps as a result of some "fooling around" one of them managed to put a cue through the "cush." Evidently James jnr. was not impressed with Frank's boys and shortly after that they returned to Opotiki.

New Zealand Herald, 17 February 1923

MR. AND MRS. HAROLD McDONALD, of Waipipi, desire to thank all friends and relatives who sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement; also for letters, cards, telegrams, and floral emblems received. Special thanks are tendered to Mr. J. Ducker.

Pukekohe & Waiuku Times, February 1924

Road Work.

J. and A. Ducker, Waipipi, drew attention to the very steep grade on the Waipipi-Kohe Kohe back road between Pukeroa Lake gate and the cream stand on the back end of Dickey-Gleeson Road, and requesting that same be improved out of their rates.—Engineer and riding member to inspect and if possible secure land to give an easier grade.

Auckland Star, 7 March 1924

THE WAIPIPI DROWNING.

BODY RECOVERED

AFTER FIVE DAYS

The body of Eric Castle Adams, the young Aucklander who was drowned while fishing at Waipipi on Sunday morning last, was recovered yesterday afternoon, by Mr Carlin Ducker, the man with whom deceased was fishing at the time of the fatality.

Mr Ducker, who made an attempt to rescue deceased before he finally disappeared, has been helping with the searching operations ever since. He has practically never left the beach, and yesterday he noticed the body floating some distance from the shore. He swam out and brought it back to land

Deceased was the 18-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams, of Omahu Road, Remuera.

A preliminary inquest was opened at Waiuku this morning, for identification purposes, after which it was adjourned.

NZ Truth , 9 December 1926 (extract)

Financial Reviews

Manukau Perpetual Flax Co., Ltd.

The Manukau Perpetual Flax Co., Ltd., has been registered in Auckland for the purpose of acquiring some 2038 acres of flax bearing land situated on the west coast of the Auckland province, some 9 miles from Waiuku.

THE nominal capital is £55,000 in £1 shares of which £4650 are to be issued as fully paid to the vendors and the remaining £50,350 is to be issued to the public.

Among the assets acquired by the company is the flaxmill and cutting rights of the Waipipi Flax Mill, Ltd., which recently commenced operations on part of the property now being acquired.

The total consideration being paid for the plant and cutting rights is £3650 and for the goodwill of a lease from Ducker Bros. £500.

It is worthy of note that whilst the value of the freehold property being acquired from other vendors is vouched for by an independent valuator there is no such support lent to the transaction with the Waipipi Flax Mill, Ltd.

This writer views this omission seriously.

Auckland Star, 19 March 1927

Waiuku Horticultural Society
Prizes won by Mrs. J Ducker.

WAIUKU GOLF CLUB.

Auckland Star, 9 August 1927

beat Miss Herrold, Mrs. Harkness beat Mrs. Herrold, Miss Ducker beat Miss Arkle, Mrs. Colbeck beat Miss J. Ducker, Miss Barriball beat Miss Austin, Miss Sullivan beat Mrs.

Over the next 7 or 8 years there appear scores of reports of golf club activities, always referring to "Ducker", "Miss Ducker", Miss J Ducker" later "K. Ducker."

Evidently Joyce and Kenneth[58] were keen golfers, possibly also one of the older male Duckers. There are no newspaper reports of C. Ducker (Carlin) in relation to golf, and no mention at all of Miss E. Ducker (Eleanor) during the time in Waiuku.

James Ducker has a car accident.

New Zealand Herald,, 1 October 1928

COLLISION NEAR WAIUKU.

RIDER'S SERIOUS INJURIES.

WAIUKU, Sunday.

A collision between a motor-cycle ridden by Mr. John Scott, of Princes Street, Pukekohe, and a motor-car driven by Mr. J. Ducker, of Waiuku, occurred on the Waipipi Road, near the outskirts of Waiuku, yesterday morning. Mr. Scott was thrown violently from the cycle and sustained a compound fracture of the leg and a broken wrist. He was also rendered unconscious.

WAIUKU NEWS. Auckland Star, 14 May 1925

Waiuku Rugby Union matches played on Saturday resulted —

Juniors —Rovers 6, beat Pirates 3. J Hill kicked a penalty goal, and S Jones notched a try for the winners, whilst C Ducker scored for the losers. Referee Mr S M Chatfield

Carlin played rugby.

WAIUKU SUMMER SHOW. Cut flowers. Auckland Star 19 November 1925

The seventh summer show of the Waiuku H. and I. Society was held in the Town Hall yesterday, in fine weather.

Following is the prize list: —

Cut Flowers.—

Azaleas: Miss B. McNaughton, 1. Rhododendrons: Mrs. Ducker, 1; Miss Ducker,

Mrs. (Mary) and sometimes Miss Ducker appear in the newspaper regularly at horticultural shows, often winning many prizes.

[58] Carlin, Kenneth, Eleanor and Joyce are the children of James jnr and Mary Ducker.

NEEDS OF WAIUKU. New Zealand Herald, 26 August 1929

NUMEROUS REQUESTS MADE.

[BY TELEGRAPH.—OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

WAIUKU, Sunday.

A deputation, headed by Mrs. Ducker, Mrs. A. Duthie and Miss Duthie, asked the Minister's advice on the establishment of Plunket work in Waiuku. Mr. Stallworthy replied that if the Town Board would provide a ladies' rest room it could also be used as a Plunket room. He

It is also noticeable as we move into the 1930's , that women were becoming more often the subject of newspaper reports, and publicly playing a leadership role in the community.

Mary Ducker was an active member of the Waiuku community, in the Women's Institute and Plunket societies.

PLUNKET SOCIETY.

New Zealand Herald, 20 June 1930

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. Bloomfield; vice-presidents, Mesdames Ducker and James; secretary, Mrs. N. R. Mc-

WAIUKU INSTITUTE.

Auckland Star, 24 February 1931

The February meeting of the Waiuku Women's Institute was held on Friday, Mrs. Ducker (vice-president) presiding over an attendance of 28.

WAIUKU PLUNKET SOCIETY

New Zealand Herald, 15 April 1931

was elected in her place. The following are office-bearers for the year:—Vice-presidents, Mesdames Bloomfield and Ducker; secretary, Mrs. N. R. McElwain;

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

New Zealand Herald, 29 June 1932

Mrs. Ducker gave an account of the activities of the gardening circle, while Miss Glynes reported on the debating and dramatic circle.

Waiuku Saleyards Stock Sale 1940

WaiukuNew Zealand Herald, 8 May 1940

Waiuku Saleyards StockSale	Stock for sale on behalf of J. Ducker.

Ducker Brothers Timeline

James Ducker jnr had married Mary Gill in 1899.

1899/3920 Mary Frances Louisa Gill James Ducker

(Taranaki Herald 9th Jan 1900 records that the wedding day was **19 Dec 1899**)

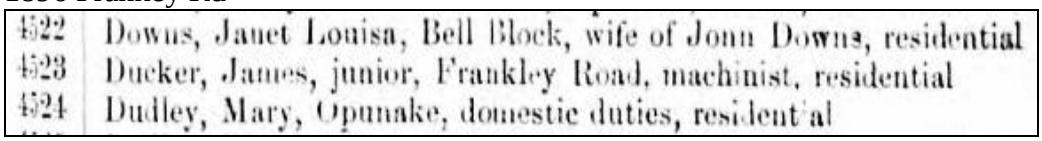
Mary Frances Louisa Ducker appears for the first time on the **1905** electoral roll, at Newall Rd, as the wife of James Ducker jnr.
The **1919** electoral roll lists the Ducker brothers in Newall Rd, Warea.
The next electoral roll, **1928,** lists the Ducker Brothers farming in MakGills Rd, Waiuku, in the Franklin District.

Throughout the years, until 1946, the electoral roll always lists Alfred (single) living at the same address as his younger brother James.

However Alfred is listed again in **1954** this time at his own home in Miro St., Inglewod, retired – and now married (to Amelia Ashton O'Carroll.)

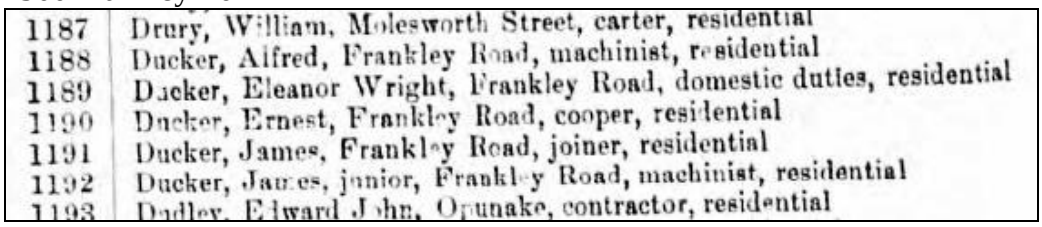
Alfred and James jnr. Ducker Electoral Roll

1896 Frankey Rd



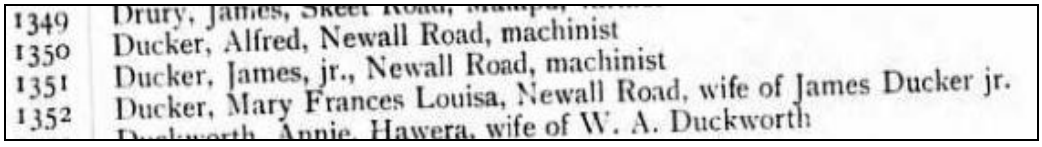
4522 Downs, Janet Louisa, Bell Block, wife of John Downs, residential
4523 Ducker, James, junior, Frankley Road, machinist, residential
4524 Dudley, Mary, Opunake, domestic duties, residential

1900 Frankley Rd



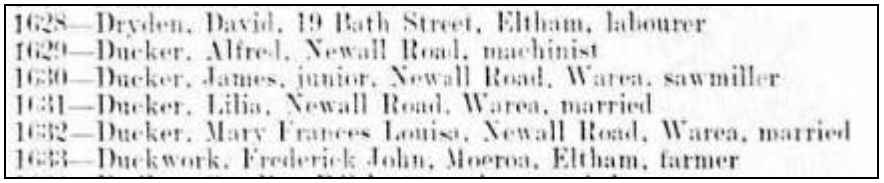
1187 Drury, William, Molesworth Street, carter, residential
1188 Ducker, Alfred, Frankley Road, machinist, residential
1189 Ducker, Eleanor Wright, Frankley Road, domestic duties, residential
1190 Ducker, Ernest, Frankley Road, cooper, residential
1191 Ducker, James, Frankley Road, joiner, residential
1192 Ducker, James, junior, Frankley Road, machinist, residential
1193 Dudley, Edward John, Opunake, contractor, residential

1905 Newall Rd.



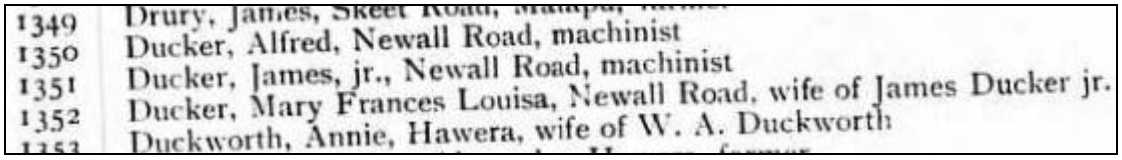
1349 Drury, James, Skeet Road, Manaia, farmer
1350 Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, machinist
1351 Ducker, James, jr., Newall Road, machinist
1352 Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, Newall Road, wife of James Ducker jr.
Duckworth, Annie, Hawera, wife of W. A. Duckworth

1911



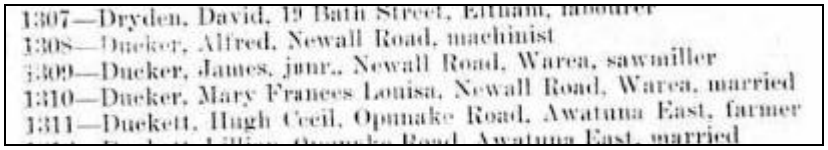
1628—Dryden, David, 19 Bath Street, Eltham, labourer
1629—Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, machinist
1630—Ducker, James, junior, Newall Road, Warea, sawmiller
1631—Ducker, Lilia, Newall Road, Warea, married
1632—Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, Newall Road, Warea, married
1633—Duckwork, Frederick John, Moeroa, Eltham, farmer

1912



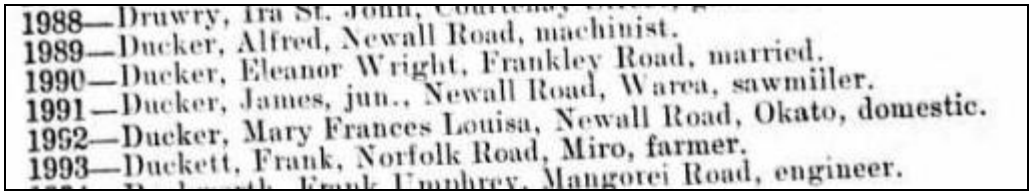
1349 Drury, James, Skeet Road, Manaia, farmer
1350 Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, machinist
1351 Ducker, James, jr., Newall Road, machinist
1352 Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, Newall Road, wife of James Ducker jr.
1353 Duckworth, Annie, Hawera, wife of W. A. Duckworth

1914



1307—Dryden, David, 19 Bath Street, Eltham, labourer
1308—Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, machinist
1309—Ducker, James, junr., Newall Road, Warea, sawmiller
1310—Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, Newall Road, Warea, married
1311—Duckett, Hugh Cecil, Opunake Road, Awatuna East, farmer
Duckett, Lillian, Opunake Road, Awatuna East, married

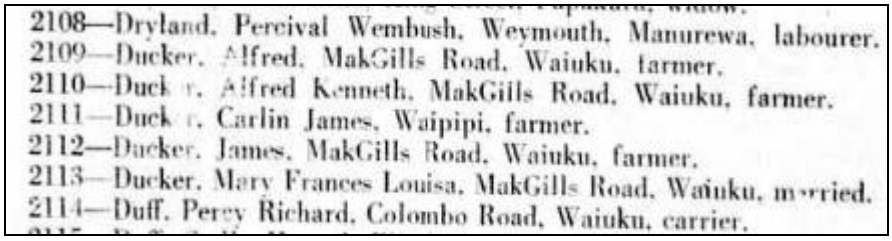
1919



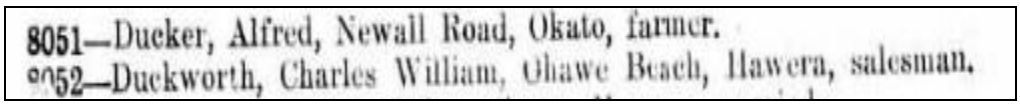
1988—Druwry, Ira St. John, Courtenay
1989—Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, machinist.
1990—Ducker, Eleanor Wright, Frankley Road, married.
1991—Ducker, James, jun., Newall Road, Warea, sawmiller.
1992—Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, Newall Road, Okato, domestic.
1993—Duckett, Frank, Norfolk Road, Miro, farmer.
Duckworth, Frank Humphrey, Mangorei Road, engineer.

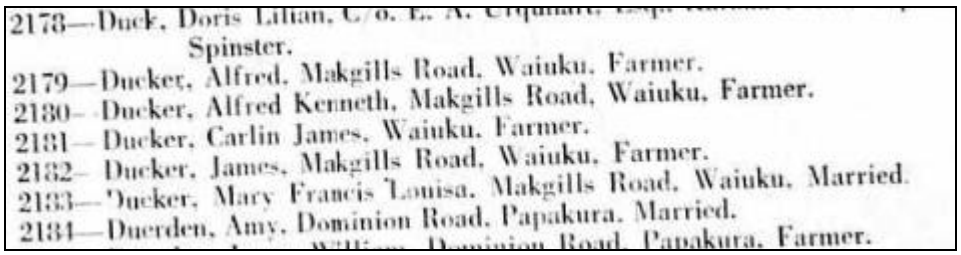
Farming at Waiuku

1928

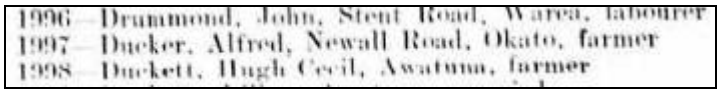

2108—Dryland, Percival Wembush, Weymouth, Manurewa, labourer.
2109—Ducker, Alfred, MakGills Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2110—Duck r, Alfred Kenneth, MakGills Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2111—Duck r, Carlin James, Waipipi, farmer.
2112—Ducker, James, MakGills Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2113—Ducker, Mary Frances Louisa, MakGills Road, Waiuku, married.
2114—Duff, Percy Richard, Colombo Road, Waiuku, carrier.

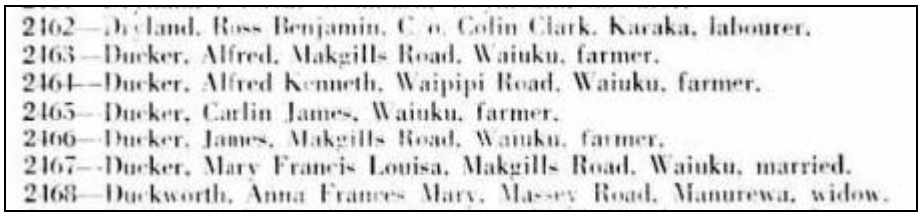
1935


8051—Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, Okato, farmer.
8052—Duckworth, Charles William, Ohawe Beach, Hawera, salesman.

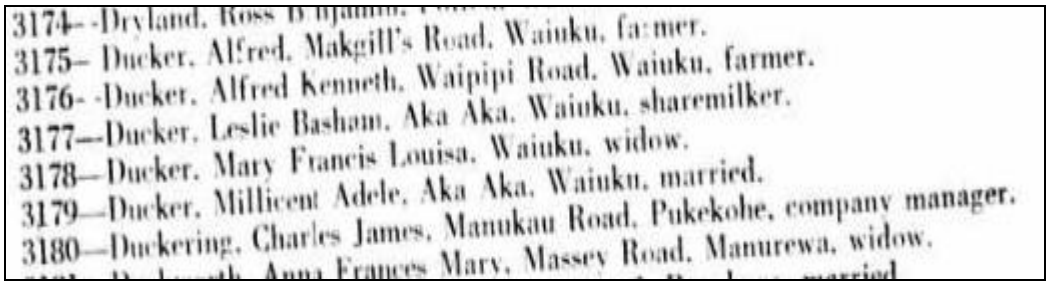

2178—Duck, Doris Lilian, C/o. E. A. [illegible]
Spinster.
2179—Ducker, Alfred, Makgills Road, Waiuku, Farmer.
2180—Ducker, Alfred Kenneth, Makgills Road, Waiuku, Farmer.
2181—Ducker, Carlin James, Waiuku, Farmer.
2182—Ducker, James, Makgills Road, Waiuku, Farmer.
2183—Ducker, Mary Francis Louisa, Makgills Road, Waiuku, Married.
2184—Duerden, Amy, Dominion Road, Papakura, Married.
[illegible] Dominion Road, Papakura, Farmer.

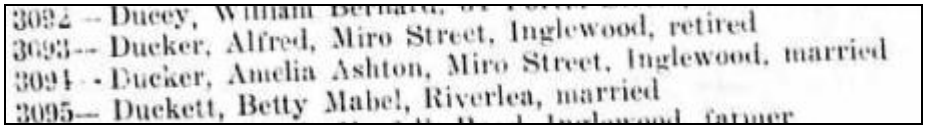
1938


1996—Drummond, John, Stent Road, Warea, labourer
1997—Ducker, Alfred, Newall Road, Okato, farmer
1998—Duckett, Hugh Cecil, Awatuna, farmer

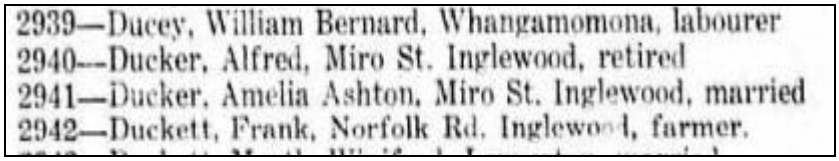

2462—Dryland, Ross Benjamin, C/o. Colin Clark, Karaka, labourer.
2463—Ducker, Alfred, Makgills Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2464—Ducker, Alfred Kenneth, Waipipi Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2465—Ducker, Carlin James, Waiuku, farmer.
2466—Ducker, James, Makgills Road, Waiuku, farmer.
2467—Ducker, Mary Francis Louisa, Makgills Road, Waiuku, married.
2468—Duckworth, Anna Frances Mary, Massey Road, Manurewa, widow.

1946


3174—Dryland, Ross Benjamin, [illegible]
3175—Ducker, Alfred, Makgill's Road, Waiuku, farmer.
3176—Ducker, Alfred Kenneth, Waipipi Road, Waiuku, farmer.
3177—Ducker, Leslie Basham, Aka Aka, Waiuku, sharemilker.
3178—Ducker, Mary Francis Louisa, Waiuku, widow.
3179—Ducker, Millicent Adele, Aka Aka, Waiuku, married.
3180—Duckering, Charles James, Manukau Road, Pukekohe, company manager.
Duckworth, Anna Frances Mary, Massey Road, Manurewa, widow.

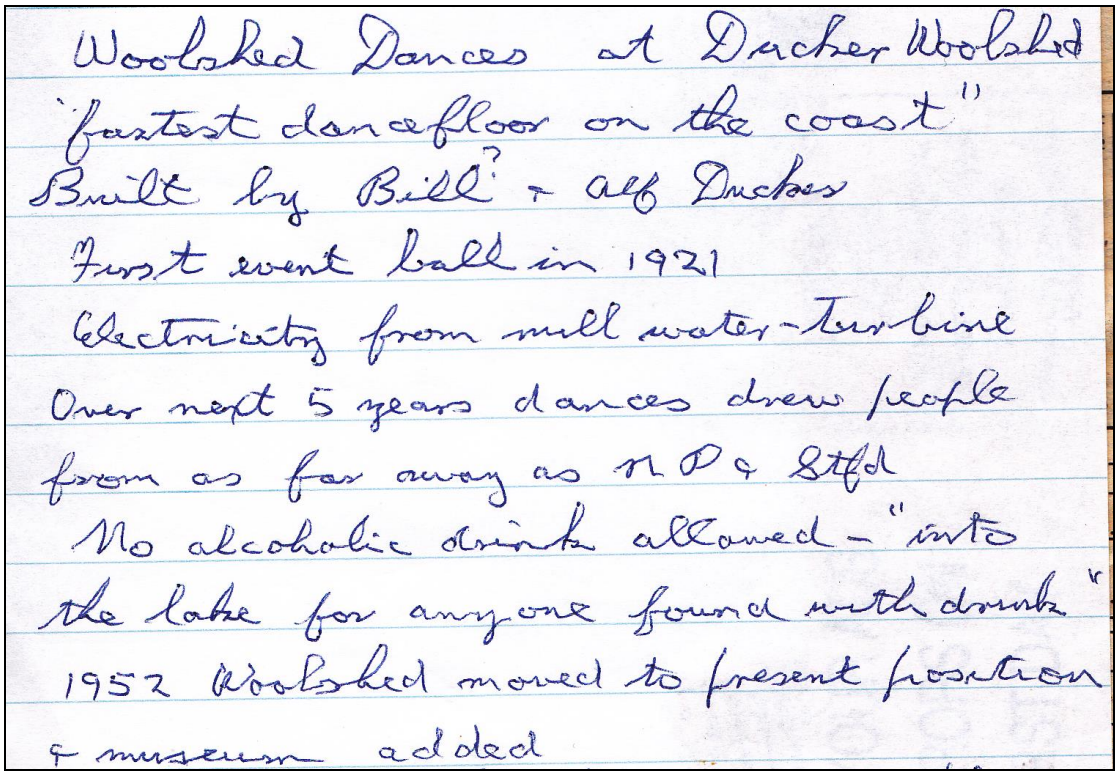

3092—Ducey, William Bernard, [illegible]
3093—Ducker, Alfred, Miro Street, Inglewood, retired
3094—Ducker, Amelia Ashton, Miro Street, Inglewood, married
3095—Duckett, Betty Mabel, Riverlea, married
[illegible] Inglewood, farmer

1954


2939—Ducey, William Bernard, Whangamomona, labourer
2940—Ducker, Alfred, Miro St. Inglewood, retired
2941—Ducker, Amelia Ashton, Miro St. Inglewood, married
2942—Duckett, Frank, Norfolk Rd. Inglewood, farmer.

Meanwhile, back in Newall Rd….

The Woolshed dances: “fastest dance floor on the coast..”


Woolshed Dances at Ducker Woolshed
"fastest dancefloor on the coast"
Built by Bill? + all Duckers
First event ball in 1921
Electricity from mill water-turbine
Over next 5 years dances drew people
from as far away as N.P & Stfd
No alcoholic drinks allowed - "into
the lake for anyone found with drunk"
1952 Woolshed moved to present position
& museum added

Notes from the collection of Bradley Walter

The builders of Duckers Woolshed shed would have been James jnr. and Alfred.

In 1958 the woolshed building was moved from near the river, to the roadside where it is now, a drier site and close to the newly supplied electricity to the area.
It is seldom used for dances now, but is still an events venue.
(From notes by Margaret Cardiff 2015.)

Children of James jr. and Mary Frances Louisa Ducker (nee Gill)

NZ BDM Online

1901/1766	Ducker	Carlin James	Mary Francis Louisa	James
1903/10657	Ducker	Kenneth Alfred	Mary Francis Louise	James
1909/3136	Ducker	Eleanor Bradley	Mary Frances	James
1910/21660	Ducker	Joyce Miriam	Mary F	James



(From the memorabilia held at the Woolshed museum, Newall Rd.)
Photograph probably around 1911
L to R back row: Alfred, Mrs. Gill (Mary's mother), James jnr.,
L to R front row James snr., Eleanor, Mary and the four children.
The girl on the far right is probably Olive, the eldest daughter of Frank Ducker, who was brought up by her grandparents James and Eleanor above.

Death of James Ducker jnr
New Zealand Herald, 17 May 1943

DUCKER.—On May 16, 1943, at his residence, Taurangaruru Road, Waiuku, James, dearly-loved husband of Mary F. L. Ducker, and loved father of Carlin, Ken, Eleanor and Joyce; aged 67 years. Funeral will leave his late residence to-day (Monday) at 3 p.m. for the Waiuku Cemetery.

Alfred married Amelia (Minnie) Ashton O'CARROLL in 1945 when he was then in his 70's. It is said that they had been childhood sweethearts, and that they married when Minnie was widowed. Minnie died in 1958.

Death of Alfred Ducker
Alfred died at Waiuku on 11th Jul 1960. NZ BDM Online.

1960/29331	Ducker	Alfred	86Y

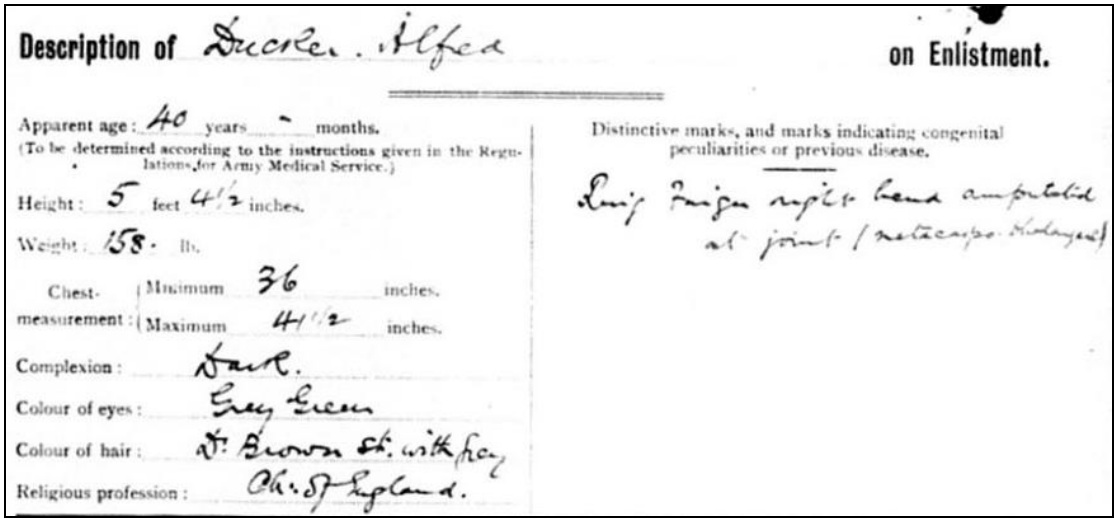
DUCKER, Alfred (First World War veteran). On July 11, 1960 (suddenly), at his residence, Taurangaruru Road, Waiuku, loved uncle of Eleanor, Joyce, Carlin and Ken. Private cremation.

NZ Herald 15th July

Found among documents left by Brad Ducker (Alfred's nephew.)

Ducker (Cenotaph Database)

Full Name	**Alfred Ducker**
Forename(s)	Alfred
Surname	Ducker
War	World War I, 1914-1918
Serial No.	11/1686
First Known Rank	Trooper
Next of Kin	James Ducker (father), Frankley Road, New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand
Marital Status	Single
Enlistment Address	Newall Road, Okato, New Zealand
Military District	Wellington
Body on Embarkation	7th Reinforcements
Embarkation Unit	Wellington Mounted Rifles
Embarkation Date	9-Oct-15
Place of Embarkation	Wellington, New Zealand
Transport	HMNZT 32 HMNZT 33 HMNZT 34
Vessel	Aparima or Navua or Warrimoo
Destination	Suez, Egypt
Page on Nominal Roll	200
Archives NZ source	Military personnel file
Sources Used	Nominal Rolls of New Zealand Expeditionary Force Volume I. Wellington: Govt. Printer, 1914-1919



Description of Ducker. Alfred **on Enlistment.**

Apparent age: 40 years - months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Service.)

Height: 5 feet 4½ inches.

Weight: 158. lb.

Chest measurement: Minimum 36 inches. Maximum 41½ inches.

Complexion: Dark.

Colour of eyes: Grey Green

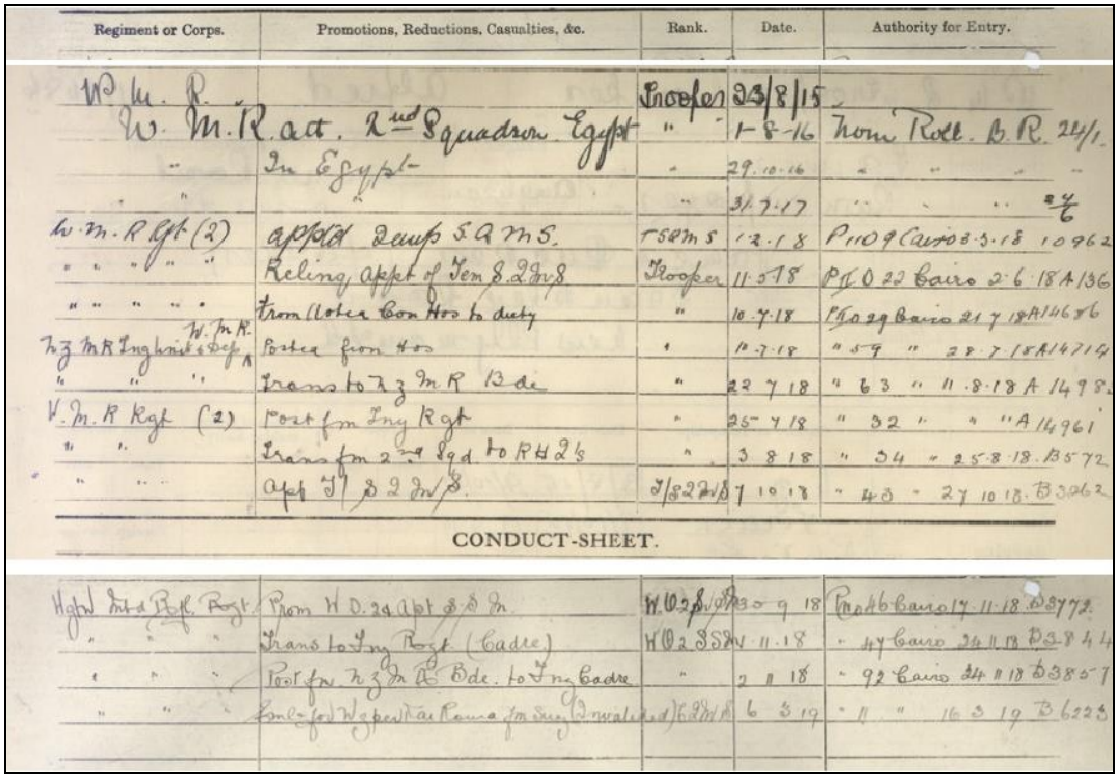
Colour of hair: D. Brown St. with grey

Religious profession: Ch. of England.

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Scar finger right hand amputated at joint / metacarpo-phalangeal

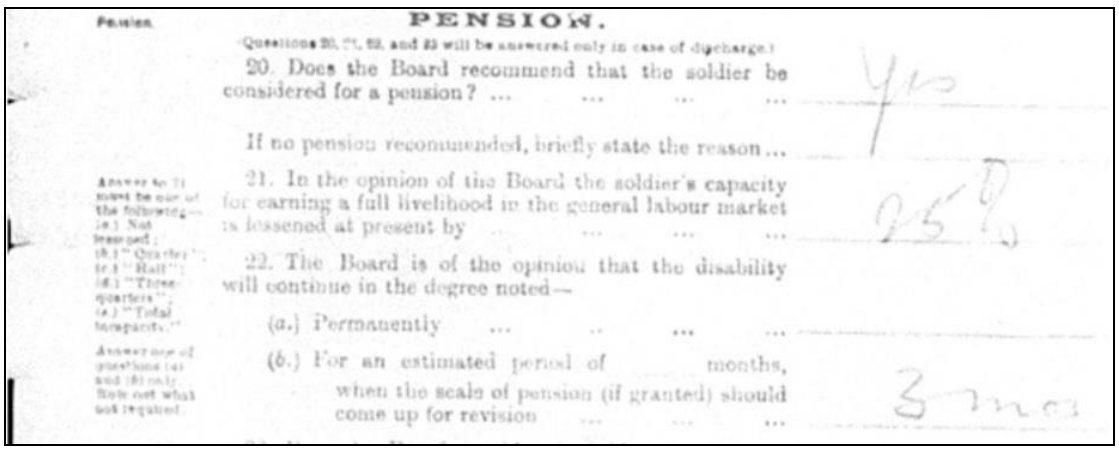
Alfred's entire war service, from August 1915 to March 1919 was in Egypt. He was discharged in 1919 with a minor disability.



Regiment or Corps.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank.	Date.	Authority for Entry.
W. M. R.		Trooper	25/8/15	
W. M. R. Act. 2nd Squadron Egypt		"	1-8-16	from Roll. B.R. 24/1
"	In Egypt-	"	29.10.16	" " " "
" "		"	31.7.17	" " " " 27
W. M. R. Rgt (2)	appt'd Temp SQMS.	TSQMS	12.1.18	Pro 9 Cairo 8.3.18 10962
" " " "	Relieg. Appt of Tem S.Q.M.S.	Trooper	11.5.18	P.O. 22 Cairo 2.6.18 A/136
" " " "	from Motor Con Hos to duty	"	10.7.18	P.O. 29 Cairo 21.7.18 A/14686
N.Z.M.R. Engineers Depot W. M. R.	Posted from Hos	"	10.7.18	" 59 " 28.7.18 A/14714
" " "	Trans to N.Z.M.R. Bde	"	22.7.18	" 63 " 11.8.18 A/1498
W. M. R. Rgt (2)	Post fm Eng Rgt	"	25.7.18	" 82 " " A/14961
" "	Trans fm 2nd Sqd to R.H.Q.'s	"	3.8.18	" 34 " 25.8.18 A/3572
" "	Appt T/S.Q.M.S.	T/SSgt	7.10.18	" 45 " 27.10.18 B/3962

CONDUCT-SHEET.

Highland Mtd Rifle Regt	From H.Q. 2nd Apt S.S.M.	H.Q.2nd Mtd Bde	30.9.18	Pro 46 Cairo 14.11.18 B/3772
" " "	Trans to Eng Regt (Cadre)	H.Q.2nd Mtd Bde	11.11.18	" 47 Cairo 24.11.18 B/3814
" " "	Posted fm N.Z.M.R. Bde to Eng Cadre	"	2.11.18	" 92 Cairo 24.11.18 B/3857
" "	Embarked for Weymouth on Transport from Suez (Invalided)		6.3.19	" 11 " 16.3.19 B/6223



PENSION.

(Questions 20, 21, 22, and 23 will be answered only in case of discharge.)

20. Does the Board recommend that the soldier be considered for a pension? ... ... Yes

If no pension recommended, briefly state the reason ...

Answer to 21 must be one of the following:— (a.) Not impaired; (b.) "Quarter"; (c.) "Half"; (d.) "Three-quarters"; (e.) "Total incapacity."

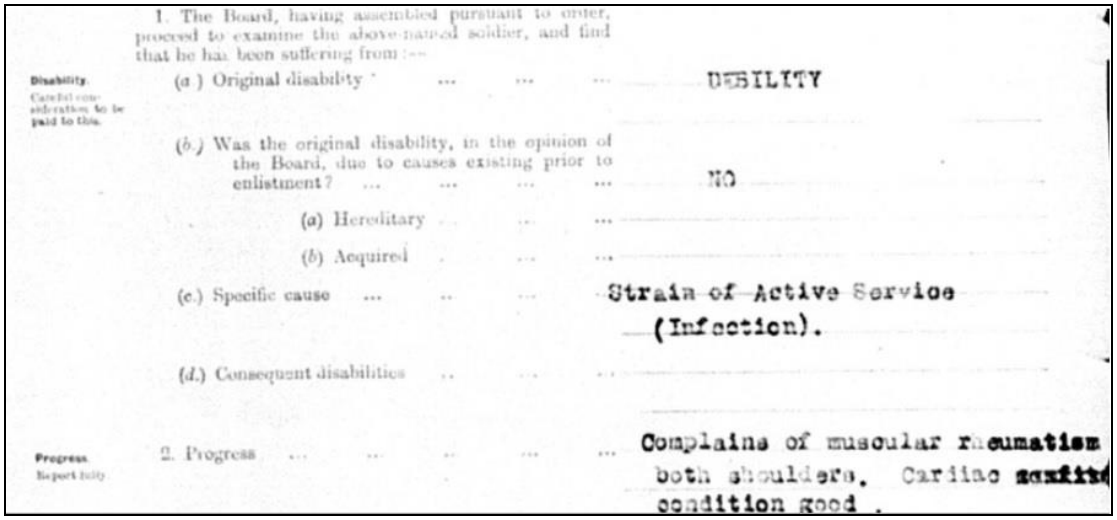
21. In the opinion of the Board the soldier's capacity for earning a full livelihood in the general labour market is lessened at present by 25%

22. The Board is of the opinion that the disability will continue in the degree noted—

(a.) Permanently ... ...

Answer one of questions (a) and (b) only. Rule out what not required.

(b.) For an estimated period of 3 months, when the scale of pension (if granted) should come up for revision ... ... 3 mos



1. The Board, having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to examine the above-named soldier, and find that he has been suffering from:—

Disability. Careful consideration to be paid to this.

(a.) Original disability ... ... DEBILITY

(b.) Was the original disability, in the opinion of the Board, due to causes existing prior to enlistment? ... ... NO

(a) Hereditary ... ...

(b) Acquired ... ...

(c.) Specific cause ... ... Strain of Active Service (Infection).

(d.) Consequent disabilities ... ...

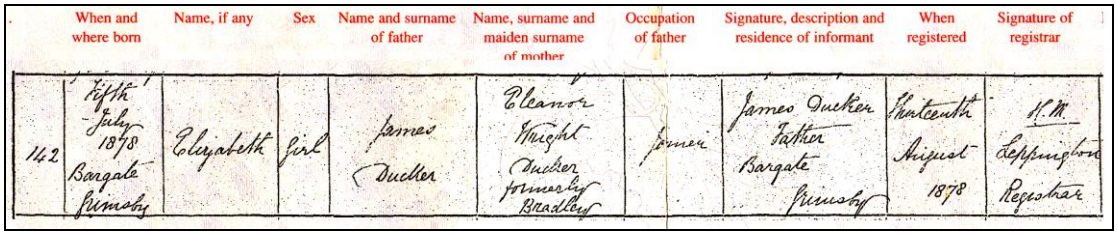
Progress. Report fully.

2. Progress ... ... Complains of muscular rheumatism both shoulders. Cardiac condition good.

(From digital files in NZ Archives.)

Elizabeth Ducker

The youngest of the children of James and Eleanor Ducker, Elizabeth was born in Bargate, Caistor, Grimsby, Lincoln, on July 5 1878.[59]



When and where born	Name, if any	Sex	Name and surname of father	Name, surname and maiden surname of mother	Occupation of father	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
142 Fifth July 1878 Bargate Grimsby	Elizabeth	Girl	James Ducker	Eleanor Wright Ducker formerly Bradley	Farmer	James Ducker Father Bargate Grimsby	Thirteenth August 1878	H.M. Leppington Registrar

From the collection of Janet Fleming

Not yet 2 years old when she emigrated to New Zealand, Elizabeth grew up on the family farm at Frankley Road.

Although her family had a lengthy history of baptisms in the Church of England, and for the last couple of generations in the non-conformist chapels of Wesleyism and Primitive Methodism, Elizabeth attended the last few years of her schooling in New Plymouth at a Catholic convent school. Here at the age of 15:

SCHOOL VACATIONS.
Taranaki Herald, 15 December 1893

BREAKING UP OF THE CONVENT SCHOOLS.

THERE was a very large attendance on Thursday at the breaking up of the Convent schools, conducted by the Religious Order of Notre Dame des Missions at the Monastery of the Presentation, on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes In the Convent parlor, as usual, there was a handsome display of fancy and artistically-finished work, which the kind nuns seemed to take pleasure in showing to the visitors The work consisted of every class of paintings, drawings, needlework (plain and ornamental), and even cakes and pastry, the last mentioned being an addition to the many accomplishments taught at this school

A lengthy list of accomplishments included:

Miss Ducker (Westown), pincushion in silk, watch pocket, mount mellick work, satchels, &c

and again the following year:

Convent Schools
School Vacations
Taranaki Herald 13 December 1894

silk on jean, pinafore, &c. Miss Ducker (Westown), cushions worked in silk and plush, and a handkerchief with the drawn stitch.

[59] The scan shown here, probably a transcript, was taken from a certified copy which was made and dated 2014 – and states that the year of Elizabeth's birth was 1878.
The Waddington bible transcript (see beginning of Part 4) has the year recorded as 1879.
Consideration of other documents relating to Elizabeth Ducker leans us towards 1878.

Walter Rumball

Bradley Walter has written this background piece on Walter Rumball.

Walter Rumball was born in Nutfield, Surrey on February 20, 1871, sixth in a family of eight children. They moved to 13 Whitcombe St, a stone's throw from Trafagar Square, and the National Art Gallery. His father was a groom at a large London stable of the firm "Swan & Edgar, earning one pound ten shillings per week.
As it cost a shilling a week to send a child to school, Walter left school at the age of eight.
He is known to have worked as a scriptwriter, and a reader to a blind poet.
He attended a London Polytech school at night, studying English, French, shorthand and typing, and later was an instructor at this school.
He became a reporter for the Western Sun News on Fleet St.
He was drawn to an advertisement by the NZ Land Co offering assisted immigraton to the colony, provided he would work the land on arrival.
Although none of his friends and family were interested, Walter decided to leave the old land for the new.

It was in August 1894, while Elizabeth, now 16, was still at school, that a young man called Walter Rumball arrived to stay with the family.

Walter was part of a group recruited by an entrepreneur and immigration agent by the name of William Courtney. Ten years earlier, Courtney had promoted among businessmen and settlers the concept of bringing the "right sort" of new settlers to open up new areas around New Plymouth – particularly targeting those with capital, with the purpose of stimulating the local economy and the price of land. Courtney was given financial support by business and local individuals (including James Ducker) and made a number of recruiting trips to England, sometimes recruiting individuals to meet specific requests.[60]

ARRIVAL OF MR COURTNEY'S PARTY.

Taranaki Herald, 24 August 1894

RECEPTION AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

MR COURTNEY'S party of new arrivals, numbering 118, arrived by the evening train on Thursday, and were met at the railway station by about 500 residents, who gave three hearty cheers as the train slowed down at the platform. Several members of the Reception Committee, including Messrs Cock, Carter, Goldwater, Petty, and Carthew, went out by the four o'clock train and met Mr Courtney and party at Sentry Hill. Mr Cock welcomed Mr Courtney back, and explained that a formal reception would be accorded the party in the Alexandra Hall on Friday night. On arrival at the town station Mr Courtney met several old friends, who welcomed him back.

Mr Courtney and his party will be formally welcomed at a conversazione in the Alexandra Hall to night. The Reception Committee met at 3 o'clock this afternoon to make final arrangements.

Mr Courtney's party is composed principally of young men under 27 years of age, many of whom have come out with the object of establishing homes here, and eventually bringing out their relatives; while others have large expectations when they come of age, by which time it is considered they will have gained enough practical experience in working the land as to justify them in putting their capital into land. Mr Courtney states that he received much assistance from Sir Westby Perceval, the Agent-General, while in London. He also stales that arrangements have been made with Miss Yates, the lecturer, to tour the colony, and deliver lectures on it on her return Home. Miss Yates is expected to arrive in Wellington on September 10.

The following is the list of passengers who came out with Mr Courtney in the Ruapehu:— — — W. Rumball, —

[60] **Hawera and Normanby Star**: 10, 22, 26 , 28 May 1883, 28 August 1885, 4 June 1884, 23 March 1888, 3 April 1888, 30 November 1901 and
Taranaki Herald: 4 June 1884, 27 October 1885, 20 August 1887, 27 February 1889, 24 August 1894

Bradley Walter wrote the following summary:
(extracted from an essay dedicated to his mother, Mary Walter, in 2010)

"On his arrival in New Zealand from London in 1894, Walter Rumball stayed with the family of his sponsor and father-in-law to be, James Ducker. He worked on their farm on Frankley Road, helping with milking. In 1895, together with the young Ducker boys, Walter Rumball purchased blocks of virgin bush on Upper Newall Road, just west of the Egmont National Park. He lived there in a shack while clearing the bush in order to create a farm, cutting the under growth to burn when dry, and ring-barking the big trees to be felled for timber later.

W. Rumball gets 235 acres Section 12 Block X1V Cape

Land Sale.—The land applied for since last meeting was as follows :—

block 14, Cape, W. Rumball, 235 acres, O.R.P.

The schedule was approved.

Taranaki Herald, 19 March 1895

(O.R.P. means "Occupation with Right to Purhase")

This was Walter Rumball's first land purchase. It was opposite, on the other side of Newall Rd. from the three sections James Ducker had purchased.
Walter soon commenced bush felling and burning in order to clear the land.
In 1899 he made over the timber rights on his block to James Ducker.

Land Board Taranaki Herald 17 October 1899

Timber rights over sections in block 14, Cape, held by W. J. Murphy, C. H. Arden, J. M. Lilford, and W. Rumball, were granted to J. Ducker on certain conditions.

Deal between James Ducker and Walter Rumball for timber rights



(Photograph taken from Upper Newall Rd. by Aeron Pollard.)

Like many of the early settlers, in his letters home Walter rarely mentioned the mountain.

Perhaps, however, there were times when he looked up from his work and rejoiced in this view from his farm on Newall Road.

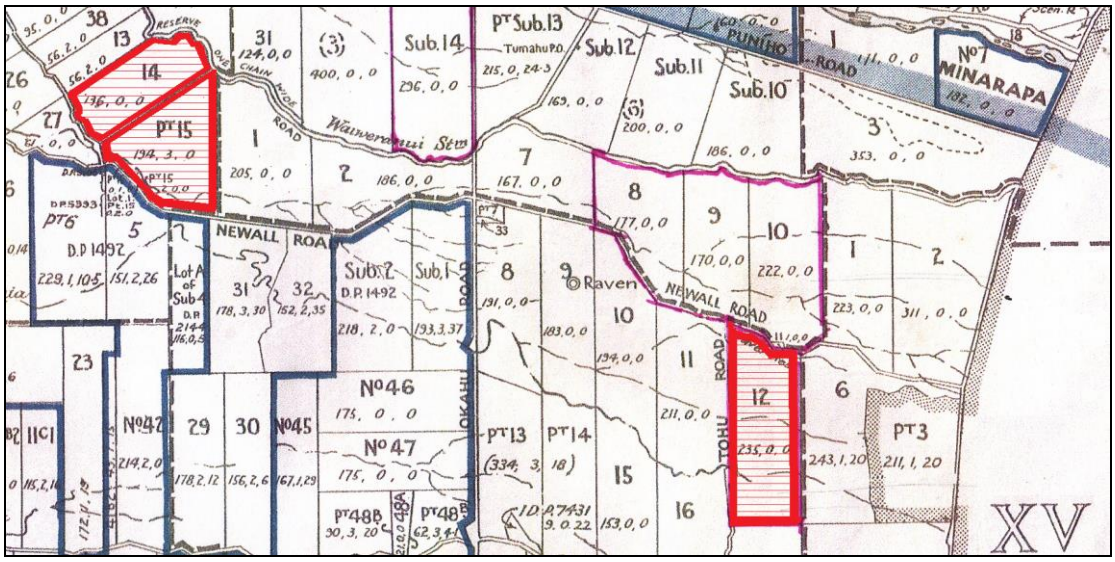
In March 1901, after much hard work, Walter was able to write "home" rather joyfully to his sister in England:

> I am pleased to say I have sold my section - to my neighbour - Mr. Miles for £420. This is not quite as much as I asked, but as the Commission represents another £15, it is only £35 less than the price I put on it, so I must not grumble. Especially considering that I have made £200 over and above all I have spent on the place, counting everything - my own labour, rent and the actual cash I had laid out, so it has paid me handsomely. I shall get £120 when the transfer deed is fixed up, and £300 will remain on at interest for a year. It sounds quite a heap of money, doesn't it? I never thought at one time that I should ever be able to call such a sum my own, and I think if I had stayed at home I should have been as far off it as ever I used to be, although of course I might have had pleasanter and easier times.

(See Appendix: "Letters from Puniho" letter dated 12/3/1901)

Walter then bought another section and began developing a new farm.
He also became engaged to marry Elizabeth Ducker.

Walter's new farm was almost certainly section 14, 136 acres (top left on map) on Warea Road, near to the intersection of Warea and Newall Roads where the creamery was to be built.



Walter's first farm (section 12 lower right) on Newall Rd. purchased in 1895 and sold in 1901.
Walter's second farm (section 14) purchased in 1901 and extended in 1910 to include section 15.

Walter employed a team of men to help him and set to work felling the bush on his new section. In July 1901 he wrote:
"We are very busy now banging away at the bush. I have got about 60 acres down and have about 70 more to come down yet…"

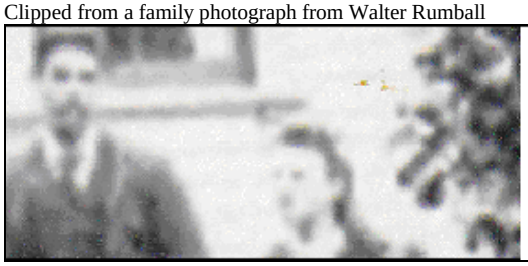
By October 9th 1901: "My bush is not quite finished yet, but another fortnight will see the whole 137 acres down. I intended to finish it weeks ago, but I have been a man short from the start, and a fortnight ago two of the men left…It is time now that it was done, so as to give it a good show to dry up by burning time. I only hope the summer will be a good dry one, I which case there should be a ripping good burn, as there are 600 acres felled here all joining….. It will mean a big thing for me if I can get a good burn, as I shall be able to start milking the following spring, and I shall not then need to go out working anymore, but shall always be able to get a living off my own place….there will be a creamery erected within a mile of this place…"

Walter had Christmas in New Plymouth, and a chance to see Elizabeth.
By mid January the land was still not burned off, and Walter was getting anxious.

Eventually there was a successful burn. In June 1902 Walter took advantage of a wet day to write to his sister Florrie: "For the last few weeks I have been fencing and have just completed the second of my four boundary lines, and started the third. I want the place ring fenced as soon as possible so as to put cattle on…"

1902 Elizabeth Ducker and Walter Rumball were married.

Clipped from a family photograph from Walter Rumball



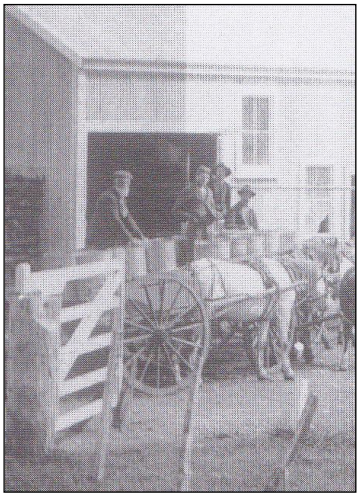
Taranaki Herald, 14 October 1902

MARRIAGE.

RUMBALL — DUCKER. — On the 13th October, 1902, at St. Mary's Church, New Plymouth, by the Rev. F. G. Evans, WALTER RUMBALL, Punino, Taranaki, to ELIZABETH (LIZZIE), the youngest daughter of Mr James Ducker, New Plymouth.

Walter now describes plans for his new house: "There will be three rooms in it – two good big ones 15 feet by 16 (about 5m x 5m) and the smaller one, and being built just in front of the *whare*, the latter will come in for a wash house…I expect to milk 15 cows this year…"

Elizabeth moved out from New Plymouth to live in the new house on the bush farm with Walter, but unfortunately there was a fire which destroyed the house and most of their wedding gifts.[61] Elizabeth had to return to New Plymouth.
3rd June **1904**: "…she can't come into the bush with me. But it will be at least three months before I can get the house up again. The timber is ordered, but it will want seasoning at least two months before it will be fit to put up…."
By November 1904 Elizabeth and Walter were re-established in their own home. Walter wrote to his sister Florrie:
"We have just got a couple of cows to keep us supplied in milk, cream and butter and we have plenty of this. We also sport a few fowls and get just about as many eggs as we require and we know they are fresh laid....
I hope to start supplying the factory next spring and would like to milk about 20 cows…. we are only a few minutes drive from the creamery…"[62]



In November **1905**: "We usually have been milking some time when we see the sun rise over the top of old Mount Egmont – our shed faces that way …. We get them all finished and turned away to feed by about seven o'clock, by which time Lizzie has got breakfast ready, and by about half past I am at the creamery with the milk, where I have to wait for a bit while it is separated, but I'm back again with the skim milk for the calves by 8.30 a.m. We start again at about 4.30 in the afternoon, so I've plenty of time to do odd jobs in between…."
By **1907** Walter was looking to increase his herd to 30 cows. "I have had plenty to do in the way of fencing and draining…. I have to make a secure run for the pigs this spring, and I have been enlarging the garden… planting some lial hedges around the garden…I want to plant some fruit trees…I am going to put fowl netting all round to keep the fowls out…"

[61] Fortunately Elizabeth's prized sewing machine was saved – it had been left back in New Plymouth.
[62] The photograph shows Newall Creamery in 1905. Walter Rumball is 3rd from the left.

In 1910 Walter was rejoicing in the installation of a milking machine, and was looking forward to running 60 cows. He now took over the adjoining section[63] (this is marked as section 15 on the map on the previous page.)
This added another 194 acres to his farm, giving a total of about 330 acres. (134 hectares)

"It will keep us tight for a year or so, buying another place, but I think we will do well once we get started with a bigger herd of cows."
And there was a bonus – the adjoining section had a bigger house. With a growing family Walter and Elizabeth were pleased to be able to upgrade. "If we remained here we would have to enlarge this house very soon as we are becoming too numerous…"

The new milking machine was a success. November **1911**: "We are milking 55 cows now and have seven more to come in soon….The machine is running splendidly, and the heifers take to it very kindly and are less trouble than the older cows…."
June **1912**: "I will be able to send you the money I owe you about Xmas next – it will then amount to £35 I think ….we will have all our arrears wiped out again and shall be doing well…"

The following clippings show how completely Walter Rumball involved himself in the local community.

.James Ducker and Walter Rumball on Newall Rd. School Committee 1908 and 1910

Taranaki Herald, 1 May 1908

NEWALL.

Messrs J. Ducker (chairman), A. Cassie, W. Rumball, N. Watt, C. Magon.

Taranaki Daily News, 30 June 1910

At a meeting of householders held on 20th June, Messrs. J. Ducker (chairman), A. Cassie, W. Rumball, T. Raven, and O. Magon were elected a committee for the Newall school.

Taranaki Daily News, 27 April 1912

James Ducker and Walter Rumball (Chairman), Householder Committee 1912
Walter Rumball auditor for Warea Hall committee 1912

Taranaki Daily News, 4 July 1912

The following committee was elected by ballot:—Messrs W. Revell, J. Burgess, A. Clothier, H. Corbett, C. Parker, S. Wells, K. F. Andrews, H. Pelham and B. Anderson. At a committee meeting held afterwards Mr. W. Revell was re-elected chairman. Mr. H. Pelham was re-elected secretary and Mr. W. Rumball auditor.

James Ducker and Walter Rumball Newall Rd. School Committee 1913 and 1914

Taranaki Daily News, 7 May 1913

NEWALL.

At Newall road Messrs W. Rumball (chairman), A. Cassie, J. Ducker, A. E Magon and W. B. Smith were elected.

Taranaki Daily News, 4 May 1914

NEWALL.

Messrs W. Rumball (chairman), J. Ducker, A. Cassie and W. B. Smith, with a recommendation to the Education

Newall Road School Concert 1914

Taranaki Daily News, 13 May 1914

The accompaniments were excellently played by Mrs. Ducker. During the evening Mr. W. Rumball, chairman of the School Committee, presented the prizes, each child receiving a prize, and there were five special prizes given to the children who had never missed a day.

[63] Appendix "Letters from Puniho" letter dated 5th Oct. 1910

Walter Rumball re-elected as Diretctor of Warea Dairy Co 1914

Taranaki Daily News, 6 August 1914

There were five nominations for the vacancies on the directorates, viz., Messrs J. Burgess, W. Rumball, C. Magon, C. Muir, and W. B. Clarke, and the two first-named were re-elected by big majorities.

Taranaki Daily News , 7 August 1918

HOUSEHOLDERS' MEETINGS.

NEWALL.

Messrs W. Rumball (chairman), S. Cassie, A. Luckin, W. Thomas, W. B. Smith.

Taranaki Daily News , 3 May 1918

ELECTION OF DIRECTOR.

For the two vacancies on the directorate there were four nominations, the election resulting, Messrs W. Rumball 180, Jas. Burgess 112 (re-elected); W. B. Smith 91, Donald 79.

Newall Road School concert and prize giving 1915

Taranaki Daily News, 25 May 1915

The chairman of the School Committee (Mr. Rumball) announced the items of the following programme:—National Anthem, children; overture, Mrs. J. and Messrs J. and A. Ducker; recitation, Miss Mary Smith; song and chorus, "Ship Ahoy," children, recitation, Master Willie Raven; song, Miss Cassie; physical drill, small girls; song and chorus, "Sea Shells," children; recitation, Miss Eleanor Ducker; song, Mr. F. Burgess (encored); recitation, Master Henry Rumball; glee, "Who Did," Glee Company. Interval. Overture, Mrs. J. and Messrs J. and A. Ducker; recitation, Master Ted Smith; song, "Sallie Horner," Miss Eleanor Ducker; recitation, Master Sam Jones; song, Miss Waterston (encored), recitation, Miss Eileen Neilson; physical drill, senior pupils; song, Mr. S. Cassie; recitation, Master Willie Thomas; song and chorus, "Australasia's Naval Cadet," children; "The War Alphabet," Miss Lucy Cooper, Master Ted Smith, and Miss Caroline Magon; song, Mr. F. Burgess (encored); recitation, Master Kenneth Ducker; Glee, "Good Night," Glee Company.

After distributing the prizes won by the pupils during the year, the chairman thanked all those who had helped to make the concert such a success, and asked that when the work at present to be done in the school ground was completed, they would once more attend a "bee," and fence in a playground and plant hedges.

A dainty supper, provided by the ladies, was handed round during the dance, the music for which was supplied by Ducker's Orchestra, while Mr. Harry Smith played several evtras. The accompaniments were ably rendered by Miss Waterston, Mrs. Ducker, and Mrs. Fraser Jones.

Walter Rumball re-elected as chairman, Warea Dairy Co. 1919

Taranaki Daily News , 5 August 1919

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Warea Dairy Company was held in the Warea Public Hall yesterday, when Mr. W. Rumball presided over an attendance of about 40 suppliers.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

At a subsequent meeting of directors, Mr. W. Rumball was re-elected chairman.

The story of long years of hard work, clearing the land, the fire, building of the new house, the first few cows, milking shed and new milking machine are all recounted in Walter's own words in his "Letters to Puniho" (see Appendix 1.)

In 1920 Walter and Elizabeth sold up

"By 1920, Walter Rumball was worn out from working a "bush farm" and was ready to sell up, but prepared to buy another, better farm if Alfred and Henry showed an inclination to be farmers. The family moved to New Plymouth, where Mary attended Frankley School." (Bradley Walter)

Farewell Function

Taranaki Daily News , 3 August 1920

On Tuesday night, 27th July, all the residents of Warea and many other well-wishers from New Plymouth and the districts surrounding Warea, assembled in the Warea Hall to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. W. Rumball, who are leaving the district to reside in New Plymouth. The function, which took the form of a social and dance, was a huge success in every way, the hall being crowded with a very representative gathering of settlers and their wives and families. Judging by its success the Warea community must have been amply repaid for their efforts in showing their appreciation of the past services rendered them by the departing guests. Mr. Max Parker, who had charge of the floor, kept matters moving merrily to excellent dance music provided by Mr. Parker (piano) and Mr. Norris (violin). The Ducker family and Mrs. Beck played several extras. The dance was interspersed with an enjoyable programme of songs. These items were rendered by Miss Ruth Harding, Miss Waterston and Mr. Stuart Casey, while Mrs. J. Ducker supplied the accompaniments. All items were greatly appreciated by those present. Supper, dispensed by the ladies, was much enjoyed and fully maintained the district's reputation. After supper, Mr. Alexander Casey, of New Plymouth, who at one time resided at Newell Road, Warea, to whom the duty of making the presentation was entrusted, expressed the regret at Mr. Rumball's departure from the district. Mr. Rumball, he said, was one of the oldest settlers of the district, and he was therefore pleased to see so many present to bid Mr. and Mrs. Rumball farewell. Mr. Casey also referred to Mr. Rumball's valuable services for so many years as a member of the school committee, and also on the directorate of the local factory, acting in the capacity of chairman, as well as an active worker in the general interests of the district. His example was one which he trusted would induce others to take a definite active part in all matters concerning the district's welfare. On behalf of the settlers he then presented Mr. and Mrs. Rumball with a handsome silver coffee service as a mark of esteem, and expressed the hope that they would long be spared to make use of it, and think of the happy times they had spent in Warea.

Mr. Rumball, who was greeted with applause, thanked the speaker for his kindly remarks, and the company generally for the pleasant evening and beautiful present. He said that he had only tried to take his part, as the rest of the settlers were doing, in anything for the good of the district, and mutual gratification was ample repayment. He would carry away kindly memories of his enjoyable stay at Newell Road, particularly that evening, with mingled feelings of pleasure and regret. After singing "For They are Jolly Good Fellows," "Auld Lang Syne," and cheering Mr. and Mrs. Rumball, dancing was then the order until an early hour of the following morning.

"By 1925 the Rumballs had moved to Douglas, where Walter had purchased a good farm behind the factory, with lots of flat land to be developed with the help of young Alfred and Henry. Together they made one of the highest producing dairy farms in Douglas" (Bradley Walter)



Showing the approximate position of the first farms at Newall Rd.

and

the later farm at Douglas.

Children of Elizabeth and Walter Rumball

1906	Alfred	not married
1908	Henry	married Louise Walter
1910	Mary	married John (Jack) Walter
1914	Amy	died 1 March 1914 at age 5 weeks.
1915	Florence (Florrie)	married Basil Howse
1922	Olive	married Graham Bassett.

NZ BDM Online also records a child born in 1919, stillborn (1919/7453)

Mary and Jack Walter (above) were the parents of Bradley Walter.

The following is taken from the work of Ian Rumball who has researched and recorded the story of Henry Rumball and Lou Elsie Walter, their large family and descendants. (Henry Rumball was the second child of Walter and Elizabeth Rumball.)

Recording the last years of Walter and Elizabeth, Ian Rumball writes:

"The beginning of World War II saw a series of related changes in the circumstances of the Rumball family. Early in 1940, Walter and Elizabeth left farm life and moved to their "retirement" home in Morley Street, New Plymouth. Two of their children (Alfred and Florence) began war service, and Lou and Henry sold their farm in Waimauku, and returned to manage the Rumball Family farm at Douglas."

A dual-headstone in the New Plymouth (Te Henui) cemetery records that:

Walter Rumball died 11 July 1940 age 69, and
Elizabeth Rumball died 07 Sept 1943 age 64.

Letters from Puniho

There is nothing unique or exceptional in the pioneering years of Elizabeth (Ducker) and Walter Rumball - the work of the bushmen, the burns, the sowing of grass, grazing the first few dairy cows, prosperity at last and retirement – they were typical pioneers and their endeavours were typical of the way modern Taranaki was built.

Nothing unique, except for this: Walter and Elizabeth wrote letters – and the letters have been transcribed and preserved.

Bexley Heath
Kent
ENGLAND
October 10 1940

From Amy to Lizzie after the death of Walter Rumball

" I was wondering should I keep all his(Walter's) letters, or as things are now, destroy them.
I am glad now I did keep al the letters I have had from New Zealand."

The letters were nearly destroyed in 1940, as the family in England was deciding what to leave and what to keep in the lead up to the blitz of London.

Bradley Walter had copies of these valuable records of our country's past, and he has given permission for them to be scanned for inclusion here.



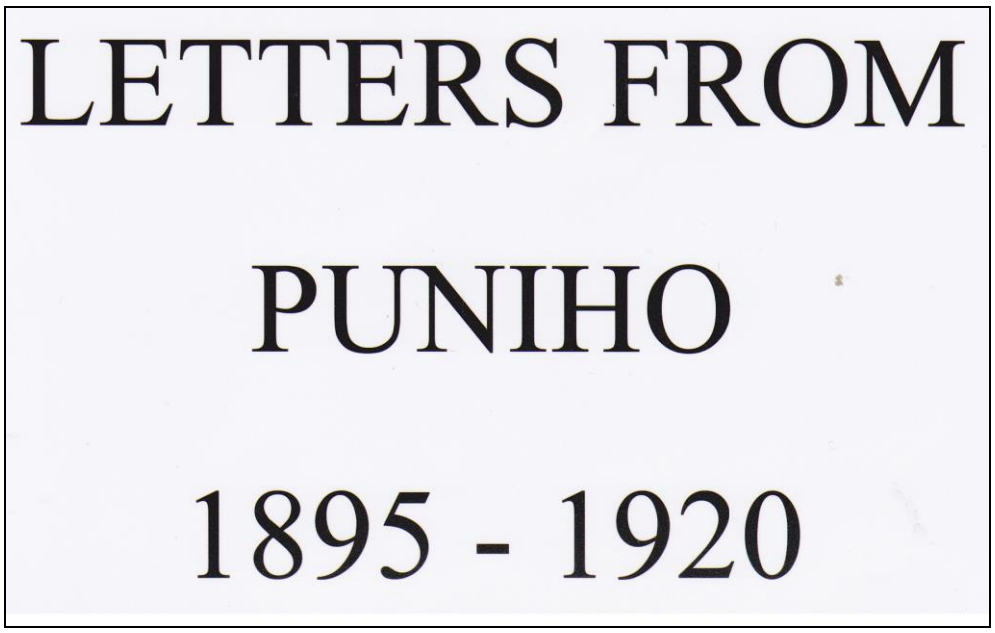
Walter Rumball
late 1930's



Elizabeth Rumball
nee Ducker

(From the collection of Bradley Walter)

Appendix 1 Letters from Puniho

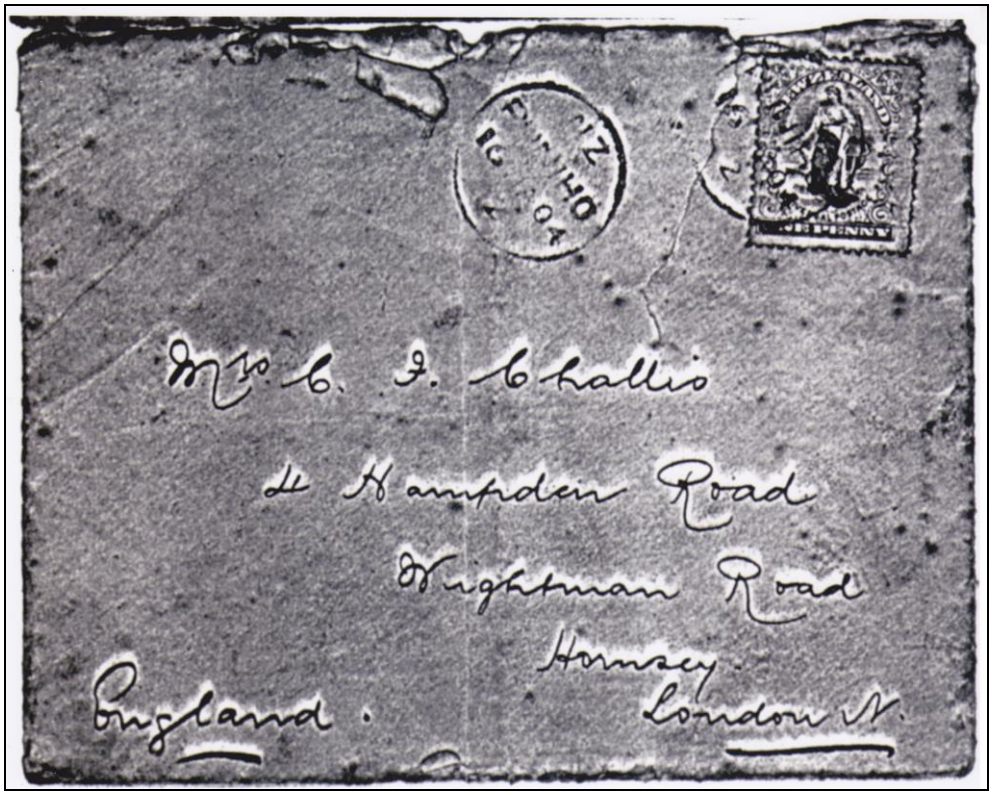


(Copies taken from the collection of Walter Rumball)

Most of the following letters are from Walter to his family in England.

Some however are from Elizabeth.
Many of the signatures have been truncated, but it is not difficult to identify the writer.

The first is a letter from Walter Rumball, c/- Mr. Ducker, The Sash and Door Company, New Plymouth, 11th Feb 1895, to his sister Amy in London:



c/o Mr. Ducker -
The Sash + Door Factory
New Plymouth.
11th Feb. 1895

Dear Amy,

Thanks for your two letters which I owe to have answered before. But I am a poor letter writer, + it is not very easy to write more than about one letter a month concerning the rather uneventful life out here. I find things very pleasant as far There is plenty to do from the first thing in the morning till the evening & time consequently seems to fly very rapidly. It is only on wet days when we can do no work that time seems to drag. On Sundays there is nothing to do except milk in the morning - when it is all hands on deck - + every alternate to do it. This means about an hour + a half's work altogether when it is my turn to milk morning + evening The rest of the day is usually spent lying on the bed reading, listening to the other fellows toothing on their instruments - sometimes getting up to go for a swim or a ride. I

are getting a much accomplished rider than I was; at first I always felt an inclination to hang on with both hands, & got terribly shaken up. The roads are a bit rough round here & it takes a fairly good rider to ride comfortable. I shall prefer to have the roads in pretty good condition when I go out.

I suppose you feel a bit of a swell now you have a watch. Why they didn't present you with a large supply of hair-making materials I can't imagine. You might have made them plenty of head-gear in return. By this time however I guess the watch is almost worn out. Those other girls at your shop must have turned green with envy when they saw it. Of course you are at work again now You seem to have had a good long holiday.

How is your friend Mattie getting on? Please remember me to her. She must be a full blown dressmaker now.

The Frankley Road Orchestra are giving a concert + dance tonight. night at a hall close hand. I suppose I shall go, although I am not particularly great on dancing. Everybody seems to dance out here; they can't seem to realise that there are people who can't. This would be the

We are about twelve hours ahead of you. Before you get it in the morning we have finished our days work + are beginning to think of going to bed. That is why New Zealand is so much ahead of Europe.

When the days work is over + I have got time to think for myself, I often think of all at home + try to imagine what you are all doing. I suppose things are going on in the same old ways.

I expect I shall hear something more about the bike by next months mail. I hope that the matter has been settled without much trouble.

Looking to hear from you again soon, + hoping all are well,

I am

Yours affectionately

C/- Mr. J. Ducker,
The Sash & Door Factory,
20th Sept. '95

Dear Amy,

I had just returned from a few days spell in the bush. The boss turned a lot of cattle on his place, and we went to see if we could hunt some of them up. They had wandered all over the place. We couldn't find all of them, as it was raining nearly all the time and we couldn't get out much. There are plenty of wild cattle and pigs in the bush, although I have never seen any. A party of fellows who are up there bush felling for Mr. D. went out hunting one Sunday and shot a couple of wild cows, and caught three little sucking pigs. Cattle hunting is grand sport they say. I should like to have been there. I had some meat when I went. It was very good, especially the sucking pig. They shot at a bull too, but did not bring it down. On the contrary, it went for them and they all had to get up trees as quickly as they could. The bull must have been out for a bit of sport too.

With love to all, and hoping all are well, I am your affectionately,
Walter.

C/- Mr. J. Ducker,
Sash & Door Factory,
New Plymouth.
Nov. 20th '95

Dear Florrie,

Just a few lines to wish you a merry xmas and a Happy New Year. I expect this will reach you in time.

I am afraid I have not time to write a long letter, as I am off out to the store tomorrow and have a lot of jobs to do before I can start. As a rule I go out for stores on Sundays about once or twice a month, and it is a journey I don't at all look forward to. Of course I ride out but I have to walk back, the horse having a good load without me, so I have a tramp of about 9 miles, driving the brake on in front of me. It takes fairly well all day to get there and back, and it's a lot more tiring than a days work, but thank goodness, it doesn't happen every Sunday. I can't afford to lose the time just now, or I would go out during the week instead.

I am still bush felling, and shall be right up till xmas, as I want to get down as much as possible. After that time it would not do to fall, as there would not be time for it to die by the time you wanted to burn.

Alf Ducker was up here for a few days last week and brought letters from Ada and Kate. I have been invited to spend a week or so with his people at xmas time, which is very good of them. Otherwise I expect I should have been holiday making in the bush, which would certainly have been rather slow, to say the least of it.

I have been busy lately making a garden at my place. It has been a long job, as the ground is full of roots which have not yet had time to die. It isn't a very flash affair now it is finished, but it will have to do for this year. I expect however, to be able to grow plenty of cabbage, cauliflower etc. which are very appreciable in the bush, as well as a few potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes, lettuce and a few other odds and ends, which will all help reduce the store bill, as well as being pleasant additions to the ordinary fare. Another year if all's well, I intend to stick in some fruit trees.

The weather here is still very wet, although it is time we were getting summer weather.

I must wind up now, with love to all.
Yours affectionately,
Walter

In the second letter Walter is evidently describing work on his bush block.

C/- Mr. J. Ducker,
Sash & Door Factory,
New Plymouth.
Jan. 21st '96

We are back in the bush again for an indefinite period chopping scrub, and grass-seeding, as well as getting ready for the burn, which ought to take place in a few weeks if the weather is favourable.

Our Xmas holidays were spent in New Plymouth; we were there for about three weeks. There was a spell of grand weather, so we had a good time. They don't make much to-do about xmas day here, but look on it much as they would any Sunday. On Boxing Day I went to see the races. They were the first I had ever seen and I wasn't much taken with them, they being a bit too slow. New Year's Day, which is another holiday, there was a big picnic at the Recreation Grounds, which I enjoyed very much, there being plenty of amusements all day. The holidays were a grand change after a long spell of work.

With the exception of the xmas fine spell, the weather has been very bad - wet nearly every day. In fact there has been hardly any summer yet.

Puniho,
Taranaki, N.Z.
20th Aug. '97

My present job is nearly finished, so next week I expect to be off to Alf Ducker's to fell bush with him. I could stop where I am for some time yet, but Alf will be waiting for me, as I arranged to start with him about this time, to work on till nearly xmas time I suppose.

Ours will be the third camp over there, and there will be altogether nearly a dozen fellows all within half a mile of one another, so we shall be quite lively. If the place gets populated as densely as this you will think it is growing more like London every day. There are plenty of fellows working up the Newall Road - where I am now - but we don't see much of them as they are all a good bit further up, and they are all pretty busy felling bush.

You will all be thinking of your summer holidays now, that is if you haven't already had them - the good old annual that used to be so welcome when I was at home. The holidays here however, are few and far between, consisting chiefly of wet days, when it is not possible to work; xmas time, and an odd day now and again, but very seldom any prolonged ones, except perhaps enforced, like my late spell, which are not at all welcome. It appears as though I am going to have one today, as the rain started soon after we got to work and drove us home again. Although this is winter time with us, the weather has not been so bad just wet occasionally, but sometimes for several days on end one would think that summer had come again, so warm and genial it has been.

The Taranaki climate is very unsettled, but whether it rains or shines, it does the thing in style - no half measures about it. It is never really cold, such as you experience it at home, but after a time, one gets to feel what there is, and it seems as severe on people as if it were really much colder. I suppose I am not quite climatised, as it does not affect me as it seems to the colonials, who go about shivering in a lot of toggery while I don't feel so cold in half the quantity of clothes; but in another year or two, I suppose it will make me sit up too.

3 A

Puniho,
Taranaki.
7th Aug. '98

I thought I had acknowledged those annuals Mother sent me. I got them the last time I was at the Duckers. They were very good and the next time I go out I shall get some of the pictures to stick up in my whary.

When next I go to town I will get my photo taken but I can't say at present when that will be - perhaps not for some months to come - possibly xmas. It is very seldom I can get so far. When I am not working for somebody else, I have to put in all the time I can on my own place, but provided the machine will stand it, I will get it done at the first opportunity. I don't think you would find me altered much, perhaps not quite so hungrey looking as when I was taken last.

As far as getting engaged or married - have no fear. I am afraid I haven't a taking way with me where the ladies are concerned. Nearly every letter I get from Frank or Tick informs me that someone is married or about to be, and it seems as though we three old buffers are being left in the lurch, like the three old maids of Lea.

We - Ern Shaw and myself - are busy bush falling on our sections, and shall be I suppose for the next two months. The weather is squally, so we don't get on very fast at present.

3rd July '99

Dear Florrie,

I received your letter, for which many thanks. So you too have joined the great army of "peddle pushers" as Fred used to call them and are going in for bikeing! I should like to see you when you are all going together for a ride somewhere. How do you manage to raise the bikes? I hope the machine you learn on did not have such bad habits as my first one. That had a shocking propensity for running straight into all the lamp-posts, and when a cab came along, it would - the bike - make a bee line for it, even if it had to cross the road to get to it. But they always play these sort of tricks with a novice and you soon get to understand their funny little ways.

We have been having some splendid weather for our contract, having only lost one day in eight weeks. The nights have been frosty, and the days most summer-like. We seem to be getting a change now though, it having turned wet, but we hope to get another fine spell before the job is finished, as we usually get some fine weather this month. We are more than half finished now, and about another six weeks ought to see it completed.

I have not yet received Ada's photo, but I suppose it will turn up in due time. You will have got mine by now. I wonder what you all thought of it. It's a pity I can't send you one of my shanty and myself. There is no working costume. I'm afraid you wouldn't believe it was me, especially if I had about three months beard on, as I have at present. When more people get to live up here and bring their families I suppose we'll have to keep up a more civilised appearance, or else go further back into the bush, but time enough to think of that when they come.

24th Apl. 1900

I have just returned from New Plymouth, after working for three months on the road, and yesterday started work again, fencing in my section. There is one thing about this sort of life, a fellow can always take a holiday when he feels like it. There is no boss to be asked, only his own pocket and convenience to be considered. Certainly I don't take many myself. I have always too much to do, and just about enough money to do it with, but I manage to snatch a few days now and again.

I am pleased to say that Miss Ducker is a good deal better than she was the last time I went out there. She is still very weak, but is getting like her old self agin. She has had a bad time of it, but will be all right again in the course of time.

Mr. Ducker has not got his mill going yet, having had a bigger job than he anticipated. He has dammed the river up nearly twenty feet and this has taken a lot of time and trouble. He has made a big water race in addition, and this has had to be cut out of almost solid rock for the most part. The water wheel is the next thing to be fixed up, and then he will be able to start. There is a great demand for timber in the district, and he should do a big trade when he does start. I should like to see him do well. It will benefit me considerably if ever he takes

Walter climbs Mt. Egmont

Puniho.
10th March '98

I suppose you heard that a party of us were going for a trip up Mount Egmont. This bit of dissapation is now of course over, and I enjoyed it very much. We - thirteen of us - started away from New Plymouth on Friday marching in a brake, and I think there was a tidy brakeload of us, with our bundles of blankets, tucker etc. When I saw the vast heap of stuff we were to take up, I thought there wasn't a vehicle in the colony big enough to take it, and wondered what we were going to do with it if we ever did get it there. The provisioning had been left to the ladies, and if they had calculated appetites, don't tell me the dear creatures cannot put away a good square meal. However by dint of much persuasion and squeezing - the bundles I mean - we and our little lot got packed into what I thought at first sight was an absurdly small brake, - were soon on our way, - after a fourteen mile drive came to the end of the first part of our journey. This was what they call the radius line, and which has a radius of six miles from the centre of the mountain. The mountain and all the bush around it within this line is reserved as a sort of national park, and a very beautiful one it will be, especially when all the bush outside is fallen and destroyed. It is a pretty big park - about 36 miles or more in circumference. From this point we had a walk of about four miles to the mountain house. We had been talking very largely of carrying our bundles on our bakcs, but we decided when we saw what a heap of stuff it was - and it seemed to have got larger than ever when unloaded - to transfer the bundles to some pack horses and just as well that we did, for it would have been no joke carrying it that distance up a stiff rise all the way. The house was built for the accommodation of visitors, and holds about forty people - that is, comfortably. The first night we had it all to ourselves, and we kept it up till about midnight dancing, singing etc. fancy <u>me</u> now, cavorting around on the light fantastic, but I wasn't able to do much. Considering that we had to be up at 3 o'clock the next morning - this was very wise ; but we were up and away before 5. There are some enthusiasts who start about midnight on moonlight nights and so be up at the top to see the sun rise. We had no such ambition. For my part I would rather see the sun shining through the window before I turn out of bed - let the sun see <u>me</u> rise in fact. As we had all the day before us we took it pretty easy at the start, all except one young lady, who was in such a hurry that you would have thought she was going to meet her best young man on the top. She would hurry on and then wait for us. This, however couldn't last and by the time, we were about half way, she and another were too baked to go any further. The rest of us all got to the top after about 5 hours hard work. It is easy enought for the first half, but as we got higher we encountered a sort of loose stone called scoria, and as you took a step upwards perhaps you would slide back two. You had to be careful not to slip altogether else you would have travelled with a whiz till you went over some gorge. It was rather steep towards the top with a lot of big loose stones, so you had to look out that the one above you didn't give one a start in your direction. However, we all got there safely and a treat it was to think you were there at last. It seemed like old times to be able to have a walk in the snow again. There was plenty in the crater, where it never disappears altogether. We had a grand view up there 8,000 feet high. We say the other mountains Ruapehu and Tongariro and all the towns scattered around us. I could also distinguish my section. It was rather smoky from bush fires, or we would have seen the other island.

When we got back we found the hut in the possession of another and much bigger party. People kept on turning up till there were over 70 there. It was fun to see the way they all hastened to enquire which were their bunks, when there was only enough for about half the number. The consequence was, about 30 chaps slept - or rather didn't sleep in the dining room - kicking up a terrible shindy all night - no sleep for us. We cleared out the next day, after having had a gay old time.

I could write a lot more, but this is the last piece of paper in the whary.

Puniho,
15th Nov. 1900

Dear Florrie,

Just a few lines to wish you all at home a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I wish I could be home to spend it with you once more. What a change, I should see, with my little sisters grown up - not forgetting one of them married - and the younger generation of neices and nephews growing up too. I suppose little Ada would be too big to romp with me as she used to do, and Arthur no doubt is beginning to think himself quite a big boy. There will be a good many of them home at Xmas, I expect, and perhaps will help to fill the places that have been left vacant.

I don't know yet where I shall be, but I don't expect to go to town. It all depends what attractions there will be. We usually have fine summer weather at that time of the year, but we have not seen any yet, but there's plenty of time. At present, the weather is simply atrocious; rain nearly every day. This is considered to be the wettest spring experienced here for the last sixteen years, and that is saying a lot. Of course we always get a lot of rain at this time of the year, only this year it has been rather more so. Perhaps we are to be favoured with an exceptionally fine summer to make up for it. Most people here consider that fine summer at home or the reverse, is usually followed by a similar one here.

I think I mentioned in my last letter home, that I was applying for another section of land, but I have not heard as yet whether I have got it. I shall know in a few days, however.

This road is getting quite lively now, to what it used to be. We have another of the fair sex making a successful invasion - in fact marrying one of the settlers - Ted Elwyn - and the best of it is she has come to live in a whare - one about half the size of mine, with a dirt floor in it. There's just room for the two of them and no more. They could not wait apparently for a week or two till they could get timber from the mill for a house, but that will come next. Considering my whare is bigger than theirs, I am beginning to think there is hope for me yet. They made a big splash at the wedding. Had it in the Hall at Pungarehu and about 150 people sat down to the feast. This was followed by a dance until the small hours of the morning.

Puniho,
12/3/1901.

I am pleased to say I have sold my section - to my neighbour - Mr. Miles for £420. This is not quite as much as I asked, but as the Commission represents another £15, it is only £35 less than the price I put on it, so I must not grumble. Especially considering that I have made £200 over and above all I have spent on the place, counting everything - my own labour, rent and the actual cash I had laid out, so it has paid me handsomely. I shall get £120 when the transfer deed is fixed up, and £300 will remain on at interest for a year. It sounds quite a heap of money, doesn't it? I never thought at one time that I should ever be able to call such a sum my own, and I think if I had stayed at home I should have been as far off it as ever I used to be, although of course I might have had pleasanter and easier times.

I shall have to wire in this winter and get a big lump of bush down on the new section - 100 acres at least. I expect to get about 4 other chaps with me and fall for about 4 months. I don't suppose I shall be able to get men for less than 1/- an hour, so it will run into a good bit of money. Men are very scarce and work plentiful. This summer even navvies - good men - have been getting 9/- and 10/- a day for eight hours. The contractors have got to be very civil with them, or the men would fling down their tools as soon as look at them.

We have had a terrible summer so far. Except for a fine spell about Xmas time, and that was a short one, we have had a very wet time of it. Thank goodness I have no bush to burn this year, but there are hundreds of acres of it here waiting to be burnt. A fine fortnight would make fit, but we can't get it and I am afraid it is getting too late in the year now to expect the weather to clear up. We want to complete metalling our road too, but if the bad weather continues it will have to be left till next summer and some of the settlers will have to plug through the mud for another winter.

Puniho.
Taranaki.
20/5/01.

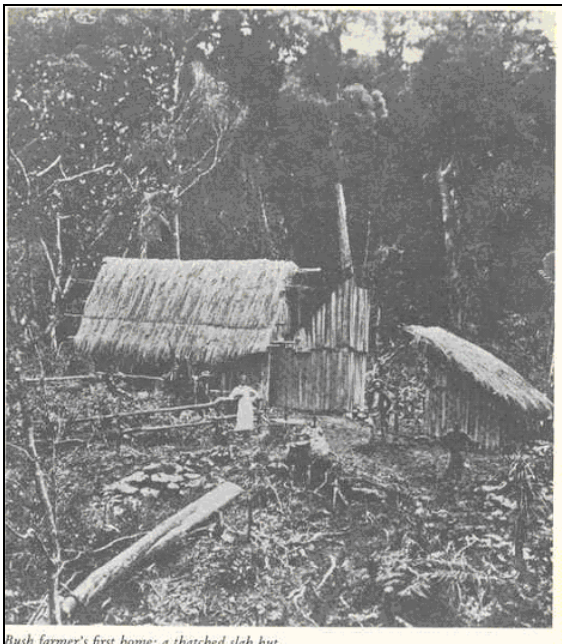
Dear Florrie,

I received quite a bundle of letters by the last mail, congratulating me on my engagement to Lizzie D., and am very pleased to that you are all so glad to hear it. I have had about enough of living "on my own", and look forward to the time when I shall again have someone near me to care for me, and to be cared for. I am only an old sobersides but I shall endeavour to make both of us happy when the time comes. Lizzie received Amy's letter, and I think is answering it by this mail. She has not had a photo taken for the last year or two, but I will try and get an old one sent you so that you can judge for yourself what her appearance is like. I only wish you could see her personally and I am sure you would like her.

I have cleared out of my old shanty and am writing this from my new whare, where we have now been several days. By "we" I mean four of us - Eric Ducker, Jim Wilson, Ben Gray and myself. Another one - Joe Wilson will be coming next week. They are all pretty good bushmen so that the five of us should soon make a hold in the bush. I am chopping 130 acres and have to pay the men 1/- an hour, so expect the wages will come to £100. Men are terribly scarce, and but for the saw mill shutting down on account of the remaining portion of the metal not being completed, and the men who were getting the lags in wanting a job, I should not have got anyone to help me yet. As it may, they finished at the mill just as I was ready to start. I have got a whare full with the four of us, and when we are all in it, what with the bunks all around the place and the table in the centre, there isn't room for a cat, let alone to swing one round. When the other man comes, he will have to fix his bunk up aloft - that is over the top of one of the others. The days are very short now, and to get in nine hours work we have to get up and have breakfast by candlelight, and start out as soon as we can grope our way through the bush. We work till 5 o'clock and it is nearly dark again by the time we get out. The days will get shorter yet however, but by that time we will not have so far to go.

With love to all at home,
I am Yours affectionately,
Walter.

The Jim and Joe Wilson referred to here are brothers of Frances Wilson (who had married James George Kenyon in 1885.)



Bush farmer's first home: a thatched slab hut

Typical bushman's hut, referred to by Walter as "shanty" or *whare*

Alexander Turnbull Library

(Image taken from "*Farthest Promised Land*" by Rollo Arnold.)



After the bush burns, a harsh landscape. This is Ngaere in 1887, on the other side of the mountain. Mt. Egmont faintly visible in the background.
(Clipped from a photograph held by Alexander Turnbull Library.)

Puniho,
Taranaki, N.Z.
28th July,1901.

Dear Amy,

Something tells me that it is about time I was writing home again, or you will be thinking that I am starting to neglect you now that I have someone else to think about. I must not do that however, especially after the excellent example you set me when you got engaged and when you favoured me with such long and interesting epistles, although in one respect I think I may claim to have improved upon yours, for when you ask me what I said when I "popped the question", I do not ignore the request although I am going to answer it with another question, and that is this- How do you know pray, that it is not the custom for the young ladies in New Zealand to do this "popping"? I am not going to volunteer the answer to my own question as you seem to have taken it for granted that such is not the case, but if you will please to remember how shy I always used to be with the ladies, you may perhaps be disposed to reconsider the matter.

We are very busy now banging away at the bush. I have got about 60 acres down now and have about 70 more to come down yet. I hope to have it finished by the end of September, but we shall have to wire in to do it. The days are beginning to stretch out agin, so we shall be able to work longer hours. Up to the present we have never been able to work more than nine hours per day, but we will soon be working about ten. This is good giz. for the fellows working at 1/- an hour.

A few weeks ago we had what a good many in New Zealand had never seen before - a snowstorm. Such a thing had not been known in the North Island for a good many years. The men working with me had never seen such a thing before, and they thought it was grand. It had been trying to snow for several days before, but could only manage a sort of sleet, which of course melted as it came down, but one afternoon it snowed properly, and it was on the ground until the next morning. We were working in the bush through it all, and I must say it was a very beautiful sight to see every tree and fern snowladen. Of course I have seen the trees at home covered with snow, but then the limbs were bare of leaves, but here where the trees bear their foliage all the year round, the effect was far more beautiful.

Puniho,
Taranaki.
9th Oct.'01.

I am sorry to hear that Mother and Father are not going for a holiday this year. But perhaps they changed their minds as I am sure they would miss their annual outing. A good smell of fresh sweet air does does one the world of good, especially after being confined all the year round in muggy old London. I was sorry to hear that they were at all upset at my sending them a present. You may be sure that my only wish was to give them pleasure. It is a thing one doesn't seem to notice when you are with them but when one is away - all on my own - as I have been, that is the time you realise what a parents affection means.

My bush is not quite finished yet, but another fortnight will see the whole137 acres down. I intended to get it finished weeks ago, but I have been a man short from the start, and a fortnight ago two of the men left to go back to the mill logging, so there are only two of us left, which makes the job go very slowly. It is time now that it was done, so as to give it a good show to dry up by the burning time. I only hope the summer will be a fine dry one, in which case there should be a ripping burn, as there are 600 acres felled here all joining. So that will be the biggest fire that has ever burnt up this way. It will mean a big thing for me if I get a good burn, as I shall be able to start milking the following spring, and shall not then need to go out working anymore, but shall always be able to get a living off my own place. It will not be much at first, but it will get better every year at the timber rots and the grass improves. I think it is pretty well settled that there will be a creamery erected within a mile of this place, which will be very handy. Some suppliers go as far as five miles to the different factories.

Puniho,
Taranaki, N.Z.
15 Jan.'02

Dear Florrie,

I got quite a bundle of letters and cards from home at Xmas, and you may be sure I was very pleased to receive them. Lizzie also wishes me to thank you for the cards sent her. She was very glad to be remembered so kindly, but I will leave her to speak for herself as I think she is writing to one of you. Like most young ladies - she is well qualified to speak up for herself, and if she could not, as you know, I should be a poor hand at speaking for her.

I spent my Xmas in town and had a fortnights holiday - the longest I have had for many a year. Of course I stayed with the Duckers, and although there was very little in the way of amusement in town, still I spent a very enjoyable time. It's no use my attempting to explain how this was, because you wouldn't understand, as you don't know anything about this sort of thing, but you may take my word for it when I tell you that I was sorry to have to go back to the bush and work again. It is a treat to be in a comfortable now and again after bush quarters and bush fare.

I am doing odd jobs until I can get my bush burnt. I get 1/- an hour and I could get a permanent job at the mill if I liked but I wand to start on my own place again as soon as ever I can. The weather so far has been very showery and bad for burning and I am anxiously waiting for it to clear up. We have a splendid chance of getting a good burn this year if the weather is only favourable. There are over 500 acres chopped down in one block, and a large piece like this gives us a chance that we shall never have again. I have got down more than any of the rest, so it means a good deal to me whether it burns well or not. As soon as it is burnt I shall have several months work in front of me sowing grass seed and fencing, as well as getting the place ready for milking the following spring if the burn is a good one, and the ground has been well cleared.

If you are anxious to know what it feels like to be engaged, I will tell you - that it can't be explained exactly. Rather let me give you a bit of advice not the well known advice of Punch - "don't". But an extract from Haly Writ, and which consequently must be good - "Go then and do likewise", and there you will learn all about it, and won't want to worm things out of

Your affectionate brother,
Walter.

Frankley Road,
March 16th '02.

My Dear Florrie,

I received your letter in December and am rather ashamed at myself for not answering it before this (but as Walter would be able to tell you) I am good at receiving but not at answering letters.

So you are pleased that Walter and I are engaged; I am very glad to hear that, as Walter must have spoken well of me in his letter to you.

We should feel very lonely indeed without each other, although we do not see each other very often; only about once a month. Walter has been staying at our place for a weeks holiday. We have had a band contest in New Plymouth and there were sixteen bands here, something wonderful for New Plymouth. We went to something each day as we do not often have the opportunity to go out together. We had a very enjoyable time. You can't imagine Walter with a girl, but if you could have seen him last week, you would see that it comes quite natural to him to have a girl with him. I do think that he looked so nice; he leaves his best clothes here and I take care of them for him, as he has no place to keep them yet. We are having splendid weather here - we never have fogs like you do in London. The only fault I can find with the New Zealand weather it is too hot sometimes.

Please remember me to your Mother and Father and accept my love

and best wishes for yourself and sisters.

I am,
Yours very sincerely,
Lizzie.

Puniho,
Taranaki.
15th June '02

Dear Florrie,

I am taking advantage of a wet day as usual to write home, and let you know that things are going on all right with me. Of course I am still as busy as ever, and seem likely to be. There is enough work waiting to be done to keep me on the go for a good many years, so I don't want to see too many wet days. You will think I must be a regular terror for work but it isn't so - I could knock off work any moment with the greatest of pleasure, but the sooner will I be able to take things a bit easier. For the last few weeks I have been fencing and have just completed the second of my four boundary lines, and started the third. I want the place ring-fenced as soon as possible so as to put cattle on, as there will be some nice feed by that time. I have got a "new chum" helping me, named Jack Knights. He has only been in N.Z. a few months, and has been working on Mr. Ducker's place at the Frankley Road until he came here about six weeks ago. Having been a clerk on one of the railway lines at home, you can be sure he doesn't know much about hard work, but he gets on very well and learns things very quickly besides being a nice chap to boot, so I have not got a bad mate. He is very anxious to get a section for himself, but there is such a rush for the land now when it comes out, that it will only be by a streak of luck if he is successfull. I shall keep him here for two or three months yet, and after that he will be working at the mill.

So the War is over at last. We got the news here about a week ago, although it took several days to reach the bush. It has been a long war and has cost many a poor fellow his life. We all thought when the first contingents left here that they would be too late for the fighting, and that they would be just about in time to form part of the triumphal procession into Pretoria, but there have been many gone since - the last only a few weeks ago - some of them never to come back again.

I am glad to hear that all are getting on well at home, and that you are progressing in the right direction at your business. I notice the old firm is doing a lot better than they used to when I was there. Do you remember the scare there was once when they talked of going in for bikes instead of horses and carts? Imagine to yourself old Joe, who I believe is getting fat - trundling a bike.

I am going to town tomorrow for a day or two, not having been for about a month. What would you think if your bloke only came to see you about once a month? But I am so busy trying to get the place ready by next spring that I have hardly got time to go at all. I have to console Lizzie by telling her she will see plenty of me after a while. I am trying all I know to get everything ready by about the beginning of September, when I propose to enter the blissful state, so if you want to beat me on the post you will have to hip'up

Dear Florrie,

I am taking advantage of a wet day as usual to write home. It's the first wet day we have had for a long time, so I mustn't let the opportunity slip. We have been having some wonderful weather for the last two months - fine and sunny nearly all the time. People out here reckon it's the finest winter there has been for many years, consequently I have been able to get a little more work done than usual. I have got a few more days work to do to complete my ring fence, and I shall be jolly glad when it is done, and the place secure. This would have been finished some time ago but we have had to knock off to do other jobs that could not wait.

I have got all the timber for my house, and I am expecting the men here next week to build it. I should have liked to have it up by this time, but its such a job to get men just at the time you want them. However they will knock it up inside of a fortnight, and I hope to have it all complete, and the furniture here by the end of the month. You will no doubt think it quick work to put up a house in a fortnight, but it is all woodwork and is just built on piles let into the ground.

There will be three rooms in it - two good big ones 15 feet by 16 and one smaller one, and being built just in front of the whare, the latter will come in for a wash house. The house will cost about £100 all told. While it is being built, I have a milking shed and stockyard to erect, as be ready for milking. I have got the cows here now, and have got a horse and trap for taking the milk to the creamery, which is now in course of erection, and which is situated about half a mile away. I shall have a lot of work to do after I start milking such as cutting tracks through the clearing, and fencing the place into paddocks - that ought really to be done first, but I have not been able to find time to do it all. I expect to milk 15 cows this year, and these should just about keep the pot a - boiling. As time goes on, I shall be able to milk more, especially when I get the rest of the bush down. I have had to stick to work well to do what I have done in the time, but when I start milking the work won't be quite so hard, and I shall then have a wife to look after my "creature comforts", so I am looking forward to better times in the days to come.

The happy day is not fixed yet but it will be one of the first days of next month, so that most likely when I write my next letter my bachelor days will be over, and perhaps I shall be in a position to advise you whether to follow my example or not, although like the rest of us its precious little notice you would take of advice if you wanted to get married.

Puniho.
Taranaki, N.Z.
30th Aug. '03.

I am afraid I have missed the mail this month, I didn't remember that it went out this week until too late. The postal order came to hand safely last month, for which let me thank all concerned. I shall not spend the money until Lizzie gets better, and we make a fresh start, and we shall of course want a good many things and the money will come in very useful. I have not got any fresh news to send you yet. I have written, making enquiries, and am expecting a reply every day, and sincerely hope it will contain good news when it does come. I shall most likely be going down to see her in about a month's time - this is unless the doctors recommend me not to go. They seem to think that visits disturb their patients, and throw them back; this is the reason I have not gone before, as I do not wish to do anything to retard her progress in any way.

I am glad to hear that Jim Ducker has been to see you. I believe he is expected back here about October. The next time I hear from you I expect he will have been to see you again and I shall get a few more particulars as to what you all thought of him. I think he is the best of the boys and I am sure you would like him. He will have had a very interesting trip. I know London would open his eyes a bit, as he had never seen any town bigger than Auckland before. He will have different ideas about the world than he had when he went away. Most of the young colonials think their own little township to be the hub of the universe, and when they do happen to see a little of the world it does them a lot of good.

I am working now at my bush; there are only two of us at present, but we are making good progress. Tomorrow there will be a third man starting, and it won't be many weeks before we will be finished with it.

Puniho.
10th Jan. '04.

Dear Amy,

So I have another nephew. Well, the more the merrier. I only wish I could see some of them, but I must content myself with your very able, though perhaps slightly prejudiced discriptions of them. As for your second son, and his not possessing the happy disposition of his elder brother, I am not surprised. I don't know whether you have ever noticed it, but it has often struck me that baby No 1. is usually a sort of model baby, a regular mother's joy and pride, good tempered, and doesn't want to be awake when everyone else wants to be asleep. With baby No 2. however, there is usually a sad deterioration. In commercial phraseology, it is not "up to sample", so you mustn't be too disappointed if it wants to cry when the other one would only want to laugh, or to be awake when it ought to be asleep - its only the natural order of things. I may be a sort of Jobs comforter or I may be putting my foot in it by saying this, but a long and intimate experience of babies has taught me this.

I am very sorry I have no better news of poor Lizzie. As soon as I can get away - probably in about a fortnights time - I shall be going down to see her agin. The doctor thinks a visit from me might perhaps rouse her, so I may stop several days when I go, if it is likely to do any good. I am afraid I shan't see much change in her, but even a little improvement will be some encouragement.

Jim Ducker got back here a day or so before Xmas, and was very glad to be home agin. I have seen him once but only for a short time.

I am pleased to hear that the operation on Father's eye has been successful. I am sure he will be glad to be able to read again. I think it must be a great deprivation, not to be able to read anything.

This xmas was the quietest I think I have ever spent. I did not go to town, as I have not been able to get away ; at the same time I did not feel much inclined. With the New Year I trust there will come brighter and happier times for us all.

Elizabeth must have moved from New Plymouth out to Puniho to be with Walter on the bush farm, and to live in the new house. Unfortunately a disastrous fire destroyed the house and most of their gifts,(though as mentioned later, not Elizabeth's precious sewing machine which had fortunately been left in New Plymouth. Because of the fire and the loss of house and domestic possessions, Elizabeth had to return to New Plymouth.

3rd June '04.

Dear Amy,

I am writing this from New Plymouth, where I am staying a day or two with Lizzie. I have to come in about once a fortnight or else someone would want to know the reason why. It is three weeks since I was here last, as I had to go down to Gibbon's new store at Pihana last week to help take stock. I am pleased to say that Lizzie is keeping well in fact has improved considerably since she has been here. Her greatest trouble now is that she can't come into the bush with me, but it will be about three months before I can get the house up again. I have got the timber ordered, but it will want seasoning at least two months before it will be fit to put up. It should really have longer than this as the weather is very wet now, and the timber doesn't dry so quickly as it would in the summer. I shan't be sorry when I can make another start, as batchelorising and myself don't seem to agree now, and Lizzie will be happier and more content when she is once more in a home of her own with me. It is to be hoped the new start will be more fortunate than the previous one.

I have got about another months work to do at Jim Ducker's, fencing after which I want to clear the place round where I want to build. I should have done this in the first place, but I had too much to do. I intend to put in about a fortnight this time at it, and if I can get a fine spell I shall be able to burn most of the logs and stumps, and shall then feel a bit safer, in case of bush fires.

It is very wet now, but we have had a wonderful summer this year, the best I have experienced here.

Lizzie wishes me to send her love to you and all at home. The same from myself and hoping all are well.

I am,

Your affectionate brother,

Walter.

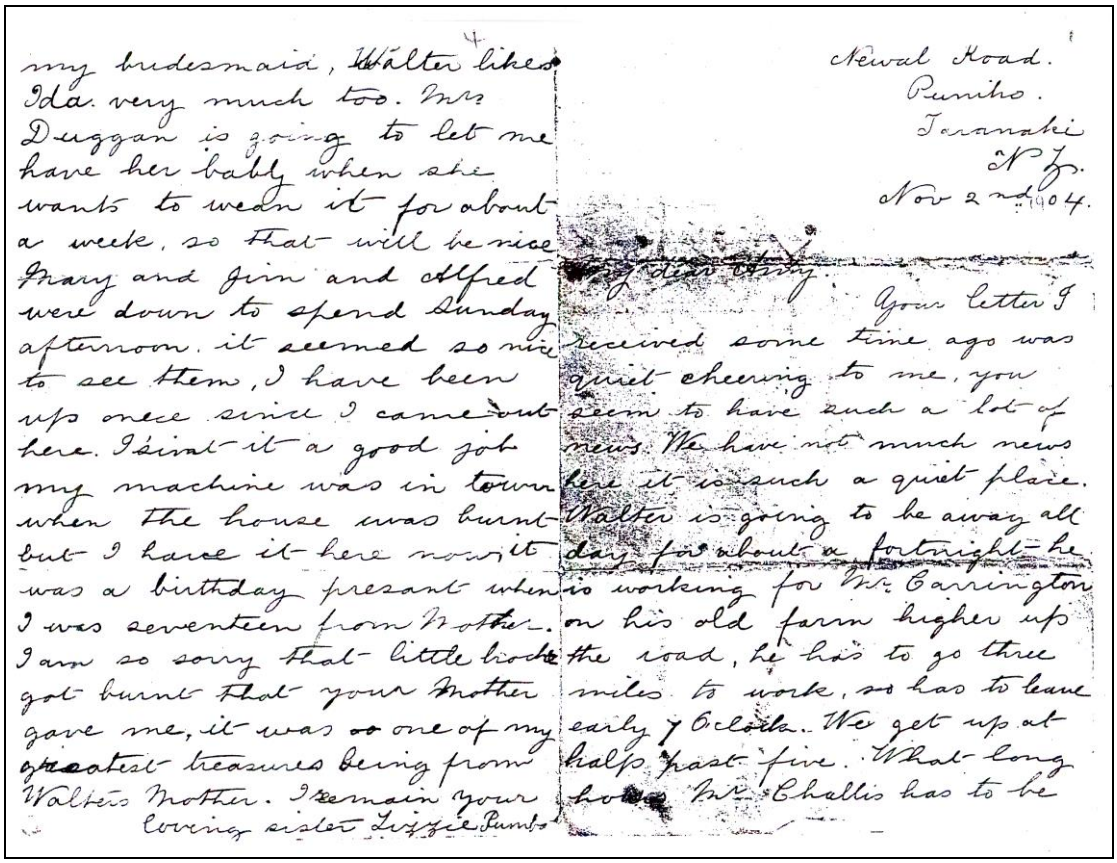
Puniho.
29 Aug '04

I shan't have to make many more trips as I am hoping to have another home ready in a month's time from now, and then I shall have Lizzie back here again, much to her delight. She will have been in town six months then, and all the time she has been so anxious to get back again. I think it has been better for her to be in town till she is her old self again, although she doesn't seem to think so, but I am sure it would have been too quiet here. However, she now seems to be as well as she ever was, and I don't anticipate any further trouble.

I am expecting the carpenters up to start the house next week. I shall be helping him as much as possible, although I don't profess to be much of a carpenter myself, still I shall do what I can, so as to get it completed as early as possible. Unfortunately I have to go to Pihama for about a week right in the midst of it. Jack Knights who is managing Gibbons store there is getting married, and I am going to look after his business while he is away. His young lady is coming out from England and will arrive in Wellington in about three weeks time. Jack has to go to meet her of course, and bring her to New Plymouth, where they will be married, so there will be another young man gone wong, although I wouldn't like to say this if Lizzie was going to read it. Jack was in the G.C. Rly. office at Yarmouth before coming out here, working about twelve hours a day for about 25/- a week, so he has made a good move by coming to N.Z.

As soon as our house is finished - it will take about three weeks - I have to get a few sticks of furniture from town, and then it will be all ready for our new start. Three weeks doesn't sound long to build a house but when it is all wood, except the roof which is corrugated iron, and the chimney is tin, it doesn't take so long to slap up as a brick building.

Between these two letters the new house was completed and Elizabeth moved back to Puniho



my bridesmaid, Walter likes Ida very much too. Mrs Duggan is going to let me have her baby when she wants to wean it for about a week, so that will be nice. Mary and Jim and Alfred were down to spend Sunday afternoon. it seemed so nice to see them, I have been up once since I came out here. I'sint it a good job my machine was in town when the house was burnt but I have it here now it was a birthday present when I was seventeen from Mother. I am so sorry that little book got burnt that your Mother gave me, it was one of my greatest treasures being from Walters Mother. I remain your loving sister Lizzie Pumb

Newal Road.
Puniho.
Taranaki
N.Z.
Nov 2nd 1904.

Your letter I received some time ago was quiet cheering to me, you seem to have such a lot of news. We have not much news here it is such a quiet place. Walter is going to be away all day for about a fortnight - he is working for Mr Carrington on his old farm higher up the road, he has to go three miles to work, so has to leave early 7 Oclock. We get up at halfs past five. What long hours Mr Challis has to be

This letter makes reference to Elizabeth's prized sewing machine which fortunately had been in New Plymouth when the first house at Puniho burned down.
It had been a 17th birthday present from her mother Eleanor Ducker.

12

Puniho.
2nd Nov. '04

Dear Amy,

I am writing you this mail just to show that I have not forgotten you altogether. I am writing this from our new home where Lizzie and myself have been installed for the last fortnight, so you see we are making a fresh start at last. It seems almost like being newly married and I can tell you its all right. It's mighty pleasant to come to a comfortable home and find you have not got to cook your own tea, but find it all ready and a wife's smiling welcome into the bargain. I have got to put this in as I know Lizzie will want to read the letter. I think it suits Lizzie as much as it does me, for she doesn't seem to want to go home to her mother yet. I think our bad luck is over now and better things are in store for us. So long as we both keep our health and strength we shall soon pull round again, and I know we will be happy together. Of course I am a little bit henpecked, but a good many husbands are I believe. No doubt Charley could a tale unfold if he dared, but the less said on this subject the better, for the sake of peace and quietness.

I am pleased to hear that the boys are getting on all right. It seems hard to me to realise that you are the mother of two, as I only knew you as a girl and I seem to think of you as one yet. They seem to be regular mother's joys, those children of yours. When Jim Ducker came back from England I quite expected him to tell me they had got wings, but perhaps he didn't observe them. Even if they haven't no doubt they ought to have, for I am convinced from your description of them that they are regular angels. I only wish their Uncle Walter could see them and their mother too.

I am asking Lizzie to write to you too, and if she doesn't theres going to be a row. I have carefully obstained from telling all the news so that she can't say I haven't left her anything to write about.

I had a letter from Frank Temple last mail, in which he tole me that both his sister Jenny and he are engaged to be married. I had begun to look upon both of them as being on the shelf, but as the old saying goes "while there's life there's hope", and "its never too late to mend" I was pleased to hear it too as they are both far too good to spend their lives in single blessedness, and I know they will find more interest and happiness in life when they have entered that blessed state.

I must conclude this interesting letter which is mainly about nothing, with love to yourself and the cherubs, and not forgetting Charley and all of them at home from

Your affectionate brother,
Walter.

Newall Road,
Puniho.
Nov 22nd '04.

My Dear Florrie,

I have been a long time in answering your letter, but never-the-less I was pleased to get one from you. Walter is away from home all day, and it does seem funny all by myself. Next year when we are milking, he will be home all day working about the farm; that will be delightful. He leaves here at 7 o'clock and doesn't get home until half-past five. I generally have one cow milked when he gets home.

I wish you could see our little home; I suppose you would feel a little strange here at first after being in London. Walter seems to be quite settled down. He is content to stay at home every evening and never wants to go out visiting. I have been trying a little dress-making, and have one blouse made for myself. It looks quite nice. Walter says I will be trying to make his suits soon. Walter used to be rather quiet, but he has plenty to say now, for which I am very glad. I just have the three rooms so do not have much work to do, but I sew, and sometimes go out to work with Walter, when he is working at home.

We went up to the mill on Sunday to see the boys and Mary, and stayed to tea, so it made us late milking and feeding the calves. We had a little music which was a treat to both of us. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Mother wants us to go to town for Christmas but I do not know if we will manage it.

With love to all at home,
I remain, Your loving sister, Lizzie Rumball.

Puniho.
23rd Nov. '04.

Dear Florrie,

I have just remembered in time that the Frisco mail goes out this week, so am writing, although I have not much news to tell you. You will have heard of course that Lizzie is installed again in a new home, and as she seems to be on her best behaviour I am not thinking of sending her back again - just yet at any rate. We both seem to be jogging along very happily, and I am sure our new start is going to turn out more fortunate in all respects than the former one. We have not started milking this season - that is, going to the factory. We have just got a couple of cows to keep us supplied in milk, cream and butter and we have plenty of this. We also sport a few fowls and get just about as many eggs as we require and we know they are fresh laid and are not half egg, half chicken, like some I have met with.

I hope to start supplying the factory next spring and would like to milk about 20 cows. Although the clearings are a bit rough, there is always plenty of grass and I think they would do well. We are only a few minutes drive from the creamery and the sooner we make the start the better for us. At present I am just about doing what odd jobs I can get, and it isn't much of a game, especially as the spring so far has been wet and stormy, so I have not been able to do much. Last year we had a beautiful spring, but this year it has been just the reverse, and every body is complaining.

We shall have xmas here soon, and while I think of it, let me wish you all a Happy Xmas and a Prosperous New Year. I have no doubt Lizzie wishes you the same, but I am going to let her speak for herself, which, like most of the gentler sex, she is well qualified to do. There is to be a weeks carnival at New Plymouth at Xmastime, but I am not sure we will be able to get away from here to see it. I would like to go if we could get the cows milked while we were away, but most people of course want as little to do as possible at such a time, and we can hardly expect that anyone will put themselves at extra trouble to let us get away. Lizzie may perhaps go if I can't. I expect it will attract a lot of visitors to New Plymouth.

March 6th '05.

My Dear Florrie,

Thank you for your nice present and letter. I received them both about a fortnight ago, also a letter from Amy and Emily, which I shall be answering next mail. I am sure it is very nice of you to send me some of your own work, they are very pretty. I had one light dress bag burnt, but was going to make another. I learnt all sorts of fancy work at the convent school. I went to school a fortnight after Walter came to our place to live. I gave most of the fancy things away, and what I did not are burnt.

I have been making rag mats for my house, to save buying others until we get on a bit. I have made five. I sew the rags on by machine and can make one in a day. Some of them are quite pretty.

We are sorry to hear Amy's husband is ill, and trust he will soon be better; how she must worry over it. What dear little children hers are; I should just like to have one of them always. I think the baby is a bit like Walter must have been when he was a baby.

We are getting such a lot of young couples settled up here. There is a Mr. Hart going to be married on Wednesday and he will live about a mile from us.

We have another cow in milk and it has a dear little calf, about the prettiest I have seen. I have been busy knitting Walter some socks. I am just about finishing the second pair; I intend doing about six pair.

It is so nice having my sewing machine, it was in town when the house was burnt. We have got rather a nice flower garden and a lot of flowers out. The poppies are just a picture. Next year we are going to have the flowers in front of the house, at present they are at the back with the vegetables. We have been having green peas since Christmas. Walter always sees that we have a good garden.

It has gone on raining very heavily, or else I was going to the store to post these letters. Walter is going to paint the house. It is going to be a cream colour, but the weather is too bad yet. We shall get Jim to take the photo soon.

Hoping you are quite well, and with best love from myself and Walter, I will conclude.

Yours affectionately,

Puniho.
18th June '05.

14

I am pleased to say that Lizzie is keeping well and I think, happy, only she is beginning to think it is time she went to town to see her mother again. I tell her that some day it will be my turn and I shall want to go to see my mother, but she always tells me she would want to come too. I always have to stop at home batcheloring for we can't both be away at the same time very well. There are always cows and calves and fowls to look after.

I am still working at the mill but this is the last week. After that I shall be doing my own work preparing for miling. I have to fence the clearings into paddocks, so that I can have the cows handy, and so that there will always be one paddock shut up to give the cows a change of feed. It will take me about two months to get ready and by that time the cows will be beginning to come in. We have been having terrible weather lately; gails and storms nearly every day, but it is midwinter now and we have to expect that sort of thing for two or three months yet.



A newly-built settler's home, made from milled timber and probably set on timber piles.
Stumps of burned trees in the background.

This untitled image (source unknown) was taken from Rollo Arnold's "*Farthest Promised Land*"

Warea,
Taranaki.
15th Nov. '05.

Our summer seems coming at last, but only reluctantly, the spring having been one of the wettest on record. It is coming finer now gradually and we shall be getting some hot weather soon. We are fairly busy now having 15 cows to milk night and morning, and a few more to come in yet. It will be xmas or after before we get them all in, but better late than never. Next year they should come in earlier. We are up now at about 4.30 in the morning - which seems rather an unchristian hour when you are not used to it, but later on when we have more to do, we will have to be out a little earlier still, but its very pleasing at that time of day all the same. We usually have been milking some time when we see the sun rise over the top of old Mount Egmont - our shed faces that way - and then things begin to get a bit too warm to be pleasant. We get them all finished and turned away to feed by seven o'clock, by which time Lizzie has got breakfast ready, and by about half past, I am at the creamery with the milk, where I have to wait a bit while it is separated, but I am back again with the skim milk for the calves by 8.30 a.m. We start agin at about 4.30 in the afternoon, so I've plenty of time to do odd jobs in between. So far we both like the the milking although we are new chums at it, and of course rather slow for a start. I am able to be home all the time and can be improving the place a little in between times. It will also pay better than going out to wlrk as there is no lost time, but something is coming in seven days a week and the cheque comes regularly at the end of the month. We shall do better each year if all goes well, as the yearlings improve and we get a few more cows, but even as it is I think we are making a fair start.



'. . . any amount of new milk for fetching'

McAllister Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library.
(taken from *"Farthest Promised land"* by Rollo Arnold)



Hand milking in the paddock

Undated fragment of a letter evidently written by Elizabeth, describing life in their new home.

2

at business. you must feel tired going to bed so late. We have quite a farmyard here, we have two cows in milk. to calves to feed on 8 fowls, we get four eggs a day so have plenty for cooking. Walter gave me one calf and it is such a dear little thing. I suppose you would be frightened of the cows & calves. not being used to them. I have started milk the cows at night as Walter is so late home, and I do like the job. The house this time is quite as nice as the last one. The bedroom is papered and the dinning room matched lined, the kitchen is not lined yet. I have a nice stove and

3

an open fire place. The table cloth Mrs Temple gave us just fits the table and it is such a good one, and very pretty. Thank you Amy for those pictures I think they are beautiful. when we get on a little and pay the few pounds we owe we are going to get them framed. I have had four of my neighbours in to see me and that makes the day seem shorter. How nice it must be to have two little boys like you have, I am so fond of children and miss my sisters when I am out there, she has six the oldest girl is eleven and she is coming out to stay with me some holiday, she was

15

Warea.
30th Apl '06.

Dear Florrie,

I am sorry to say I missed the last mail, but am making sure of this one. We are all of us getting on all right, the baby especially. He has nothing to do but drink and grow fat, and he does that in a very creditable manner. We are drawing to the close of the milking season now, as the winter is coming on. The winter weather has been with us for the past month, bringing plenty of mud and rain for us. Our creamery will probably run for another month yet and will then close down till about September. Considering that it is our first year, and that we are both almost novices at the work, I think we have done fairly well and have got a fair return.

The returns should increase every year for a few years as the cows improve. At present they are mostly young heifers and they will give more milk as they grow older and at the same time the clearings will improve and give them a better show. We have had to put in some long days in the summer time but the work is not hard. We have just started to milk once a day only, instead of twice. The days are getting so short, so we shall be having easier times now. It is quite a treat to get some nice long evenings again and have a read by the fireside, or as a

special treat, nurse the baby. This gentlemen will soon be four months old and he is getting quite artful. He has already found out the way to get around his mother. He has only got to smile and coo at her and she would do anything for him. He is not quite so sociable with me, I suppose because he doesn't see so much of me, but now and then he condescends to give me a patronising sort of a smile when he is a particularly good humour and I have to consider myself highly flattered. So long as we keep his little stomach full he is on the best of terms with us, but if he happens to be kept waiting, we are not so friendly. You will no doubt come to the conclusion from this, that he is already beginning to show a manly trait.

What terrible times they have been having at San Fransisco. It must be a terrible thing to be in the midst of such a catastrophe. We have earthquake shocks here on a small scale occasionally, but the worst of them will only crack a chimney or two, or shake down a few pots of jam.

Warea.
20th Aug. '07.

Dear Florrie,

I think its about time I wrote home again and I have no doubt I owe you a letter. There doesn't seem much news to tell, we are still jogging along in the same old way. We have just about finished our winter holiday - if you can call it such and the cows are beginning to demand our attention again. We did manage to have a weeks holiday in New Plymouth with Mr. & Mrs. Ducker and it was a nice change to get away from the work even for a week. Lizzie looks forward to going home at least once a year to see the old folks and also I think to let them have the privilege of admiring the boy, who, however, did not get very friendly with them. He was just beginning to feel at home when we came away.

Although we have had no milking to speak of for the last two months I have had plenty to do in the way of fencing and draining. There are endless jobs to be done to turn a new bush section into a dairy farm. I have to make a secure run for the pigs this pring, and I have been enlarging the garden, which will have to be dug up and planted as soon as I can manage it, before we get too busy milking.

I am planting some lial hedges round the garden to shelter it and improve its appearance. I planted one side today and have some more to do tomorrow. It is too bleak sometimes as it is and when the shelter has grown a bit, I want to plant some fruit trees - we have a few now, but they won't do any good till the shelter grows. I am going to put fowl netting all round to keep the fowls out. The section should be big enough for them, but they prefer the garden and they don't mind coming inside if they get a chance, although our little chap does his best sometimes to drive them out.

We hope to have a few more cows this year - about 30 I hope, so we shall have plenty to do. We don't know yet what price we are going to get for the coming seasons butter, but it won't be quite as much as last year, but it will still be a fair price, I think. Some of the factories are making cheese instead of butter and they are making a lot of money just now, but it's hard to say how long it will last; the cheese market



Early cow shed on a bush farm.

William Greenway's cowshed
Puniho (circa 1905-1910)

(Photograph from Bradley Walter's collection)

27 June 1910

I am busy getting my shed ready for our milking machine. I had to pull some of it down so as to make it longer and wider, but am hoping to get it finished soon. We have arranged to take over the adjoining section to us in a years time. Our neighbour wished to sell out and we thought it an excellent chance, being situated so conveniently. With the machine, we will be able to manage the two places easily. Myself and a man - or even a boy - will be able to milk 60 cows and Lizzie will be able to get out of it altogether, and devote more time to her children and house.



Machine milking in the early days.

When the cow on the left is finished, the "cups" will be taken across to the cow on the right.

Each cow has a "leg rope"

The young man is in bare feet!

.Photograph from Puke Ariki Museum

(The picture was entitled “milking by hand” but more likely the cow is being prepared for milking by machine, or being “stripped” after machine milking.
The vacuum tubes and sight glass of the milking machine can be clearly seen.)

Warea, Taranaki.
5th Oct. 1910.

Dear Florrie,

I was very pleased indeed to hear that Father had pulled round again and hope the improvement will continue. Somehow I quite expected to hear that he was better again.

We are up to our necks in work again with the milking. We have got the machine going now, and the work is not so hard as it used to be. We have had it working now about three weeks, and so far we have got on with it very well. The cows seem to take to it very well with one or two exceptions. I think they will take to it in time, but if they don't we may have to pass out one or two. Most of them give their milk to the machine very well, in fact we can't get the cows in the shed quick enough, or we could milk them a lot quicker. We milk three cows at a time, and we have to get a wriggle on to get them ready for the machine, and after they are milked let them out and get a fresh lot in. It takes us nearly an hour and a half to milk them, but we should be able to put them through in an hour once the cows are all used to the machine and we have a better system of getting them into the shed. It would take us quite three hours to milk them by hand, and hard work too. It has made a lot of work getting ready for it, but when everything is finished we shall have things very convenient. There is a water supply to fix up yet, so that we can have water laid on in the cow shed and the engine room.

I suppose you know that we are going to take over the adjoining section at the end of the season. We shall have then 330 acres, and shall probably milk about 60 cows next year. If the machine does its work as well as it promises to, myself and a boy will be able to milk them, and Lizzie will not have to come to the shed at all. I shall have to get another bucket, so as to milk four cows at a time. It will keep us tight for a year or so buying another place, but I think we will do well once we get started with a bigger herd of cows. I think the place being larger will be more saleable if at any time we wished to sell it. We shall shift our quarters to the other house, as it is larger than this, and we find this once is too small for us now. If we remained here we would have to enlarge this house very soon as we are getting too numerous.

Warea,
30th Oct.1911/

There's not much holiday for us now as we are into the thick of the milking again. We are milking 48 just now and have about a dozen more to come, so we have plenty to do. We have had a boy to help us this year and to give me a hand with the work outside, so that Lizzie need have nothing to do with the cows. It takes the two of us 1½ hours to milk now and when they are all in, it will take nearly two hours. I have got a lot of heifers this year to make up our number. Of course they don't milk like cows, but still they have done very well so far.

The early spring was remarkably fine, and gave us a good start. It has been rough and cold lately, but the summer will soon be here now, and then we are sure to get it fairly fine for a few months. We are getting a better price for our output this year than we have ever had before, so we should have a pretty good year if all goes well. Taking this other place has put a good big burden on our shoulders but if all goes well for a year or two, we shall soon lift it off again.

Lizzie has just got back from a trip to town. She went for a few days and stopped three weeks. Of course when she got back she was <u>so</u> pleased to be home again, and <u>never never</u> wanted to go again, but she is already beginning to talk about what she is going to do when she goes in again. I know she likes to go and see her mother sometimes, and perhaps its just as well for we can't always have our mothers with us. I only wish I could see mine sometimes. Both Mr. & Mrs. Ducker are getting a good age, but are wonderfully sprightly for their age, and never seem to ail much. Mrs. D. does all her own work and Mr. D. is always working in his garden or orchard, milks a cow or two and has a few acres of land to keep the rest of his time occupied.

Lizzie took the little ones with her and they all had a ride in the motor-car - her brother's at the mill - much to the enjoyment of

Warea,
26th Nov. 1911.

It hardly seems to be so near xmas, we have been having such wintry weather. We usually get it fine about this time, but is has been exceptionally cold and wet lately, with heavy hailstorms occasionally. We had the fine weather in early spring, so I suppose we have to pay for it now. By the time xmas is here we shall be getting our summer, and we shall soon forget all about the rough times we had.

You will be glad to hear that we are getting on all right with our new section. We are milking 55 cows now and have seven more to come in shortly. It looks a big mob of cows to milk, but myself and a boy milk them all under two hours, and we are getting a nice lot of milk from them. Another year we shall probably get more, as the new ones are all heifers this year, and they don't give much milk the first year.

The machine is running splendidly, and the heifers take to it very kindly and are less trouble than the older cows, although these are not much trouble with the exception of a few that I shall pass out in time and replace with young ones.

Both Lizzie and myself have better times now that we have a boy to help us. He saves me a lot of tramping about, taking the cows away and fetching them in again. In time our own boys will be able to help but that won't be for a good many years yet. They have to carry the firewood in now, after it has been chopped, and they think this is hard lines sometimes. Alfred always wants Henry to help him but the latter is a bit of a jib, and although Alfred uses persuasion, and then threats, he often has to carry the lot. They are both keen to help sometimes, but the enthusiasm doesn't last long as a rule. I think playing and finding birds' nests is more to their taste. Mary is getting quite a tomboy playing with them.

I had the two boys to look after last week, and Lizzie and Mary were in twon. Lizzie went fishing - that's where the boys get it from - and got a fish hook in her finger. Her brother Jim ran her into town in the motor car to get it out and she had to stay there a week, until the doctor was satisfied that there was no danger of pisoning. The boys had never been left like that before, but they were very good, only Henry who is a bit of a baby yet, felt a bit sad sometimes.

Warea,
10th June, 1912.

Dear Emily,

I have not had any news from home since I got word of Mother's death, but hope that all are going on all right, and that the loss has not been too much for poor Dad. I know it must have been a great trouble to him, but trust he is bearing up bravely. I think it must be eighteen years since I came out here and I always seem to think of Mother as she was when I saw her last - so well and active, although I know time must have aged her.

I did not think then that I should never see her again.

In reply to your letter about Alice Lovelock's neice and her husband, I don't think there is any doubt about them getting on in New Zealand. Of course a lot depends on the man. He must not expect to be able to drop straight into the work he has been used to, but if he is prepared to do any work that he is able to do, of any description, I am sure he would have no difficulty in getting it.

On all sides one hears of people being unable to get the men wanted. The wages are higher here, but the cost of living is higher too, but although this is so, the working man has better times here I think. He works shorter hours and I think lives better than a man at home in the same position. I never like recommending anyone to come here, as some people do not like the colony when they get here, but at the same time I think I may say with confidence that no man may be afraid of coming here so long as he has the right stuff in him.

I will be able to send you the money I owe you about Xmas next - it will then amount to £35 I think. We have been spending a lot the last two years with the milking machine and the other farm and then stocking it with cows, otherwise we should not have kept you waiting so long. Should everything go well next season, we will have all our arrears wiped off again and shall be doing well. We have had a good season this year I am pleased to say, owing to the good prices we have received for our cheese and there seems every prospect of the same next year.

With love to all at home,
Yours affectionately,
Walter.

Marea,
26th July, 1912.

Dear Ada,

It seems to me to be a very long time since we have written to one another. I don't know whether I am to blame, or you, or both of us, but when I got your new address from home, it reminded me that I ought to have written you long ago. I get most of my news from Amy and Emily, and you may be sure I am always glad to have a letter from home, although the last one or two have been rather sad ones. I cannot express how sorry I felt when I heard that Mother was lost to us. Although I had not seen her for so many years, and I knew there was little prospect of ever seeing her again, still I always felt the mother-love was there for the absent ones, and did not grow any feebler with age. I hope Dad is standing his loss well, but I expect it will be a great trouble to him.

Amy tells me that between you, you are going to erect a stone over the grave. You must let me take a share in this. It seems so little that one can do to show their love and respect, that Lizzie and myself are anxious to take a part in anything that is done.

We are just about through our winter here, and in a few days will be starting our Creamery again, and before we know where we are, we shall be in the thick of milking again for another season. I am pleased to say we had a good year last season, and it was a big help to us for we had gone to a big expense taking over another farm and getting cows for it. So far there seems every prospect of another good year, and if this is so, it will set us on our feet nicely.

We have been battling ever since we started, but have been getting into a better and bigger way all the time, and barring accidents have every prospect of reaping some of the benefits of our years of struggling. Dairying is getting a big thing here now and the prices for our produce have been improving. Last year we got a big price; we can hardly hope to get as much this year, but we may.

I have been expecting to hear from Arthur Junior, as to whether he is coming to N.Z. or not. He asked me sometime ago to arrange his passage, as he appeared to have quite made up his mind to come, but I suppose I shall hear from his soon. I hope he will get on all right if he does come. There are plenty of opportunities here. We have plenty of work for him here if he cared to stop, and he would get an insight into things, besides having a home to come to.

Marea,
20th March 1914.

Dear Kate,

No doubt you heard the news that we had another little girl. It is with great regret that I have to inform you she was taken from us very suddenly at the age of five weeks. It was a great sorrow to both Lizzie and myself. We had no reason to suppose that there was anything seriously the matter with her, although she was a very pale baby, but at the same time she always fed and slept well, and until the last day or two seemed to be doing well. The doctors say she was almost bloodless. I am afraid the poor little one had no hope from the start, although we did not know it. Our other children have always been so well and strong and we have had no cause for anxiety on their account. We didn't like losing the poor little mite, but for all we know it may be for the best that she is at rest now. Everyone said she was a real little Rumball, and the photo of your boy when a baby might easily pass for one of her.

Our season will soon be drawing to an end now. Another two months, and our cows will be dried off, for the winter. We shall have had a better year than we have ever had before, but there is room for a lot of improvement yet, and I think we should do better still as time goes on. We are dairying in a very primitive way yet, but as the place gets cleared and improved we should get far better returns than we do now.

17-7-14.

Dear Emily,

I am afraid I have been neglecting you all at home lately, but we have been all upset lately having had the house pulled to pieces nearly, in order to enlarge it and make it a bit more habitable. We have put in a new double concrete chimney, another bedroom, and pantry, bathroom, and a back verandah. We are putting in a hot and cold water service, but this has not yet been fixed up. I had to help with it myself as the carpenter was in a hurry to get the job done. As soon as his part was finished, I had to finish the rest and do the paper hanging painting, varnishing and so on. I have not done yet. The old rooms had to be repapered and painted so there has been a good bit to do. However we shall find it a lot more comfortable and convenient than it was before, so the time spent will not be wasted.

We are just about entering another milking season. The last one was the best we have had yet, but I am in hopes we shall improve every year in this respect for some time yet. A lot depends on the price we get for our cheese. Last year we sold fairly well, but we don't know yet what we are likely to get this year. We should soon know however.

I have not heard from Arthur Jnr. lately. He was to let me know definitely whether he intended coming or not, but I suppose he has not made up his mind yet. The last I heard was that he was trying a fresh job.

We had a letter from a Mrs. Nash - Arthur's wife's sister I think, who was with her husband in Canterbury, asking if we could give him a job as he had no work at that time. As we were just on the point of making our alterations, this was not possible at the time, as the house would be almost uninhabitable, but offered to give him a job later on if he still required it. We have heard nothing of them since, so presume that he has found work. I don't think he would have much difficulty about that so long as he was prepared to do anything that came along.

I don't think I have thanked you yet for the books you sent the children some time ago, so do so now. They like them very much. There is nothing they like better than to get me or Lizzie reading to them, although Alfred is quite able to read them himself.

Warea,
12-11-14

Dear Amy,

I hope this will arrive in time to wish all at home a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

I am afraid this will be a sad Xmas in many homes. From the highest to the lowest many faces will be missed that will never be seen again. There will naturally be much sorrow, but I think there should be a great pride too, to think that those who have fallen should have done so in such a just cause. War is a dreadful thing, but when I heard that England had declared war in defense of little Belgium I felt glad and proud. There are times when a nation must be prepared to make great sacrifices in men and money to maintain what is just and right, to fight against the barbarity that is ruining and desecrating the homes of Belgium, and that would mete out the same treatment if it could, to the homes of England.

I don't know whether you have heard that we had Mr. & Mrs. Nash here for about ten weeks. Mrs. Nash is Arthurs wife's sister, Amy. I did not remember her at all, as I think she was quite young when she used to come to Whitcomb St., but she seemed to know me. They had been at Christchurch since they came out. She had got work dressmaking but he had done practically nothing. There's little work here at his trade- stone-mason - but he could have got other work, however he did not seem disposed to take anything to go on with as he should have done. I am afraid he was too old to adapt himself to farm work and he didn't seem to try to do his best at it, so we didn't get on very well, and in the end we had to part. I thought it might make it easier for Lizzie if he could take here place in the shed, but he made a lot more work in the house, so she was no better off. We got on a lot better with his wife. She is very jolly and good company.

Warea,
Taranaki, N.Z.
11.5.20

There is just the same difficulty here in N.Z. in securing houses. In the towns it is almost impossible to rent one, and even if one buys one, it is not an easy matter to get the tenants out. Unless a tenant can find other accommodation one cannot force them to give up possession, even though one may have bought the freehold. There was very little building done during the war, the materials being so dear and hard to get and labour so scarce. People are having to build now however, although materials are dearer than ever, and a house costs as much again to build as it did a few years ago.

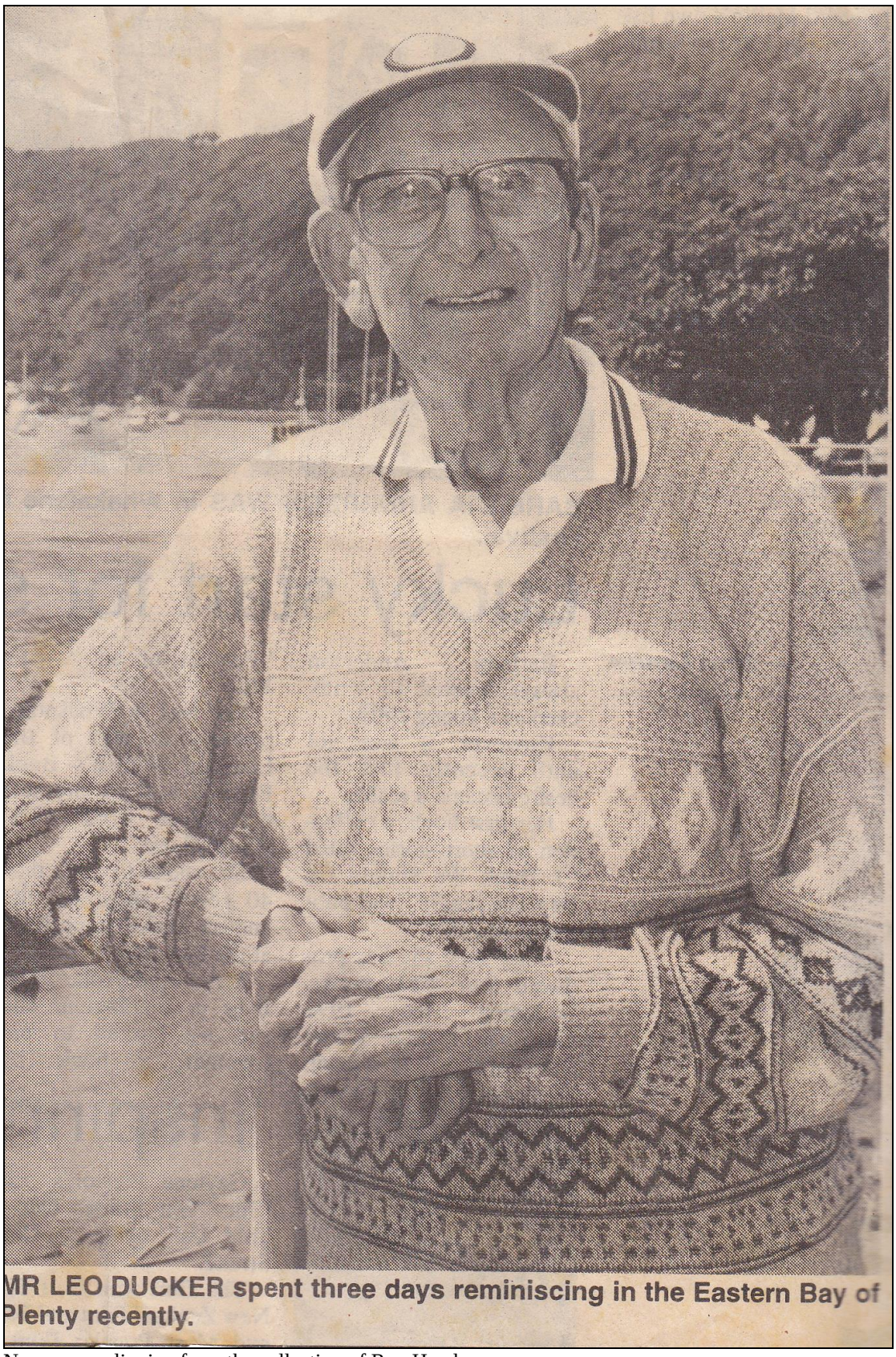
It may surprise you to learn that we also are trying to sell out. We have had a good many years now of bush farming, and I am beginning to feel that I should like a rest. We have been doing very well, but we have had to work hard. A bush farm is no place for a man who wants a soft job. There is so much to do to clear the land ready for ploughing. When it is stumped and ploughed it looks very nice - different country altogether and carries more stock - but the work of clearing a place like this - 332 acres - seems never done. If the boys were a few years older I would stick to it, but it would be a good many years before they could take any of the heavy work. If they want to farm when they are old enough I would take another place, but a smaller and a bit of better, clearer land. However I have not sold this yet. I have had several to see it but none of them have been prepared to find sufficient cash, most of them want just about the lot left on mortgage, but I must get a reasonable amount of cash, or its no use my selling. Land has been selling at big prices the last year or so, some of it up to as much as £150 per acre, but that is some of the best land in New Zealand. We are getting good prices for our produce and that is putting up the value of land.

We are just about finishing our present season, and I am hoping to sell out before the next season starts. If not, we may have to put in another year. We should be able to get enough out of the place to make us very comfortable, and then can give the boys a start later on if th they require it.

I am pleased to say the family is going on all right. Our youngest - Florrie - started to go to school a short time ago, although not yet school age, but she wanted to go very badly. Apparently it didn't quite come up to her expectations as after a time or two she made up her mind that she wasn't going any more. She will have to think better of it next summer. I need hardly say she is a bit of a pickle, but I hope that as time goes on she will become more like her father.

I must wind up now with love to all,
Yours affectionately,
Walter.

Appendix 2 Early Days of Ohiwa by Leo Ducker


MR LEO DUCKER spent three days reminiscing in the Eastern Bay of Plenty recently.

Newspaper clipping from the collection of Ron Henderson

Memories of Duckers Island...

Today it is known as Uretara Island but 80 years ago when Mr Leo Ducker lived there with his family it was "Ducker's Island".

Mr Ducker, who now lives in Orewa, recently returned to Whakatane and Opotiki for the first time in many years, spending three days in the area.

It was a time for reminiscing for the 89-year-old who was born at Ohiwa and spent much of his early life living in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Mr Ducker said when he was very small his father, grandfather and another builder from New Plymouth built a post office shop and living accommodation for the family at Ohiwa.

His mother ran the post office and shop while his father looked after the shipping. Most of the freight for the Eastern Bay of Plenty came through Ohiwa harbour at that time.

His family moved to "Ducker's Island", now known as Uretara Island, in Ohiwa Harbour, in 1911 where they farmed until the beginning of the First World War.

They left when their father went to war.

Mr Ducker said his father had a lease of the island but did not relinquish it when he went away to fight because he wanted to return.

While he was away the island was deemed a reserve.

However the family was not told to leave immediately and continued farming there for a few years before gaining a returned servicemen's section at Opotiki.

When they moved they took the post office shop with them.

One of Mr Ducker's most vivid memories is of the 1914 tragedy at White Island, in which 10 men were killed.

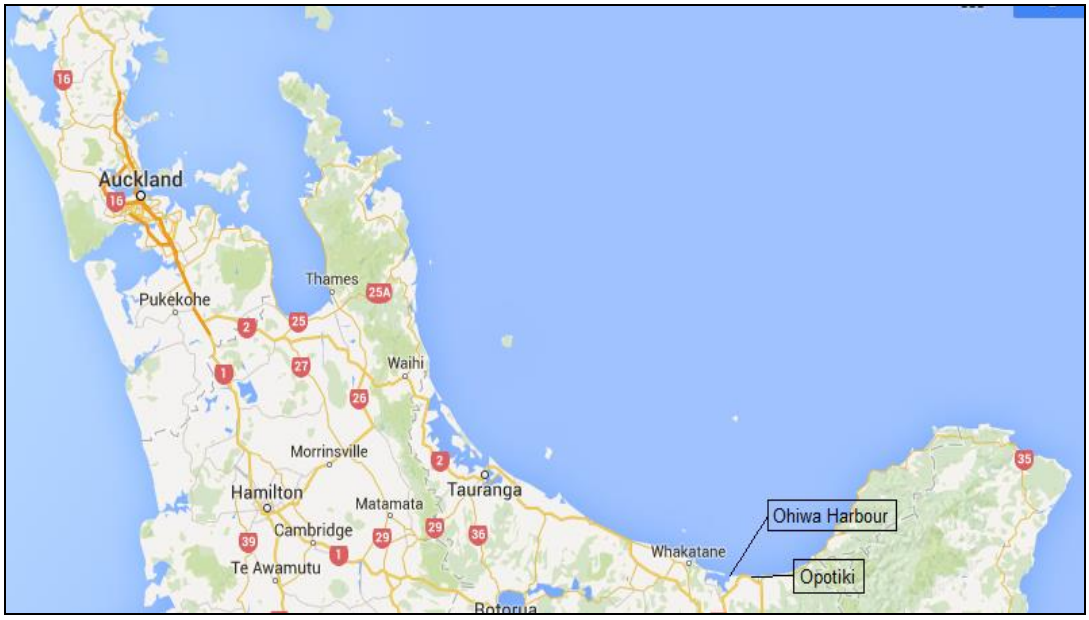
His father accompanied Mr Albert Mokomoko, who delivered supplies weekly, to the island where they found no trace of the maintenance crew.

"I recall the terrible feeling I had when I knew everyone had been killed," Mr Ducker said.

Mr Ducker left Opotiki in 1921 to work on a farm on the Rangitaiki Plains.

Later he moved to Kaitaia where he became a qualified steam engineer.

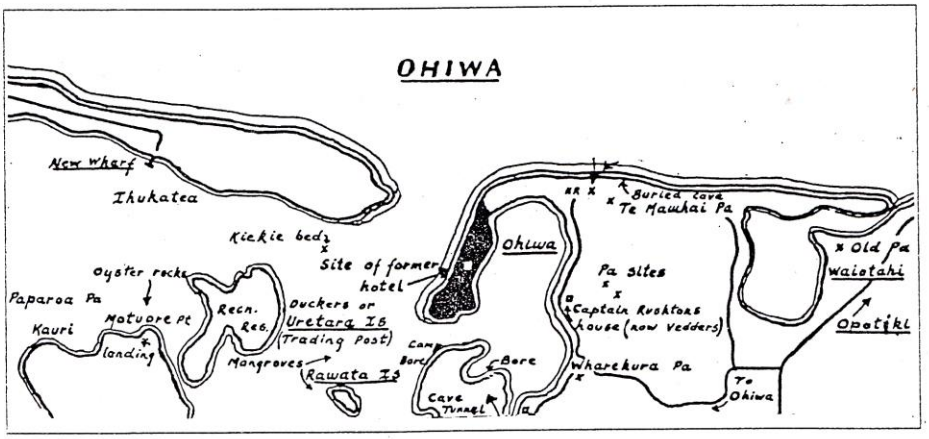
Newspaper clipping from the collection of Ron Henderson



Ohiwa Harbour in the Bay of Plenty. (Google Maps)

EARLY DAYS OF OHIWA

BY -- LEO DUCKER 1994



The old Ohiwa township, shown here in black shading, has since disappeared through erosion. The Ferry ran from the township to the Whakatane sandspit at left.

EARLY DAYS OF OHIWA.

In the year 1881 my Father along with his family: Father, Mother, 3 Sisters and 3 Brothers arrived by ship from England to settle in New Zealand. The only way Grandad could persuade Grandma to come out to the Colony so far away, was on the condition that he lay down his pipe and never smokes again, which he promptly promised to do and never ever broke his word.

They arrived at New Plymouth on board the Ship “James Baine” after 15 weeks at sea, to be landed in New Plymouth amid a round up of Maori warriors.[64] Hundreds of them, all lined up on the beach under military guard, and according to my Grandmother, was a most frightening experience, as there were war dances and Hakas going on all the time. She related how the ground shook with hundreds of bare feet thumping in unison and told Grandad clearly she wanted to board the ship and return to England.

He reminded her of the deal they had made about "laying down his pipe' so she condescended to stay, but very reluctantly. Grandad was a carpenter and built a very nice home while starting up a sash and door factory in New Plymouth, which he operated until he died in the year 1917.

My Father Frank was his Mother's white haired boy and he really did not settle down to a permanent job of farming as the rest of the family did. .As a young person he went to Australia and joined a Vaudeville Co. of J. C. Williamsons. He became their leading comic singer and after a couple of seasons in Sydney he came to New Zealand with the Company, then finally returned to Sydney with them.

When a cabin trunk with all his false wigs and paraphernalia went missing on the voyage, it put paid to Vaudeville. During his singing career he met and married my Mother who was Lily Eyes whose occupation was school teaching.

Mother lived in Papakura while my Dad was working as a steward on ships plying between Auckland and Australian ports. My Father had wanted to finally settle on the land, after extensive enquires he obtained a lifelong lease of Uretara Island, which was 181 acres, in the Ohiwa harbour.

The Island was not available right then for several reasons so Dad still kept his ship steward job, and even sailed as far as Cooktown in northern Queensland. During this time Mother lived in Avondale, Auckland, where her first child Bradley Ward was born.

My Mother left Avondale and went to New Plymouth to Papa's Mother where my Sister Olive Lois was born. From there Mother moved to Eltham, Taranaki, where Mum's third child Ronald Dudley was born. At this time Papa was going to take possession of Uretara Island in the Ohiwa Harbour, so Mother moved to an Opotiki home in the Bay of Plenty.

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[64] There appear to be errors here. The Duckers' arrival in New Zealand was at Wellington, in June 1880, after about 15 weeks at sea, on the ship Geraldine Paget.
It is likely the Maori welcome which frightened "Grandma" took place in Wellington.
James Ducker did not own or operate the Sash and Door Company, but was foreman there until 1900 when he resigned his position.

Mother's fourth child Cecil James, was born at Opotiki. Our family had moved to a little unpainted house at Ohiwa, and just 18 months later I, Leo Alfred, put in an appearance. As stated earlier I was premature and born at home in Ohiwa.

Mum's sixth child Clarence Edward, was born at Opotiki. One would wonder when all this was going to stop as Papa was away such a lot. However he must have come home now and again. There was a seventh child, Eric Norman, born in 1912 at Opotiki, so we had a seven aside football team, but one was a girl.

I was the first white child to be born at Ohiwa, on June 24, 1906. As I was born prematurely and Papa being away, Mother bore me at home helped by a Maori woman who lived in a *whare* just down the hill from our little unpainted house.

My premature birth caught Mother by surprise and she had no milk As there was not a cow within many miles I was put to a Maori wonan who had given birth to a baby some weeks earlier. (My first goes at share milking.)

When Papa came home he went to Opotiki and bought a cow, which promptly went dry. He said it was due to the treatment it received while travelling the 12 miles, but being in the middle of winter when I was born it was time the cow did go dry. However it calved in August and there was stacks of milk for me.

In the meantime I had been put on Highlander Condensed milk and did very well. I still take a pull out of a tin of milk when I get the chance, so it did not put me off the stuff.

My first memory is when we moved from the little unpainted house on the hill behind Ohiwa to a shed on 2 acres of flat land Papa had purchased at Ohiwa proper. We lived there until our house was built by Grandad Ducker and Mr. Took who had come from New Plymouth to build the house, which was also to be a grocery store and Post Office.

It was great living in a real house. It was built on sand and I can still hear Mum saying "Wipe your feet on the sack on the step before coming inside'. Apart from that we always seemed to cart a lot inside on our bare feet.

Mother ran the store and Post Office while Papa, (who was a stevedore) was busy with shipping, as Ohiwa harbour could always be worked. All the Opotiki cargo would be brought to Ohiwa, along with cheese from the Waitoki and Waimana factories, carted by Mr. Alan Abbot in his big wagon drawn by 4 big Clydesdale horses.

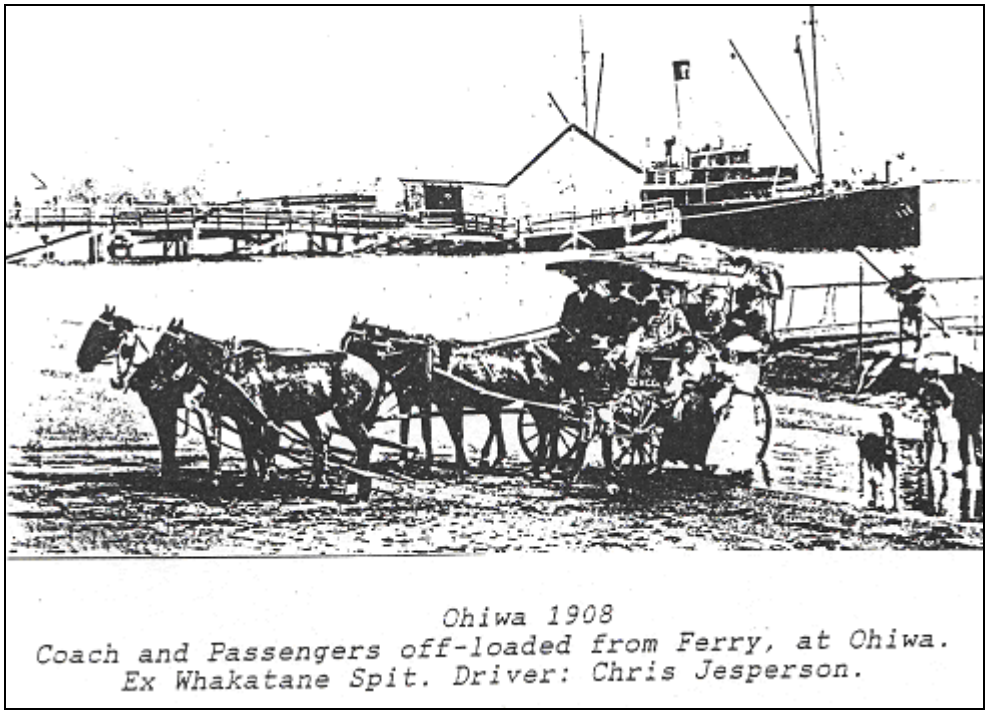
I was always fascinated by the horses, as they were fed and watered at Ohiwa before returning to Kutarere where Mr. Abbot lived. I can still hear them snuffIing and munching in their nose bags as they ate up their chaff and oats.

I started school in the year 1911 and on my first day I received a Coronation Medal of Queen Mary and King George, which I still possess. Every school child in New Zealand was given one. Five came to our house and Mum kept them for us, giving them out later in life.

There were several families farming along the Waiotahi side of the Ohiwa harbour and their children attended the Ohiwa school. The Crowther's 4 eldest children went along with the Black's 2 children and Mr. Reid's 2 children. Also 4 of the Holliway children giving the school a roll of 18 - 19.

Most families rode on horseback to school by way of the mudflats. The 4 Crowthers riding on the one pony was quite a laugh. Mr. Grahame was our teacher, he had one child. Mr. Campbell was in charge of the stables. (The coach coming as far as Ohiwa) Passengers then crossing the harbour by launch and another coach would pick up the passengers and return to Whakatane or Rotorua.

If a passenger arrived in his own gig or buggy, the vehicle would be put on a flat bottomed punt and would be rowed across with the horse being towed behind.
Not very satisfactory but it was the only way of getting across. Later a ferry was provided which was a big improvement as the vehicles could be driven straight on and the crossing would be much simpler. The coach used this method also until another stable was built on the Whakatane Spit side and the horses were left there overnight preparing for the coach the next day.



Ohiwa 1908
Coach and Passengers off-loaded from Ferry, at Ohiwa.
Ex Whakatane Spit. Driver: Chris Jesperson.

The passengers would cross by ferry and Mr. Campbell would have coach and horses waiting to take them on their way to Opotiki and as far as Gisborne. With the Motu Road journey in front of you it was quite an adventure. This method was used until 1913 when the Waimana Gorge road was put through.

The coach went around the long way through Taneatua, Waimana and Kutarere.
It was great for the people inland to have transport for the first time.
It was easy to get into trouble as there were 6 of us boys and the eldest only 12 years old. My only Sister Olive had gone back to New Plymouth with Grandad Ducker for her schooling. She never came back to live in Ohiwa, only twice for holidays as Mum was busy in the store and Post Office. It was a job to keep an eye on 6 lively boys.

However, one day, Clarry went missing and we found him in a boat drifting up harbour, paddling with a stick. Had he decided to step out of the boat it would have been goodbye Clarry. He had picked the light anchor up and put it in the boat which floated off as the tide was making. A fisherman who summed up the situation got in his boat and set off after him. As Clarry was only 3 years old it is a wonder how he decided to stick with the boat

I must mention my lucky escape. It was a Sunday and Mum and Papa had gone over to our Island which was almost 3 miles distant up harbour. We had strict instructions not to go near the wharf. After they had gone in the boat some people arrived from Opotiki to go fishing on the wharf.

My Brothers Ron and Sos (as we called Cecil) and I went out to the wharf to see the fish being caught. On looking up we saw a boat coming down harbour so we high tailed it off the wharf on the uneven side by the cattle race. Me being only 5 years old missed a plank and went down into the sea. I was wearing a straw hat tied under my chin. Mr. Morrison who was fishing, spotted the hat floating towards the bar.
He had heard the splash and realised there was a boy under it.

He dived in, swam to me, and pushed me ashore, thus saving a certain drowning.
I was changed into dry clothes and when Mum and Pop came home it was spanks all round, but not me as Pop said I was lucky to be alive and not to disobey him ever again.

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We finally left Ohiwa to live on the Island, the accommodation was sparse to say the Least. A lean-to hut with a dirt floor and 2 tents of the old type with a fly. Bradley and Ronald slept in one tent and Sos and I in the other, while Papa and Mum occupied the lean-to hut with a big open fire over which all our cooking was done

Wire hooks hanging from a bar over the fire held our billies which were used for cooking, at the right height from the flames. Of course the camp oven would be placed in the embers. The chimney was built of corrugated iron and about 5 feet across. As we had stacks of wood the fire would rarely go out. A backlog would always be placed on the fire.

Our early income on the Island was from grazing cattle belonging to farmers from Opotiki, supplemented by butter and eggs which were produced by our 100 ducks. We also had a market for cockles in Auckland and that meant that 3 sacks full had to be gathered the day before the Ngatiawa sailed for Auckland, so they would arrive at the fish market in a fresh condition.

I can state it was a real chore. No matter what the weather, the cockles had to be gathered, sometimes at first light in the morning to catch the boat. If the ship was in at the wharf our cockles would be winched aboard by ship's gear which was a big help. Otherwise they had to be manhandled which was quite a task
A sack of cockles is no lightweight. I was very young, just 6 years old and had to help my Papa and 3 brothers to gather cockles in cold mud and sometimes when very windy. Me blubbering all the time and I must add with a runny nose, which could not be wiped by dirty muddy hands. I simply loathed it and I must state, so did my brothers.

We also grew potatoes and maize for the market, and it was a big job getting it to the market in Auckland, as we had only a 12 foot flat bottomed punt to do all the carting to Ohiwa It meant several trips a day sometimes. If the produce was left in the Ohiwa wharf shed too long it would be ruined by rats, so that meant we had to work with the arrival of the ship. .

In 1912 my eldest Brother Bradley got a job on a farm at Waiotahi, so from that time on he was rarely back home. Then Ronald went to work on a farm also at Waiotahi, leaving Cecil and I at home most of the time. We were aged 6 and 7 respectively.

Living on the Island was not difficult as we got a grocery order from Smeetons, Auckland, once a month by boat. This was a standing order and never varied.
At times we would run out of food before the month was up, but as we had plenty of sea food it was no hardship.

We have often sat down to a kerosene tin of lovely boiled cockles. (We knew where to find the large juicy ones) If we had visitors the medium sizes were good enough. It was a treat to have a real feed of cockles, camp oven bread and home made butter. It was food for a King. Of course we were never short of flounder. Papa would send us boys dowm to spear enough flounder for tea. This would usually be in the afternoon with the tide making so we would just pick off the best, usually about half a dozen would do.

The fish were so plentiful in the early days, one could pick and choose. We never did go spearing at night at all. There was no need to. We had a large heavy frypan which would fry two flounders at a time, and as we never had dripping, they were always cooked in home made butter; yes, yellow belly flounder in home made butter.
I can still savour the taste of that delicious food.

We grew our own potatoes and corn, and we had plenty of eggs, as well as the 100 odd ducks we had always about fifty fowl, and when we needed chicken it simply meant catching a rooster and dressing it. Either roasting it in a camp oven or boiling in the dixie with barley.

Honey was in plentiful supply as the wild bees built their hives in dead standing pongas. We would tie a rope well up the dead ponga and cut the tree at the base. When it fell it would be quickly dragged down the hill, as the bees came out they would fly straight back to where the ponga stood, leaving us to split open the tree and extract the honey. We never gave honey poisoning a thought and were never affected. We always had a kerosene tin full of honey. When it got down a bit we would get another tin full by the same method.

I can well remember the White Island Eruption in 1912.[65] Cecil and I were left at home on the Island while Papa rode on horseback to Opotiki. We had our chores to do; onewas to turn the eggs in the incubator which was full of selected eggs.

[65] The White Island Eruption which Leo recalled was in 1914, not 1912. 10 people were killed.



We could see the huge column of dust and steam rising from White Island from our place, but little did we realise the tragedy that had taken place.
Thirteen dead.

Papa went out with Albert Mokomoko on his launch and the only living thing was the cat which he brought home.

The incubator was situated in the maize crib. While doing the turning of the eggs, (which took some time) the earthquake started. Well, as we were used to short jolts in the Bay of Plenty, we did not take a lot of notice at first. Then came a wallop and we both made for the crib door. It was built on blocks 3 feet off the ground.
We jumped out and were both thrown on our backs, such was the shake. We picked ourselves up but were thrown a number of times while crossing the paddock.

On reaching the lean-to house with the earth floor, we were greeted by trays of milk which had fallen from the setting shelves on to the floor.

It was 1913 when Papa made arrangements for me to go and stay with Mrs King at Kutarere and attend school there. I thought this was good as I really enjoyed school. However it did not last long as Cecil had been taken ill and was in Opotiki Hospital, so I had to return home.

Mum was coming back home and I was overjoyed at her returning, so I rowed over to meet the coach and picked Mother up on the day. Papa had schooled me to say "Mum, I'm glad you have come home", but I was so overjoyed and with my impediment in speech I could not get it out, more's the pity. However it was not to last as my Parent's quarrelled a lot and Mum could not take it any longer.

It was my job to take her over to the coach and say goodbye. It was the saddest moment of my life. I was only 7 years old. I do not mind admitting I cried for days.

Papa was building the new house up the hill on the Island, and we finally moved in, before it was finished, of course The back portion still had a dirt floor. However Papa applied for a Governess in the Weekly News.
Finally a good-looking woman arrived, plus one son, Douglas.

We were lined up and told, this is your Governess and she had to be obeyed at all times as you would obey your Mother. Well, things went pretty smoothly until Papa enlisted for the Great War.

Finally he was called up, and his excuse was, "he knew the returned Soldiers were to be granted land on their return."
He wanted the Island freehold.

He was paying only one shilling a year rental so God knows what else he wanted. However, when he returned from the War he found the Government had deemed the Island a reserve.

When Papa was called up, Papa and Mrs Turner (our Governess) decided to marry. As he said “we would have someone to look after us while he was away at the War.” Well, it did not quite work out like that as Douglas was her only son and we got the full blast of a "stepmother" for year with no holds barred.

My Brother Clarry was not at the Island in the early days as he also went to New Plymouth to my Grandmother's for his education, Norman was with our Mother as he was very young when she left home. So Mum took him with her. On our return to the Island, when Papa was discharged from the Army, we carried on farming and the boys went to the Waingarara School. That was 4 miles distant, 2 by boat and 2 by foot.
If the tide was right we could walk both ways through mudflats and then up the sledge road to the top road and then on to school.



I can remember my Sister Olive travelling from New Plymouth to Ohiwa to spend her Christmas holidays on the Island. I was overjoyed at the prospect of seeing her. Olive was a young lady by now and I was always very proud to be seen with her.

All good things must come to an end however, it came time for Olive's return to New Plymouth.
Papa had arranged to row her to Ohiwa to catch the Ngatiawa for Auckland.

On the day of her departure Papa asked me to row Olive to catch the boat which I was overjoyed to do.
I had been wishing I could go back to New Plymouth with her. On arriving at Ohiwa I asked Olive to take me with her. After explaining why she could not, I wished I had not asked her.

When I finally said goodbye to my Sister, the tears started and on the way home in the rowboat I simply bawled my eyes out. I was 12 years old and I should have been able to overcome my grief. It took a while.

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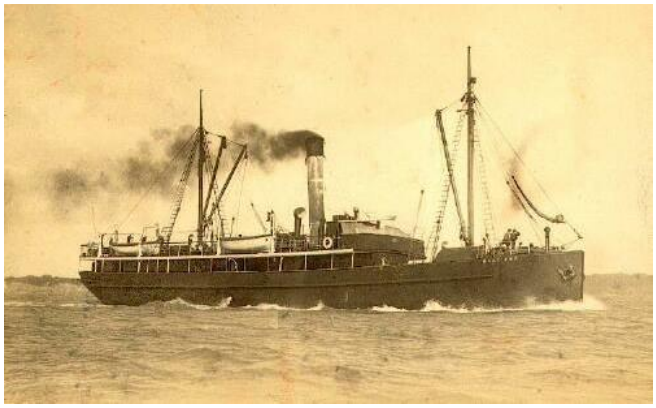
Papa had put an application to be in the Draw for a Returned Soldier's Farm at Woodlands, Opotiki. He was lucky and won a ballot. So in 1919 we finally left the Island and took our stock to the new farm.

The new farm did not have a house on it so we built a cow shed and lived in that until we had the house that Grandad Ducker built at Ohiwa, moved to the farm.
We had three and a half miles to go to Opotiki school, which was a long way for the young children. However after Papa had negotiated with the Government for several months he finally got approval to run the buggy to school. Papa provided the transport and was paid half a crown per head per week. There were 4 of us and 3 Holland children which made the operation pay.

I was the stage driver, at least, that is what the school kids called me. I did not mind that so much, but the 4 boys on the back seat were pretty hard to control.

After a couple of years the Government, after much pressure, built a new school at Woodlands not very far from where we lived. It was a great relief not having to catch the horse and pick up other kids each day for the drive to Opotiki school.

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SS Ngatiawa. Photograph: Auckland War Memorial Museum

I have earlier stated the shipping to Ohiwa was very regular as the bar could always be worked on the high tide.

The Ngatiawa, skippered by captain Keatley was a regular weekly visitor bringing cargo and passengers for the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Opotiki bar was rarely workable so most cargo was shipped through Ohiwa.
The butter from the Opotiki Dairy Co. was shipped along with the cheese from Waiotahi Cheese Factory, and the Waimana Cheese Factory. Also Cheddar Valley Butter, but that was much later. It was established in 1916.

The stage coach was the main passenger link with the towns up and down the coast. The driver of the coach was Mr. Chris Jesperson, a tall man with an excellent Moustache. He could handle the 5 in hand very well. The coach had side curtains which could be let down if needed. The roads made every ride long and bumpy.

The coach could traverse the beach when the tide was right which was a pleasure, providing many miles of smooth going. After leaving Ohiwa, the coach would, if the tide was out, traverse the beach, crossing the Waiotahi river at the mouth, and continue along the Opotiki beach, leaving the beach to cut inland to cross the Waioweka river at the long one way bridge and into Opotiki.

That was not the end of the beach run, as it went on via the famous Motu Gorge to Gisborne, which meant a real journey. From Gisborne to Matawai, day l; Matawai to Opotiki, day 2; Opotiki to Rotorua day 3; Rotorua to Hamilton, day 4; Hamilton to Auckland, day5; with many changes of horses at the various bases.

I had travelled by coach to Rotorua as a child at the age of 6 years. My most vivid memory is the changing of the horses at Lake Rotoma. It was always called the half - way house. The Maoris were selling cherries on a stick for threepence. Mother bought me one and I thought it was marvellous
However with the new team of horses we arrived in Rotorua while it was still light being summertime. We stayed at Thirwell House which was a new Boarding House in 1912. It was situated in the main street.

I travelled to Opotiki once and I was allowed to stand and hold on to Mr. Jesperson's tall seat and I thought it was wonderful. I wanted always to be a coach driver from then on. That came later.

It was 1912 when we moved to the Island and we would get our groceries by boat from Auckland. It was quite an event opening the crate and unpacking carefully. As we knew amongst the groceries there would be a bag of boiled lollies. They were put in for us by some kind person, the packer I guess. Maybe it was the Firm called Smeetons Ltd. which was later The Farmers Trading Co.

What a delight. There would also be a big tin of Cabin Bread biscuits of which we became very fond when spread with lashings of honey. We always seemed to have enough to eat, isolated as we were.



When clearing the land of titree it was quite a trek to the site, we would light a fire and boil up and have billy tea.

What a taste, I can still remember it so well. If there was enough Camp Oven bread we took that along also, but for convenience we usually took Cabin Bread.

Honey went down well with billy tea. Of course at times we would be out of tucker and relied on junket and stewed peaches. We just took a big pot of junket around to our job, and when lunch time came we would share the junket out of the pot, a spoonful each until it was all gone. We found the milk had to be blood temperature, if hotter the junket would be almost cheese by lunch time. That was not so good and the continual shaking while walking to the job would not help. Almost the natural process of cheese making.

While working with the slasher on the scrub we were always in sight of water, and I would give anything to tear down the hill to the sea for a swim and cool off, as it was very hot on the Island.

I can remember on a couple of occasions Papa saying “would you boys like a swim”, we would echo "yes Papa" and be hell bent for the water, dropping our pants as we ran. Of course it was all skinny-dipping and no worry as we were 4 boys.

Back at the house after milking, our evening meal would be made ready, usually by Ronald. After washing up the 5 enamel plates and cutlery it was wash feet time. Usually Papa would then read to us, from pages of the Auckland Weekly News.

By this time I would drop off and would be sent to the tent up the hill, to bed, which I hated on my own. If Sos came along with me it was alright, but he was one year older and could stay up a bit longer. Brad and Ron slept in the other tent and Papa in the lean-to. It really was only a shack



Papa being a comic singer a few years earlier with J. C. Williamson and Co. in New Zealand and Australia, his services were always in demand at concerts as there were no moving pictures or anything like that

If a small town wanted to raise money for a reason, such as cricket or football teams and such, he was always asked to do a turn. It was well known that if Frank Ducker was performing, people would come for miles to hear him.

It usually meant I would go along with him for company. Being at night I would be left at home as it was school in the morning. But on a Saturday night I could go and felt very proud of him, when he got all the applause.

There were a few Remittance men about. One who visited us regularly was Paddy McGee who lived alone with his horse. On the day he would receive his money from Home, (he called it) he would get very drunk and went into the Dingbats at times.

He came in late one night and asked Papa to go home and stay with him as there were men with guns at his windows; he would swear it was so. By the time Papa had bunked him down at home, us kids had the wind up. We did not like to go to bed. However Paddy passed on. We missed him calling in. He was found on Moutore near where he lived in the old house with his horse grazing nearby.

Another Remittance man was an Englishman, a fine looking, well spoken chap. His name was Julius Donner. He lived in various shacks around the Ohiwa harbour. Finally when we left the Island in 1919 he moved into our house and stayed there until he died, but unlike Paddy McGee, he was a very interesting man.

I could listen to him all day if allowed. He came from a fine English family but blotted his copybook as a young man. He was shipped out to New Zealand finishing his days in our house on Duckers Island, which he was very fond of. He at times went to Opotiki, always barefooted. He told me he had not worn boots since coming to this Colony. By the look of his feet I am sure that was correct, I can talk, my feet did not see a boot until after the first World War, and I hated them.

It was not all hard work living at Ducker's Island. We 4 boys had our own way of enjoying life. As Papa was away most of the time it gave us a free hand to play so long as we did our chores.

Our first choice was fishing, I think. Just for pleasure and of course for the pan. If we had too many we could cook them up in a 4 gallon tin for the pigs. I must say they made great tucker.
Like all boys, we went bird-nesting in the spring and summer, and this was always competitive. At times we would find a pheasant nest with up to 16 eggs in it. We would visit every day to see when they hatched, but usually got there too late and all the chicks had hatched and gone.

California quail were our favourite. We even reared them to adult birds. While young, we fed them oat meal, then ground maize. We had a Morepork nest with 2 eggs that finally hatched. These were in a hollow Puriri trunk and the parent birds were very protective. Many times they would swoop down and scratch our heads while we were looking at their young. We each had our own Kingfisher nest but they are smelly housekeepers, so were not our favourite by a long way.

In the summertime we would build a Hide (mai mai) on a low point of the spit and Bradley would sit in it with the gun and shoot curlew as they flew over, going up harbour. They were great eating stewed with barley. Of course they were not protected in those days and pheasants were very plentiful, so there was no shortage of good food.



We had dozens of India Runner Ducks of which Papa was very proud as they were show birds and great egg producing machines.

The ducks stood up so straight they almost fell backwards. Well, it was my job to get the ducks in each night and to drive them into a pen about 5 yards square, always a difficult job.

However, in the morning I had to let them out and collect the eggs which would be just muddy blobs in the pen. As many as 6 dozen and these all had to be washed. It was alright if the tide was in, but still a job I did not fancy.

The hens also had to be attended. They were free to run anywhere and had their own nests. It was quite a job collecting every 3 or 4 days. A kerosene tin of eggs. They were all sent to Auckland once a week by boat to Smeetons or Laidlaw Leeds Ltd. which helped to pay for our grocery order.

We 4 boys had our slidey board track which was pretty steep and bumpy. The board held us all and was as shiny as glass. Often we were thrown off before we reached the bottom, which was all fun. If we had visitors, the boys always made for the slidey board because it was great fun.

But I really think our greatest joy was swimming. The water was always warm and clear. We would swim the channel and run across to the next channels and repeat it coming back. It was always skinny dipping as togs were not known to us. But I must state it was very embarrassing when girls came in the party and the first thing they thought of was a swim. Well, I can recall, running well along the beach and dropping my pants, then swimming along towards the crowd but still keeping my distance, wishing I had a pair of togs.

I can recall the sand being so hot on the beach that it was impossible to stand still. One had to simply run to keep from being burned. This would happen for weeks on end. The tide coming up over the hot mudflat would heat the water until it was almost unbearable.

I went back to the Island a few years ago and I found the same thing. I also looked for the Missionary peach trees which, at one time, were numerous everywhere, and I found one tree with beautiful peaches on. I will never forget their rich flavour.

It is no wonder we had so many visitors in the Summer. The peach trees were a great attraction. There also was a wealth of Cape Gooseberries which just grew in profusion. When the Kawakawa berries were ripe we would eat them until we turned yellow. Papa would spot the yellow skin and tell us to stop eating the berries.
They were delicious.

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THE LOCAL MAORI IN THE EARLY1900

I can well remember the local Maori with their Tattoos and the Women with their *mokos*. Mother was very busy in the store and Post Office at Ohiwa, so had a very old Maori woman come each Monday to do the washing. Her name was Taishoa and her payment was 2/6 with dinner. This consisted of one Snapper boiled, with 2 potatoes. She would eat the lot and most of the bones. It would fascinate me.
She would not come inside with us, but would sit on the back steps and crunch and eat bones and all.

She was 89 years old and had to walk two and a half miles around the mudflats to our place. In bare feet of course. After dinner she would take off home.

As the Ferry Hotel was the nearest licensed hotel to the back country, the Maoris would arrive on horseback any time of the day or night They would usually knock Papa up to open the store for a tin of Bully Beef; of which they were very fond.

They would sleep anywhere. If the Pub was open they would proceed to get very Drunk. They would stay that way until the money ran out. More often than not they were thrown out by Billy Dolon the Proprietor. These men always wore their hair long and I saw many a brawl and hair pulling while they were intoxicated. As our store was only 50 yards from the Boozer we saw it all.

The older Maoris were more settled in their ways. Often paddling down to Ohiwa in their canoes (dugouts). Usually with one paddler at each end. They would call at our store for a supply of Cabin Biscuits (Bread) and Bully Beef.
Ignoring the Ferry Hotel they would paddle down towards the bar, anchor, and use long handle rakes to gather mussels from the bottom in about 8 feet of water at low tide. Their canoes would be filled to almost sinking with mussels. Then they would paddle back to where they came from. Sometimes as many as 6 canoes would be working the mussel bed at the one time

The Maori pilot, Albert Mokomoko from Opotiki, would keep en experienced eye on both the Opotiki bar and Ohiwa bar to allow ships to enter and depart safely. He was a fine, well respected man. I can well remember his sturdy figure at the wheel of his launch, or talking things over with Papa.

The Maoris of the Ohiwa Harbour ran a barter system with the Maori of the interior. Trading dried shark and dried cockles for pork and pigeons. This was on a regular basis when we occupied Ducker's Island. We would be invaded by Maoris on horseback each with a *Pikau* (chaff sack)sewn up at the top and split in the centre on one side. These would be filled with cockles and taken home to be boiled, threaded on rushes and dried.

At times the cockles would be cooked on the Island and the shells left in a great pile. Only the meat would be taken home on long rushes to dry. We would be fascinated by all this carry on.

When the dogfish were running, the Maoris would catch them by the ton, split them and dry them in the sun. The method for drying the shark was to cut the top branches out of the interior of a large Pohutukawa tree, run from branch to branch as many strands of No. I wire as possible and hang the shark over the wire by the tail. It would soon dry in the sun, albeit awful smelly for a time.

I had to ride via these trees once a week to get the supplies from Southgate's Store at Kutarere. At times I would be hailed by a Maori and asked if I would pick up tobacco for them at the store. On my return I would drop their goods in, and sometimes would go into a *whare* (nikau House). There I would see piles of dried shark and cockles ready to barter when the tribe from the interior arrived.

Of course the Maoris always had the circular net where the fish were trapped. It had to be cleared twice a day at low tide. These traps, of which there were several, would keep all the families in that area in fresh fish. It was their staple food, along with kumara, rewai and also pirau corn (something I could never stomach).



I was always intrigued at the way the Maoris of the Ohiwa kept their *kunikuni* pigs.

Tied by one leg and so fat they could hardly see out of their eyes. It was the piccaninnies' job to keep them covered in kumara leaves in the hot sun to keep them from melting.
They certainly looked as though they would.

The Maori of the area was a very happy chap. The only income (monetary) was when the corn was ripe and ready to pluck The grocer usually let it out on contract and the whole family would get stuck in and would certainly get the job done. Of course there was a lot of road works going on in those days, and quite a number of men were fully occupied on road construction. Scrub cutting was another source of income. Gow's Sawmill was always good for quite a good size working force, but more from the interior as the mill was at Nukuhou.

The Maoris had *whares* everywhere around the sprawling harbour. lts population was, I would say, over the 1,000 mark. But in 1918 a Flu' epidemic wiped them out almost completely. I can remember coffins filled up with dead with no-one to bury them. My Father was out helping every day and how we missed the Flu' remains a mystery.

We lived on Ducker's Island and there were people dying all around us.
Schools were closed, so that would account for us not coming in contact with other people, although my Dad was helping in every and any way he could.
There are 3 main Islands in Ohiwa harbour, Uretara (Duckers), Ohakana (Bates), and Hokianga I do not know the story of Bates, (when occupied by- the Maoris).
But I have been on it a number of times, and the Maori people did occupy it as there are 2 *pas* on it. A Mr. Bates lived on it for a while before the turn of the century, hence its name.

Hokianga was occupied by a large tribe. On passing the Hokianga on my way to Kutarere I have seen as many as 8 dugouts drawn up on the beach at the one time, together with several row boats.

A Mr. Chapman was building boats in his shed at the turn of the century. I can well remember going with Papa to Chapman's boat shed to get a flat bottomed boat built It was 12 feet and a real work boat , but of course it had to be rowed as there were no outboards in those days. Over the years I rowed it many, many miles.

I do not remember the size of the Maori population who lived on Hokianga as I visited it only a few times. There were many *whares* on the marsh and the black dirt was pounded flat and hard by many pairs of bare feet.

The kumara growing area occupied all the available flat land, even taking in some of the hill which grew maize and sugarcane. The sugarcane was of a spindly type but very sweet. I have not seen cane growing in New Zealand since those early days.

I firmly believe Te Kooti was buried on the highest point of Hokianga Island. As we could see the white headstone and were told. I made enquires in later years about the headstone and was told Te Kooti had been buried there, but as is the practice, his bones had been dug up and re-buried somewhere in the interior.
However, after the 1918 flu. epidemic the Maoris left Hokianga Island as it was declared *tapu*. It was inhabited in later years.

In the early days, canoes were coming down to the store almost every day. If the weather was right they would get mussels before returning to wherever they were living at the time.
If the Maori had a scrub cutting contract anywhere in the area surrounding the harbour, they would first build a *whare* and live in it until the job was cut out, simply walking out and leaving the *whare* to be overgrown and in time vanish.

I went, on my way to school, into a *whare* which had been left by a scrub cutter 2 months before. When I came out of the *whare* my legs were black with fleas. I rushed into the tide to get rid of most of them. Also I took my pants and shirt off and shook them, hoping to get rid of the critters. Well, I did, but a few remained to torment me.

The Maoris who had lived in the *whare* had 3 dogs that would rush out at me each day as I passed, with much barking and tooth display. There is no wonder the fleas bred by the thousands in the warm *whare*. However, the next day I was to get revenge. I brought along with me 2 wax Vesta matches. I set fire to the *whare* which burnt alarmingly. I did not want to be found out so I ran on my way to school.

On going up the hills to school I looked back and the fire had caught the dry cut titree and the hillside was blazing. However there was nothing I could do so I kept my mouth shut On my way home I found the 40 acres that had been cut was completely burned out.

I had to face the owner one day, as I collected his mail from the Cheddar Valley Post Office for him. Believe me, I was dead scared and must have looked guilty because after discussing several things, the conversation drifted to the 40 acre burnoff.
To sound interested I said "Over at Shagbite?"
(As that is what the area was called, because a man shot and wounded a shag there. On picking it out of the water it turned on him and just sank it's beak into his nose. I believe the beak took 2 men to prise it open to free the man. I can imagine the pain).

Getting back to the 40 acre burnoff, the Owner said "I don't know who lit the fire", but it was one of the cleanest burnoffs he had seen, and said it had saved him a job.
I felt much better after that and never ever told him it was I who lit the match.
I can state it was a lesson to me and I had no desire to set fire to other deserted *whares* ever again.

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Ohiwa in the early days was a vastly different place from what it is today. All Ohiwa would be in the sea today. The 2 acres bequeathed in Papa's will have gone out over the bar long ago. Where the township stood is now a channel cut through from the back section of the harbour.

The main wharf was also there. Later Kutarere wharf was built in 1916 and only scows would go up that far, and only at high tide.

Papa, who was a sort of Jack of all trades, was Storekeeper, Post Master, Stevedore and Harbour Master, which entailed charting the main channel and shifting the beacons when the channel changed course. It usually did in a big Easterly blow during a high Spring tide. It needed the two elements to really change the bar.

I had often been sent up to the top of Appleton's hill to look down and observe the channel change if any, and report back to Papa. As far as I know the Ngatiawa only struck the bar on very few occasions and usually if a big swell was running on the bar. I have seen the ship drop anchor and wait for the tide to be full before entering port at times, to put a few more feet of water under her keel.

Alex Campbell was in charge of the stables, he had the horses harnessed and ready to go straight into the coach. The old team would be watered and fed, then made ready for the next trip.

Billy Dolon was mine Host at the Ferry Hotel, apart from being a straight Barman, as he had to be at times. He would allow me to drain the lemonade bottles which I thought was great.

Jack Haua was a wharf worker, he had 3 girls and one boy going to Ohiwa school, apart from that I know nothing more about him.

There was Jimmy Linton, the fisherman, who often got very drunk. On his delivery day to Opotiki somebody would put him in his buggy and give the horse a slap on the rump. Jimmy would arrive home at Ohura many hours later and almost sober, that was his life. He would smoke most of the fish to keep it fresh, and usually netted flounder on Friday for Opotiki. His smoked fish was really great and he often gave me a chunk.

Mr. Johnny Appleton farmed just out of Ohiwa on the road to Opotiki. Mrs Appleton was a half-caste Lady and very nice.
I had to go and get the milk from her when our 2 cows were dry. She always seemed to have a piece of cake or a gingernut biscuit for me.

There was Mr. Chapman with his boat-building who was always busy. I can see him cutting the knees out of pohutukawa wood for the boats, with a handsaw as there were no Skilsaws in those days.

Mr. Holloway was farming near Mr. Chapman. He had 3 girls and a boy. Mrs. Holloway was a very lovely person. I stayed with them at times. Poppy, the youngest girl and I are the same age. I do not know if she is still living, she was in Gisborne when I last heard of her many years ago.

The port of Ohiwa had an all weather bar and was never without coastal ships or scows coming and going. There was much produce to be shipped out from the Eastern Bay of Plenty, mostly through Ohiwa. During a bad North Easterly blow I have seen as many as 15 vessels sheltering in the harbour, all anchored waiting for the storm to blow itself out.

The shallower draft scows anchored up harbour as far as Ducker's Island. Of course it was usually a BAD February storm and the crews from the ships would launch their boats and row over to our Island for the peaches which were there in profusion at that time of year. As I have mentioned they were the Missionary peach and were simply delicious.

It was a great sight to see the ships all leaving port in single file after the storm had blown itself out, heading for their destinations as far as Hicks Bay and North to Whangamata. Of course all the towns up and down the coast where served by small ships in the early days.

These storms gave the Pilot from Opotiki a lot more work as he was called on to check all the Ports in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. Mr Albert Mokomoko was the Pilot and would tackle a bar crossing in any weather. His launch was vety reliable and he would state "If the engine did not fail him he would get through".

It was during the peach season on the Island that we would get many picnic parties visiting us from Opotiki and surrounding districts. We boys thought it was great as the Ladies would always leave us lots of cookies which were a real treat. I can recall the great time that was enjoyed by young and old alike, picnicking and swimming.

One of my trips from the Island to Ohiwa to meet the boat to send our butter to Auckland and pick up our goods was quite an event. I had off loaded the box of butter and taken on a 70 pound bag of sugar, and an equally large bag of flour, which I placed on the stern seat, covering them with a couple of sacks. The wind had come up and I was protecting them against flying spray. The case of goods went in the bow of the boat on the floor. It must be remembered I was only 11 years old, the boat was a 12 foot flat bottomed craft and not a good sea boat. Well, I took off from Ohiwa and the Skipper of the Ngatiawa said as I left that I may get into trouble, well, I was battling a head wind which was increasing, with the tide running out against me. I had rowed about half a mile when, pull as I may, I could not make headway. However the Skipper was watching because he had a boat lowered from the davits with 3 men on the oars, they rowed to me and took me in tow across to the other side where I was heading. What a great relief to me as I'm not sure where I could have ended up.
I thanked the men and they went back, loaded the lifeboat , then the Skipper cast off. I thought what a wonderful thing for him to do. As he left the wharf he gave the customary blast on the whistle, plus 2 short toots which were meant for me.
I acknowledged with a big wave of thanks.

However I was able to thank him personally the following week. He delivered quite a speech about the Northern Company Ship being a half hour late at it's next Port, "and don't do it again young Ducker", he advised.

But of the many trips across the harbour I have only been stopped by gale force winds on a couple of occasions. I was making the crossing with Papa one stormy night when he said we would never make it and after a couple of attempts we tossed it in, booking into the Ferry Hotel for the night. What a storm it was, the wind whistled and shook the Hotel the whole night long,

The weather was quieter in the morning so we finally got home to the Island a day late but still alive, which may not have been the case had we pressed on in the storm. Luckily for us we had taken the oars and rowlocks out of the boat and pushed them under scrubby bush before we left the boat. Next morning the storm in the night had turned our boat over. Had we not have taken things out they most certainly would have been lost leaving us without any gear. So we were thankful for that.

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Ducker's Island (Uretara) of 181 acres situated in the Ohiwa harbour was occupied by Maoris until the year 1895. This ended after the massacre of the occupiers by a raiding force from the mainland. The raiders had tried on several occasions to take Uretara but each attempt had ended in failure. However in the year 1895 a further attack was launched, this time using a very cunning ruse.

A very dark night was selected for the operation. At low tide in the dark of night the raiding party took a load of titree and brush in their canoes. At the channel entrance to Wainui they built a big dummy fish and covered the titree with mud. When the tide came in over the decoy fish it did no harm at all. Next morning as the tide went down the great fish was observed by the lookout on top of the Maori Pa who gave the alarm.

Every man was mustered and set out to cut up the fish and bring it back. However the raiders were soon on the job capturing the women and children left behind. When the tribe came back from the hoax fish they were set upon and all killed. From then on the Island was *tapu.*
No Maoris ever returned except to gather shellfish, but never to reside.

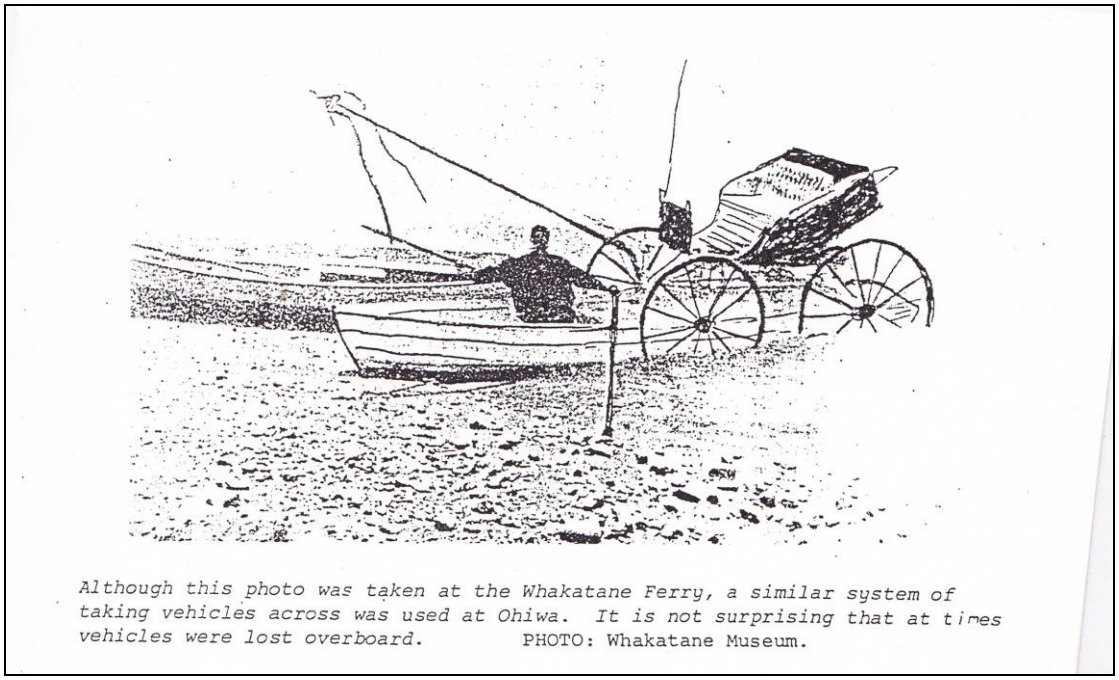
It was difficult to get the Maoris to come to the Island to plough our maize crops or potatoes. However Papa seemed to coax one Maori over for a few days but he would never spend the night The Maoris would not come to pluck or shell the maize, we had to do that ourselves.

I have stated Dad obtained the lease of the Island and we moved on to it in 1912. However, we had negotiated the lease years before at one shilling per annum. When Papa first visited the Island it was over-run by wild pigs, which had been left when the Maoris departed.

These pigs had to be shot before the Island could be occupied by Papa as they were dangerous. Also they would have quickly devoured our crops. Papa was often put up a tree by a large boar. He had to wait until the pig went away. His only weapon was a muzzle loader which was very slow. The pigs were breeding quicker than he could find and shoot them. However, he obtained a rifle which was much more efficient than the muzzle loader.

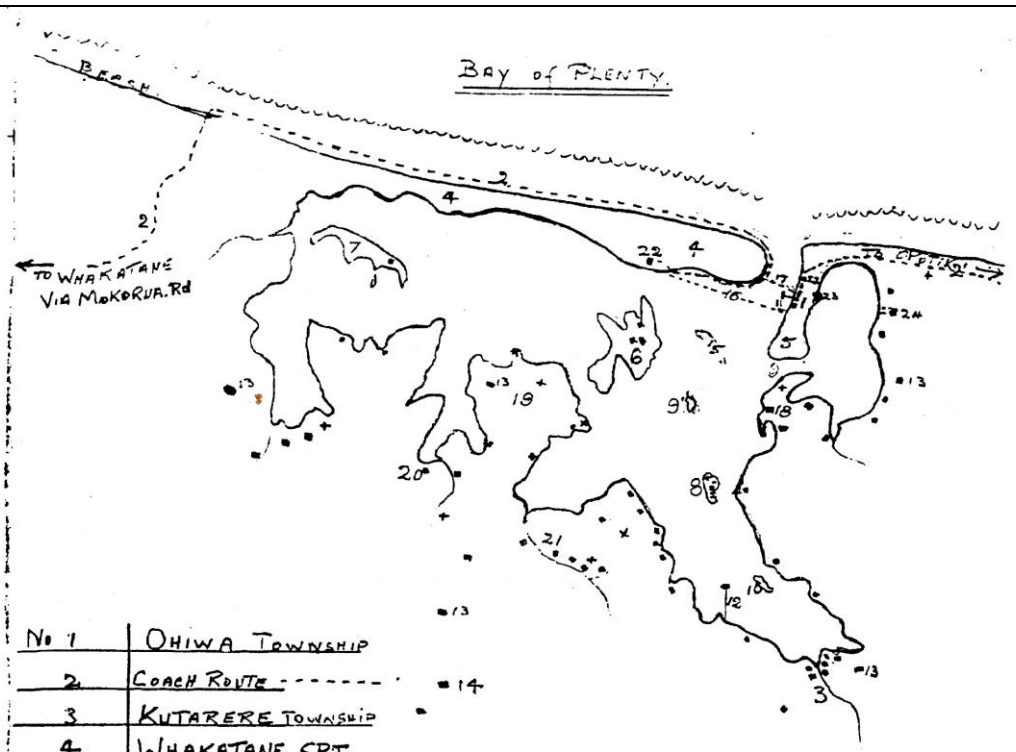
Ducker's Island consists of 2 Islands virtually, as I have seen a high Spring tide run through the two parts but not very often, I can assure you. We let the Island out for grazing most of the year to farmers, usually from Opotiki, as conditions were warm and the feed growth was good. We had at times over 100 head of cattle grazing at one time.

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Although this photo was taken at the Whakatane Ferry, a similar system of taking vehicles across was used at Ohiwa. It is not surprising that at times vehicles were lost overboard. PHOTO: Whakatane Museum.

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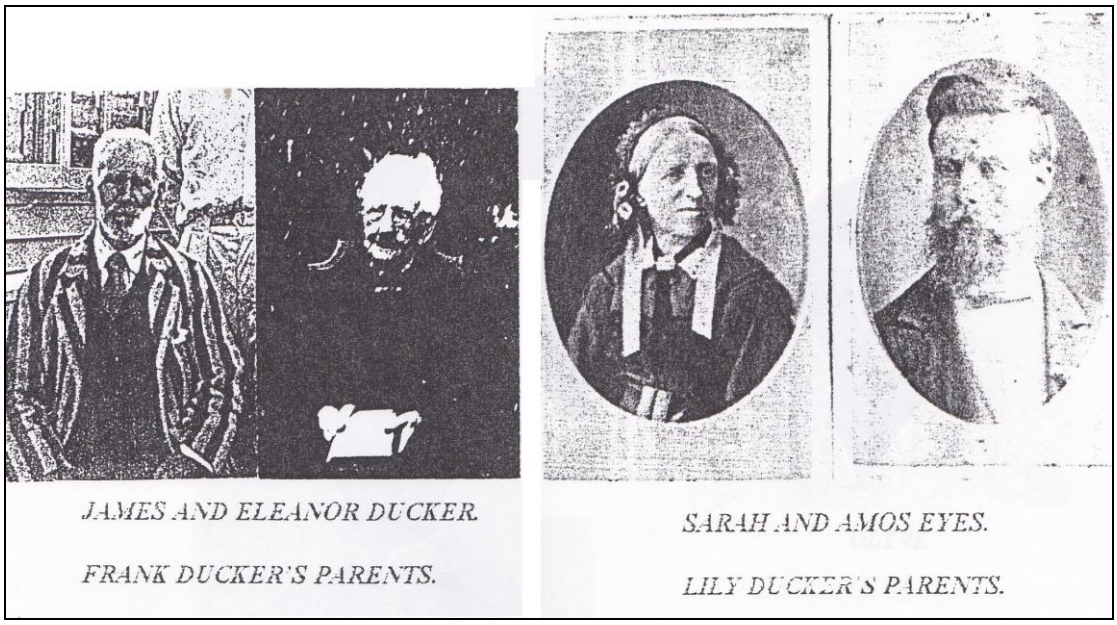


No 1	OHIWA TOWNSHIP
2	COACH ROUTE -------
3	KUTARERE TOWNSHIP
4	WHAKATANE SPIT.
5	OHIWA PENINSULA.
6	URETARA (DUCKER'S) ISLAND
7	OHAKANA (BATES'S) ISLAND
8	HOKIANGA ISLAND.
9	MOTUOTU ISLAND (MANGROVE)
10	POTAWA ISLAND
11	OHIWA WHARF
12	KUTARERE WHARF (BUILT 1916)
13	DWELLINGS. PAKEHA AND MAORI ■
14	WAINGARARA SCHOOL
15	CURLEW SPIT. TERN NESTING GROUND.
16	FERRY CROSSING 1909
17	ROW BOAT FERRY BEFORE 1909 ----
✦	DENOTES PA's. (MAJOR)
18	CHAPMANS. BOATSHED. (SHIP BUILDING)
19	MOTUORE.
20	WAINUI
21	NUKUHOU
22	STABLE. BUILT 1910
23	FISH SHED AND SMOKE HOUSE AND BATCH.
24	FIRST PAKEHA BABY BORN AT OHIWA LEO DUCKER. 1906

OHIWA HARBOUR 1900 – 1910 DRAWN TO SCALE

DRAWN BY LEO M. DUCKER 1 MILE TO 1 INCH

JAN. 1971

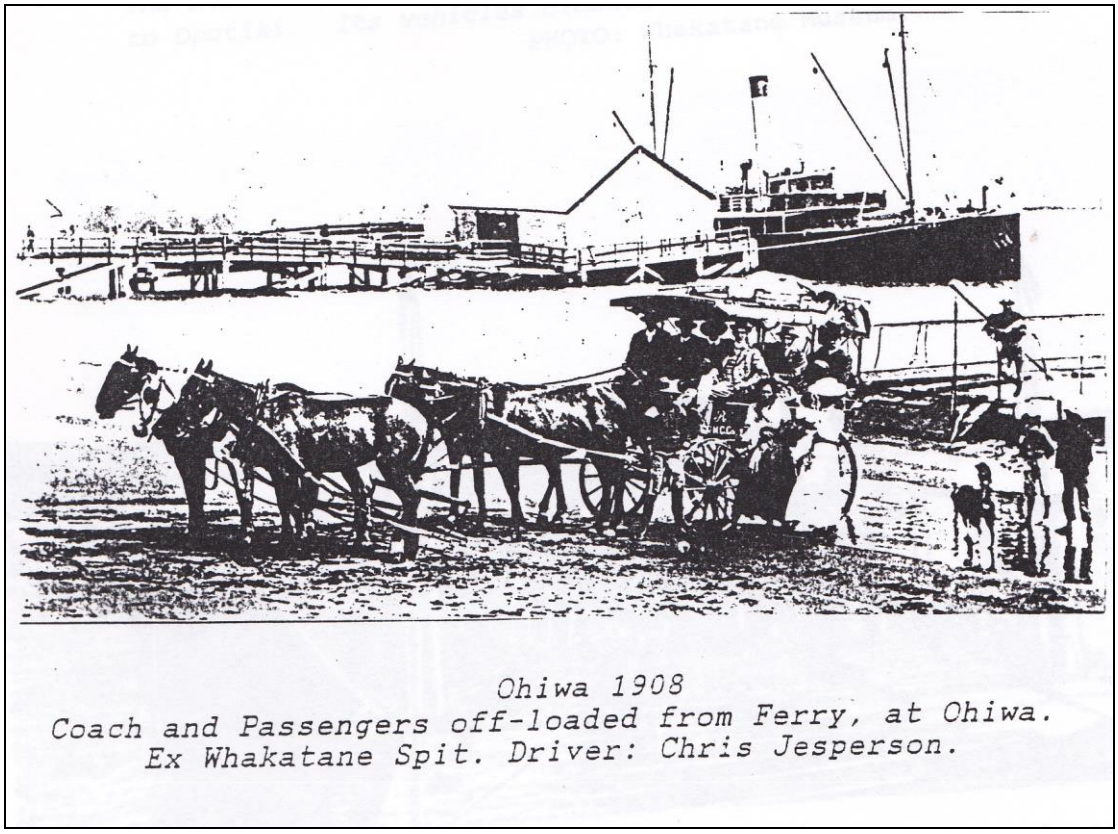


JAMES AND ELEANOR DUCKER.

FRANK DUCKER'S PARENTS.

SARAH AND AMOS EYES.

LILY DUCKER'S PARENTS.



Ohiwa 1908
Coach and Passengers off-loaded from Ferry, at Ohiwa.
Ex Whakatane Spit. Driver: Chris Jesperson.

THE DUCKERS.



BRAD.



OLIVE



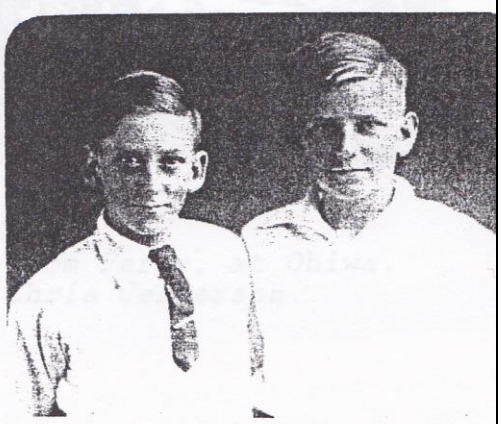
RON.



CECIL (SOS)



LEO



NORM. CLARRY

Memoir by Olive Henderson (nee Ducker)
Bay of Plenty Times August 6th 1977



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1977.

Memories of early Ohiwa recalled

On the Waterfront

BY LOOKOUT

MRS R. R. Henderson has seen many changes in the Ohiwa Harbour since she lived on its shores as a girl, more than 60 years ago.

After reading what coastal erosion expert Dr Healy, said in last Saturday's issue of the Bay of Plenty Times, Mrs Henderson recalled the Ohiwa she remembered.

The township of Ohiwa, where she lived for a time as a child has completely disappeared, washed away by the sea. The old site is now the middle of a channel.

Wharf, hotel, school and store have all gone. A wide spit, perhaps a mile long, which included low hills, has also gone.

In 1910, Mrs Henderson remembers seeing Maoris loading up bones from a burial ground on the part of the Ohiwa spit which still remains today.

Rode away

They wrapped the bones in black cloth, put the bundles in front of the saddles of their horses and rode away.

This was at almost the same time the erosion began which was to subsequently wash away the township.

As more of the shoreline disappeared, goods had to be lifted up on to the wharf from the sand, instead of wagons and other vehicles driving on to the wharf.

Mrs Henderson returned fifty years after she left and saw the piles of the wharf sticking up well out in the channel, but saw no sign of the town she remembered.

Even the old piles had disappeared when she returned once more quite recently.

Ohiwa was a busy port in those days, which was seldom closed by bad weather. In contrast, boats often anchored in the Ohiwa harbour for days waiting to get over the entrance to the river at Opotiki.

The biggest change since the days when Mrs Henderson lived at Ohiwa — apart from the subsidence of a whole town — has been the widening of the entrance.

Sand has been washed away from both sides of the entrance, from both the Ohiwa spit and the Ohope spit.

As a consequence of the erosion there, a big shoal has been built up inside the harbour, behind the Ohope spit.

When Mrs Henderson was a girl this was no more than mudflat, exposed only at low tide. Now it is high and dry at all tides.

The Ohiwa spit, Mrs Henderson remembers, curved round in a great horseshoe, from the hilly land at its base right round past the entrance till it almost met up with the mainland again — enclosing a circular lagoon.

The lagoon had a deep channel which ran close to the spit.

Mrs Henderson's grandmother bought five sections near the township on a rolling hill and Mrs Henderson remembers going to pay the rates for the sections.

She also remembers her grandmother asking what compensation she would get when the sections were washed away.

She received none.

When she was a child, Mrs Henderson was told that there was a Maori tradition that a channel had once flowed out at the base of the Ohiwa spit, inland from the houses that are now threatened.

Mrs Henderson is sure, the way the erosion has continued since she was a child, that this will happen again.

Her family, the Duckers, owned the store at Ohiwa, and Mrs Ducker was the village postmistress.

They also owned an island, generally known as Duckers' Island, in the middle of the harbour.

The proper name of the 181-acre island was Uretara.

Mr Ducker cleared scrub from the front of the farm and ran stock. For some years he would row over to the island and stay there for a few nights at a time.

Messages

One of Mrs Henderson's earliest memories was watching her mother send messages across the water to her father on the island by waving a candle across a window at night.

The family lived on the island permanently for a time. They had a separator and shipped 40 pound cases of butter to Auckland regularly. A rowing boat was the only transport from the island to the mainland.

The coach trip from Auckland to Opotiki was a long one, with overnight stays en route.

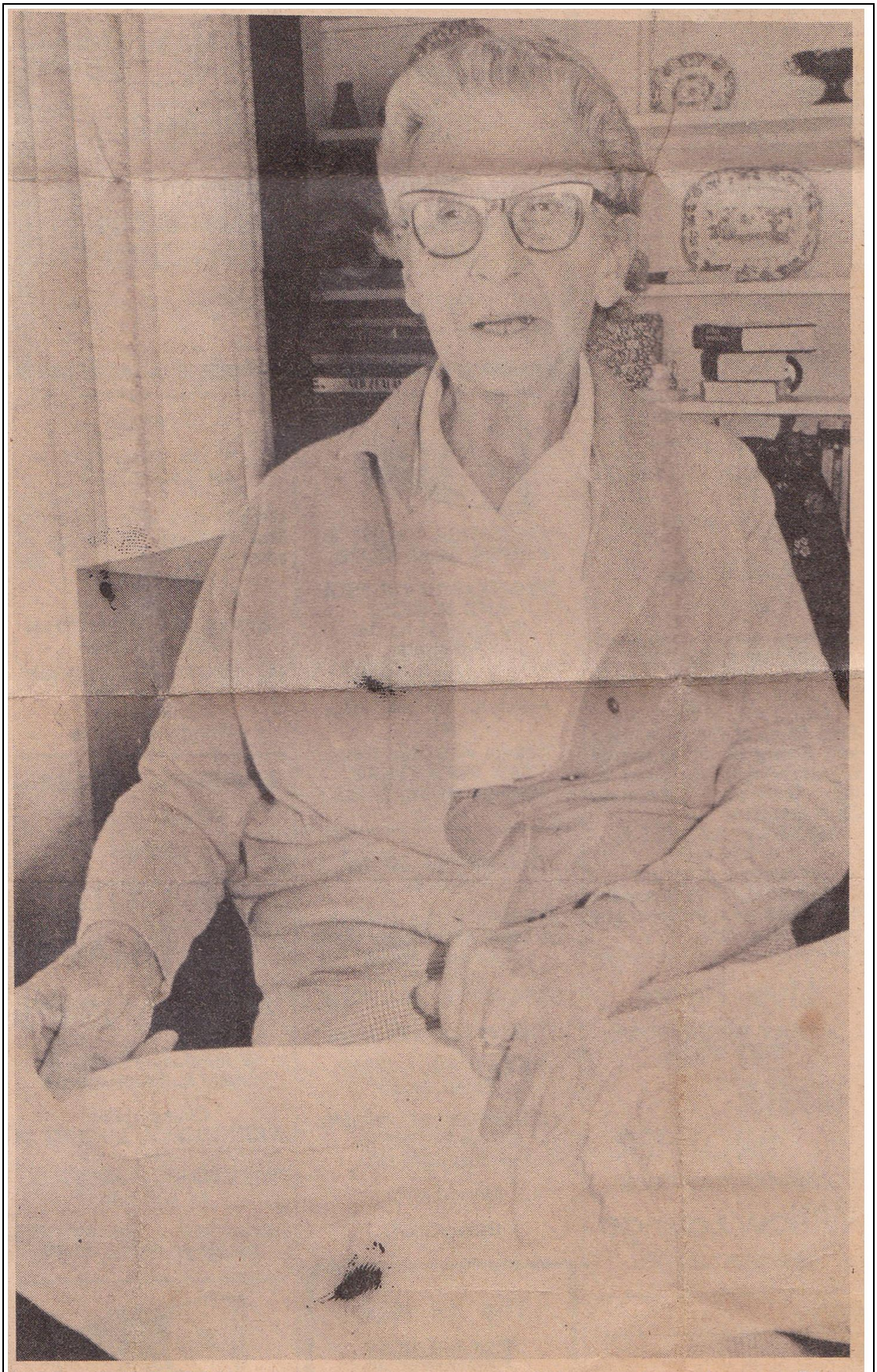
From Whakatane, the coach followed a road over the hill to Ohope and then along what was known as the Seven Mile spit, to where a ferry took the whole coach across the Ohiwa entrance.

The coach then went further along the beach, up the Waiotahi River to the bridge, across it and thence to Opotiki.

A rowing boat ferried horsemen across the entrance, with the horses swimming behind.

Later, a portion of the cliff nearer Opotiki fell, blocking the beach route and a road was built along the present route.

Mrs Henderson left Ohiwa in 1911 to be educated in New Plymouth and it was 50 years or more before she returned to her childhood home.



MRS HENDERSON points out changes which have taken place at Ohiwa Harbour. Her finger is close to the site of the old township, now washed away, together with much of the Ohiwa spit.

Appendix 3 TALES OF FIJI by Leslie Ducker

TRANSIT TO MISSION BAY

In these days of instant travel when one can step on a Jumbo plane and be wafted to tropical climes in hours instead of days, weeks or even months, it is difficult to recall the energy, the organisation and the length of time to get from one place on the globe to another. Splendid performances by the many of you who listen to me today may recall your own experiences of when you came to this country or even when you decided to take a long awaited holiday further afield than these shores. So I set out to recount the odyssey of the Ducker family who set out from New Zealand with their dairy herd to establish a new industry in Fiji.

I am taking you back more than three quarters of a century to the year 1924 when our family were farming in a lovely quiet countryside of rolling green pastures, happily enjoying a modest prosperity in the district of Woodlands a short distance out of Opotiki in the Bay of Plenty. This little bit of paradise was a 1st World War returned soldiers settlement where my father Frank Ducker had been fortunate enough to draw an entitlement. We had only three years before moved there from an island in the Ohiwa Harbour where we had lived for several years.

So it was there we settled down to attend a new school which had been set up by the new settlers and do those things which most country youngsters find energy to do. Such as bird nesting raiding the neighbour's apple orchards or their watermelon patches, catching spiders and generally finding out the mysteries of life as youngsters do. But our lives were not all play. We lived a fairly strict regime where we learned to milk at an early age and to spend hours weeding by hand patches of long white carrots or Lucerne which my father cultivated for cattle fodder. In intervals in the milking shed we had to run over to the house to stir the porridge which bubbled on the big black iron stove and woe betide us, whose turn it was to stir, if we allowed lumps to develop. Our lives appeared to be skimming along in a serene manner until almost by accident we noticed that our father was no longer present. In those days parents did not tell their children "what was going on" unlike today when it is the children who do not tell their parents "what is going on!" So it is that we noticed the absence of our father and in particular it was I who enjoyed that absence most of all because I did not then have to eat more or less forcibly my portion of the boiled cabbage which was served to me and which I hated. There were also other indications that our rather strict regime was a little more relaxed. There was an easing up on the tasks allotted to us even though we were of tender years. But such things did not last for more than a few weeks, and our father reappeared with as equal suddenness as his disappearance. From then on our lives changed markedly because when he came back to us he displayed a variety of unique seeds and products which he said came from tropical plants. In particular was a kind of wreath which he pronounced was a superb species of grass which he had found in his travels and was growing on the pastures of Fiji, (a magic land which, to we children seemed like a land from the Arabian Nights.) This grass was named Para Grass and would be marvellous fodder for dairy cattle which my father alleged would aid his splendid pedigree herd of Freesian cattle to produce even more record amounts of butterfat.

I would like to explain at this juncture that my father Frank Ducker was never less than a perfectionist and whatever he turned his hand to had to be nothing short of the best hence his achievement in three years accomplishing the task of building a champion herd of black and white Freesian cattle and announcing to all passers-by on the white front gate and then carried the legend in large black characters, DUX FREESIAN HERD. Which supplements my claim that he was indeed a perfectionist? He was also a restless man whose tales in his more mellow moments of far off days as a soldier, sailor, actor, singer and episodes in his wanderings always entranced us. It was no surprise then that he announced that we were going to live in Fiji. In the manner of children we were excited and eager to get to this land of coconut trees, pineapples and “mummy apples”. It is difficult to recall in sequence the events which then happened.

We became aware that our mother did not wish to come to Fiji and indeed WOULD NOT COME WITH US. She was a strong minded woman if not always rational. At that time there were three children of Amy Grace and Frank Ducker, Neville the eldest, Leslie, that's me, and D'Arcy the youngest then only five years of age. I will not go into the reasoning which allowed the parting between a mother and her three children of such tender years. There were activities of more pressing interest to young minds and indeed I cannot recall that we gave it much thought at the time.

But other pictures spring to mind such as the loading of our cattle one by one onto the deck of a 'scow' which traded between the minor ports of the Bay of Plenty and Auckland. There was a 'pen' erected upon the deck of this scow and one by one our cows and two bulls were girded in a kind of belly-band which was then hoisted with much bellowing and struggling by derrick and winch and swung out over the deck and lowered into the pen where the victim was released. I feared that the struggling cattle would squirm themselves out of the sling and drop back onto the wharf or with a loud splash into the tide. As it was a tidal river port and the tide was at a low ebb there was a big drop between the level of the wharf and the deck of the scow. But nothing as exciting as that really happened and by nightfall we were out over the bar of the Waioeka River and on our way to Auckland.

I think there are better ways of one learning to use their sea legs than on a flat bottomed scow in the open sea. That is where my brothers and I first learned about sea sickness. The cattle settled down well to the new motion of the boat, for they certainly did not complain to us about sea sickness. It was interesting to observe how they swayed and apparently adapted to the movements of the deck under them.

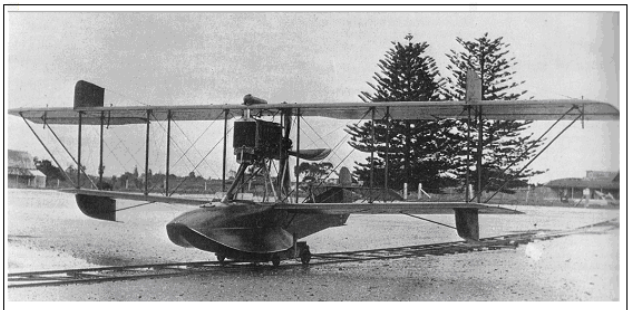


Little memory of that journey remains except some time during the night my Dad pointed to a small number of dim lights in the distance which he said were the lights of Tauranga

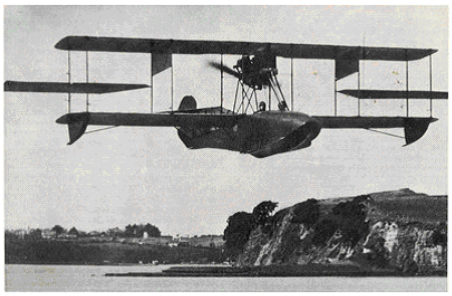
I do not recall much of the next few days, but I know now that the cattle were unloaded at what is now known as the Orakei wharf and were put into pasture on the hills and valleys around Mission Bay and they grazed where Michael Joseph Savage's Memorial now stands.

This interlude in our journey was necessary to coordinate with the shipping schedule which would take us on the ship's next trip to Suva,

The sojourn for the next few weeks is probably one of the most interesting of my boyhood memories for it was at this time that Mission Bay was then known as the Walsh Brothers Flying Circus and this consisted of two or three "flying boats" which were rolled out into the sea on a light rail system, then took off out towards Rangitoto according to which direction the wind was coming from. For children who had little knowledge of what was then generally referred to as "flying machines" this was a close up introduction.



Walsh Bros. Flying School at Mission Bay
"..rolled out into the sea on a light rail system..."



Cliffs of Michael Joseph Savage Memorial
Mission Bay is in the far background.

Except perhaps for two or three other houses the rest of Mission Bay was not inhabited. There existed the Mission house constructed of stonework and the adjunct cookhouse and laundry which was the original housing for the Rev. Patterson. Although renovated many years later it still stands to this day. Some distance away from this Mission house stood a small wooden hall and I believe this housed the sparse congregation on occasions. It was in this hall that we lived in Spartan fashion during that waiting period.

To get to Auckland City one simply went round to the Kohimarama wharf where the Devonport Steam Ferry operated a regular service between the city, Kohimarama and St Heliers Bay. It was off this wharf, despite dire warnings from my dad that we fished hopefully for piper with a long piece of string and bent pins- I cannot ever remember catching any fish. But it was fun until Dad returning from Auckland by ferry caught us there, despite his orders that we must not go there without his presence and he administered swift justice.

There was certainly another form of travel into the city and that was by bus which one caught at Kohimarama as the road did not then extend into Mission Bay. That primitive road took travellers over a steep and winding road past where St Thomas's Church now stands and was simply metalled and narrow in those days. The route was sparsely settled. I think the journey took roughly one and a half hours.

The scene that comes readily to my mind at that time, is of a peaceful pastoral scene with Dad's black and white herd of cattle grazing on the green unfenced pastures.

However, my most enduring memory of those days arises from the fact that we cooked our meals on the old fashioned stove in the cookhouse attached to the Mission house and then transported it to the hall where we lived about fifty yards away, where we ate while sitting on various packing boxes etc. In between the cook house and the hall grew a large species of pine tee and I believe it is still standing there.

Amongst our herd of Freesians dwelt one particular "stroppy" cow that seemed to dislike human company, particularly children. More so if they were carrying cooking implements. It was my turn to carry the large saucepan of porridge from the cookhouse to the hall this particular morning for our breakfast. Unfortunately this cow had wandered somewhere between the hall and the kitchen. It lifted its head and saw me and then lowered it swiftly. I realised immediately what was about to happen so grounded the pot hastily and made for the lower branches of the tree which for all my youthful fatness I reached quite nimbly. The cow missed me by some feet, but what to do now? I remained there for some time until my much older half, brother Ron came out to see why I was taking so long. He wasn't afraid of that cow and sent it on its way with some loud epithets and a stick. We had rather cold and gluey porridge for breakfast that morning.

I should say at this time that we were accompanied on our journey to Fiji by our half brother Ron, the second son of my dad's first marriage, which produced seven children. At this stage Ron was about twenty years old and owned one of the two pedigree bulls which we were taking with us to Fiji. Of these two bulls Dad's was named Bruin, and the one belonging to Ron was called Pieby, which I assumed was a shortening of the term piebald because of the nature of the black and white stripes that adorned its hide. Ron was our mentor and guide and saviour on many occasions and we always regarded him with affection and respect in as much as he taught us some deplorable habits.

THE TOFUA

I cannot recall the transfer of our cattle to the Tofua which was the ship taking us to Suva nor the actual boarding. But I recall the short stop when we left Mission Bay and lodged at what was then known as The People's Palace in Upper Queen Street for a few days. Dad was frequently absent at that time as was to be expected with all the arrangements he had to make.

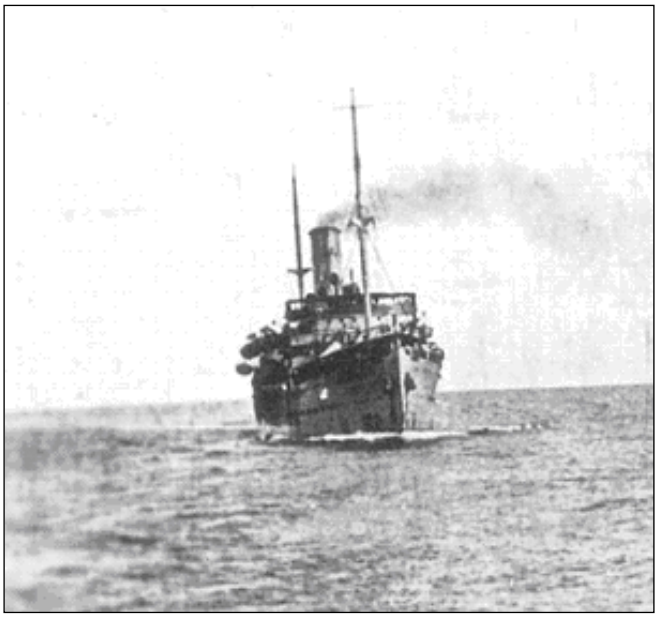


The People's Palace was a height of luxury living which we had not before attained and the novelty of a glass jar of fresh water beside our bed each night was wonderful, not to mention the bound Bible which was found in the top drawer of the dresser in our bedroom.

(Photo taken in 1903)

We were not to know that Dad had asked one of the waitresses "To keep an eye on us" in his absence. So it was that, while enjoying our evening meal of three courses (up till then unheard of) we made the most of our freedom from supervision of our

strict father. It was while we were savouring the last of the plum pudding and custard that we found that we were being watched because my elder brother Neville was pushing the last bit of pudding onto his spoon with some relish that the waitress came over and gave him a smart clip on the ear and scolded him on his lack of manners and reminded him that was what the "pudding fork" was laid out for. It was humiliating and it took a long time to forgive my brother because I had finished my pudding without incident and hadn't drawn attention to our lack of a decent upbringing.
With the rest of the diners witnessing this incident with interest we felt it would inevitably be reported to Dad and a further bout of punishment would be administered. But it passed into history without further note but remains a singular part of my memory on the journey to Paradise.



The Tofua which took us to Fiji in 1924 served in the trade between New Zealand and the Cook Islands for many years and was then scrapped to be replaced by a second and more modern and much faster ship also named the Tofua. The first Tofua in which we travelled took four days and five nights to do that journey and I can remember that on most of the balmy calm nights with the bright stars shining down and the ship gently rolling someone produced a gramophone which was placed on one of the hatches and the lovely tones of Moonlight and Roses, La Golondrina and Abie wafted out into the night.
There was no room for dancing because we were travelling steerage and conditions were not very luxurious.

On sunny days the hatch covers were removed because of the presence of the cattle in their stalls in the holds. Their presence created what Dad would aptly describe as a "pong". Some of the cows were still in milk and so a number of the crew undertook the milking which went to supplement the cuisine on the ship.

One particular day while this milking was in progress one of the bulls broke from its stall and began to run amuck. Dad and others were alerted to this disaster when shrieks and shouts rose from the open hatch rapidly followed by the milkers bobbing like bubbles in a bath out of the emergency booby hatch. Retreat seemed to be the watchword and none wanted to be the one to confront the bull or to be the last out of the hatch. My admiration for my Dad increased immensely as we watched him seize a pitchfork and disappear down the booby hatch so recently vacated. Shortly there was a muffIed roar from the bull and Dad appeared to tell us that the bull was safety back in its stall.

Towards the last couple of days of our journey in the Tofua our seasickness began to subside but it was followed by a lethargy and a display of spots on our three young bodies which were quickly diagnosed by the ship's doctor as measles.

SUVA AND HOSPITAL

On the day of our arrival in Suva we were each swathed in blankets and carried down the gangway to a waiting vehicle which took us directly to Suva Memorial Hospital. We noted with interest as we were carried ashore the host of black men and women who lolled and sat around on the wharf and who appeared to be combing their upstanding crinkly mops of hair with what seemed to be wooden butter pats with prongs. There were also large displays of various kinds of exotic fruit and vegetables. Though our bodies were afflicted, our interest was not diminished by the new sounds and smells. As we were taken swiftly to the hospital there were glimpses of majestic Sago Palms along the waterfront and here and there the most exotic sight of lovely slim trunks of coconut palms. So we arrived in Fiji sick and motherless and in isolation after a passage lasting about two months from the time we left Woodlands. For a few days we were naturally somewhat subdued but as we recovered our curiosity our energy began to assert itself.

For a short while when in isolation we submitted to having our young and spotted bodies gently washed by young Fijian nurse aids. Probably about seventeen or eighteen years old with gleaming white teeth and lovely smiling brown eyes. They tended us with devotion and care and while smiling into our eyes gave us a little more washing than was really necessary 'down there'. Though only about eight years old at the time I believe there was some kind of “momentary awakening” in my worldly knowledge just then, but certainly nothing that was ever talked about at the Ducker dinner table - or ever for that matter.

So it came to pass that as we grew back to health we were allowed out onto a small veranda in the sun and which was immediately above the entrance to the hospital doors. There were always a small crowd of people milling about right beneath us. I believe I should have been in the Air Force as a bomber pilot instead of in the infantry because it was then that I developed an accuracy with lumps of the hated and ubiquitous boiled cabbage which reappeared regularly in our diet. Almost without fail lumps of this stuff would land with a satisfactory splosh on the head of an unsuspecting loiterer. Then loud imprecations and shrieks of protests would rise satisfactorily to our young ears. After a short time the bombardment was traced to its source and we were admonished and told that any more of this sort of conduct would lead to our summary discharge. That stopped us in our tracks because we did not relish the prospect of being separated from our lovely nurse aids. The day came inevitably and we emerged from the hospital healthy, curious and eager to sample the new life which unrolled before us.

TRANSIT TO NAVUA

During the time we spent in hospital we were separated from all procedures which were entailed in unloading our herd of cattle from the hold of the Tofua and into barges which were then towed by launch to our chosen destination of Navua about forty sea miles from Suva. It must be remembered that there were few roads in Fiji at that time. There existed a road leading eastward from Suva through Rewa and on round the easternmost part of Viti Levu, the main island of Fiji, this then led to

Raki Raki in the north. There was no road leading westward at that time and anyone wishing to travel in that direction had to travel by launch or 'cutter' to Navua, Singatoka and Lautoka. The trip from Suva to Naitonitoni, the landing place for Navua by passenger launch would take approximately four hours with favourable wind and tides, but was frequently much longer than that because of rough weather and the launch had to thread its way through reefs and tidal shallows. So it was that we missed seeing the transportation of our herd from Suva to Navua, and thence to a farm about four miles beyond across the Doomba River to a place called Bhatanakia. Which incidentally is located only a few miles along the new Queens Road towards Suva from the Tourist Resort of Pacific Harbour. But in those days it was a quite isolated district.



The Queens Road now of course is a normal tar sealed road which connects Nadi with Suva and takes about three hours from the modern airport to the Capital.

Let me tell you a little about the Navua area as we then knew it. Navua is really a large delta area built up by the Navua River and the Doomba River and is a fertile plain with rich soil. It was originally a large sugarcane growing area fostered by the then infant Colonial Sugar Refining Company who built a sugar mill on the banks of the Navua River as well as another in Singatoka and put a large iron structure light gauge railway bridge over the river a few miles upstream. This light gauge railway served the sugar industry as far round the eastern part of Viti Levu as far as Singatoka. Many Indians were brought in from India from about 1880 as indented labour to serve in the cane fields and the sugar industry. A large number settled initially around that region and built up fairly insular Indian settlements amongst the local Fijians who were rather hostile and remain so to this day. In this regard one of the first things we learned in Fiji was that if one got into trouble with an Indian, CALL THE NEAREST FIIIAN, which implied that the matter would be quickly “sorted” but not necessarily to the advantage of the Indian.

In the early twentieth century it was then found by the Sugar Company that the southwest part of Viti Levu was not as productive for the growing of sugarcane as the north and west of the island so most of its operations were closed down as far west as Singatoka and intensified in the preferred West to the disaster of employment conditions of the indented Indians who had by then produced their own fairly large families and these were mostly thrown on their own resources for survival but there were almost no other sources of employment. Even then, these Indian settlements were mostly established on land leased from the Fijian owners. It was at that time a bleak outlook when the sugar refining mill on the Navua River was closed and demolished. However the Indians were and are an industrious, energetic and enterprising race and many established local stores and initiated services which at least gave them a kind of sustenance.

It was about that time when many small areas of the Navua plain became converted to banana plantations and the production of various fruit such as oranges, mandarins and pineapples. This supplemented a growing trade in these commodities together with copra between Fiji, New Zealand and Australia.
When we arrived there a considerable area had been converted into pasture but except for a settler named Simmons who had established a dairy farm with a herd of shorthorn cattle there seemed to be little usage for this pasture. It was here a few miles past Navua at a place called Bhatanakia that my father Frank Ducker established his pedigree dairy herd of Freesians and he had a natural and large source of labour on which to draw. While the basic elements of establishing a dairy farm were attended to such as the building of a milking shed and the construction of fencing, our father Frank Ducker, older half-brother Ron, Neville, Leslie and D'Arcy took up temporary residence in a bungalow on the Navua River which I believe had once been inhabited by the management or staff of the now demolished sugar mill.

LIFE ON THE NAVUA RIVER

PUTTHE

There followed our installation in this bungalow a series of exciting and novel events which still colour my memories of the early part of my life. The first was that since it had become obvious we were not managing very satisfactorily in the housekeeping and particularly the cooking department of our collective lives we needed the assistance of a cook and housekeeper so after a number of interviews amongst would-be employees, all of whom were Indian and male, Dad chose a person by the name of Putthe, with the “th” pronounced as in “Thee”. He was a Hindu and proved to be an excellent choice as he soon demonstrated he was a very good cook. Though he was a married man and had a wife and several children who resided on the opposite bank of the river it became obvious that he was fond of us children - or at least I should qualify that by saying that he was particularly fond of my brothers Neville and D'Arcy, but frequently had reservations about me because I often caused him grief, or discomfort, mainly initially by trying to pull the tassel on the back of his head which indicates the owner is a devout Hindu and which he sternly reminded me, only HIS God could touch and with which only HIS God could grasp and by this means pull him up to heaven when he died.

He often stood between us and a father bent on physical retribution and we quickly became his admirers. He was unfailingly cheerful and frequently sang us little Indian songs. We became even more ardent followers when he sat us all in a row on the kitchen table and taught us how to count in Hindustani, and more particularly Indian swear words and phrases, a number I still remember to this day.

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

The only time I can remember when Putthe blotted his copy book was when, it being a few days before Christmas, Dad went across the river to the Morris Hedstrom store and purchased a large bag of colourful iced animal biscuits which we were all looking forward to devouring as a Christmas treat, and which dad had put in the kitchen cupboard. The following evening meal, for dessert, we were served up a horrible concoction resembling a dog's breakfast. There were rich colours mixed in with a soggy mess. When asked what the mess was made of Putthe told us that it was made from those lovely biscuits stored in the kitchen cupboard. It took some days to erase the bitterness of Putthe's lapse and to resume our usual friendly relationship.

SWIMMIING IN THE NAVUA RIVER AND EXOTIC FRUIT

It was on the Navua that we were introduced to the delights of new and succulent tropic fruits, such as sour-sop. I believed it was a cousin of what is known as the cherimoya. This is the fruit Dad first told us was the "mummy-apple" but I know today as the pawpaw.

There were always bananas, mandarins, pineapples and other fruit I have rarely come across since called the granadilla which resembles and tastes like a large passion fruit. It grows about half the size of a football. There were shaddocks and gamboges. This with fresh coconut milk and chewy coconut flesh on which to exercise our young teeth our lives were almost over flowing and there seemed no end to our new and exciting experiences.



Granadilla







There was a sunken barge just outside the bungalow in the river and this is where we learned to swim in safety for it was said that as the river was tidal at this point sharks had been seen and one unfortunate individual had even been taken by a shark nearby. Initially the process of learning to swim in this sunken barge was a very painful one because along the banks of the river giving access to the barge was a lush growth of plants not unlike the native taro. We soon found out the difference. Where a leaf or stem was broken and the sap touched our skins there followed a long and painful stinging affliction similar to that of stinging nettles. Since we were in our bathing togs large areas of our bodies were exposed as we waded enthusiastically through the growth towards our swim.

NEDDY AND THE DONKEY CART

The enjoyment of our new life reached its peak one day when Dad arrived home with Ron and with them they had a donkey and a superb little cart and set of harness. We quickly forgot about the tragedy of the biscuit episode and embraced our new means of transportation with delight.



Of course we named the donkey Neddy, no matter what his name was before he became a Ducker possession. We were told that at that time Neddy was one of only two donkeys existing in Fiji. His ownership conferred upon us a kind of uniqueness and fame which later led to even greater recognition for the Ducker family. But that comes a lot later in this saga.

JACKANUNDUNN

Another colourful character with whom we came into almost daily contact was the ferryman whose name was Jackanundunn. That may not be his real Hindu name but that is what is sounded like and that is what we called him and to which he unfailingly and complainingly answered. The ferry was a clinker built rowing boat and it was the ONLY means of crossing the Navua river unless one walked another three miles upriver and crossed the rather hazardous old railway bridge with the rotting planking. Then down again to our area which connected by road to Doomba and Batanakia

Jackanundunn was the unfailing grumpy ferryman who earned a meagre existence rowing his clients from one side of the river to the other. He had a large moustache and no teeth and this undoubtedly made him an important man in the local community.

After a short while we children were enrolled at the Mission school which was on the other side of the river from our residence and about half a mile further upriver. It was therefore almost twice daily that we had to call on the services of Jackanundunn. It seemed that when we needed his services he was always on the OTHER side we would stand and shout his name in unison until he pointed his craft in our direction. If he wasn't on the opposite side he appeared to drift out from his humble hut emerging as if from a long period of sleep. Always grumbling in what we thought was his native language. At first we believed we were learning a new Hindu word but after a time in his mumbling and grumbling we distinguished the frequency of one particular word which was "Bleddy" and later recognised his unhappiness and this word came before “the noisy Ducker children”. So it also became obvious that he was familiar with SOME English language and we thought this unjust because undoubtedly we were the major part of his income at that time for our crossing to and from the Mission school daily contributed at least a shilling a day to his upkeep. We found it exhilarating to stand on the small landing beside that river and scream peremptorily in unison “JACKANNDUNN” and rhythmic syllables grew with repetition and indeed had a lovely lilt to it.

What we did not recognise was the fact that we were already assuming the superior airs and demanding manners of our race and the attitude of the "'white man" towards those who had a black skin. But it apparently was not very agreeable to Jackanundunn. Nevertheless he was ALWAYS there even if not very energetic.

CAVANDISH WHO SELLS NEDDY TO FRANK DUCKER

So we now had Neddy, Putthe and Jackanundunn and our voyage of discovery had just begun. It developed that Dad had bought Neddy from a white settler across the river named Cavendish and it did not go unnoticed that he had a daughter about eighteen years old who had long lovely aubernish hair. We knew then that if any female who sported the slightest tint of red or auburn in her hair, Dad would find them out. But fortunately it was not the daughter that he coveted his time, but Cavendish's donkey,

We quickly found that Neddy had a mind of his own and was at times a cunning and devious beast. If he felt he did not want to be ridden he would make for the nearest and lowest bough and simply scrape us off his back. Or he would run as fast as his short legs could carry him and then suddenly prop his front legs in a sudden stop and we would slide over his neck and head. He brayed whenever he did this and I formed the opinion that it was his way of laughing at our discomfort. He did like to be called and if he thought he was not going to be ridden but was going to be fed titbits from the kitchen he would come to us willingly enough. He submitted to being harnessed to his cart quite peacefully.

BANANA PACKING DAY

There were several memorable events while we resided on the banks of the Navua and in particular what was referred to as “banana packing day”. This was usually a short time before the next scheduled ship called at Suva to load its next cargo of bananas to New Zealand. And it must be said that the major supplier of bananas to the New Zealand market at that time was Fiji. About three miles upriver and just beyond the old railway bridge was the banana packing field and was conveniently situated beside the timber mill which supplied the wooden crates in which all the bananas were packed in those days before cardboard cartons. Growers brought their produce to this field by whatever means they could command. Huge bunches, by bullock cart, on bamboo rafts down the river and much of it carried laboriously on their backs of the Fijians. There were literally heaps and heaps of green bananas which were accepted or rejected by the agents after inspection and I believe that apart from the quality of the fruit the state of its ripeness was a major factor because it was essential that the fruit did not ripen and rot before it arrived at its destination some weeks later.
It always followed there were large quantities of green bananas which were discarded and that is where Neddy and his little cart came in handy. We would harness our donkey and drive up to the banana packing field after carefully crossing the railway bridge, load up the cart and return home where we deposited large quantities of the fruit in a darkened room for later use. Whatever we could not rescue was thrown into the river and we sometimes witnessed a literal sea of green bananas floating down to the sea in the evening of banana packing day. Shortly after this spectacle would come the launches towing a string of barges loaded with the crates of packed fruit on their journey down to the sea and then on along the coast to Suva.

DUCKWORTH VERSUS DUCKER

The sawmill to which I referred to earlier was owned and managed by a chap named Duckworth. Mr Duckworth liked his tipple but I don't think he had much time for Mr Ducker. It was after the occasion of the beach races held at Naitonitoni that another memorable incident occurred. Naitonitoni Beach was a long, curving hard sandy and picturesque seashore with coconut palms rising in the background where local settlers, mostly white, but some Indian, brought their horses to race against each other. It was a colourful occasion with bookmakers plying their trade as well as tents catering for the crowd with food and drinks.

It was “Race Day"’. Afterwards in the evening, whatever the wins or losses of the day most of the settlers would gather a little further along the road and on the banks of the Navua River where Mrs. Goodfellow kept her hotel. There would be much good fellowship and much drinking. Frank Ducker was always a most moderate drinker but he DID like to talk. So it was that Mr Ducker and Mr. Duckworth emerged from the hotel when it was almost dark.

There was no motor transport those days and at this time only TWO buggies, or gharries or open carriages stood outside waiting for customers. These carriages were drawn each by a skinny horse and an Indian driver sitting high up front. Mr. Duckworth and Mr Ducker each claimed the hire of the first carriage. At least I think that is the reason they began to quarrel. There followed a loud and acrimonious exchange with interested spectators spilling from the hotel bar.

Spurred on by the recent spell in the bar and no doubt his aversion to Mr Ducker, Mr Duckworth continued cursing and shoved Mr Ducker aside (an act which in every particular way would inflame Frank Ducker) and climbed into the first carriage and Mr Ducker reluctantly boarded the second with us children. The two men were still standing and shouting imprecations at each other when the driver in the front carriage touched the rump of his horse with his whip and it broke into a sudden gallop forward whereupon Mr Duckworth, whose balance wasn't too good in the first place, fell, still swearing in a heap of arms and waving feet to the bottom of his carriage disappearing up the river road in the gathering darkness, leaving Mr Ducker the victor in the field of verbal battle.
It may have been a minor but a much talked about incident amongst the locals but still a memorable scene and a fitting end to all the day's excitement.

It was that particular evening while the settlers were inside drinking, while we were playing outside the hotel with another young boy that we confided in him that our Dad reckoned that if one stuck a pin in the hide of the lady who owned the hotel, Mrs Goodfellow, that she would explode with a loud "POP". Mrs Goodfellow was a VERY large lady and we had filed Dad's observation away for further reference.
It was unfortunate that young fellow we chose to repeat it to was Mrs Goodfellow's son and who went inside and immediately reported our comments to his mother.
The sequel to that eventful day was that although Frank had won a small verbal victory over Mr Duckworth he was banned from Mrs Goodfellow' s premises henceforth.

THE DISJOINTED THUMB

The house which we rented at Navua was one which had been used by the management of the sugar mill long before and though comfortable was somewhat decrepit. Like most of the houses in Fiji, they were built on wooden piers of piles about two feet above the ground and this allowed the air to circulate keeping houses cooler. We spent much time under there exploring the lives of numerous small lizards and geckos which liked the dark cool areas for making their homes. Usually our sleeping quarters were in the centre of the building and this was surrounded by a veranda where we had our meals and which had many windows fitted with wooden shutters as protection in case of storms or hurricanes. Our front door was at the top of a series of about four steps and it had one panel missing in its upper part.

Being Leslie, I decided one day to go through that door while it was still shut, using that missing panel rather than the normal opening; however though I climbed and perched successfully on the empty open panel I then lost my balance and fell outward down the steps and to the ground. I was bruised and hurt, but I believed it more fortunate that no one had seen my fall. This was quickly followed by my noticing that my right thumb was only half as short as previously and that it was beginning to go black and blue. Two thoughts sprang to mind, if I reported my escapade I would be beaten by my half-brother Ron - or worse, again later by my Dad. But also if I showed them my - by now excruciatingly painful right thumb - I imagined I might have to have it cut off entirely. So I did what seemed the only logical thing to do at that time and took to my scrapers. This had all happened mid-morning. There were some convenient thickets nearby and into these I squirmed and lay as still as my injuries would allow.

Lunch time came and I began to hear my name called. Although I was very hungry (being a fat little fellow and liking my food) I daren't answer. All through that afternoon I lay and heard my family calling me. I heard Ron, then worse still I heard Dad and my brothers.

I am not sure just how I was discovered but I think that by this time the pain had me sobbing and this gave me away. At any rate it was Ron who dragged me from my lair and was so angry with me that he immediately draped me across his knee and in the old fashioned way smacked my bottom soundly. It was shortly after this as I waved my arms about in protest that he spotted my now blackened hand. What he did then inflicted even more pain and was surprising. He put one foot against my right shoulder, grasped the shortened thumb and amidst my screams jerked strongly and LO! It became the right length again but remained black and swollen.
He had diagnosed immediately that I had dislocated the thumb and that was his method of righting the situation.

Looking back I cannot help but think that had the thumb been fractured the end might well have been that the hand might indeed ultimately be lost. I am glad to relate that my father came to the conclusion that I had suffered enough and decided not to punish me further. He told me that they had all feared that I had fallen into the river and had scoured the banks downstream.
The missing panel in the front door was repaired forthwith.

BHATANAKIA

While these events were taking place the “settling-up” process was going on at Bhatanakia and after several weeks we moved about four miles West past Simmonds farm and over the Doomba bridge to what was our newly established farm. There was the newly constructed milking shed and there were the herd of black and white cattle which we had last seen at Mission Bay and there were Bruin and Pieby roaring at each other and frequently fighting each other.

Our home was another house raised from ground level by about two feet, with the surrounding veranda and with a semidetached kitchen and bathhouse whose access was by a raised outside passage and between it and the house rested a huge iron water tank which was our domestic water supply filled by catchment from the iron roof. But best of all on our move to Bhatanakia came the faithful Putthe. At Bhatanakia we lived happily. Dad, Ron and we three brothers. For a short time we would walk the extra four miles back to the Navua River, call Jackanundunn, walk the half mile up the river to the Mission school and reverse the process in the evening. But it made a long and rather arduous day for us three young children.

One of the hazards was crossing the Doomba bridge for we had been admonished by Bridgemahond, the Indian head of the family who lived next to this bridge with his large retinue, that we MUST NOT go under that bridge under any circumstances because 'DEBIL DEBIL' dwelt under that bridge. So for a while we tiptoed across that bridge daily for fear of arousing this monstrous beast until one day we decided we would see for ourselves what a 'debil-debil' looked like. We found that because it was approximately eight miles between the Indian village of Bhatanakia and the Navua river this was about the halfway stop and there being no such thing as a toilet, and what's more, no thickets or bushes nearby, the area under the Doomba bridge was the equivalent of a much used yet reasonably private toilet!

AFTERNOON CHIlLLIES WTTH BRIDGEMAHOND

It was here at Bridgemahond's village, or one of our early returns from the Mission school that we stopped and talked to this friendly fellow. While letting us sample the exotic taste of fresh made Indian mango chutney, he introduced us to some elongated and beautiful small red berries or fruit or however one might describe them. He popped one in his mouth and munched with relish and invited us to do the same. We had squeezed and popped these berries and followed Bridgemahond's invitation.

That is how we discovered CHILLIES. It was a devastating revelation and we wept and coughed and begged for cooling drinks. But worst was not over for when wiping away the tears which the hot chillies brought to our eyes the juice from our previous handling was smeared in and around our eyes.

It was hours before we got rid of the painful stinging which followed.
We were sure we would be left blinded.

AWALLY

After a number of weeks it became obvious that the fairly arduous task of traversing the distance to and from Bhatanakia to the Mission School was asking too much from our young legs and my father came up with the alternative of hiring a tutor for us. He picked on an Indian youth who apparently had some education at a fairly sophisticated school for he spoke English very well and I think would have been about fifteen years of age. He was a quite obsequious youth whenever Dad was around but when he was absent I think this young chap would have been suffering from what Turia Tariana these days is fond of describing as "post-Colonial traumatic syndrome" because of his bullying and swiftness to punish us while displaying displeasure at our slightest tardiness in our multiplication tables or spelling lessons. He always carried a long supple switch and he would lash us with this if he thought we were tardy in our responses and I am convinced his self-esteem was raised a great deal by this heaven sent chance to lord it over “the white man's children”.
I can still remember his wall eyes as he munched on one of those large yellow guavas and at the same time reached out to administer another stinging blow with that cane. We studied diligently however and always sat round the oil lamp (there was no electricity in the district for many years) in the evening our legs safely encased in a well-drawn up pillow slip to ward off the swarming mosquitoes, driven by the fear of retribution the following day from Awally, for that I recollect was his name.

We did not snitch on him, but one day Dad discovered switch marks on us and that was the end of Awally and today I would describe him as a “right Wally!”
But in spite of this lad's attentions, our days at Bhatanakia were generally idyllic. We had our donkey, we had Putthe and there were almost always new scenes of wonder.

Sometimes Ron would take us up to the nearby heavily forested hills on a pigeon shoot. Not that WE did the shooting, but he would take the shotgun and he found a use for our presence because around the fringes to the forest there would always be a guardian belt of thick bracken and undergrowth. Ron's favourite method of finding a way through these thickets was to pick up one of us smaller children and throw us bodily on top of the undergrowth and in that way break a negotiable passage.
I remember he was not too fond of picking ME up and throwing ME because I was considerably fatter than the others. However at times we came back from those expeditions with a few pigeons with which Putthe would work his wonders. It was a great change from the perpetual tinned “bully beef” for I cannot remember the presence of a butchery in that district.

We would occasionally see Fijians in their lava-lavas and bare feet walking leisurely past the farm on their way back to their village having been to Morris Hedstrom's store on the Navua River and bought a tin of bully beef (which they referred to as “bullimacow”) and a loaf of bread and they would be happily munching on this fare (no such refinement as butter) as they strolled past.

Then there were the days when we would see groups of Indians passing on their way to the river. They would be singing and beating drums accompanied by glittering tinsel palaces and pavilions of bamboo and coloured paper. There was a huge bamboo and paper replica of a woman much like a large balloon.

Putthe told us that they were celebrating “Taj Mahal Day” in Hindu fashion as they would in their own home county. Later we would go along to the Navua River to watch developments. Here there would be much celebration. Whirling and dancing and peculiar sounding music. Most delightfully for us would be the vending of home - made ice cream. Towards evening the merrymaking would quicken. Then there was the ceremonial launching of the tinsel temples on the river and at the same time a match would be set to the huge blue bamboo woman and the day ended with a huge flaming pyre.

SWIMMNG IN THE DOOMBA

Other days we would take our bathing togs and accompanied by two Fijian "nurses" to overlook our safety, we wended our way over the pastures to the lower reaches of the Doomba River for a swim. The pastures which we had to traverse were infested with what we described as “sensitive grass” but was not a grass at all but a plant which was like a low growing blackberry bush with the same vicious but smaller hooked thorns. The reason it was called sensitive grass is because as soon as it was touched or disturbed the fronds would close up together and leave a trail for about half an hour after before it reopened. As we were always barefooted at that time it was a painful experience to deviate from a beaten track.

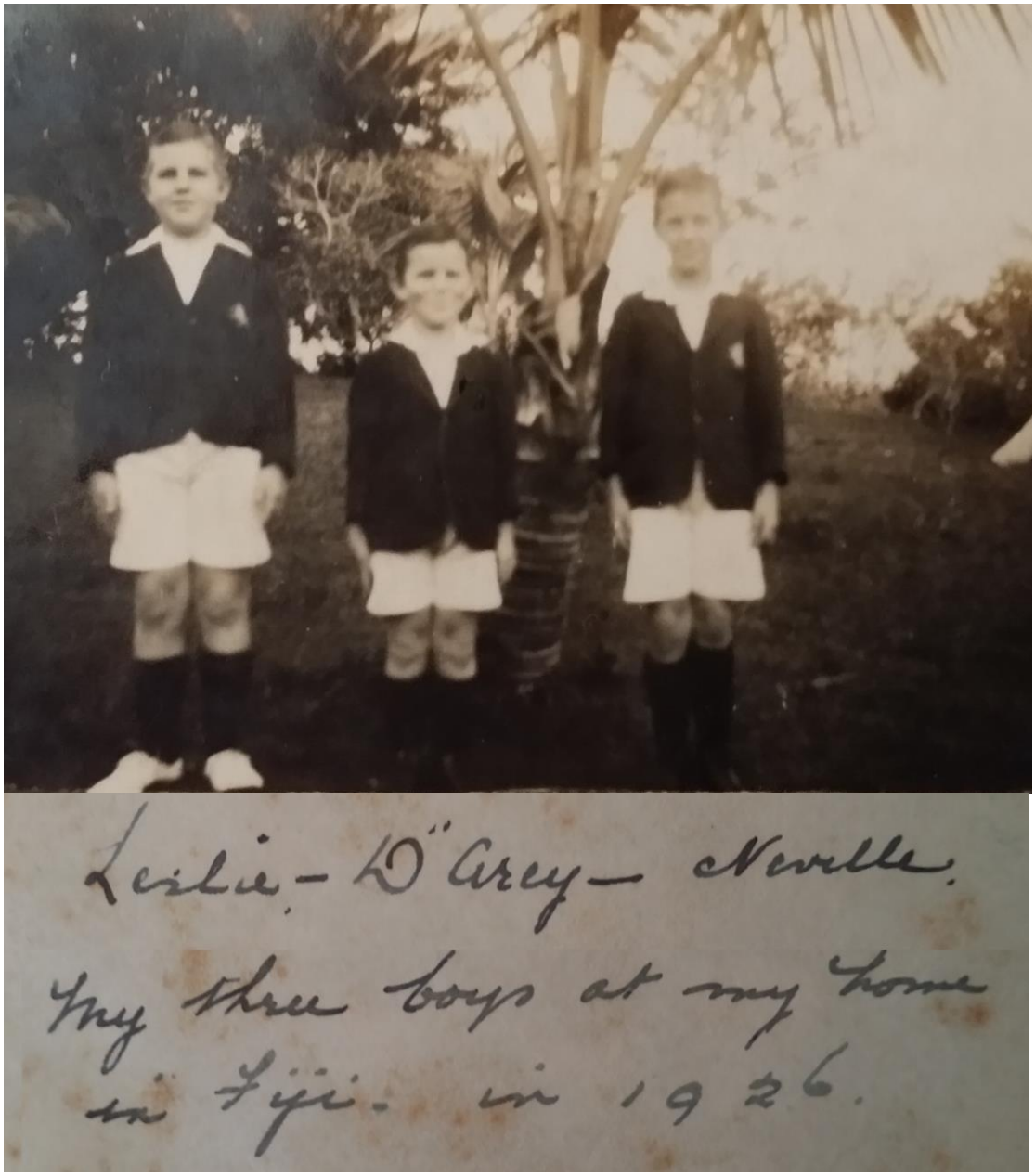
We also learned of the devastating effect of the hot sun on our bodies, for although enjoying the swimming we in our ignorance ignored the effect of exposure. Neville and I were made moderately but painfully aware of this by nightfall, but my younger brother D'Arcy being of fair skin and red haired became a mass of huge blisters on his back and suffered most painfully. It was while swimming for the first time on this particular day and the Fijian women enjoying the opportunity to swim also, that one of them began shrieking hysterically and our immediate thought was "sharks!" and to make for the shore. But we were amazed and halted in our tracks as she lifted her foot above the surface of the water and attached to her foot by a mighty grip was a huge crab. She hobbled ashore aided by the other Fijian woman and there had some difficulty prizing the nippers of the crab from her foot. That crab was as large as a small dinner plate and I have no doubt that is just where it ended up that day.
By this incident we were made aware of some of the dangers of simply going for a swim in local waters.

Another hazard we were made aware of was the presence of a small spiked sea shell that if trodden on injected a poison and could lead to very serious consequences.
I should add that the Doomba River at this point was also tidal.

EVENINGS AT BHATANAKIA

One of the pleasures of life at Bhatanakia was that at the end of the day, generally in the calm of evening and just before dusk we would become aware of the rhythmic beating of tom-toms. These would resound in the stillness and would be varied by the size of the tom-toms. The smaller hollowed out logs giving out a lighter sound and the bigger ones a deeper and more melodious "thump". This would be followed by a measured reply from a Fijian Village in a different direction. We were told that this was the way the villagers exchanged news. It was a soothing and melodious interlude.

On other evenings in the stillness of the after sunset one could hear in the distance a lovely chorus from the Fijian Villages when the men had returned from their daily work in their plantations as they raised their voices in song as only Pacific Islanders can. Their voices seemed to float for great distances in the evening quiet.
Then overhead would fly great clouds of beautifully coloured parakeets making for the forest on the hills. And as the skies darkened there would come the flocks of flying foxes which are a species of the fruit eating bat. We would see and hear these strange and wonderful things with pure delight. There would be something new, such as in the bright hot sun the sight of several Mynah birds sitting in a row upon the backs of the grazing cattle and our Dad told us that they were wiley enough to know that their next meal would probably be a large fat tick which fastened themselves to the hide of the beasts.



Photograph from the collection of Leslie Ducker

CATS GALORE

We also learned that much of the Navua Plains were infested with feral cats. It was a horrible sight to see these being hunted by the Fijians with their several pronged fishing spears and they would be speared mercilessly when found in any thickets or undergrowth.

One of our weaknesses was to go hunting for the cat's nests ourselves and in some sort of misguided rescue mission bring the kittens back to the bungalow where we would hide them and feed them milk. Almost always, until the penny dropped, my Dad would hear the hungry meowing and go hunting for the source of the sounds himself. He never ever liked cats anyway and simply disposed of our kittens by chopping their heads off on the wood-chopping block and paid no heed to our cries of distress.

Times had not changed for us children in some ways because we were often set the task of hand weeding the small acreage of Lucerne which father was trying to introduce into Fiji. I believe he did this successfully because of the labours of myself and my two small brothers for we toiled in the hot sun hand weeding the rows of that Lucerne plot for many hours almost daily when not at lessons and it flourished mightily.

One day we were sitting at lessons about midmorning, a short time after the cows again came into milk. Several young calves were tethered in a small enclosure of a high and flowering hedge by the house for handy feeding when we became aware of a loud buzzing and looking out the windows, which fortunately were guarded by mosquito net mesh, we saw a huge cloud of swarming hornets, or wasps as they are known here. They hovered about that flowering hedge and the next moment attacked the agitated calves which bellowed and leapt in terror and pain because of their tethering ropes. We were helpless, and so calves lay prostrate, and shortly after died a most painful death. So in paradise we could never take our blissful lives for granted. These wasps were a lethal presence in Fiji as they are in New Zealand today.

THE SHADDOCK TREE

In the distance from our house could be seen a large Shaddock tee and we could see it bore some large and ripe fruit. We sallied over the pasture to where it grew on the edge of a thicket. Elder brother Neville quickly shinned up the tree towards the nearest fruit and in a second we were stricken with fear as he screamed.
He had run his head into the waxen appendage of a wasps nest.
He almost fell out of that tree as we took to our heels followed for some distance by the disturbed swarm. We didn't go near that tree again.
But this lesson was not enough to warm Neville of the vicious nature and nesting habits of the hornets, for some months later when in Suva we were playing about while staying in a boarding house which was opposite the Suva Fire Brigade.
We had never come across what we now know as an air-grille in brick construction and this was a curiosity which Neville wished to explore by introducing a long twig into the opening and poking it about. Once again there was a piercing shriek as first one or two and then a stream of angry wasps emerged and set about him, and us, as we fled in panic and pain back to the boarding house.

TIIE PUKKA SAHIB

As I observed earlier we were quick to assume a stance of superiority towards the natives, whether Indian or Fijian, aping our elders. Since labour was so cheap my father employed, instead of a couple of labourers, a whole family for about fifteen shillings a week to cut coasters curse, which infested the pastures and which bore a small blue berry which we found could be a handy substitute for ink. This shrub was a real curse and like mangrove its insidious re-growth needed constant attention.

One afternoon while sitting at lessons by a window in the bungalow I observed what I then thought was the indolence of the group of Indians hired to work for my Dad. I promptly abandoned my lessons and marched over the pasture to where the Indians were idling about gossiping and peremptorily demanded that they get back to work. I am sure now that they sized up the situation nicely and decided that they would have some fun with me. By now I had assumed the pukka sahib stance, whatever that meant in my imagination and I told them in my sternest voice that if they did not immediately resume work I would "sack them". To a man, led by Bridgemahond, my old mate of the chillies episode, they picked up their cane knives and began walking off. I was instantly reduced to a panic for I could see my irate farther demanding to know what had happened to his hired labour gang. I also knew the kind of punishment which would follow when he found out. I was reduced to pleading that if only they would wait I would make amends. Bridgemahond must have been laughing himself silly inwardly but he apparently persuaded his gang to halt in their tracks and to sit down and await events. I rushed back in fear towards the bungalow as fast as my legs could carry me and seized a plate of scones which Putthe had freshly baked and carried them back to the waiting Indians. To my relief they accepted my penance with generosity and after consuming every last scone magnanimously decided to resume work. I do not think now that for a moment they had taken me seriously but I also know they enjoyed their impromptu "afternoon tea".

I became a little more humble and cautious in my behaviour from then on.

PETER THE RACEHORSE

Our joy became great when Dad purchased a large chestnut ex-racehorse named Peter and a smaller hack which had a peculiar name of Somesare. These two horses got along famously and grazed happily always accompanied by Neddy. Unless Neddy was needed in our pseudo-cowboy wanderings about the district - three aboard- each with a table knife stuck in our belts and a homemade bow and absurdly constructed arrows over our shoulders and we assumed in search of some "baddies" to slay. That is if Neddy decided to co-operate. It was a long cry from riding our donkey to getting what looked like a couple of miles in the sky, into the saddle on Peter's back and that became my ambition and my secret fear.

However in the meantime we were quite isolated from much of the other white settlers at Bhatanakia except for the party telephone line which hung on the wall and this was used mostly for the exchange of gossip. I recall that on the banks of the Navua River lived an attractive widow named Mrs Smith. I cannot hazard a guess whether it was the long absence of our mother or if there was a genuine attraction for my Dad but he was often on the phone breathing admiration to Mrs Smith and would

frequently then order us to line up in front to the phone and sing in unison for the benefit of Mrs Smith “Little Baggy Britches” or some other song such as “Pretty Bubbles in the Air” and we could hear the enthusiastic response, "Oh Mr Ducker! What lovely children, And what lovely voices”. Even THEN we were aware that we were being used by Dad to further his wooing of Mrs Smith. We could not work out why he always insisted that when we lined up before that telephone he also insisted that we should “stand up straight, hand down beside our bodies and shoulders back”. For goodness sake! She couldn't SEE us! But we serenaded Mrs Smith beautifully many times over the miles to the banks of the Navua. I am sure the others on that party line also knew what Mr Ducker was up to.

It was about this time when Ron was suddenly stricken with Rheumatic fever and was moved hastily to Suva Hospital where he barely survived the illness. It was after this that he decided to return to New Zealand and we did not have contact with him for several years.

MOTHER’S ARRIVAL IN FIJI

Before any lasting damage was done in the pursuit of Mrs Smith, Dad told us that our mother had decided to join us shortly and we waited several weeks in great anticipation for her arrival. We sailed from Naitonitoni to Suva in the passenger launch Toni and left the management of the cattle to the Indian staff. There for several days we awaited the arrival of the Tofua. It was indeed a joyful reunion and after a few more days shopping for more suitable garments for Fiji’s climate, for Mum, we returned to Bhatanakia. It must have been much more difficult for Mum to acclimatize herself to the new conditions than we children, but her acceptance of the new life was made so much easier and she had never before had a servant and Putthe, with Dad's persuasion stayed, and they found themselves mutually agreeable (I believe more so on Putthe's part when we found that mother couldn't pronounce his name and henceforth called him PUTTY to which he happily responded)

My mother always was an excellent horsewoman and the fact that we already had two mounts with their saddles was an instant pleasure for her. For a while she took to riding about the district on her own on the smaller hack Somesare and to which she had taken an immediate liking. But shortly she felt she wanted company on these rides and so brought up the subject of my learning to ride the ex-racehorse Peter.
I had secretly long wanted to graduate to “the real thing” but at the same time recognised it was a giant step from riding on Neddy's back. I well remember the first day with me insecure in the wide saddle, (which incidentally was more of the American make and had a pommel) and Mother happily on Somesare we walked sedately a couple of miles from the farm then made our way through some thickets onto the sandy beach. That was a great mistake, for when Peter found himself on the hard and he must have recalled some of his more exciting moments on Race Day at Naitonitoni for his pace immediately quickened. Then he heard the drumming of Somesare's hoofs just behind. He took the bit between his teeth and flattened his ears and went for it. I dropped the bridle reins and clung in fright to the pommel and I believe that by this time Peter was in top gear. Certainly he was leaving Somesare far behind. I could hear mother screaming for me to “Pull on the bridle!” but my sole intention just then was to stay in the saddle for it seemed an enormous distance to the hard sand. My fears became even greater because I began to realise that Peter was

veering towards the trees beside the beach. It ended when I think my mother began to size up the situation correctly and pulled Somesare to a halt. As Peter no longer heard what was the drumbeat of competing hoofs he thought he had won the race and slowed down. I had by then gathered enough experience to again seize the bridle and to control him. An unforgettable introduction to horse riding. We children then took it in turns to accompany mother in her exploration of the district.

TO THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Shortly we were to experience another parting from Mother and our days at Navua were numbered for Dad had decided that we three children were to go as boarders to the Suva Boy's Grammar School. It must have been a rather bitter blow to Mother to have to part with her children so soon after our reunion. Such small joys as following Putthe to the front gate with the large bucket of cream on his turbaned head which he took nightly to the newly established butter factory about four miles away and which had been built on the site of the old sugar mill. Also the visits to the milking shed where the Indian milkers would tolerate our presence and would generally let us have a mug of warm newly separated skim milk. Or even allow us to stand and with open mouths receive the squirted milk straight from the teat, but which often missed and which they always greeted with mirth as we licked as much as we could from our streaming faces. We were going to miss the tomtoms and the parakeets and Neddy and the sound of the "evensong" by the Fijians and most of all we were again going to miss the presence of our mother and the companionable rides around the district with her.

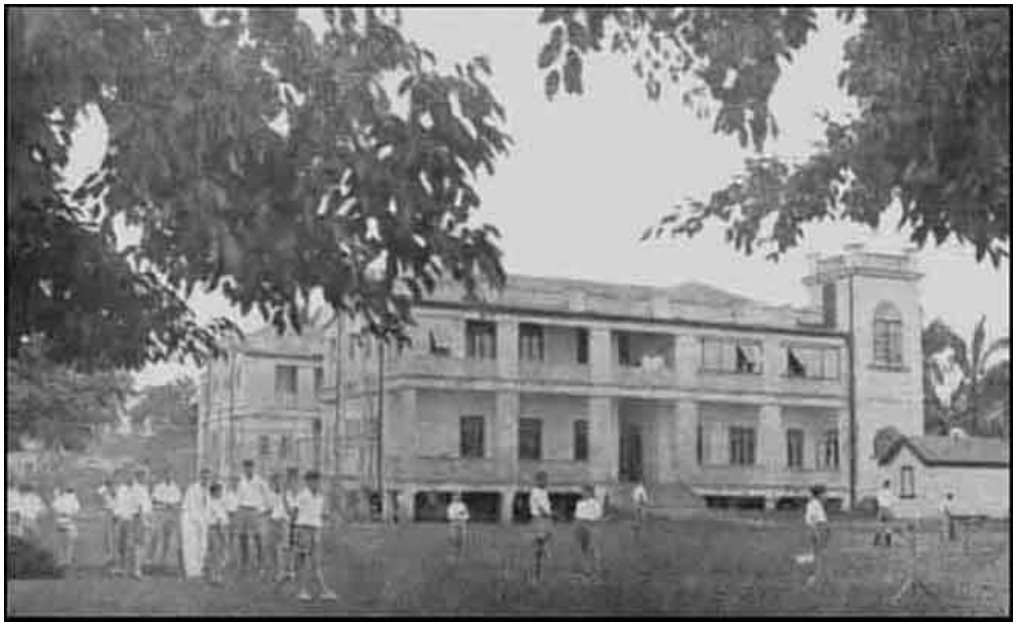
We had to visit Suva to be measured and fixed with the necessary uniforms for the Grammar School and one of the most unique experiences was being measured for handmade boots with which we were complete strangers. Almost all our lives we had managed without footwear so this development meant a lot of adjustment. We were then fitted with the smart white shorts and blue blazers with the gold lion rampant and we were quite proud of ourselves. We then returned to Navua for a short while before taking up the most defining time of our lives.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

We discovered an entirely new way of life at the Grammar School. It was run after the manner of the English Public School system. As all the pupils were from the families of European settlers or administrators and predominantly English, it had a certain exclusivity about its regime. Rules were fairly strict and behaviour monitored. It is fair to observe that quite a number of those pupils who attended the school during the time we were there themselves became Civic leaders and administrators. With scions of such families as the Sturts, the Ogilvies, the Ensors and the Moncktons we were indeed rubbing shoulders with the sons of the Elite.

Physical fitness was of high priority much to my distress. Rising at six thirty each morning and having to run around the playing fields several times and then to have to submit to a cold shower was always discomforting and also particularly humiliating to me because being fat (or chubby as I would better describe myself at that time) I would inevitably be the last to arrive at the finishing post, amidst cries of derision. And as for high jumps which we were expected to perform from time to time, I found that too most embarrassing. I watched some splendid performances by the senior

pupils and watched miserably as the bar was gradually lowered for the smaller fry until it ended invariably at the very lowest peg to accommodate MY effort. That was about nine inches from the ground. Even then, on one occasion this was too much for me and in my intended leap my foot struck the bar and I ended on the ground with a sprained ankle. But despite some setbacks and discomforts to which I soon became acclimatised we three Ducker children enjoyed our years at the Suva Grammar School.



Our teacher was a Miss Atherton, a startling red haired woman about thirty years of age and she was excellent at her job and was strict in the classroom. She had a most interesting method of administering the rare physical punishment for bad behaviour. While demanding that the wrong-doer hold out their hands, first the left and then the right she would coil a strap round her hand leaving several inches free. She would then positively levitate herself from the floor in order to deliver the maximum downward force to the strap.
It was very effective and few relished a return performance.
Many are the yarns ex-pupils tell of Miss Atherton's classes. But she was a gentle and entertaining person outside the classrooms. My Dad would have liked her red hair!

Most Saturday afternoons we were able to attend the local cinema, or "pictures" as we called them in those days. After lining up before the headmaster on Saturday mornings to draw our weekly allowance or pocket money - for us normally a shilling each - and with a Tom Mix film and a bag of unshelled peanuts we would never have called the King our uncle.

It was late in the year when we began to surmise that our parents might be having some financial troubles for when we lined up for our pocket money we were sometimes regretfully told by our headmaster that there was no money lodged to our accounts.

The highlight of our week after the pictures was the church parade every Sunday morning when we would be marched to the local Church of England and which would enable us to witness the arrival of the pupils of the Suva Girl’s Grammar School splendidly arrayed in all white dresses and the female counterpart of ourselves.

Many were the surreptitious but admiring glances exchanged between the passing columns. The Sunday afternoons were often spent in the nearby Albert Park where we would listen and see the magnificently turned out Police brass band. Fiji at that time was an English Colony and Suva a relatively tidy and well administered town and was under good control. Unhappily it is much less so today.

In school holidays and long weekends we would sometimes return to the delights of home at Bhatanakia and though we generally were enjoying the time at the Grammar School, we were usually not happy to again leave home each time.

One particular source of humiliation was to have to submit from time to time to Dad's hair clippers. His method was simple and straight forward. First he would plough a straight furrow through the middle of our heads from front to back and follow this up with swift flicking strokes which often had not finished the cutting part and this would lead to moans of distress as some hair was pulled out by the roots. This would always be followed by Dad's stern warning to "stop snivelling". He had apparently already forgotten our helpful role in the wooing of Mrs Smith. But the worst was yet to follow for on our return to the school,- usually when everyone, including the Form Masters were sitting down to Sunday evenings tea - in would troop the three Ducker children with three shorn heads resembling the fuzz on newly hatched ducklings. This would always set up a roar of mirth from the assembly- with crimson and downcast faces we took our places at the dinner table, and always, for several days, until the fuzz became less noticeable we would be the butt of snide remarks. It seemed that no one else at school had their hair cut by their dads. We didn't love our Dad at such times.

Then came the end of the school year, instead of returning to Navua, we were suddenly transported about twelve miles to the Eastward of Suva on the road to Rewa, to a place caned Nascinu. We were given no real explanation for this development and to this day do not know the reason for that happening. It is still a matter of conjecture. However, we were happy enough, perhaps even happier to take up residence at the new place monitored for productivity and growth. A particularly sad aspect of this move was that Putthe did not go to Nascinu with the family and we never saw him again. Today, it is understandable that as Navua and Nascinu were about sixty miles apart and divided by a long coastal sea trip and with Putthe's family at Navua he could not possibly have stayed with us.

NASCINU

The front of the farm was really a park with many fruit trees and an elliptical sort of driveway from the "top" gate to the 'bottom" gate. A short distance from this driveway there was a lovely sparkling stream which ponded and made an excellent swimming pool. This was a popular venue for the residents of Suva and they would come out for a Sunday drive to the Park and to swim. It must be told at this juncture that though we never saw the Ducker's Freeisian cattle any more, we were overjoyed that one day our beloved Neddy appeared on the scene. He was promptly enlisted to make some pocket money for us. We would charge visiting children three pence to ride Neddy the short distance from the top gate to the bottom gate. This gained Neddy much notoriety and was a popular entertainment as well as fame for the Ducker family so much fame that it was suggested by a correspondent to the Suva Times that as the then Duke and Duchess of York were due to visit Suva shortly that year of

1927 and as such questions were being discussed as to what public entertainment should be accorded the visiting Royalty, one suggestion was mooted that they should be given “a ride on Duckers donkey". WE felt that this was the next best thing to a knighthood, but alas this event never came to pass, for shortly after this bit of publicity we suddenly became aware of Neddy's absence. For many days we mourned Neddy’s disappearance and were reinforced by suggestions from Dad that one never EVER saw a dead donkey and when their time came they wandered away to die in parts unknown. We even imagined that we could hear Neddy,s mournful bray.
We later came to believe that this was simply a smokescreen and the reason probably was that in straitened circumstances as Dad then was, he had sold Neddy and could not face telling his children the stark truth.
We were never ever told what happened to him.

RETURNING TO NEW ZEALAND

It was shortly after this that we were told that we were returning to New Zealand and there was no forthcoming explanation about that either. So it is that for about seventy years we have wondered about the real motive for ever going to Fiji and it was evident from the meagreness of our possessions upon arrival back in Auckland that the whole enterprise had been disastrous upon the Ducker fortunes. I can remember Dad's assertion that he had exactly eleven pounds cash as his remaining fortune when we landed back in New Zealand. In retrospect, though the expedition afforded us children a great deal of pleasure and exciting experiences. In reality it was the wholesale squandering of a sound farming livelihood and the dissolution of what was once a notable herd of pedigree cattle. It is little solace to note that when visiting the Southwest of Viti Levu these days that when sometimes one sees the many black and white cattle still grazing there, that they are most probably the progeny of that first herd of those which were taken to Fiji by Frank Ducker in 1924.



Appendix 4 Olive Ducker - her early life in Taranaki

Olive Lois Ducker, born in New Plymouth in 1901, was the daughter of Frank and Lily Ducker.

We may assume that Olive's middle name "Lois" was a family name, chosen by her mother, Lily. (Lily's mother was baptised Lois Lightfoot, and there is some evidence that her mother too had been baptised Lois.)

Some time after the family moved to Ohiwa, Olive was sent back to New Plymouth to live with the Ducker grandparents, and to attend school there. Ron Henderson recalls being told that Ohiwa at the time was considered by Frank to be "no place for a girl."

Another family anecdote has it that the grandparents had been appalled at the thought of Olive running around barefoot like the boys and it was they who had insisted on looking after the girl.

In his memoir of Ducker's Island, Olive's s brother Leo wrote:
"My only sister Olive had gone back to New Plymouth with Granddad Ducker for her schooling. She never came back to live in Ohiwa, only twice for holidays as Mum was busy in the store and Post Office." Leo's memory seems clear on this.
His next recollection is leaving Ohiwa to live on the island, in 1912.
(See Appendix: "Early Days of Ohiwa)



Olive, photographed in New Plymouth around 1911

(cropped from a photograph which is included with the memorabilia held at the Woolshed museum, Newall Rd.)

Olive, about 10 or 11 years of age, appears in this photo together with her Taranaki cousins, and her grandparents James and Eleanor.

A newspaper article (Auckland Star, 26 October 1912) records: "four boys alone on the island for a week" and is referring to Frank Ducker's children.
This article makes no mention of a daughter on the island.
By now Olive would be about 11 or 12.

If the records from Frankley School could be found, it would be possible to determine more precisely the time Olive came to stay with the Ducker grandparents in New Plymouth. It was probably some time between 1910 and 1912.

Leo Ducker recalls that in those "early days" (around 1912) his younger brother Clarry also went to stay with the grandparents for his schooling.

The earliest newspaper record of Olive Ducker at Frankley School is in 1915. Olive would have been about 14 then, and she was in Standard V1

FRANKLEY SCHOOL

Taranaki Daily News , 17 December 1915

The following children passed the Standard VI. examination, six gaining proficiency, and one competency: Eileen Ballantyne, Keitha Bullot, Winifred Downes (11 years), Constance Hawke, Olive Ducker, Lindsay Williams, and Margaret Lovell.

Standard VI.-
Good conduct: Olive Ducker. Diligence: Keith Bullot, Winifred Downes, Olive Ducker.

Frank Ducker and his daughter Olive, possibly around 1916-1917



(Ron Henderson collection.)

We can approximate the date of this photograph.
Frank held the rank of Sergeant between 12th April 1916 and 23rd February 1917.[66]
Olive would then have been 16 years of age.

In 1916 Olive left Frankley School and went to New Plymouth Girls' High, and took prizes in the annual swimming sports in 1916 and 1917:

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

Taranaki Daily News , 2 March 1916

Junior Championship. 33 yards
Olive Ducker 1,

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

Taranaki Daily News , 13 March 1917

Diving for plates:
O. Ducker 1,

Taranaki Daily News , 12 November 1917

SACK RACE (16 entries).
Final: O. Ducker 1, N. Peach 2,

[66] Frank Ducker Service Record

Form IV.

O. Ducker: First science, second mathematics, second geography, second English, second French.

Olive was also thriving academically at **Girls' High School.**

Taranaki Daily News , 14 December 1917

Leo recalls, when he was 12, Olive coming to the island to spend her Christmas holidays. Frank had returned from the Army by then.
Olive, five years older than Leo, would have been about 17.
"Olive was a young lady by now and I was always very proud to be seen with her."

Olive returned to her old Frankley School to become a pupil teacher from 1918 to 1920, finishing her probation in December 1920.

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.
Hawera & Normanby Star, 11 January 1918

Pupil teachers were appointed as follows: Mr P. D. Chapman, Waitara; Misses I. H. Paulger, Inglewood; E. M. Bullard, J. Hyndman, L. F. Corney, Central; E. M Gibson, Fitzroy; S. M. Farquhar, Hawera D.H.S.; M. E. Leach, Stratford D.H.S.; M. A. Hawkes, West End; O. L. Ducker, Frankley.

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.
Hawera & Normanby Star, 15 August 1918

Leave of absence was granted to the following teachers: Miss C. Ducker (Frankley), two weeks; Miss I. Edwards (Te Kiri), two weeks; Miss E. Moir (Puniwhakau), two weeks; Miss C. McCarty (Hillsborough), one week; Miss I Foster (Inglewood), two weeks; Miss D. Henderson (Kapuni), 1 month;

MATRICULATION RESULTS
Hawera & Normanby Star, 21 January 1920

SUCCESSFUL TARANAKI CANDIDATES.

NEW PLYMOUTH CENTRE.

C. E. K. Alcock, Comp; Annie L. Arms, Comp; Gwendoline E. Barnett, PP; R. Bell, MSP; J. W. Boon, Comp; E. A. Brooker, PP; Frances Brown, MSP; Flora M. Cameron, MS; R. A. Candy, MS; A. J. Christie, MS; J. D. Clemow, MS; Olive L. Ducker, MS; A. Fowler, Comp; A. V. Gilbert, M. H. D.

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.
Taranaki Daily News, 15 April 1920

Leave of absence was granted to the following teachers:—Miss D. Ducker, Frankley (two weeks)

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.
Taranaki Daily News, 11 November 1920

Leave of absence was approved as follows: Miss O. Ducker (Frankley), 4 weeks;

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD. Taranaki Daily News, 30 November 1920

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Leave of absence was granted teachers as follows: Miss O. Ducker, pupil teacher, Frankley.

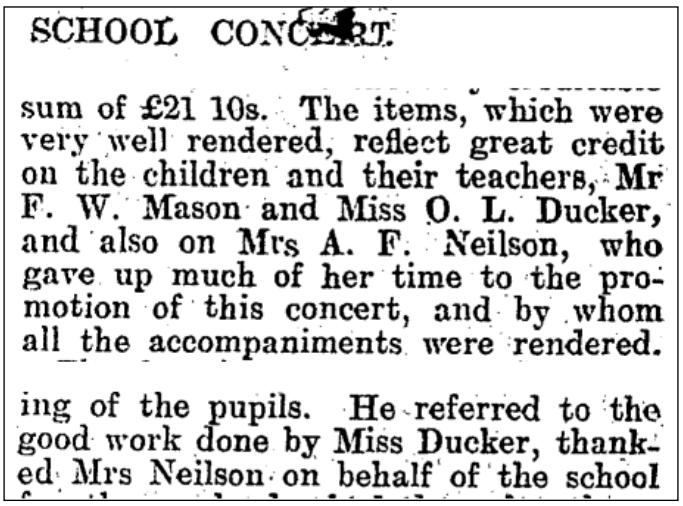
1920 Olive leaves Frankley School and is given a presentation.

SCHOOLS BREAK-UP. FRANKLEY SCHOOL Taranaki Daily News, 20 December 1920

The chairman, in his opening remarks, apologised for the absence of the chairman of the Board, and congratulated the headmaster and staff on the excellent results achieved. He also expressed regret at the approaching departure of Misses Ducker and Elliott, who had finished their term of probation.

Misses Ducker and Elliott were each presented with two volumes of poetical works as marks of esteem by the teachers and pupils, and each teacher was the recipient of a handsome bouquet. Cheers were given for the teachers, the chairman, and Mr. S. G. Smith.

Olive then went to South Taranaki, to Pihama School as a teacher, gaining her Teacher Certificate in 1922.



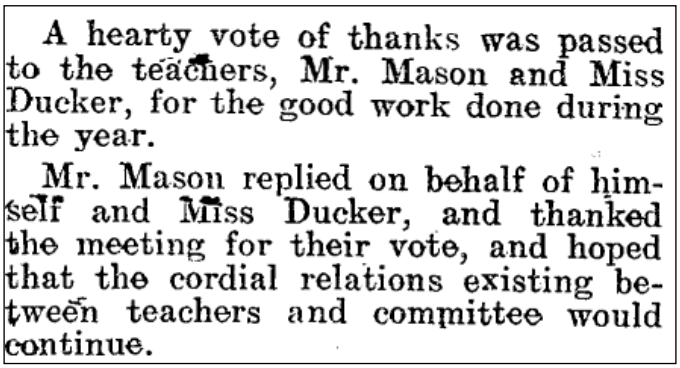
SCHOOL CONCERT.

sum of £21 10s. The items, which were very well rendered, reflect great credit on the children and their teachers, Mr F. W. Mason and Miss O. L. Ducker, and also on Mrs A. F. Neilson, who gave up much of her time to the promotion of this concert, and by whom all the accompaniments were rendered.

ing of the pupils. He referred to the good work done by Miss Ducker, thanked Mrs Neilson on behalf of the school

Pihama
School Concert

Hawera & Normanby Star, 24 December 1921 PIHAMA

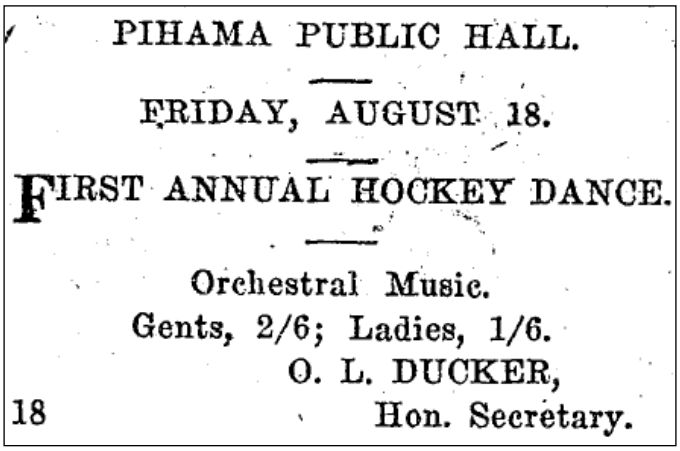


A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the teachers, Mr. Mason and Miss Ducker, for the good work done during the year.

Mr. Mason replied on behalf of himself and Miss Ducker, and thanked the meeting for their vote, and hoped that the cordial relations existing between teachers and committee would continue.

PIHAMA.

Hawera & Normanby Star, 26 April 1922



PIHAMA PUBLIC HALL.

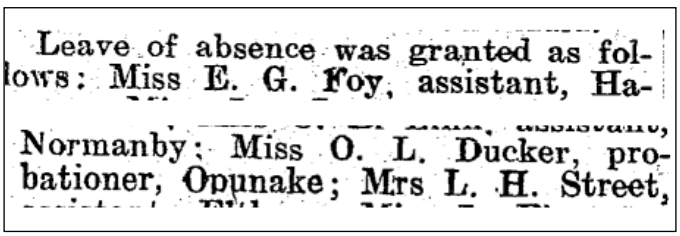
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18.

FIRST ANNUAL HOCKEY DANCE.

Orchestral Music.
Gents, 2/6; Ladies, 1/6.
O. L. DUCKER,
18 Hon. Secretary.

Hawera & Normanby Star,

16 August 1922



Leave of absence was granted as follows: Miss E. G. Foy, assistant, Ha-

Normanby; Miss O. L. Ducker, probationer, Opunake; Mrs L. H. Street,

EDUCATION BOARD.

Hawera & Normanby Star, 28 November 1922

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

The following Taranaki names appear in the results of the examinations held in August and September for teachers' certificates (the name of the town given is the examining town: N.P. for New Plymouth, and S. for Stratford).

Passed for Class C.—Howard C. Catling (N.P.), Ethel Rowntree (S.), Alice E. Corry (N.P.), Olive L. Ducker (N.P.), Lilian M. Ellis (N.P.), Eliza-

TEACHERS' EXAMINATION.

Hawera & Normanby Star,
16 November 1922

METHODIST BAZAAR.

The bazaar held in the Town Ha

In each competition there were fou aspirants, the result of the voting be ing: Popular young lady, Miss Doss Sinclair 1208 votes, Miss E. Hughso 874, Miss Ducker 646.

Popular Young Lady

OPUNAKE.

Hawera & Normanby Star,
4 May 1923

PIHAMA HALL.

FRIDAY, JUNE 22.

ANNUAL HOCKEY DANCE.

Orchestral Music.

Ladies, 1/6; Gents, 2/6

O. L. DUCKER,

21 Hon. Secretary.

Page 1 Advertisements Column 4

Hawera & Normanby Star,
19 June 1923

PIHAMA PUBLIC HALL.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5.

COMBINED SPORTS DANCE.

Orchestral Music. Good Floor.

Ladies, 1/6; Gents, 2/6.

O. L. DUCKER,

H. W. MASON,

Joint Secretaries.

Page 1 Advertisements Column 3

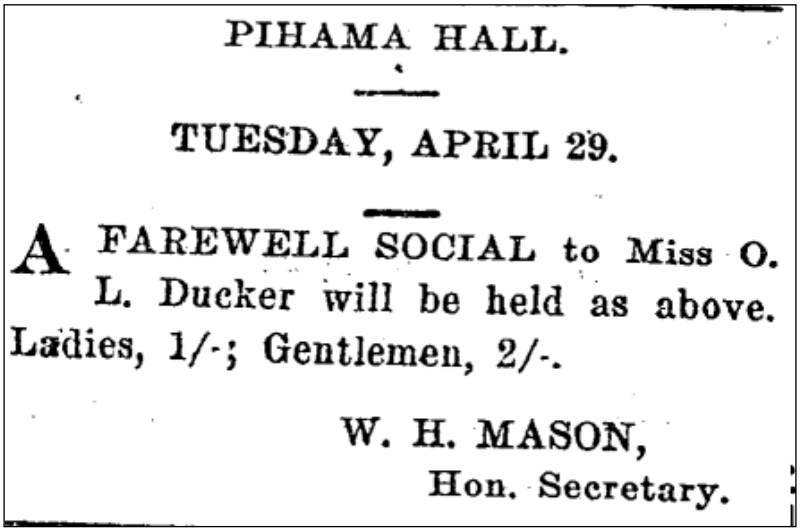
Hawera & Normanby Star,
3 October 1923

TARANAKI EDUCATION BOARD.
Hawera & Normanby Star, 13 March 1924

The following appointments were made on the recommendation of the teachers' selection committee and the senior inspector (Mr J. A. Valentine):

Inglewood, relieving third assistant, Miss O.L. Ducker;

Page 1 Advertisements Column 4
Hawera & Normanby Star, 24 April 1924



PIHAMA HALL.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29.

A FAREWELL SOCIAL to Miss O. L. Ducker will be held as above.
Ladies, 1/-; Gentlemen, 2/-.

W. H. MASON,
Hon. Secretary.

PIHAMA.
Hawera & Normanby Star, 3 May 1924

PIHAMA.

A POPULAR TEACHER

Miss Ducker, who has been assistant teacher in the local school for over three years, left on Wedensday to take up a similar position in the Inglewood School. Before her departure, the pupils of the school were assembled, and Mr Mason, head teacher, thanked Miss Ducker for the great help she had been to the school, and for the interest she had taken in the children, not only in their school work, but also in their games, and he wished her every happiness and success in the future.

Miss Nola Smith, on behalf of the children, expressed regret at losing Miss Ducker, and presented her with a gold armlet as a small token of their esteem.

Miss Ducker, in thanking the children for their present, said that she would always look back with pleasure on the three years she had spent at the Pihama School.

On Tuesday night Miss Ducker was entertained at a farewell social, and during the evening Mr Riley, on behalf of the residents of the district, presented Miss Ducker with a gold wristlet watch, and expressed regret that she was leaving, as she had shown herself a capable, conscientious and sympathetic teacher, and had always entered heartily into the social activities of the community.

Miss Ducker, in a neat little speech, thanked the residents for their handsome present, and said that she had endeavoured to do her duty by the sohcol, and had been only too pleased to help in local affairs.

The singing of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow," terminated a pleasing little ceremony.

It is said that in her later years, Olive was good friends with her cousin Edie Kenyon (my grandmother) when they were living in Tauranga

Appendix 5 The Remittance Man of Ducker's Island

Leo Ducker, in his reminiscences of Ducker's island in Ohiwa, refered to a remittance man **" --an Englishman, a fine looking, well spoken chap. His name was Julius Donner. He lived in various shacks around Ohiwa Harbour. Finally when we left the island in 1919 he moved into our house and stayed there until he died**"

Newspaper articles and electoral rolls identify this gentleman as Julius Dunlop Donner, although his history is slightly different from what Leo Ducker recalls.
It is almost certainly the same person.
He was a remittance man all right, but the remittances were coming from family in Gisborne, not England.
At the beginning, Julius Donner was a respectable fellow, from a family of means.

According to a post on Ancestry.com, by a descendant "Edonner", Julius was the son of Phillip William Donner "who emigrated to New Zealand in 1885, due to a kidney ailment called Bright's disease. Whilst there in Gisborne N.Z. he met and married Ellen Dunlop in a double wedding on the 15-09-1886 with his best friend and G.P. Dr. John Fraser Innes who (m) Emily Dunlop at Debbenham Bennett's residence in Gisborne."

The following is extracted from a post on Ancestry.com by in 2012 by "Edonner":

"Julius was the only son of Phillip William and Ellen Donner. (nee Dunlop.) He was born 28th April 1888, and his sister, Amy Vivienne, was born on November 24th 1890, both at the family farm 'Pouparae', on Bushmere Rd. just on the North Western outskirts of Gisborne town in N.Z.

Julius was a flamboyant precocious fellow who had no regard for money and spent it lavishly mainly at the expense of his mother who doted on him to the point where he became nicknamed by his grandfather, James Dunlop, as 'Julius Caesar'.

The Donner family to and fro'd to England where Julius completed schooling at Harrow and a term at Cambridge University. His High School days in N.Z. were at Wanganui Boys High School.

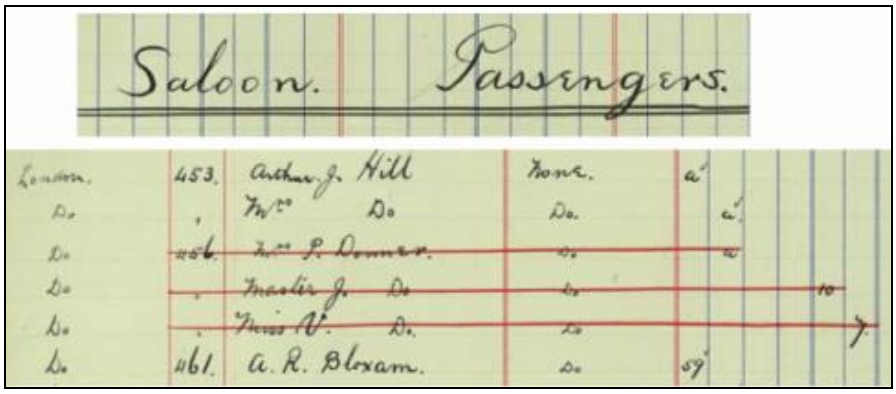
In 1915, he met a beautiful young half caste Maori girl Hueta Aneko Herewini. Julius fell head over heels in love with her and later the following year, they had a son who Julius named Jules Dunlop Donner, born on 18th June 1916. In March 1916, Julius went to London in England to sign on for war service with the Royal Artillery of His Majesty's Imperial British Army. Why he left his spouse and a child yet to be born at this point in time is a mystery. Maybe the urge to do something honourable was the deciding factor in this puzzle. He returned to N.Z. after the war and found that his ex had married another returned soldier of the N.Z. Pioneer Battalion. Paora Apanui.

Julius then discovered love again with a M/S Te Ani of Kutarere and had two children to her...."

Julius had a sister (Ellen Dunlop Donner) who was born (in New Zealand) in 1886

1886/2021	Ellen	Dunlop	Philip William	Donner

1898



Saloon. Passengers.

London.	453.	Arthur J. Hill	None.	a'
Do.	,	Mr^s Do	Do.	a'
Do.	456.	Mr^s F. Donner.	do.	a
Do.	,	Master J. Do	do.	10
Do.	,	Miss V. Do.	do.	7
Do.	461.	A. R. Bloxam.	do.	57

In one of his "to-ing and fro-ings" from England, he had arrived in New Zealand as saloon passenger on the Gothic in 1898. He was 10years old then, and evidently accompanied by his mother and a Miss V Donner (7).



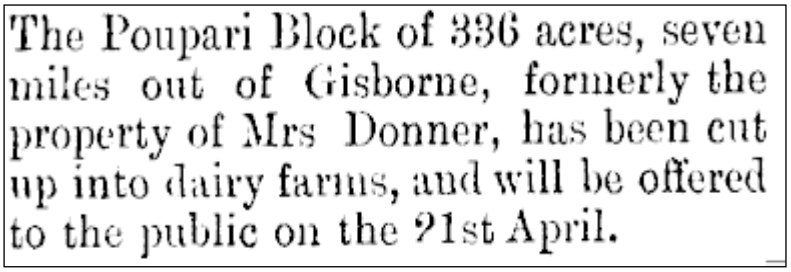
830 HARROW SCHOOL REGISTER. [1902²

ENTRANCES, EASTER—MIDSUMMER 1902.

Donner, Julius Dunlop (*Mr. Marshall's*), son of P. W. Donner, Esq. Left 1906². Trin. Coll. Camb.; now in New Zealand.—*J. D. Donner, Esq., Priesthill, Englefield Green.*

He entered Harrow in 1902 and left in 1906.

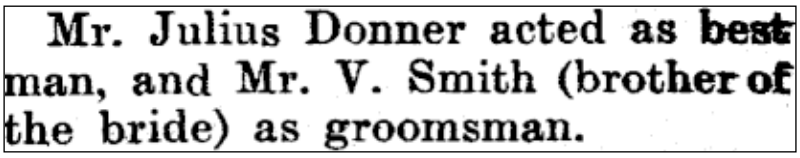
Hastings Standard , 25 March 1897



The Poupari Block of 336 acres, seven miles out of Gisborne, formerly the property of Mrs Donner, has been cut up into dairy farms, and will be offered to the public on the 21st April.

This may have been the financial basis for his later claim that he had an inheritance owing to him of £18,000.

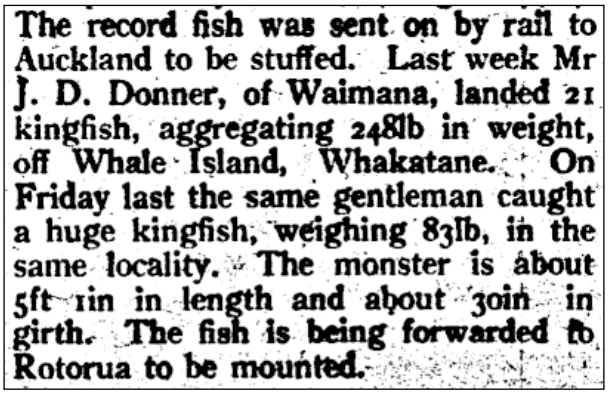
Hastings Standard, 16 March 1911



Mr. Julius Donner acted as best man, and Mr. V. Smith (brother of the bride) as groomsman.

Julius was "best man" at the wedding of Elsie Smith to John Gouldsmith.

He was then about 23 years of age.



The record fish was sent on by rail to Auckland to be stuffed. Last week Mr J. D. Donner, of Waimana, landed 21 kingfish, aggregating 248lb in weight, off Whale Island, Whakatane. On Friday last the same gentleman caught a huge kingfish, weighing 83lb, in the same locality. The monster is about 5ft 11in in length and about 30in in girth. The fish is being forwarded to Rotorua to be mounted.

Waikato Times , February 1914

In 1914 Julius must have moved from the Gisborne area and is now reported as a gentleman enjoying the sport of game fishing at Whakatane, not far from Ohiwa Harbour.

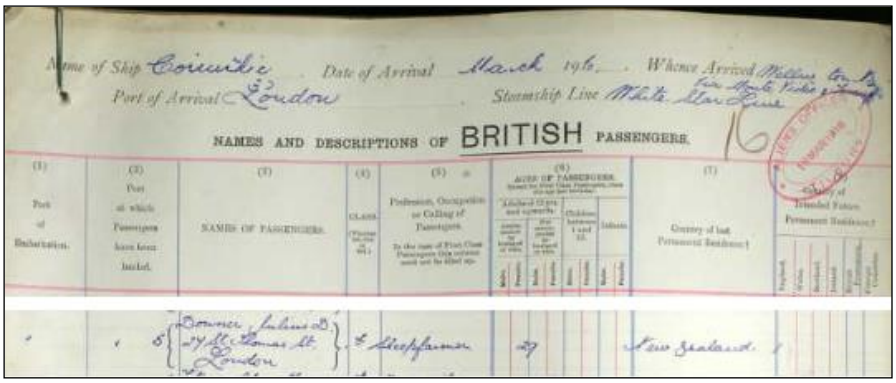
Dominion, 15 May 1914

Mr. Julius Dunlop Donner has been appointed an inspector under the Fisheries Act.

1st Division Bay of Plenty 1916

Donaldson, James Thomas, Dairy-farmer, [illegible]
Donner, Julius Dunlop, Sheep-farmer, Tahora, Waimana.
Dosan, Edward James, Dairy-farmer, Taneatua, Whakatan

Julius enrolled in the army in 1916 during WW1


Name of Ship Corinthic Date of Arrival March 1916 Whence Arrived Wellington via Rio de Janeiro
Port of Arrival London Steamship Line White Star Line
NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF BRITISH PASSENGERS

Donner, Julius D. 29 M. Thomas St. London Sheepfarmer New Zealand

He is recorded here arrving in England in March 1916, presumably to report for duty.

UK incoming passenger lists

Julius D Donner	
Birth Date:	1887
Occupation	sheepfarmer
Age:	29
Port of Departure:	Wellington, New Zealand
Arrival Date:	15-Mar-16
Port of Arrival:	London, England
Ship Name:	Corinthic
Shipping Line:	White Star Dominion Line
Official Number:	115296

In the early 1920s a few court cases involving money were reported, and one in which Julius and his sister Ellen Donner were sued for an alleged breech of a grazing contract.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT.
Poverty Bay Herald, 20 May 1920

TOWN EDITION.
Poverty Bay Herald, 15 November 1920

ACTION FOR DAMAGES.
New Zealand Herald, 15 August 1922

GEAZING CONTRACT CASE.
New Zealand Herald, 16 August 1922

Before leaving to serve overseas, Julius had been in love with a young Maori girl called Lucy Herewini and evidently she has been pregnant with his child when he left New Zealand.

(Jules Dunlop Donner was born in June1916 and died in 2006.)

2006/18570	Donner	Jules Dunlop	18-Jun-16

Ten years after this liaison occurred, it was considered newsworthy by a cheap tabloid which took the opportunity to make fun of his situation.

With the salacious headlines typical of this seedy rag, Julius was then harried further in relation to his financial extravagences.
NZ Truth 7 October 1926

AFTER TEN YEARS

War Hero Must Pay For His Son

(From "N.Z. Truth's" Opotiki Rep.)

Ten-year-old happenings had their sequel at the Opotiki Magistrate's Court last week, when Mrs. Fanny Warren, a native, asked for maintenance in respect of the illegitimate child of her neice, Lucy Hiriwini.

JULIUS DONNER was named as the father of the child, who is ten years of age, and was present in Court. Defendant was not present, nor was he represented.

Mr. N. V. Hodgson represented complainant and stated that defendant lived with the neice, Lucy, over 10 years ago.

After the boy was born he made various payments towards maintenance, but latterly had been neglecting them.

Lucy Hiriwini, mother of the boy, stated that she lived with Donner in 1915. He afterwards went to the war.

He made two payments of £30 each to her, but then the payments stopped. When he came back from the war he paid nothing.

She kept the baby for three years, then her aunt, Mrs. Warren, took him. Donner is the father of the boy.

Mrs. Fanny Warren, of Opotiki, stated that after she took the boy she remembered Donner giving her an order for Lucy to draw £30 quarterly from a solicitor, but he only made two payments.

He went to the war and when he came back Lucy was married.

After defendant returned from the war he made her (witness) several small payments.

He also gave her an order some months ago for some clothing. He had never denied being the father of the boy, who is called Julius, after him.

Counsel said that defendant lived in Gisborne and was in the fortunate position of not having to work.

His people were also very wealthy and he is in an excellent position to pay maintenance.

At one time he offered to pay 30/- per week and counsel asked for an order for that amount.

The magistrate (Mr. G. W. K. Kenrick) ordered defendant to pay £20 for past maintenance and to continue payment of 21/- per week until the boy is old enough to earn.

Donner's Dilemma

NZ Truth , 13 January 1927

JULIUS DUNLOP DONNER, the gay young son of noble birth who has been much in the limelight lately, is still before the public gaze.

A few weeks ago "N.Z. Truth" related how Julius was adjudged the father of the illegitimate child of a young woman in the Bay of Plenty, the case unfolding a ten-year-old romance.

Some time later Julius attained further notoriety by featuring in an action in Auckland where it was shown that he had been having a high old time in the Queen City, running up a substantial hotel bill for which his widowed mother refused to stand.

Now Julius has been haled before the Supreme Court at Gisborne on a petition to have him adjudged a bankrupt. When the matter was first called it was stood down for a few days, and subsequently adjourned until next session.

Julius would seem to have a lot of little troubles.

Dismal Dunlop Dormer

NZ Truth, 10 March 1927 ….over page

He's Worth £18,000, but He Can't Get At It

Peeps Into Purple Past of Joyless Julius

(From "N.Z. Truth's" Gisborne Representative.)

JULIUS DUNLOP DONNER seems to be a living testimony to the truth of the old saying: "Life is just one damned thing after another."



TO add a little originality to the quotation, it might be described as "one thing after another after Julius."

The first thing after him —"N.Z. Truth" readers will remember it—was an application that he be adjudged the paternal progenitor of a child in the Opotiki district.

And the application did not chase him in vain—it caught him well and truly.

Within a week or two Julius again features in the news. This time his mother had been chasing him in Auckland, and a hotel-keeper had been chasing Julius' mother with a substantial bill for champagne suppers, which indicated that the erring son had been having a gay old time in the Queen City.

This time there were a couple of misses. His mother missed Julius and mine host who had extended the credit did not catch Julius' mother.

Last Supreme Court session at Gisborne an application sought to have Julius adjudged a bankrupt, but the evil day was put off.

Personal Questions

Further light was thrown on Julius' little misfortunes at the Gisborne Magistrate's Court last week, when his knibs stepped into the witness-box to explain his inability to meet a judgment taken against him in December last.

According to Julius, he is due to come into an estate of £18,000, but it appears that in the meantime he is cut off with the proverbial shilling.

How it all comes about Julius himself has mainly told, and the rest is written very clearly between the lines.

The Donners are one of the oldest and most respected families in Gisborne and Julius is the last of the line.

His own statement is that while the estate is valued at £18,000, like a good many others before him he can't raise enough to pay his tailor.

Even more dramatic is the admission that this scion of a noble race actually served "time" for 18 days, although there is an £18,000 estate awaiting him.

When Julius explained the matter to his own solicitor, Lawyer Stan. Beaufoy, he was brief and to the point.

Under the conditions on which the estate had been settled, he said, the Public Trustee allowed him an annuity of £300 a year, but every bean of this was assigned to a creditor to reduce a "mortgage" and Julius received nothing except a shilling or two now and then from his mother.

Since the judgment was obtained he had earned nothing, but he was negotiating for a half-share in a property in the Bay of Plenty.

Then Lawyer "Pat" Nolan got to work.

First of all, he wanted to know what efforts Julius had made to get work and was promptly informed that he had made "indirect efforts."

The answer did not suffice and further probing elicited the information that the only "indirect effort" Julius could directly recollect—although he assured counsel there were several others—was an application for a job as traveller for the Gisborne Wine and Spirit Co.

Judging by Julius' record during his short stay in Auckland, and his own statement that he had been arrested for being "cut," the wine and spirit firm missed the services of a good traveller.

Again Lawyer Nolan came at Julius about those other jobs and finally obtained an admission that he had not looked very hard for work since judgment was obtained.

"I don't see why I should," he added. "Ive got all my money tied up here and the Public Trustee should do something in the matter."

Then the questions became more personal. Counsel wanted to know who had the charge on the £300 annuity and despite his protests to the bench Julius finally had to answer the question. "It was Arthur Owen."

In case anyone doesn't know, Arthur Owen is one of the most prominent figures in Gisborne.

Julius' bill to Arthur was only a small amount of about £1400 and was for "money lent."

Julius said he usually lived with his mother in Gisborne, but although he never paid board there were other expenses, such as clothes.

His Drink Bill

Lawyer Nolan: But this judgment was for a bill of clothes?—Well, there are other expenses besides.

Still more personal did the questions become. "What does it cost you a month for drink?" demanded counsel.

Julius: Very, very little. The amount, in fact, is infinitesimal.

Lawyer Nolan: Are you prohibited? —No.

Well, then, you have been?—Yes, twelve months ago.

Have you ever been in trouble because of drink?—No, I have not.

Are you sure?—I'll admit I was "shot in" once, but I suppose I am not the only one.

How long ago was that?—Twelve months or so. On top of that I did 18 days for debt before I was let out, if you want to know. I did time to avoid filing. Why should I file when I've got enough to pay everything?

That's the question Julius has to answer next Supreme Court session unless the application is withdrawn in the meantime or again adjourned.

Anyhow, Julius satisfied the bench that his earnings since the judgment were not up to much and no order was made.

In 1833 Julius married Agnes Lewis (NZ BDM online)

1933/5024	Agnes	Lewis	Julius Dunlop	Donner

The following final appearance in the media provides some detailed explanation of the situation Julius found himself in.

It is presumably after this that Julius made his way to Ohiwa harbour, where he ended his days as a squatter in Duckers' old cottage, remembered by Leo as an interesting well-spoken Englishman who he could "listen to all day" if he had the chance.

NO ASSETS.

Auckland Star, 12 October 1933

GISBORNE FARMER.

REGULAR MONTHLY INCOME.

PRINCIPAL CREDITOR'S OFFER

(By Telegraph.—Own Correspondent.)

GISBORNE, this day

A bankrupt estate where debts, all to unsecured creditors, totalled £3269, against which there were on assets, but where the bankrupt, jointly with his wife, was in receipt of £43 per month income from a trust fund, was the unusual position revealed when Julius Dunlop Donner, described as a farmer, met his creditors yesterday afternoon. The fund referred to was held by the Public Trustee and was stated to amount to £16.750. It was suggested that the Court should be approached with a view to obtaining the release of some of this amount, but the principal creditor, "to show what he thought of it," said he was prepared to take half a crown in the pound.

In his statement Donner said he attributed his position to one cause—the attitude adopted by the native trustee. The mortgage on his property at Waimana had expired, and the trustee refused to renew it and bankrupt was refused mortgagor's relief. The property, with 2300 acres broken in and considerably improved, was sold for 10/ per acre, whereas it had cost 37/6 undeveloped. A further difficulty was opposition by relatives to probate of his mother's will, which gave the native trustee a chance to seize his mother's properties under a personal covenant clause. Under the mortgage he was jointly liable with his mother for £9000 on the Waimana property.

Bankrupt explained that his father died in 1895, and under his will he and his sister were beneficiaries in equal shares subject to a life interest of his mother. His sister subsequently died intestate and half her share reverted to him and the other half to his mother. In 1924 he got into difficulties, and under a deed of settlement £7000 was paid out to him. He signed a transfer to the Public Trustee and when he married recently he signed another deed providing for half of the income from the fund to go to his wife. Since his marriage he had been receiving £4 17/6 per week, but half of this was left with the trustee for the payment of accounts.

Mr. R. Gray, representing the Public Trustee, stated that the fund referred to amounted to £16.750, but he did not think this included money from the sale of the Longbush property. He was not in a position to say what could be done in regard to the fund, but the creditors could go to the Court for an order and the trustee would not oppose it.

Mr. K. A. Woodward suggested that the marriage settlement was of no effect, but the assignee, Mr. J. N. Nalder, said this point was open to dispute.

Mr. Woodward remarked that the net income received by bankrupt and his wife from the fund was £43 per month.

Donner said he was prepared to give half his share from the fund towards the creditors.

Mr. A. Owen: I am prepared to take half a crown in the pound now. That is what I think of it.

The meeting was adjourned to enable the trustee to consult with the Public Trustee.

Appendix 6 Burton and White

The early 1870's saw an excess of rural labour in the midst of an economic downturn in rural England, and the so-called "Revolt of the Field".

This coincided with a shortage of labour and a period of borrowing and infrastucture-building in New Zealand, under the expansionist policies of Premier Julius Vogel.

One result was a concerted period of organised emigration from England to New Zealand as New Zaland began to recover from its internal wars of the 1860's.
In October 1873 a system of "free nominated immigration" was implemented, whereby anyone already settled in New Zealand could nominate a friend or relative for a free passage to New Zealand.

But New Plymouth was not a poplular destination for emigrants.
It had been particularly hard-hit during the wars and it seemed less attractive than better-known destinations such as Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. Lacking a harbour, ship's captains preferred to offload immigrants elsewhere, so those intended for New Plymouth did not always actually arrive there. Government immigrant recruiting agents were provincially biased and, being paid on a per capita basis, naturally concentrated their efforts on destinations which were easier to sell.

Evenually, after much discussion, New Plymouth leaders devided to send their own agent to England, and in June 1874 the Taranaki Province appointed a New Plymouth settler, William Burton and his wife, for the role. Determined not to exaggerate the advantages of New Plymouth, and determined only to recruit immigrants "of the right stamp" Burton experienced great difficulties to begin with. 1874 has been described by Rollo Arnold as "the flood tide" of immigration to New Zealand, but by the time Burton became established in his role in the UK, the tide was on the turn. Good farm labourers had become less "taken for granted" and wages had begun to increase. Their employers had begun to actively oppose the work of emigration agents.

William Burton described these difficulties in a lengthy letter to the Taranaki Herald, written on March 9 1875 from Grimsby in North Linconshire. He also mentioned that he had decided on Lincolnshire as the recruiting ground with the greatest potential, and his forming a relationship with a "*good* local agent, who is known for many miles round, and has the confidence of the people all about."

The "*good* agent" was a grocer from the town of Laceby (near Grimsby) called John White. Prior to the arrival of Burton, John White had already demonstrated an intense interest in emigration as a solution to rural woes in North Lincolnshire, and had been partly responsible for a successful recruitment of about 200 settlers to Canterbury who had departed from Grimsby in September 1874 to sail on the *Geraldine Paget*.
(This is the same vessel on which the Duckers arrived in New Zealand in 1880.)
John White too wrote a lengthy piece for the Taranaki Herald.

These two letters (one from Burton and one from White) are reproduced on the following pages:

MR. BURTON'S MISSION TO ENGLAND.

Taranaki Herald, 2 June 1875

MR. BURTON'S MISSION TO ENGLAND.

THE DIFFICULTIES HE HAS HAD TO ENCOUNTER.

FOUR HUNDRED IMMIGRANTS NOW ON THEIR WAY.

'COLLINGWOOD' HAS NINETY-TWO ON BOARD.

'HALCIONE' HAS THREE HUNDRED.

ALL GOOD AGRICULTURALISTS.

By the mail to hand Mr. Hulke, the Immigration Agent, has received two letters from Mr. Burton, the Emigration Agent, who is now in England. As many of our readers we feel sure will be interested in what he has been doing, Mr. Hulke has kindly permitted us to make somewhat lengthy extracts from the letters, which show that neither Mr. or Mrs. Burton have been idle since they have reached home:—

COLONIAL VIEW OF EMIGRATION.

In the first place, like the rest of our Taranaki people, I possessed (when I offered myself for the work of an agent) only a colonial view of it, and the very manner in which I was supported by the public generally, put me on my mettle to do my very best. I was conscious, also, that I really knew the wants of the Province as regards the class of settlers suitable to develop its resources, and had the determination within me to succeed, and succeed well, if it were possible. With a good general practical knowledge of colonial life, and a strong attachment for Taranaki—hopeful, yet anxious—I landed on English shores, to work right heartily, and prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me; and few could or would have worked as *we* have done. A very little experience, however, soon showed me that the hopes of my friends must be disappointed—not from want of faithfulness to duty, energy, or ability; but from those various aspects of the case which could not be seen or comprehended on the other side of the globe.

EVERYTHING WAS AGAINST ME,

the first great barrier to progress being that Taranaki, though spoken of by most writers, either directly or indirectly, as the "garden of New Zealand," was commercially, practically, and as a part of the Colony, *nowhere*. All the preliminary working up in England, which was necessary to bring the public mind to regard New Zealand as *the field* for emigration, before much fruit could be gathered by the numerous local agents scattered over the land, had to be gone through again in order to bring forward Taranaki as a part of New Zealand worthy of public consideration,

TARANAKI PASSED OVER AS INSIGNIFICANT.

I feel convinced from those little inexpressible somethings which I have observed, and which cannot be put into the form of words, that our Province, when mentioned by lecturing agents and others, was either passed over as insignificant, casually mentioned as of little account, or disposed of as a place that had no harbour, and was the *rendezvous* of the native population.

This was only human nature. The local agents, who received so much per head, found it pay better and very much easier to get emigrants for the well-known places, such as Canterbury, Otago, Auckland, and Wellington, whilst special agents sent from the Colony of course worked solely for their own Provinces.

From the general ignorance of Taranaki, I therefore found myself without a foundation to work upon, hence the ground for a remark in my first letter to his Honor that I found the most difficulty in rejecting" what applications I had, they being found a class quite unsuitable, who did not care where they went to.

OTHER DIFFICULTIES TO ENCOUNTER.

The next great difficulty was that whilst other agents who came to England months before me arrived in time to take advantage of the agricultural strikes and lock-outs, I reached here just after the labourers had resumed work at high wages, the farmers being frightened at the emigration exodus; thus for a time there was no disposition for the further breaking up of homes, on the part of the particular class that we require. Again, *the time of year* was unfavourable as regards the sea voyage; the rough weather, and wrecks, and finally the 'Cospatrick,' being most potent and insurmountable obstacles, where other difficulties could be got over.

[Mr. Burton then describes under what difficulties and hardships he attended meetings. One time he had to ride sixteen miles on a freezing winter night in an open cart, and then to stand in the open air for an hour and a-half addressing the people. In one village he went to, he writes as follows:]

DIFFICULTIES OF SELECTING GOOD AGRICULTURALISTS.

"Many persons in the village personally invited to come and hear, dare not for fear of its being known that they were there, and so offending the farmers, squires, parson, &c. Now you will understand why so few of the agricultural class have been sent out, the difficulties in these cases being immeasurably greater in every way. I am satisfied that it takes more time, money, and labour to select and send out one hundred of those accustomed to farm work than a thousand of those of the ordinary emigrants. In a parish where we were on the 5th March, the farmers raised the wages from 2s. 9d. to 3s. per day directly our handbills were issued, and in nineteen cases out of

twenty, chapels and schoolhouses of all denominations were closed against us, and our only hope is in some large room in a public house, which farmers sometimes prevent our obtaining, or in a temperance hall, where there is one (from these we are never excluded), or in the open air, with a dirty street below, a leaden sky above, a freezing air around, and a wash-tub bottom upwards for a platform. On one occasion a wheelwright dared not move a cart from out of his work shop to give the women and speaker shelter, for fear of the consequences, and this was the land of the *free*.

A CLERGYMAN AND HIS WIFE OPPOSING EMIGRATION TO TARANAKI.

The clergyman in the village where we are now stopping for a time (Laceby, near Grimsley, Lincolnshire), a good central place for working round, has refused to sign any more certificates, and now his wife, when a poor woman went to ask for some old cast off clothes to help her to get enough to go with, told her that she would not give her anything if she was going to New Zealand; that she should not believe those people who went about imposing on the poor people, and getting them to go to foreign parts where they would be left to shift for themselves; that for her part she did not believe we had ever been to New Zealand, she would not believe us, nor the letters that were published either, and many other things. Thus they make more difficulties than there are, and frighten poor people out of what faith they are disposed to put in our statements.

By all this, you see the special difficulties as regards the very class that we want. Scarcely ever out of the sound of their own church bells, they can hardly realize the existence of any larger place than the village they were born in, even in England; and very much more difficult is it to make them believe in the existence of another land as large as England. Their perceptive and comprehensive powers are dormant, or move so slowly that it takes line upon line to renew the impression made, and confirm the faith just beginning to be exercised; and when at last, with half-uplifted eyes, they venture to tell the farmer, squire, or clergyman that they have made up their minds to go to New Zealand, it takes very little from those whom all their life they have been accustomed to regard as the repositories of learning and truth, to induce them to abandon the idea.

A HARVEST EXPECTED.

Reviewing all that I have written, it will not be difficult to understand that the first three months bore so little fruit: it was the seed time as regards Taranaki, and there must be time for that seed to germinate before the harvest could be reaped; and now it is a hand-to-hand fight whether *we* shall persuade them to go, or the squire-archy intimidate them into stopping where they are; the odds certainly being in favour of our opponents.

The moral of all this is, that the standard of expectation as to what we shall accomplish must be lowered on the part of our friends, or we shall certainly fall in their estimation; for the *right sort* cannot be got in any great *number* without more machinery at work.

DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED WITH THE WOMEN.

I cannot describe the difficulty that the long sea voyage is as regards the women, besides the general horror of storms and fire. They hear of the sickness and death that take place on most of the ships, as regards the children; and they would rather stop in poverty with their living infants, than reach a good land without them. In this matter, Canada, with its shorter voyage, has a great advantage. Again, such a number of them cannot get the necessary complement of clothes for so long a voyage; whilst what they stand in will do for Canada.

NO BUSH MEN IN ENGLAND.

I think you will have to manufacture your own bush men (as regards felling, &c.,) out of the raw material of muscle and sinew, for I do not think the English woodman, so far as I have come in contact with and observed them, will make better, if as good, as those whom you train; not an American axe to be seen at work anywhere.

STATEMENTS RESPECTING WAGES IN THE PROVINCE.

I agree with what you (Mr. Hulke) state about the agents here making outside statements as to wages, &c., doing harm, and I have never done it; if I had, my work would have been easier and more successful as to numbers, and yours would prove harder when you got them—my statements always being that they may expect 5s. and as much more as they show themselves worth.

A FEW WORDS TO TARANAKI SETTLERS.

I have abandoned the idea of (at all events for the present) visiting *various* parts of the country, experience and observation showing me that to select a good district, and work steadily upon that, will yield more good fruit than by any other plan; and this remark will explain the meaning of my letter sent by last mail and published in the HERALD, for I do not at present see any advantage to the Government (however I might like it) in visiting all those places where the friends of our old settlers live, whether it be England, Ireland, or Scotland.

MR. BURTON IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

I think I have found a county purely agricultural, where I have met with a *good* local agent, who is known for many miles round, and who has the confidence of the people all about. We understand each other, and can work well together, and I believe that if the free emigration keeps open this summer I shall be able to send to Taranaki a goodly number of sterling men, like some of the best of our early settlers; and if they are not poured in too fast the Province will ultimately reap the benefit from a moderate number of such, than from a swarm of others who could be obtained with far less trouble to myself in other places, and by other means. This county is Lincolnshire; I never was in it before, and have no friends hereabouts, and we are here solely for what we believe to be for the good of the Province.

FIRST LOT OF BURTON IMMIGRANTS FOR TARANAKI.

You will find from the various reasons given that only driblets will have left, and that the first number of our selection with a few exceptions will be those per 'Collingwood,' to sail 7th April. This will not be a large lot, yet though arriving in the winter will I feel sure be taken up, for they are *not* "duffers," but real good agricultural labourers. They may at first have a little of the heaviness of the English peasant, having lived in an atmosphere of subserviency, hardly daring to call their names their own, in some cases; but Colonial activity will soon brighten up what is good metal, though some of it may be a little rusty, and as I hope to follow this lot by a larger party, equally good, at the end of May, to arrive probably about the middle or end of September, I hope an effort will be made to do well by them, for much depends in the future on the accounts they send home of their reception and success.

CHARACTER OF THE IMMIGRANTS.

Their moral character is good; their habits temperate. There may be Good Templars amongst them, but I cannot say, having no time to enquire about that; and if I can satisfy myself that they are the sort to succeed, and to sustain, if not improve, the social fabric, it is enough. I will write more particulars about them in my next letter, but farmers may reckon on being able to get about the middle of July, trustworthy men who can go to plough, or do any other farm work, shepherds, &c., without needing to be shown how; and I hope if any have got those who do not suit them that they will be prepared to receive and engage those that will.

SMALL CAPITALISTS.

Whenever I can do anything in the way of capitalists I will, you may be sure; but it is a distinct branch of emigration labour, and directly opposed to what I am doing now—that is, that sort of people look upon us as the blackest of the black, and would as soon think of coming to our meetings as of committing suicide. I believe that lectures upon New Zealand, in connection with a panorama both describing and exhibiting its beauties, fertility, climate, resources, &c., disconnected with "free emigration" and the *name of an emigration agent*, would accomplish more in that direction that any other means which can be used.

I have found some parts of your last letter very useful to read at meetings, and people, good people too, cannot get it into their heads that a farm can be made out of solid forest, cannot understand how grass seed can grow without being harrowed in, or in fact anything hardly done without the plough.

W. M. BURTON.

Laceby, near Grimsby,
Lincolnshire, March 9, 1875.

LETTER A MONTH LATER.

Mrs. Burton and myself are over head and ears in work, gathering, guiding, directing, providing for, and getting off the comparatively few (ninety-two) souls, who are going by the 'Collingwood.' After what you said about the undesirability of many arriving in Taranaki in the middle of winter, I did not think it well to try and increase the number by this ship, but there would have been more only they had filled her up with others; but the balance of my selection will go in the next ship. Mrs. Burton went up to Louden a day or two ago, to provide vans to convey the emigrants from the railway terminus to the depôt, and to arrange messes on board ship, so as to add to their comforts by having friends and relatives together. This is done to counteract the efforts made to persuade the people that Government take no care of them, &c.

The seed which we have been sowing unsparingly as regards Taranaki, since our arrival, is now bearing fruit. Taranaki is getting known, and *we* are getting known, and we have got among us good a class of agricultural people as are to be found in England.

The dodges and falsehoods perpetrated by the farmers to prevent them coming, you cannot think of.

The 'Halcione' has been chartered to convey 250 statute adults. She sails on the 26th May; so, tell our farmers to be prepared to expect a lot of men who have been brought up to agricultural work. Those now sent by the 'Collingwood' are good agricultural people, who, I believe, will do themselves and the Province good. The difficulty of obtaining this class of labour is hard work at the best of it. There are twenty farming men besides their wives and children. Fully two-thirds of the difficulty of obtaining suitable emigrants rest with the women folk, who are unable to come to the lectures from having to attend to their children. This I expected, but did not think it would be so general.

W. M. BURTON.

Laseby, near Grimsby, April 5, 1875.

John White now writes a letter to the editor, further outlining the difficulties being faced.

MR. BURTON IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

Taranaki Herald, 11 September 1875

MR. BURTON IN LINCOLNSHIRE.

A WEEK'S LECTURING TOUR.

A FARMER INTERRUPTS HIM WHEN SPEAKING.

A COMICAL RESULT.

WE have received the following letter from Mr. John H. White, the North Lincolnshire Emigration Agent, who is acting in conjunction with Mr. Burton in procuring emigrants for this Province and Colony:—

To the Editor of the TARANAKI HERALD.

SIR,—Having seen in a recent issue of your contemporary, the *Budget*, some strictures and criticisms on your emigration agent and his work while in England, and knowing how obviously uninformed on the subject the writer must have been, having myself been witness to the diligent, discriminating, and unremitting toil with which Mr. Burton has spread information, selected suitable emigrants, and the remarkable success which has met his meriting labours, I feel I cannot do less than send a short note of information, which I have no doubt you will publish to satisfy enquiring minds.

APPOINTED EMIGRATION AGENT.

Some twelve months ago I was honored by appointment of Dr. Featherston with commission for emigration work, and had the pleasure of holding meetings and co-operating with Mr. Duncan, from the Canterbury Province, in his tour through North Lincolnshire. Succeeding after continued and patient efforts in raising a company of farm labourers and their families, I accompanied a party of nearly 150 souls in September of last year to London. They came out by the ship 'Geraldine Paget,' and one of their number, well known to me, kept a diary of his voyage out, which has been published here, and when it is stated that two thousand have been sold within a radius of some 30 miles, it will be understood that a consequently favourable impression as regards emigration to New Zealand has been made.

It so happened that the Agent-General mentioned North Lincolnshire in connection with my name to

MR. BURTON

who first ascertaining that the men here were of the right stamp, and that there was probability of *ultimate* success in the locality, went to work in good earnest until his name and Mrs. Burton's are household words through the whole district. Immediate result seems to have been looked for in New Plymouth. To have secured this, Mr. Burton must have gone to larger towns and sent out emigrants less desirable both in qualification and character, so to some extent sacrificing the future of the province, and throwing away the expenditure for special agency. Indeed, from perusal of newspapers to hand, I apprehend that the duties, difficulties, and dangers attending emigration agency here, are by no means understood with you, else some writers too ready to pronounce and condemn would have suspended judgment instead of foolishly rushing into print. At least, I think so, and the ship loads of carefully selected men, which will by the time this reaches you, have arrived, as well as the following statements of my letter will go to prove. First, in

SPREADING INFORMATION,

advertisements are practically useless so far as the farm labourer is concerned, for as a rule he does not read. The same class rarely assemble, as they have no political voice or social standing, and there are few rooms available for any meeting on their account. Then their knowledge is so limited that they can hardly be persuaded of the truth concerning the Colony, and their means so small that it is almost an impossibility to raise clothing for the voyage, let alone ship kits and railway fares to the ship. (Mr. Duncan paid all railway expenses for last year's party to Canterbury, some £70 besides finding clothing for some at the expense of the Province he represented.) Again in the months of our winter, November to March, it is impossible to get them to move; so that coping with these difficulties and others I will point out it speaks volumes for Mr. Burton's energy and discretion that 500 *souls have left Lincolnshire for Taranaki in April, May, and June.* Another difficulty and great one lies in the stern opposition to emigration shown by the bulk of our influential dwellers in the rural districts. So far is this carried that misrepresentation is common and opposition all but universal. An incident occurring not two days ago in connection with

will best illustrate some of the difficulties under which Emigration Agents labour, and perhaps as well prove interesting to readers of your paper. Leaving Laceby (the centre of our operations), a four miles dusty drive, brought Mr. Burton and myself to Grimby, where, taking train, we booked to Barton-on-Humber. Reaching this place by twenty miles rail-travel, we walked after tea some four miles to a secluded village further inland, also on the river bank, called South Ferriby. Here lay our night's work—

A PUBLIC MEETING

duly advertised by the Labour League, to which many of the men of the district belong. The place of meeting was to be of necessity out of doors. No school-room was obtained, and our advent was evidently an audacious thing. Announced to be taken at half-past seven, *the chair*, and, being the only available seat, well called *the chair*, was vacant till eight, no resident daring to occupy it. By this time the tardy gathering counted some one hundred and fifty squatted on the green bank of a retired highway leading from the village. The arrival of a brave spirit, locally well-known, was the signal for his immediate votal to the chair by the more timid villagers. Giving a brief speech, he called upon myself to address the motley and moving group. This I did, referring to the numbers gone to New Zealand—the news arriving of good reception and prospects on arrival—contrasting this with the helpless and hopeless condition of those before me, and giving reasons why they should copy the example so bravely set by those who had already gone. Mr. Burton followed me, outlining

THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF FREE PASSAGES,

detailing its conditions, meeting English objections, and explaining the reasons of the difference of remuneration here and with you to the farm labourer, was suddenly interrupted in an unexpected fashion, as I will now relate.

To my own eye, as witnessed,

THE SCENE WAS MOST LUDICROUS,

and even now, in recalling, I am terribly amused with the event. The chairman and speaker were on one side of the narrow roadway, with some dozen or two aside and behind them. The way itself was clear. The slope opposite was dotted some 20 or 30 yards along, and five or six yards deep, with the then tolerably attentive listeners. From the village up the hill I saw coming, with somewhat martial bearing and very measured tread, as if the comer meant something, a man I judged to be a farmer. Stalking on, I could not but take stock of him. His arms were behind him, hugging, as it were, across his back a thistle spud, sweeping nearly the whole width of the roadway, and as his hands came to the front on his consequentially thrown out chest, he cut quite an imposing figure. The eyes of the audience glanced uneasily towards him, as if they wondered what his coming boded. The suspense was short, for on reaching Mr. Burton's standing place, he drew his straightened figure higher yet if possible, and turning round,, rudely faced the speaker, blurting out in a threatening attitude:

"I authorise you to move off this ground *at once.*"

Somewhat startled by the interruption, Mr. Burton said, after a second's pause:

"Allow me to ask you a question, sir."

Replied the man, in a sullen tone: "I won't argue. I authorise you to move off this ground *at once.*"

"As a gentleman," said Mr. Burton, "allow me to ask you a single question."

"A gentleman," stammered the farmer. "I'll treat you as a gentleman. I'll lift my hat off to you."

And with the quickest courtesy said Mr. Burton: "And I will to *you*, sir."

Most comic was the picture now, and as the men and women crowded round the chief actors, one wondered where the present farce would end. Of course, antagonists as the two were, hats off only meant a short cessation of hostilities, and Mr. Burton, addressing the crowd, was stayed again by the parrot-like utterance of his interrupter: "I authorise you to move off this ground *at once.*" while he uplifted, as if to strike therewith, the implement he carried with him.

Very firmly but courteously did Mr. Burton refuse to yield without credentials of authority being given, and was proceeding with his address, when the man said: "If you say another word—*another word*—I'll lay hands on you."

"If you do that," said Mr. Burton, "the responsibility rests with you." And again he went on speaking.

Now came the tug of war. The interrupter became an assailant. He seized Mr. Burton by the collar of the coat. The crowd, in sympathy with the lecturer, closed angrily in, and but that their leaders counselled peace, would have put the farmer's bones in danger. Mr. Burton was now in illegal custody, and judging it the wisest plan to "stoop to conquer," allowed himself to be dragged down the hill, through the village street, till the crowd being doubled, the whole population was following, giving now and again a wild shout of derision to see what should come of the matter. It transpired that the farmer had been imbibing strong potations at the village inn, or he had never made such a fool of himself, and seeing a brewer's carter near as if to add to the incidents of the scene, he said—"Bring us a barrel of beer in the morning." Touching his cap, "aye, sir," said the brewer's man. "You must take me to the lock-up," said Mr. Burton, to his custodian, as they made their regal progress, but he was suddenly set free, while the farmer plunged into the familiar recesses of the village public.

Ready for the emergency, Mr. Burton seized the opportunity to address the increased audience on all the salient points of emigration, and was followed by the clergyman of the parish, who said he could confirm all the statements of the lecturer. His only son was in New Zealand, and he was personally sorry for the interruption of the meeting, as he himself loved freedom of speech. Before dispersing I said to the labourers, "We were only exercising an undoubted right of Englishmen —viz., public meeting on the highway so long as neither riot nor obstruction is caused, and this action to prevent your being made acquainted with the truth and enjoying a 'common' privilege is a stronger argument than we can adduce for your wholesale emigration to freer lands."

Thanks to us and hearty hand clapping closed the meeting, though groups of the villagers remained standing some time after, reviewing the events of the night.

The foregoing will show

THE DIFFICULTY OF GETTING LABOURERS TOGETHER,

the *animus* felt towards our work by employers, as though alcohol was immediately to blame. It was but the doing what many sober men in his position wish could be done, even the clergyman's action was a marked exception to the conduct of many of his class—the one in my own village even being so prejudiced with numbers like him that he will not even sign an emigrant's certificate of character; so that this incident in its features but fairly represents the present conditions of emigration agency.

Reverting to my original purpose in writing. Let me say that

MR. BURTON'S LABOURS HAVE BEEN INCESSANT.

Long walks and protracted meetings, repeated interviews, and tedious and multiplied letter writing, besides a number of nameless yet necessary duties, have filled up his time as none in the Colony can understand; nor will the worth of his work be known till the physical, social, and moral value of the emigrants he has selected is shown in a prosperous community, an increased revenue and the national consolidation which will, I feel sure, ensue, and be owing to the conscience which your agent has put into his work. As to a sneer I saw about "sleep and temperance lectures," Mr. Burton, I know, can afford to preserve a dignified silence. But I could not help an old English proverb coming to mind when I read it, about "measuring another man's corn with one's own bushel."

Hoping some of my own late neighbours and friends are amongst you ere this arrives, and that you will treat them well, as being good men they deserve to be treated,—I am, &c.,

JOHN H. WHITE,
The North Lincolnshire N.Z. Emigration Agent.

Laceby, near Grimsby, 8th July, 1875.



Open air meeting

image taken from

"*The Farthest Promised Land*" by Rollo Arnold

The following is the contents of the hand bill referred to in John White's letter:
(source: Taranaki Herald 13th October 1875)

Seven hundred gone from Lincolnshire. One or more large parties going immediately after harvest. Apply at once either to W. M. Burton, Esq., or Mr. John H. White, Laceby, near Grimsby, Lincolnshire.
Mr. & Mrs. Burton have been 22 years in New Zealand, and can give all information. Free passages through autumn. Emigrants arrived, write good news. Climate best in the world. Wages for farm labourers, 6 to 8 shillings a day of 8 hours, and cheap land easily got, mechanics wages higher still. Women who have gone, write that the voyage is nothing, and this is a capital time of year for going and probably the last opportunity of getting free passages for years to come. Early application is necessary as it takes some time to complete arrangements.
Intending Emigrants from any part of Great Britain can join these parties by writing as above, and applications are received for any part of New Zealand. Domestic servants command high wages (from £20 to £40 a year), and soon get homes of their own. Single young men would do well to marry before going. Ploughmen, shepherds, farm labourers, blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers Sec, will all do well. Five per cent, given for money in the Government Post Office Savings' Bank.
Tell everybody. On arrival every emigrant is perfectly free.



Farm labourers' meeting in a village square

image from "*The Farthest Promised Land*" by
Rollo Arnold

Results began to follow the hard work by Messrs. Burton and White:

Taranaki Herald, 28 August 1875

IMMIGRANTS PER 'HALCIONE.'

THE following, having been SPECIALLY selected by Mr. Burton for Taranaki, from Lincolnshire and other country districts, will be OPEN for ENGAGEMENT immediately on arrival :—

Farm Labourers, 64 ; General Labourers, 14 ; Carpenters, 4 ; Blacksmiths, 4 ; Saddler, 1 ; Shoemaker, 1 ; General Domestics, 26.

Apply to the Depôt Master, Marsland Hill.

W. K. HULKE,
Immigration Officer.

New Plymouth, August 12, 1875. 754 to

Taranaki Herald,18 September 1875

IMMIGRANTS PER 'CHILI.'

THE following, having been SPECIALLY selected by Mr. Burton for Taranaki, from Lincolnshire and other Country Districts, will be OPEN for ENGAGEMENT immediately on arrival :—

Farm Labourers, 31 ; General Labourers, 16; Carpenter, 1 ; Joiner, 1 ; Wheelwright, 1 ; Boiler Maker. 1 ; Single Women, 6.

Apply to the Depôt Master, Marsland Hill.

W. K. HULKE,
Immigration Officer.

New Plymouth, Sept. 7, 1875. 832 to

ENGLAND OR NEW ZEALAND FOR WORKING MEN?

HERE.	THERE.
2s. 9d. from light to dark !	6s. to 8s. for eight hours work !
Free action and speech brings notice to quit ! !	Free action and speech brings respect and power ! !
A life of hard work, and the parish at last ! !	A few years hard work, and a homestead for life ! !

Which for you ?

If New Zealand, write to Messrs. Burton and White, Emigration Officers, Laceby, near Grimsby. Free passages still given.

Copy of a handbill

(reported in Taranaki Herald 19th Feb 1876)

Below: Letters from satisfied emigrants, quoted by John White in a letter to Taranaki Herald published 16th December 1876

I have every reason to be thankful I ever left Home, as I suppose you still call it. When we have a day's work from a settler, it is 6s. and our tucker; but our work is chiefly contract, at which we have sometimes made 8s. and 10s.—and even 13s. a day.

I have a fellow workman lately out from ———, near Caistor, Lincolnshire, and we have just bought a quarter of a fat beast, as fine beef as ever was eaten, at 3d. a lb., and we buy our mutton, a good hind quarter, at 4d. per lb."

Another (married man) writes :—"I am happy to tell you that we are really better off here than we ever could have been in England, for I can assure you that we want for nothing of this world's goods; I only wish that you and I had come ten years ago. I should like more of my relations with me here, for I am sure they would not be so poor as in England. We shall have a nice bit of money by the time we are here a twelvemonth."

The following extracts have been taken from "The Farthest Promised Land" by Prof. Rollo Arnold:

"The main parties to leave the county for New Zealand during the Revolt came from north Lincolnshire, following the visits to this area by Duncan and Carter in April and May 1874. At one of their meetings a young grocer and draper, John H. White, was unexpectedly called upon to take the chair. White lived in the village of Laceby, on the edge of the wolds, four miles inland from Grimsby. As a result of this experience White became deeply interested in New Zealand immigration, and, on Duncan's recommendation he had, by May 1874, been appointed a sub-agent working closely with the Labour League. Throughout the summer he campaigned to make New Zealand known in his area, and although at first only a few recruits came forward, he persisted, to become one of Featherston's most valuable local agents. The lock-out ended in the Labour League's districts on 23 May [1974], as a result of an agreement between the farmers and the League, brought about by the conciliation efforts of influential friends of the labourers. This helps to account for the slow start to New Zealand emigration in north Lincoln-shire….."

"The Lincolnshire Labour League's first large party, of about 200, left Grimsby railway station on 15 September to join the *Geraldine Paget*, sailing for Canterbury. They had been recruited by John White, selected by Andrew Duncan, and were led by Henry Tomlinson, who had been foundation secretary of the League's Laceby branch…."

"Three months earlier, on 16 May 1874, the Taranaki Superintendent, Frederick Carrington, had arranged for the gifted Harry Atkinson (1831–92) to assume the leadership of the provincial government. ……
Exactly six weeks after accepting office, Atkinson farewelled William Mumford Burton (1830–93), an experienced Taranaki settler appointed to proceed to England as Taranaki's own emigration agent. …"

"Upon his arrival in England towards the end of 1874, Burton visited several districts, but was unsuccessful and returned to London much discouraged. Vogel, who was in London at the time, suggested to Featherston that Burton should be invited to visit the Grimsby district of Lincolnshire, where a lecturer was wanted to help the Laceby local agent, John H. White, who was continuing the good work he had begun in association with Carter and Andrew Duncan. Carter accompanied Burton to Lincolnshire, and introduced him to White. Burton began his Lincolnshire campaign with a public meeting in Laceby on 14 January 1875, and was soon having increasingly encouraging results. A firm friendship seems to have been quickly established between the Burtons and White, and together they made a good working team. Their first party, of ninety-two emigrants, sailed by the *Collingwood* on 13 April, and larger parties sailed by the *Halcione* on 27 May, the *Chile* on 11 June and the *Hurunui* on 23 November. On 1 June 1874 Burton was transferred from the service of the Taranaki Province to that of the General Government, and Mrs Burton was also placed on the payroll as Assistant Emigrant Agent…"

"…. the Burtons, concentrating on north Lincolnshire, in joint agency with John H. White, obtained 247 statute adults during 1876. This agency cost the New Zealand government £733.14s. 10d. for the Burtons and £130 in commissions to White…."

….. For the next few years the immigration work of the Agent-General and his staff was plagued by the shifting policies and contradictory instructions of cabinets unsure in their reading of the signs of the times. News reports and private letters must also have been carrying contradictory messages to potential recruits in rural England…."

"These vacillations in New Zealand government policy and public opinion began to appear during 1875. Featherston was initially given an order for 25,000 immigrants for the 1875–76 year, by Vogel. The New Zealand cabinet, probably influenced by the appearance of unemployment in some districts during the winter of 1875, reduced the order to 13,00, though considerably more were sent because Vogel read this to mean 13,000 ……"

"To bring his agency's expenditure within the reduced budget, **Vogel had to dispense with the Burtons, who returned to Taranaki later in 1877……"**

"New Zealand also was moving erratically towards depression during 1879. The cabinet finally accepted the reality of the situation in August and on the 15th telegraphed Vogel putting an end to free emigration for men. They were now to pay five pounds in advance, but women were still to come out free, on account of the imbalance of the sexes in the colony……"

The Duckers left Grimsby as "assisted imigrants" in 1880.
They had left it pretty late.

By this time the government had stopped the free passage scheme (presumably excepting those who had already been accepted) and active steps were now being taken to stem the tide of immigration.

The following is a selection from Taranaki Herald of reports referring to Burton and White over the years 1875 and 1876.

27-Jan	1875	23-Jun	1875	19-Feb	1876
31-Mar	1875	17-Jul	1875	8-Mar	1876
3-Apr	1875	21-Jul	1875	11-Mar	1876
10-Apr	1875	31-Jul	1875	5-Apr	1876
14-Apr	1875	25-Aug	1875	22-Jul	1876
19-May	1875	8-Sep	1875	26-Jul	1876
26-May	1875	11-Sep	1875	4-Aug	1876
2-Jun	1875	2-Oct	1875	16-Dec	1876
5-Jun	1875	13-Oct	1875	4 Jan	1878
16-Jun	1875	15-Dec	1875		

"Log Book of Mr. John King of Grimsby, Kept When Going to New Zealand" with notes also from John White and William Burton, was printed in Laceby and sold at the price of 2d. It was a sell out, and no doubt provided reassurance to those who feared the sea voyage. This diary can be read online at:
http://www.nla.gov.au/apps/doview/nla.aus-vn4691960-p.pdf

Appendix 7 The location of George Ducker's Homestead.

Haxey is one of the few places left in England where evidence of the old Medieval system of "strip" faming still exists. An aerial photograph or Google Earth view of the rural land shows remnants of the ancient "furlongs." (see Google Earth view below.) Ownership and/or occupation of these strips of land appears to have been constantly changing, but we do have a snapshot of the situation of George Ducker in 1846.

An earlier family history researcher, Bradley Walter, has compiled a list of Duckers, showing ownership and/or occupation of strips of land in Haxey, showing the traditional names of the areas where these strips are located.
The source of this list is a document referred to as **"Act of Tithe Redemption 1847".**

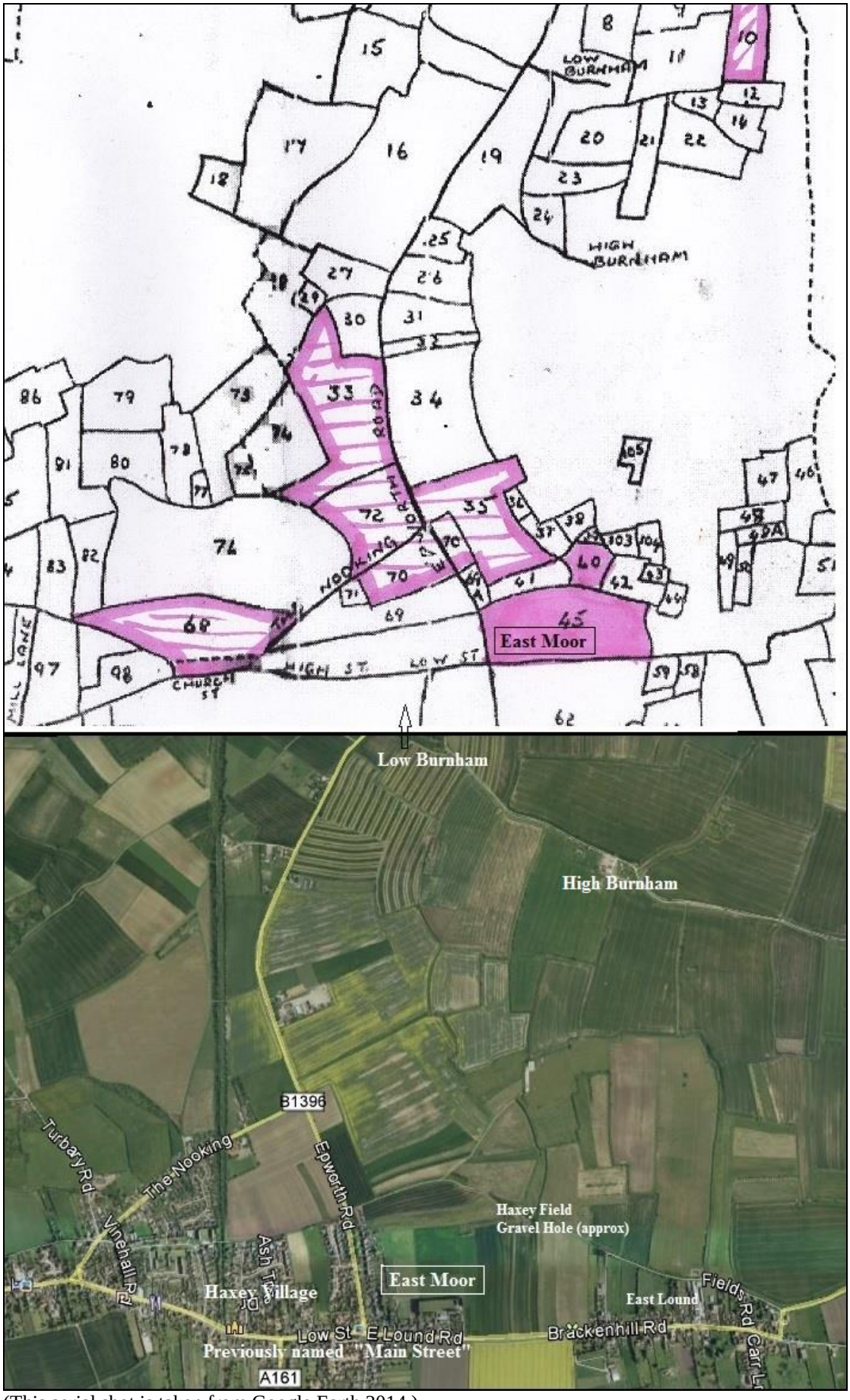
Those strips relating to George Ducker are shown here:

OWNER OF LAND	OCCUPIER	STRIP	NAME OF LAND	ACREAGE
Harris George (CL)	Ducker George	2322	H. Field Gravel Hole	1-2-10
Harris George (CL)	Ducker George	2323	H. Field Gravel Hole	- - -
Harris George (CL)	Ducker George	2324	H. Field Gravel Hole	- - -
Brock Mary	Ducker George	1821	Land in East Moor	0-2-23
Brock Mary	Ducker George	2410	Spring Urn Hill (G)	0-3-36
Gibson William	Ducker George	2148	Burnt Mill furlong	9-0-39
Gibson William	Ducker George	2237	Near Shaw Field	0-1-10
Gibson William	Ducker George	2240	Near Shaw Field	0-1-08
Gibson William	Ducker George	2249	Near Shaw Field	0-2-23
Gibson William	Ducker George	2257	Near Shaw Field	0-3-11
Gibson William	Ducker George	2276	Near Shaw Field	0-1-16
Gibson William	Ducker George	2279	Near Shaw Field	0-2-38
Gibson William	Ducker George	3040	Shepherds Hill	0-2-31
Gibson William	Ducker George	3057	Shepherds Hill	0-2-23
George Ducker	Himself	1770	East Moor furlong	0-1-37
George Ducker	Himself	1782	East Moor furlong	3-1-02
George Ducker	Himself	1783	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1784	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1785	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1786	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1790	East Moor furlong	0-2-03
George Ducker	Himself	1811	East Moor furlong	1-2-20
George Ducker	Himself	1812	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1813	East Moor furlong	- - -
George Ducker	Himself	1817	Homestead & Croft	2-2-04
George Ducker	Himself	1818	Homestead & Croft	- - -
West Sarah	Ducker George	969	N. Side of Haxey	0-1-22
West Sarah	Ducker George	1895	Burnt Mill furlong	0-1-31
West Sarah	Ducker George	1904	Burnt Mill furlong	0-0-29

An extract from the Index of Furlong and Field Names, and an accompanying map enable us to locate these strips

Haxey Field Gravel Hole	40	Shepherds Hill	33
East Moor	45	Near Shaw Field	35
Burnt Mill Furlong	70	Urn Hill	10
North Side of Haxey	68	Homestead and Croft	?
Burnt Mill Furlong	72		

This index, and the following map were taken from "More About Historic Haxey Parish"
(one of a series of booklets published by Haxey and Westwoodside Heritage Society)



(This aerial shot is taken from Google Earth 2014.)

Evidently in 1847 George Ducker owned strips totalling 8-1-26 acres[67], comprising strips within field 45, called "***East Moor***", in addition to his own croft and homestead (the area today is called Eastmoor.)

He was also occupying (renting) strips with a total area of 17-1-30 acres (7.06 hectares) in other fields around Haxey, including field 40, adjacent to East Moor, called "***Haxey Field Gravel Hole***."

East Moor (45) and ***Haxey Field Gravel Hole*** (40) are marked in solid colour on the fields map on the previous page.
George Ducker and his family had their homestead and croft in this locality.

Other land rented by George Ducker is also indicated on the map.
Typically, his strips were scattered within various fields around Haxey, according to what he was able to rent, buy or sell from time to time.

The census records of 1841, 1851 and 1861 do not give us a precise address for the family, simply referring to the household as being "***within the Field***" (1841) and "***Field***" (1861.) However analysis of the routes taken by the census recorder, confirm that George's homestead and croft is within or near to the eastern end of East Moor, adjacent to the area referred to as the hamlet of ***East Lound*** (today Eastlound.)

For an example of the reasoning, consider the route taken by the census clerk in 1861. The clerk commenced in ***East Lound***, which he recorded as the address of the first 28 households. He was walking in a westerly direction towards the village of Haxey.

When he got to households 29 and 30, the addresses are now recorded as "***Field.***" **(Number 30 is the Duckers.)**

Households 31 – 55 are referred to as "***Haxey East End Main Street***".
Note Brackenhill Rd. on the Google map. The old name for this road was "Main St.

Household number 55 is "***Brock's Mill House***" and 56-57 are called "***Brickyard House***." The recorder then walked north, and households 58-97 are referred to as "***Low Burnham***".
(Household 63, in the centre of the hamlet of Low Burnham, is the ***Plough Inn***, owned at that time by Thomas and Mary Ducker.)

After completing Low Burnham the recorder returned and travelled south east to the farm house of "***High Burnham***" (98) then (probably) further south to the last three households (99-101) whose addresses he recorded as "***Haxey Field***", which is probably back within the vicinity of George Ducker in "***The Field***."

Note on this Google map, "***Fields Road***" which defines the northern boundary of Eastlound. This further indicates the approximate location "***Field***", the address given to the Duckers' homestead by the 1861 census clerk.

In the 1841 census George Ducker is simply recorded as being a farmer.
In 1851 he is referred to as a "farmer, 10 acres"
In 1861 he has become "farmer of 46 acres".

[67] 8 acres 1 rood 26 perches = 3.4 hectares



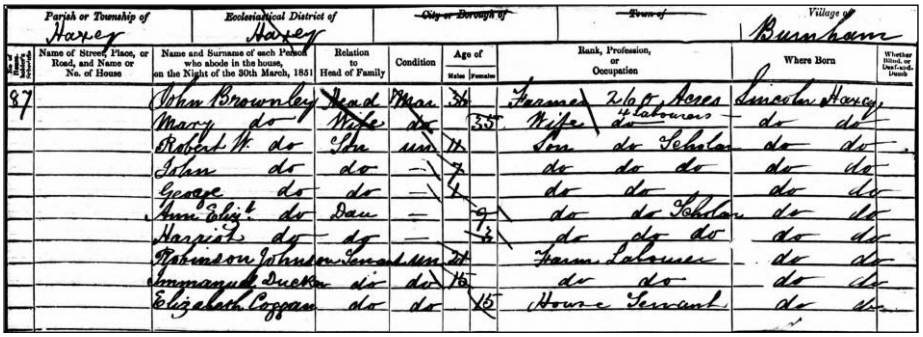
Map showing the approximate location of George Ducker's homestead and croft.

By considering the route taken by the 1861 census clerk, we know that it is located near the western border of Eastlound, east of Eastmoor, near to Fields Rd and south of a mill house.

The map also shows other places of interest, such as Westwoodside where James Ducker moved in the 1870's, and in the south, Bridge farm and the 40-acre "Duckers Field" which we can associate with Emanuel (James' elder brother). North of George Ducker's home, note Low Burnham (the location of the Plough Inn) and further north, Epworth, the birthplace of the Wesley brothers.

Appendix 8 Emanuel Ducker

Emanuel Ducker was the eldest son of George and Mary Ducker, and the elder brother of our ancestor James Ducker. He was born in Haxey before 14th July 1836. In 1851: farm labourer on a 260 acre farm in Burnham owned by John Brownley

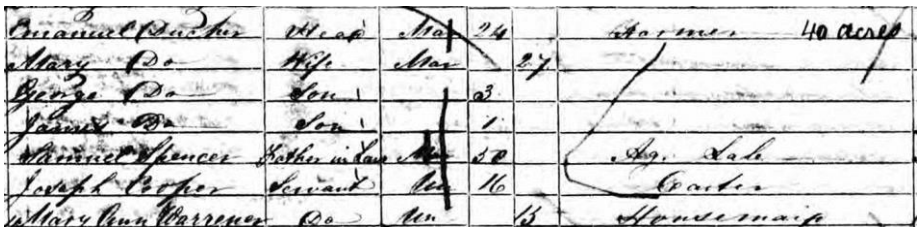


Parish or Township of Haxey	Ecclesiastical District of Haxey	City or Borough of	Town of	Village of Burnham

No. of Schedule	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Males	Age of Females	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
97		John Brownley	Head	Mar	38		Farmer 260 Acres	Lincoln Haxey	
		Mary do	Wife	do		35	Wife do 4 labourers	do do	
		Robert W. do	Son	unm	11		Son do Scholar	do do	
		John do	do	—	7		do do do	do do	
		George do	do	—	4		do do	do do	
		Ann Eliz.h do	Dau	—		9	do do Scholar	do do	
		Harriet do	do	—		3	do do do	do do	
		Robinson Johnson	Servt	unm	22		Farm Labourer	do do	
		Emmanuel Ducker	do	do	16		do do	do do	
		Elizabeth Coggan	do	do		15	House Servant	do do	

1851

Immanuel Ducker, age 15, farm labourer



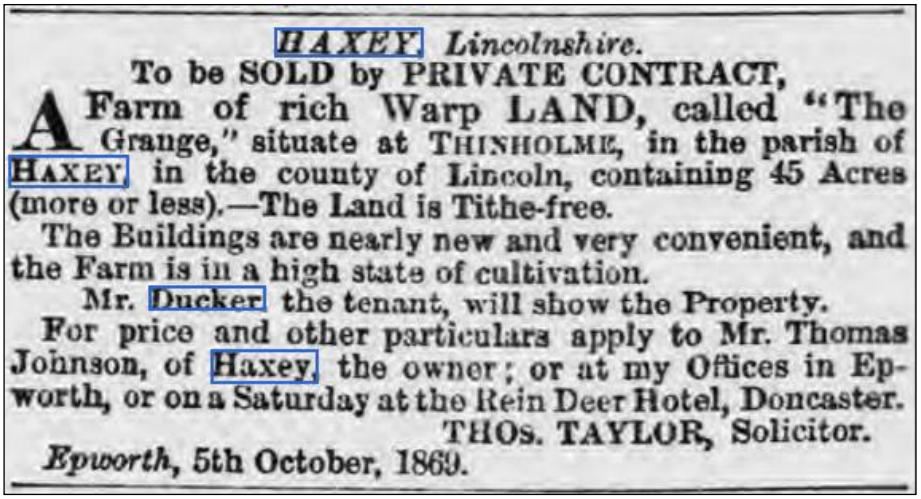
Emanuel Ducker	Head	Mar	24		Farmer	40 Acres
Mary Do	Wife	Mar		27		
George Do	Son		3			
James Do	Son		1			
Samuel Spencer	Father in Law	Wid		60	Ag. Lab.	
Joseph Cooper	Servant	Unm		16	Carter	
Mary Ann Warrener	Do	Unm		15	Housemaid	

Langholm 1861

Emanuel is a farmer of 40 acres.

He is now married, to Mary (Spencer) with two sons (George and James), a servant and a housemaid. Also in the household is Samuel Spencer (agricultural labourer.)

Friday 15 October 1869 , Stamford Mercury , Lincolnshire, England



HAXEY, Lincolnshire.

To be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT,

A Farm of rich Warp LAND, called "The Grange," situate at THISHOLME, in the parish of HAXEY, in the county of Lincoln, containing 45 Acres (more or less).—The Land is Tithe-free.

The Buildings are nearly new and very convenient, and the Farm is in a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Ducker the tenant, will show the Property.

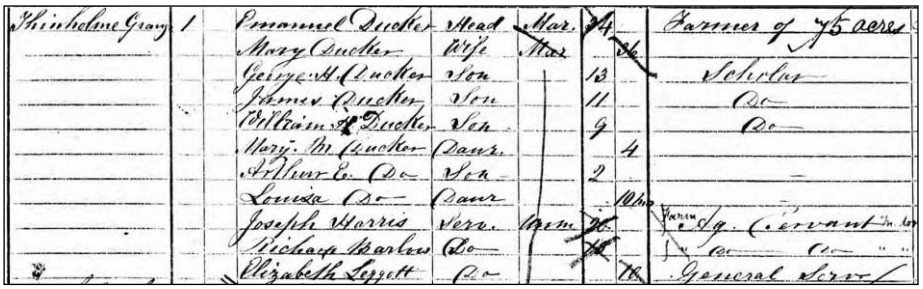
For price and other particulars apply to Mr. Thomas Johnson, of Haxey, the owner; or at my Offices in Epworth, or on a Saturday at the Rein Deer Hotel, Doncaster.

THOS. TAYLOR, Solicitor.

Epworth, 5th October, 1869.

Thinholm Grange 1869

Emanuel is recorded here as the tenant of this 45 farm.



Thinholme Grange	1	Emanuel Ducker	Head	Mar	34		Farmer of 75 acres
		Mary Ducker	Wife	Mar		36	
		George H. Ducker	Son		13		Scholar
		James Ducker	Son		11		Do
		William H. Ducker	Son		9		Do
		Mary M. Ducker	Daur.			4	
		Arthur E. Do	Son		2		
		Louisa Do	Daur.			10m	
		Joseph Harris	Serv.	Unm	16		Farm Ag. Servant
		Richard Barlow	Do		18		Do Do
		Elizabeth Leggett	Do			18	General Serv.

Thinholm Grange 1871

Emanuel now farming 75 acres

Children: George (13), James (11), William (9), Mary (4), Arthur (2) and Louise (10months) The household also has 3 servants.

Friday 24 June 1870 , Lincolnshire Chronicle , Lincolnshire, England

DUCKER (Emmanuel) and SPENCER (Richard), farmers, Haxey, *v.* EMERSON.—An action to recover possession of land and claim £15. Mr. Wilkinson for plaintiffs, and Mr. Bessely for defendant. The plaintiffs took a field at Stockwith, of John Clayton, in November, 1869, and in December following, an agreement was drawn up by Clayton, under-letting the same to the defendants, who took possession, paid £7 10s, and agreed to pay the rent when it became due. A few days after the agreement had been drawn up and signed, Clayton, the first tenant, became a bankrupt. The question was, had the plaintiff's gained legal possession and could they hold the same after the first tenant (Clayton) had become a bankrupt. the owner, Mr. Daniels, of Beckingham, having sold the field in question in the spring of 1870, to Mr. Emerson, who thereupon broke open the gate of the field, which was locked, and stocked it on the 7th of April, thereby preventing the plaintiffs' having the use of it and causing them to have to pay £1 a week for agistment of stock they had intended to turn in. Judgment for the plaintiffs with £15 for damages.

Emanuel and his brother in law take an action to recover some land, and claim £15.

The claim was successful.

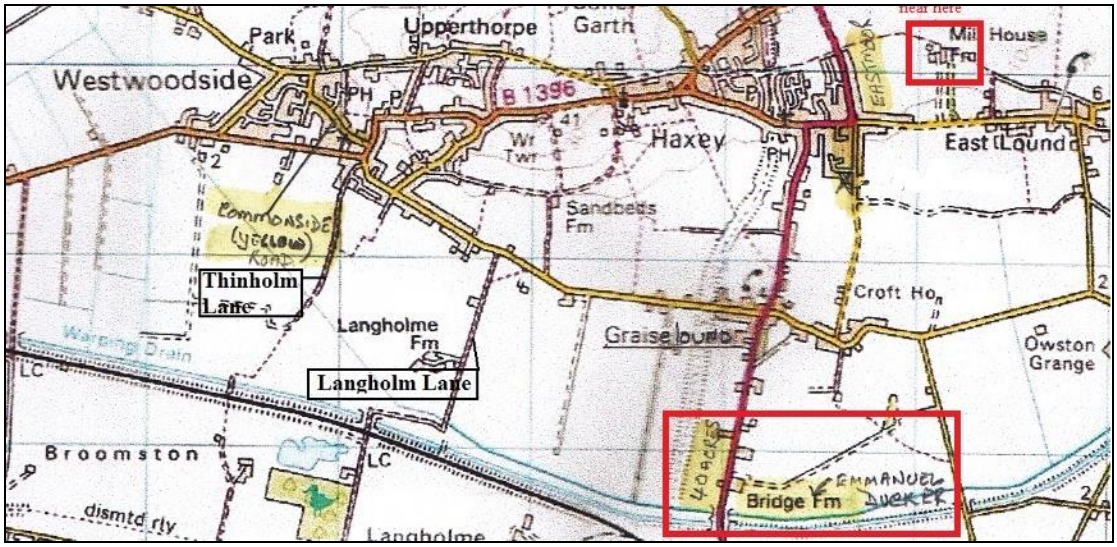
The 1876 Kelly's Directory for Lincolnshire directory lists Emanuel and gives his address as Bridge House. (His father George Ducker is also listed in this Directory.)

Ducker Emanuel, farmer & potato merchant, Bridge house
Ducker George, farmer

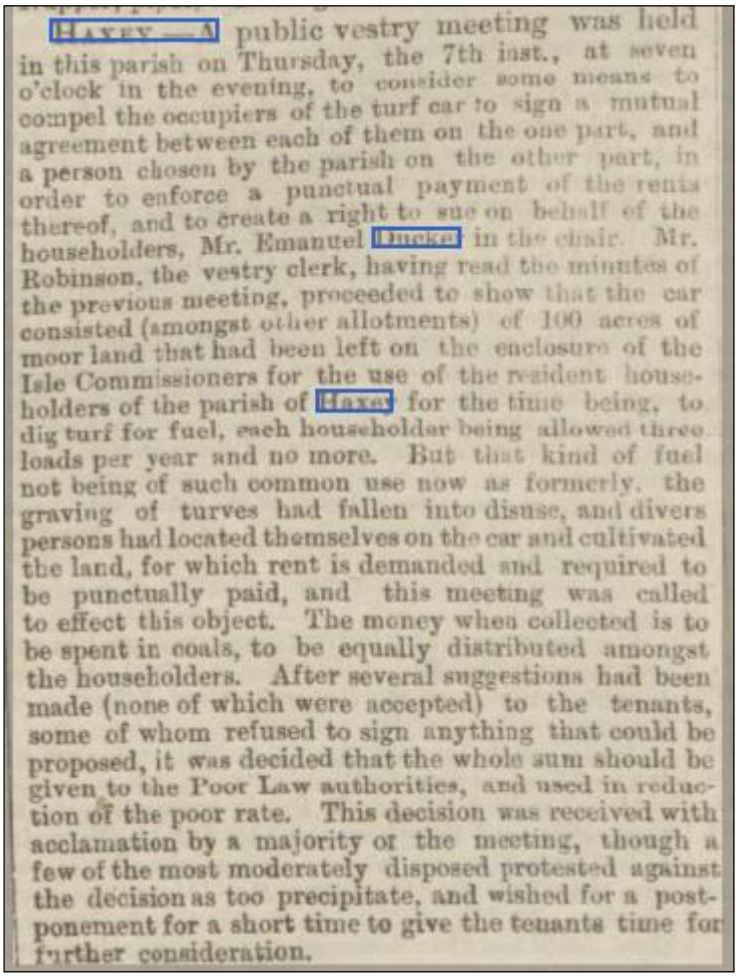
1876 Bridge House.
farmer and potato merchant

Below: Map of Haxey marked by Beryl Ward.
This map shows the places where Emanuel lived: **Thinholm Lane**, **Langholm Farm**, and (lower right): **Bridge Farm** at Graiselound.
Also marked is the 40 acres today known as "Ducker's Field".

Also **Commonside**, where James Ducker and family lived in the 1870s is marked in the southeast part of **Westwoodside,** near the top left hand corner.
(And the approximate location of the homestead and croft of George Ducker, where our James Ducker grew up, is marked by me, by the red square at the top right hand corner.)



Friday 15 December 1871 , **Lincolnshire Chronicle** , Lincolnshire, England



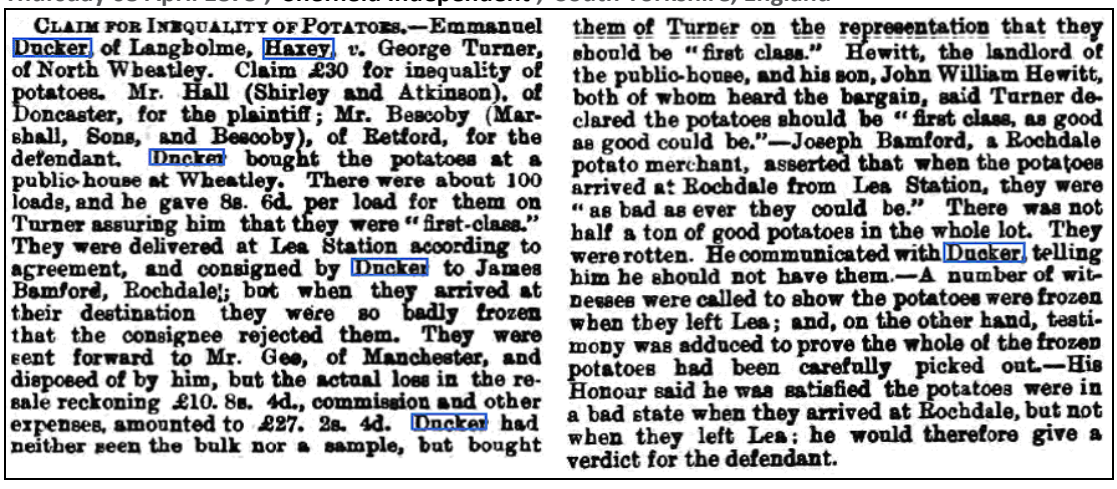
HAXEY.—A public vestry meeting was held in this parish on Thursday, the 7th inst., at seven o'clock in the evening, to consider some means to compel the occupiers of the turf car to sign a mutual agreement between each of them on the one part, and a person chosen by the parish on the other part, in order to enforce a punctual payment of the rents thereof, and to create a right to sue on behalf of the householders, Mr. Emanuel Ducker in the chair. Mr. Robinson, the vestry clerk, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, proceeded to show that the car consisted (amongst other allotments) of 100 acres of moor land that had been left on the enclosure of the Isle Commissioners for the use of the resident householders of the parish of Haxey for the time being, to dig turf for fuel, each householder being allowed three loads per year and no more. But that kind of fuel not being of such common use now as formerly, the graving of turves had fallen into disuse, and divers persons had located themselves on the car and cultivated the land, for which rent is demanded and required to be punctually paid, and this meeting was called to effect this object. The money when collected is to be spent in coals, to be equally distributed amongst the householders. After several suggestions had been made (none of which were accepted) to the tenants, some of whom refused to sign anything that could be proposed, it was decided that the whole sum should be given to the Poor Law authorities, and used in reduction of the poor rate. This decision was received with acclamation by a majority of the meeting, though a few of the most moderately disposed protested against the decision as too precipitate, and wished for a postponement for a short time to give the tenants time for further consideration.

Emanuel chairs a vestry meeting to consider how to enforce payment by occupiers of Haxey Carr.

(This was an area which in earlier times had been set aside for the common use of householders in Haxey Parish, for the graving of turf.)

In 1875 Emanuel Ducker lost a court case over a consignment of potatoes which had frozen in transit.

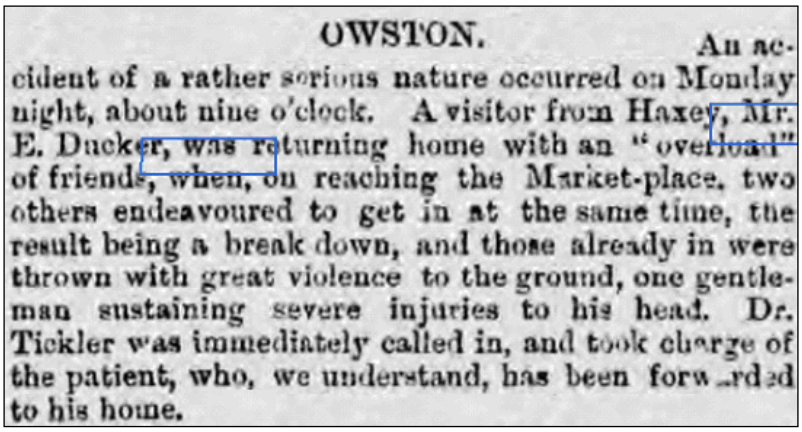
Thursday 08 April 1875 , **Sheffield Independent** , South Yorkshire, England



CLAIM FOR INEQUALITY OF POTATOES.—Emmanuel Ducker, of Langholme, Haxey, v. George Turner, of North Wheatley. Claim £30 for inequality of potatoes. Mr. Hall (Shirley and Atkinson), of Doncaster, for the plaintiff; Mr. Bescoby (Marshall, Sons, and Bescoby), of Retford, for the defendant. Ducker bought the potatoes at a public-house at Wheatley. There were about 100 loads, and he gave 8s. 6d. per load for them on Turner assuring him that they were "first-class." They were delivered at Lea Station according to agreement, and consigned by Ducker to James Bamford, Rochdale; but when they arrived at their destination they were so badly frozen that the consignee rejected them. They were sent forward to Mr. Gee, of Manchester, and disposed of by him, but the actual loss in the resale reckoning £10. 8s. 4d., commission and other expenses, amounted to £27. 2s. 4d. Ducker had neither seen the bulk nor a sample, but bought them of Turner on the representation that they should be "first class." Hewitt, the landlord of the public-house, and his son, John William Hewitt, both of whom heard the bargain, said Turner declared the potatoes should be "first class, as good as good could be."—Joseph Bamford, a Rochdale potato merchant, asserted that when the potatoes arrived at Rochdale from Lea Station, they were "as bad as ever they could be." There was not half a ton of good potatoes in the whole lot. They were rotten. He communicated with Ducker, telling him he should not have them.—A number of witnesses were called to show the potatoes were frozen when they left Lea; and, on the other hand, testimony was adduced to prove the whole of the frozen potatoes had been carefully picked out.—His Honour said he was satisfied the potatoes were in a bad state when they arrived at Rochdale, but not when they left Lea; he would therefore give a verdict for the defendant.

This seems to have been the start of a down hill slide in the fortunes of Emanuel Ducker, after his outstanding rise from farm labourer to farmer of 75 acres, employer and merchant. Within three years he was to face bankruptcy.

Friday 06 September 1878 , **Hull Packet** , East Riding of Yorkshire, England



OWSTON.

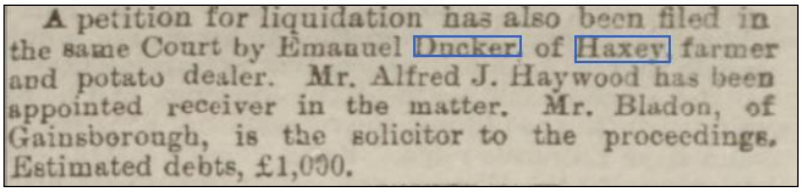
An accident of a rather serious nature occurred on Monday night, about nine o'clock. A visitor from Haxey, Mr. E. Ducker, was returning home with an "overload" of friends, when, on reaching the Market-place, two others endeavoured to get in at the same time, the result being a break down, and those already in were thrown with great violence to the ground, one gentleman sustaining severe injuries to his head. Dr. Tickler was immediately called in, and took charge of the patient, who, we understand, has been forwarded to his home.

One day Emanuel overloaded his cart with friends and was involved in a "break down" with two others, one person severely injured as a result.

By the end of December a meeting of Emanuel's creditors was held.

THE LONDON GAZETTE, DECEMBER 13, 1878.
The Bankruptcy Act, 1869.
In the County Court of Lincolnshire, holden at Lincoln.
In the Matter of Proceedings for Liquidation by Arrangement or Composition with Creditors, instituted byEmanuel Ducker, of Haxey, in the county of Lincoln, Farmer and Potato Merchant.
NOT1CE is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named personhas been summoned to be held at the offices of Mr. W. S.Bladon, in the Market-place, Gainsborough, on the 27th day of December, 1878, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.—Dated this 9th day of December, 1878.
WILLM. S. BLADON, Gainsborough, Solicitor for the said Emanuel Ducker

Friday 13 December 1878 , **Lincolnshire Chronicle**

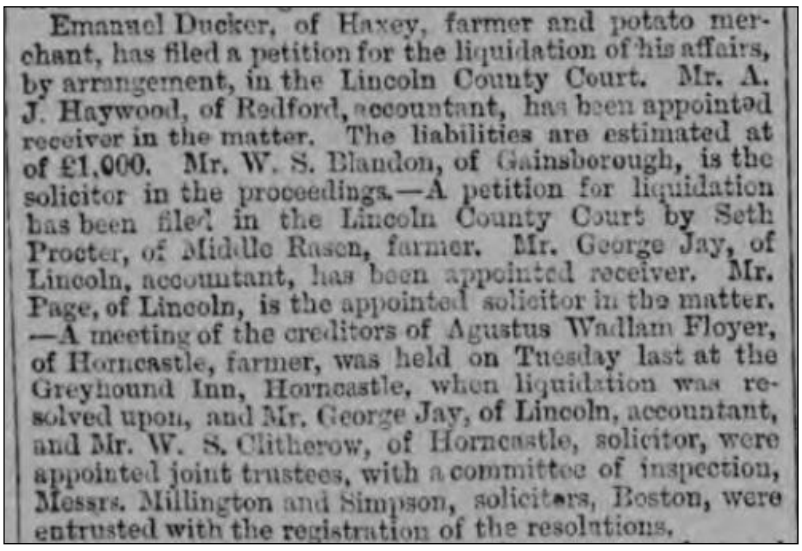


A petition for liquidation has also been filed in the same Court by Emanuel Ducker of Haxey farmer and potato dealer. Mr. Alfred J. Haywood has been appointed receiver in the matter. Mr. Bladon, of Gainsborough, is the solicitor to the proceedings. Estimated debts, £1,000.

Petition filed.

Liquidator appointed.

Friday 27 December 1878 , **Hull Packet** , East Riding of Yorkshire, England

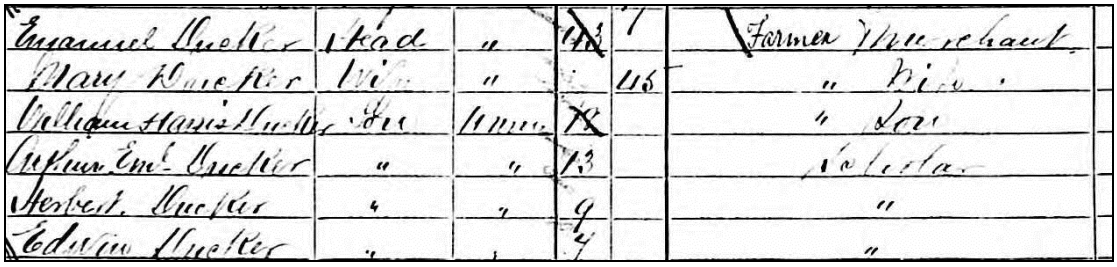


Emanuel Ducker, of Haxey, farmer and potato merchant, has filed a petition for the liquidation of his affairs, by arrangement, in the Lincoln County Court. Mr. A. J. Haywood, of Redford, accountant, has been appointed receiver in the matter. The liabilities are estimated at of £1,000. Mr. W. S. Blandon, of Gainsborough, is the solicitor in the proceedings.—A petition for liquidation has been filed in the Lincoln County Court by Seth Procter, of Middle Rasen, farmer. Mr. George Jay, of Lincoln, accountant, has been appointed receiver. Mr. Page, of Lincoln, is the appointed solicitor in the matter. —A meeting of the creditors of Agustus Wadlam Floyer, of Horncastle, farmer, was held on Tuesday last at the Greyhound Inn, Horncastle, when liquidation was resolved upon, and Mr. George Jay, of Lincoln, accountant, and Mr. W. S. Clitherow, of Horncastle, solicitor, were appointed joint trustees, with a committee of inspection, Messrs. Millington and Simpson, solicitors, Boston, were entrusted with the registration of the resolutions.

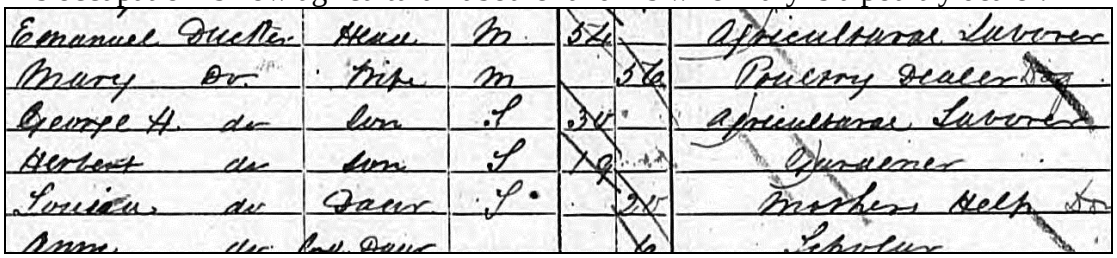
Liabilities estimated at £1,000.

Trustees appointed.

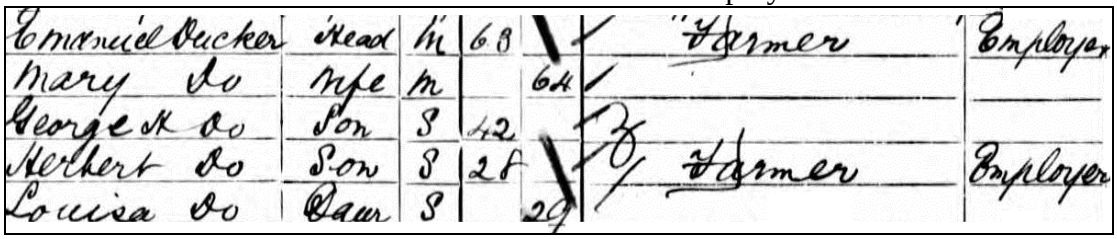
The **1881** census records Emanuel, his wife Mary and four children:
William (19), Arthur Eml. (13), Herbert (9) and Edwin (4).
Emanuel is still recorded as a farmer and merchant, but no acreage is stated.
There are on this day no servants living with the family, which is recorded as still living at Graiselound in 1881.



In **1891** Emanuel Ducker is recorded living in a "private house" in Main Road, Haxey.
His occupation is now agricultural labourer and his wife Mary is a poultry dealer.



By **1901**, Emanuel seems to have begun a recovery.
He is recorded in the 1901 census as a farmer and an employer.

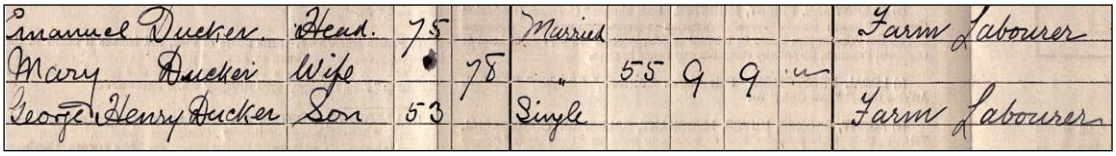


Mary Ducker, fowl dealer, trading between Doncaster, Gainsborough, and Haxey, was summoned at Gainsborough, on Tuesday, for cruelty to fowls by crowding 24 in a crate, 2ft. 11in. by 1ft 9in., and 11 inches deep, and in a hamper 2ft. by 1ft. 4in., and 1ft. deep.—The police evidence was that the fowls, packed one on the other, were gaping and exhausted.—Mrs Ducker said the police had made the case worse than it was. She had packed fowls for years, and ought to know.—Fined 5s and 4s 6d costs.

1907

Although not recorded as a poultry dealer in the 1901 census, evidently Mary was continuing what had been a long term occupation

In the census of **1911** Emanuel is once again recorded as "farm labourer."





In
Loving Memory of
MARY,
BELOVED WIFE OF
EMMANUEL
DUCKER
OF GRAIZLOUND,
WHO DIED MAY 6th 1913
AGED 79 YEARS.

UNTIL THE DAY BREAK.

ALSO OF THE ABOVE
EMMANUEL
DUCKER,
WHO DIED JANy 18th 1921,
AGED 84 YEARS

UNTIL THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY

Appendix 9 The Church History of the Duckers

After seven generations of recording all family births deaths and marriages at the conformist (Anglican) St Nicholas Parish Church of Haxey, we see George Ducker's family break this tradition for the first time, some time between the birth of our James Ducker in 1841, and the birth of his younger sister Susannah in 1845.
In 1845 they began to record family events in a non-conformist church register.

Clearly at some time prior to 1845 the family had broken ties with conformity and joined one of the Methodist non-conformist sects.
The earliest date at which this break took place is not totally clear, because it was possible (indeed at times necessary) for a believer with non-conformist faith to continue to register births deaths and marriages with the conformist church.

(Methodist couples had to marry in a Church of England parish church between 1754 and June 1837, and their marriages are therefore recorded in Church of England parish marriage registers regardless of their preference - see more at **http://www.devon.gov.uk/nonconformist**
This website does not explain the situation regarding baptism, but one would expect it to be the same, and we can perhaps assume that by 1837 a Methodist couple would be free to register the birth of a child in a Methodist register if they so wished.)

James was the last of our Ducker family to be baptised into the Anglican church of St Nicholas. It was in 1841 and if it were by then no longer compulsory for registrations to be done in the Anglican Church, then from this we can probably infer that the Duckers in 1841, like their forebears from generations back, were actually still worshiping in the Anglican Church.

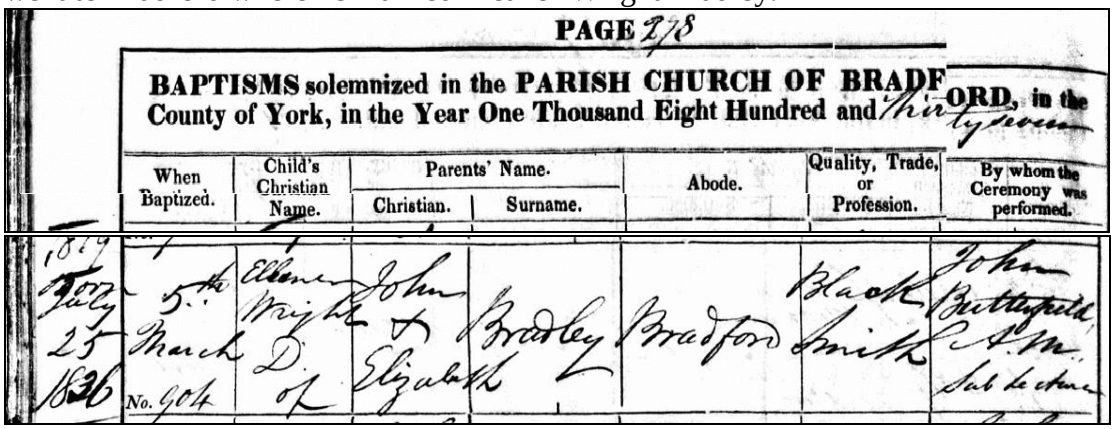
However, the next Ducker baptism which for which records exist, and the earliest recorded Ducker non-conformist baptism, is that of James's sister Susannah, who in 1845 was baptised in the Primitive Methodist chapel of Haxey. I think we can probably say that the Duckers broke their long tradition of association with St Nicholas Parish Church (Anglican) some time between 1841 and 1845, and went over to the Primitive Methodist church.

Evidence for this movement to the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Haxey is the set of booklets of Haxey Baptisms, which is a transcription of the Bishop's Transcriptions, and relevant sections of it were scanned and sent to me by Beryl Ward.
These transcriptions of transcriptions may well have the odd mistake.
Not one of the Duckers appears in these booklets as having registered with the Kilhamite or New Connexion chapel, as stated on the website Red1st.com, and I can only conclude that Red1st.com is wrong on this point, unless some convincing explanation can be found. (The Kilhamite New Connexion was another break-away from the Wesleyan sect, let by Alexander Kilham, of Epworth.)

In the website **myprimitivemethodists.org.uk**, Rev David Leese has written:
"Haxey is three miles south of Epworth, and typically for the Isle of Axholme the first Primitive chapel was erected in 1825, following on from the missioning of the villages by the first P.M preachers from Nottingham. It was on High Street with three Methodist chapels (Wesleyan, Methodist New Connexion, and Primitive) all within a few hundred yards of one another."

It was almost certainly this Primitive Methodist Chapel in Haxey, established in 1825, that George and Mary Ducker chose, when the family broke from conformism, probably between 1841 and 1845. They could may have formed links with that church from as early as 1825, but as already explained, it seems more likely that that break occurred after the baptism of James in 1841. The Haxey booklets make it clear that George Ducker's family then continued its association with the Primitive Methodist Chapel of Haxey until at least 1855, as they record the baptisms of John (1847), Harriot (1850) and William Henry (1855) all as being in the Haxey Primitive Methodist register.

We now continue the sequence of recorded Ducker church-related events in the next generation, by following the family of our ancestor James Ducker. Although he had been baptised in the St Nicholas Parish Church of Haxey in 1841, his parents George and Mary Ducker had, by 1845, turned to the Primtive Methodist Chapel of Haxey and he was brought up as a Primtive Methodist. He left home as a young man and went to Bradford where he married Eleanor Wright Bradley.



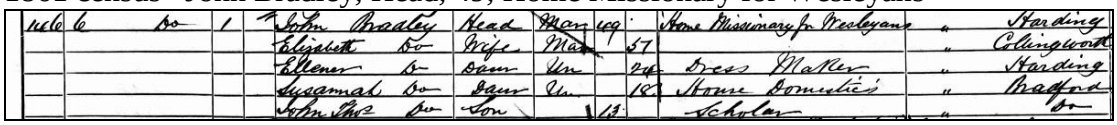
PAGE 278

BAPTISMS solemnized in the PARISH CHURCH OF BRADFORD, in the County of York, in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty seven

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name. Christian.	Parents' Name. Surname.	Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
1837 July 25 1836 No. 904	March 5th Eleanor Wright D. of	John & Elizabeth	Bradley	Bradford	Blacksmith	John Buttersfield C. M. Sub Lecturer

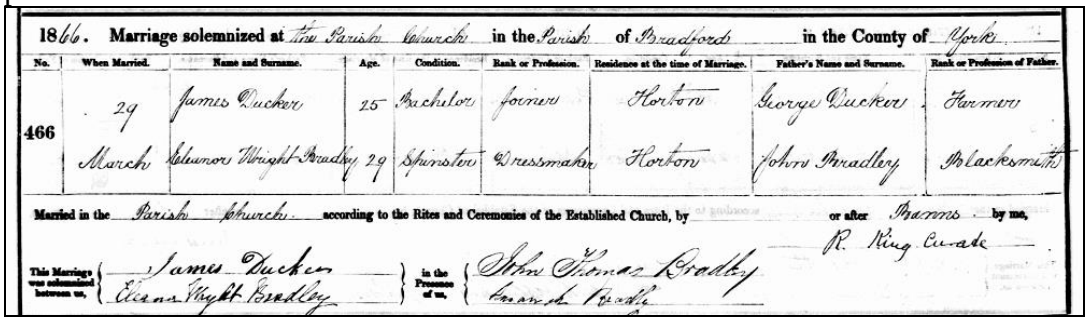
Eleanor too had been baptised in a Parish Church - the Parish Church of Bradford (conformist) - but by 1861 her father (previously a blacksmith) was registered in the census of that year as being a ""Home Missionary for Wesleyans" so it appears that by the time James and Eleanor got married, in 1866, the Bradley family had also been swept up in one of the non-conformist movements.

1861 census John Bradley, Head, 49, Home Missionary for Wesleyans



116	6	Do	1	John Bradley	Head	Man	49	Home Missionary for Wesleyans	"	Harding
				Elizabeth	Do	Wife	Mar	57		"	Edingworth
				Ellener	Do	Daur	Un	24	Dress Maker	"	Harding
				Susannah	Do	Daur	Un	18	Home Domestic	"	Bradford
				John Phil	Do	Son		13	Scholar	"	Do

James and Eleanor's marriage is recorded in the Parish Church of Bradford register in 1866 (conformist) and it is interesting to see here that John Bradley, the "Home Missionary for Wesleyans" has reverted to his occupation as blacksmith for this particular record.



1866. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Bradford in the County of York

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
466	29 March	James Ducker	25	Bachelor	Joiner	Horton	George Ducker	Farmer
		Eleanor Wright Bradley	29	Spinster	Dressmaker	Horton	John Bradley	Blacksmith

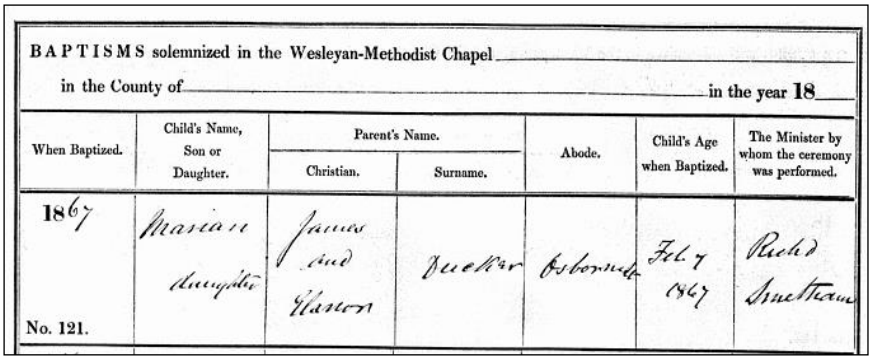
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by or after Banns by me, R. King Curate

This Marriage was solemnized between us, James Ducker, Eleanor Wright Bradley — in the Presence of us, John Thomas Bradley, Emma Bradley

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Wesleyan-Methodist Chapel

in the County of in the year 18

When Baptized.	Child's Name, Son or Daughter.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Child's Age when Baptized.	The Minister by whom the ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1867 No. 121.	Marian daughter	James and Hannah	Ducker	Osbornes	Feb. 7 1867	Richd Smethurst



The eldest of James's children, our ancestor Marian, was baptised in 1867 in a Wesleyan-Methodist chapel, on Richmond Terrace, Bradford.

The next two children, Ada and Ernest, were baptised together in 1870 in the Primitive Methodist chapel at Westwoodside. (Haxey baptism transcription booklets.)

Some time after 1870 James and Eleanor must have made a slight change in preferance, perhaps for reasons of doctrine but more likely a preference for the preacher, and they shifted from the Primitive Methodist to the Wesleyan sect, and there the baptisms of their next three children are recorded: Frank (1872 in the Wesleyan chapel of Westwoodside), Alfred (1874 in the Wesleyan chapel of Haxey) and James (1875 in the Wesleyan chapel of Westwoodside.)

Throughout the 1800s the Duckers lived in an area which had been something of a melting pot in the earlier days of religious evolution and turmoil. Haxey is only a horse ride away from Scrooby, an early base for the separatists who later became known as the Pilgrim Fathers. Haxey is the next village to Epworth, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley – and also the birthplace of Alexander Kilham who, after being expelled from the Wesleyan Conference of 1797, started the Wesleyan sect known as the Kilhamite New Connexion. These small villages had populations of only a few hundred souls. It is not at all impossible that Duckers, Wesleys and Kilhams, at different times, knew each other by sight, if not by name.

A recently established website called **myprimitivemethodists** contains some interesting articles by the Rev David Leese, and the following are some extracts regarding **Haxey Methodist chapels**:
"Haxey is three miles south of Epworth, and typically for the Isle of Axholme the first Primitive chapel was erected in 1825, following on from the missioning of the villages by the first P.M preachers from Nottingham. It was on High Street with three Methodist chapels (Wesleyan, Methodist New Connexion, and Primitive) all within a few hundred yards of one another.
It was replaced by the Haxey Memorial Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1909, situated across the road from the original site. .... This is now the only one of the three Methodist chapels in the village still in use. It has modern ancillary rooms and hall to the rear, and the chapel itself provides a modern worship facility."

(The original Primitive Methodist chapel which George Ducker and his family would have attended in Haxey, has therefore now gone, replaced, as described above.)
Leese also writes:
"Westwoodside Bethel Primitive Methodist Chapel, Lincolnshire
Westwoodside already had Wesleyan and Methodist New Connexion chapels when the Primitives formed a society in 1819 and built their first chapel in 1822, the countryside reported as being " on fire" with the missionary work of the first Ranter preachers who had only entered Gainsborough in 1818.

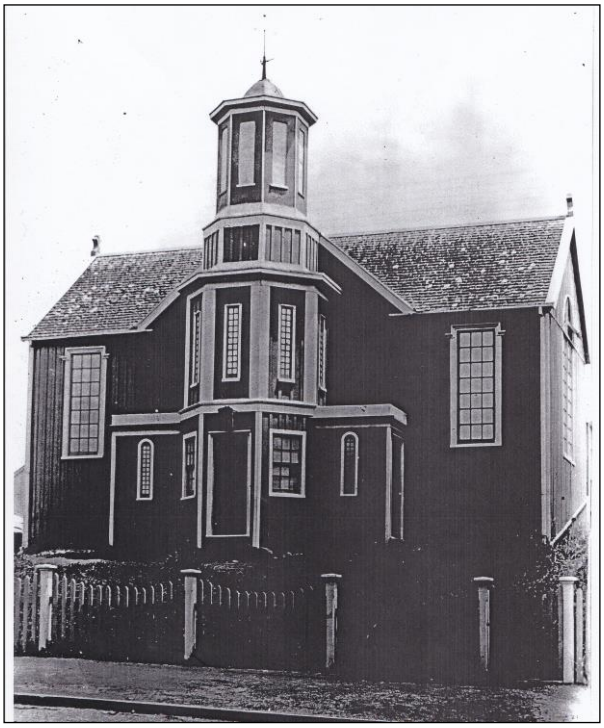
A second chapel was built in 1835, and the present one, the third in 1862. The chapel rebuilding was indicative of rapid growth. Furthermore a Sunday school was added in 1896. It had a large and well attended Sunday school, and when the District Commission visited in the 1960's it was determined to keep this chapel, which continues as the village place of worship, for though a part of the parish of Haxey, Westwoodside forms a separate settlement within the parish."



The third Westwoodside Primitive Methodist chapel referred to here, built in 1862, must surely have been the chapel attended by James Ducker and his family in the 1870s, and it is still a place of worship today.

This photograph was taken in 2012 and added to the website by Elaine and Richard Pearce.

http://daves-little-blog.blogspot.com.au/p/englesea-brook-chapel-museum.html
Primitive Methodism was a movement amongst working class people during the industrial revolution. The transformation of individuals, families and communities was often dramatic. Known as "Ranters" they were persecuted by mobs and gangs, they were often brought before magistrates and a number of their early preachers went to jail. The Ranters were well known for their lively singing and shouting. It was quite common for people to experience shaking, or to lie apparently motionless under the power of dynamic preaching inspired by the Holy Spirit.



There was a Primitive Methodist community in New Plymouth when the Duckers arrived in New Zealand, and no doubt earlier imigrants from Lincolnshire were present in the congregation.
There are no records now which provide evidence of James Ducker or his family being associated with this (or for that matter any other) church after they arrived in New Zealand. [68]
Marian was married in a registry office, and Frank, Alfred and Ada were all married in Anglican churches. Elizabeth went to a catholic convent in New Plymouth for her later schooling.

Primitive Methodist Church New Plymouth 1862 – 1904
Now the site of Govett-Brewster Art Gallery
(Photograph in Taranaki Museum)

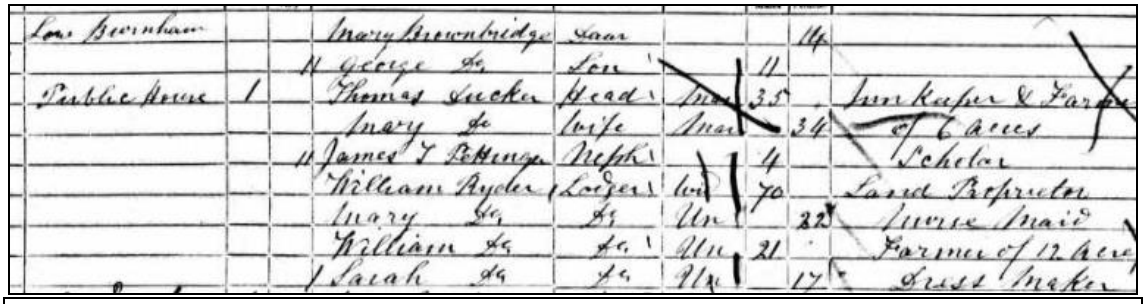
Marian Hooper (nee Ducker) was quite religious.
Her children were brought up as Methodists and the family remained so for at least a couple more generations.

[68] James Ducker did donate £2.0.0 to the Stratford C. of E. Building Fund (Taranaki Herald 10 Sept. 1889)

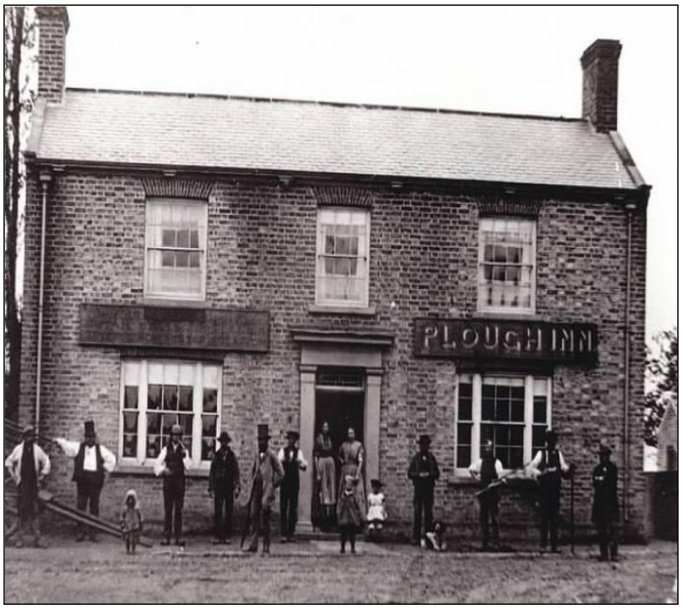
Appendix 10 The *Plough* Inn

It seems that no family research project would be complete without the discovery of an ancestrally owned pub. Our somewhat staid and abstemious Kenyon and Hooper ancestors remain a disappointment in this area – although it is said that William Wilson enjoyed a "wee dram" from time to time, and certainly Joseph Hawke was more than familiar with what New Plymouth had on offer in the early days. But the Duckers really did have a pub in the family, at least for a short period of time.

Thomas Ducker of Low Burnham (just a mile or two north of Haxey, in the direction of Epworth) had been a farmer of 50 acres (1851 UK census) but in the 1861 census is recorded as having reduced his interest in farming to just 6 acres, and having in addition the occupation of Inn Keeper.



Low Burnham	Thomas Ducker		Head	mar	35	Inn Keeper & Farmer	
Public House	Mary	"	Wife	mar	34		of 6 acres
	James T Pettinger		Neph		4	Scholar	
	William Ryder		Lodger	wid	70	Land Proprietor	
	Mary	"	"	un	22	Nurse Maid	
	William	"	"	un	21	Farmer of 12 acres	
	Sarah	"	"	un	17	Dress Maker	



Plough Inn Burnham
https://axholmecameraman.shutterfly

Thomas Ducker, the Inn Keeper in 1861, was a first cousin of our James Ducker.
His father Robert and James's father George were brothers.
George's family home and croft at the "Field" was a fairly lengthy walk from Low Burnham.
Still, maybe George enjoyed the odd draught at his nephew's pub.
Maybe James stopped in there sometimes too.
He was doing his wheelwright apprenticeship in 1861, when his cousin Thomas had the pub.

Low Burnham.
COMMERCIAL.
Ducker Maria (Mrs.), farmer
Ducker Robert, farmer
Ducker Thomas, *Plough* inn, & farmer

Post Office Directory of Lincolnshire 1861

However, the career of Thomas as an inn innkeeper was to last less than a decade.



BANKRUPTS

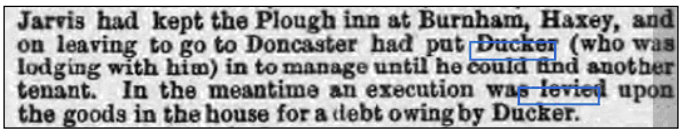
(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

Ducker, T., Burnham, Haxey, cattle dealer

Grantham Journal, Lincolnshire
8th January 1870

The judgement had been made on 28th December 1869.

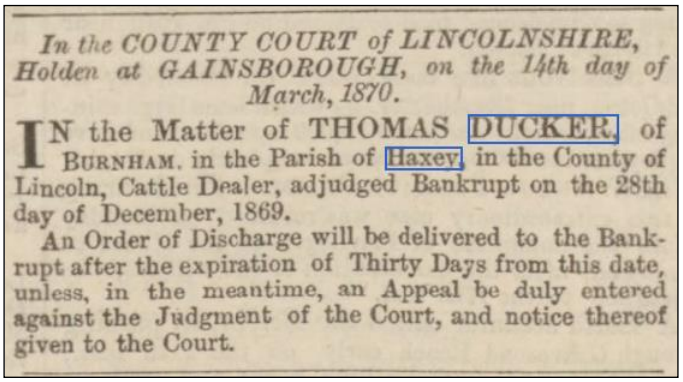
Friday 09 June 1871 , **Lincolnshire Chronicle**



Jarvis had kept the Plough inn at Burnham, Haxey, and on leaving to go to Doncaster had put Ducker (who was lodging with him) in to manage until he could find another tenant. In the meantime an execution was levied upon the goods in the house for a debt owing by Ducker.

Thomas had never actually owned the *Plough* Inn.

Friday 18 March 1870 , **Lincolnshire Chronicle**



In the COUNTY COURT of LINCOLNSHIRE, Holden at GAINSBOROUGH, on the 14th day of March, 1870.

IN the Matter of THOMAS DUCKER, of BURNHAM, in the Parish of Haxey, in the County of Lincoln, Cattle Dealer, adjudged Bankrupt on the 28th day of December, 1869.

An Order of Discharge will be delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of Thirty Days from this date, unless, in the meantime, an Appeal be duly entered against the Judgment of the Court, and notice thereof given to the Court.

Thomas Ducker was discharged in 1870.

The 1871 census records his occupation once more as cattle dealer.



Low Burnham showing the ***Plough*** Inn in the background.
(Illustration in booklet "Haxey Parish Times Past")

According to the website www.closedpubs.co.uk the ***Plough*** was closed in 1955 and became a private house.

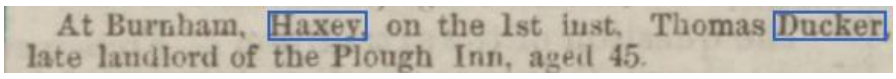
Now demolished.



Photograph by Beryl Ward 2014.

This is where the ***Plough*** once stood.

Thomas Ducker died in 1871



At Burnham, Haxey, on the 1st inst. Thomas Ducker, late landlord of the Plough Inn, aged 45.

Lincolnshire Chronicle **9/6/1871**

Appendix 11 The Talented Duckers

The New Zealand Duckers
The Duckers of Haxey were the sons and daughters of countryside farmers.
Haxey was a small village, and although there is ample evidence these people placed some value on schooling and literacy, it is hard to imagine that there was much opportunity for any form of higher education.
Yet the family produced some outstanding talent.

The family of James and Eleanor Ducker, who emigrated to New Zealand, were notably musically talented. The "Ducker bros" performed individually and as members of small orchestras throughout their lives. Frank, perhaps the most talented, was a singer, performer of comic songs and recitations, vaudeville – and even played a lead role in an opera. These boys grew up in rural Taranaki as pioneer farmers – where and how did they learn to become accomplished musicians?
Where did Frank learn to perform opera?

James and Alfred (the Ducker brothers) dammed a lake, dug a sluice tunnel and installed an electric turbine on their property at Newall Rd. The tunnel was dug in 1900-1901. This was about the time when the first attempts were being made to harness hydro-electric power. The Duckers' turbine was not the first in New Zealand. A water-driven turbine powering a house was reported in Hawkes Bay in 1893.
A report of it in the Hawera and Normanby Star 4th Jan 1893 might have been what gave the idea to James and Alfred.
By the turn of the century the idea was being discussed in Taranaki.

Maybe this following newspaper report is what inspired Alfred to dig the tunnel:

Hawera & Normanby Star, Volume XXXV, Issue 4124, 30 December 1898, Page 2

We have returned to this subject in order to draw attention to the fact that the immense motive power stored in the rivers and streams of Mount Egmont can be easily brought to our doors. All that it is necessary, is a shaft for the descent of the water on to the turbine and a power house for concentration of the current at the respective falls, a simple line of wire from thence to the town and a reduction and distributing house at the receiving end.

Hawera and Normanby Star 27 December 1900

New Zealand has no Niagara, but nevertheless there are numerous falls which would lend themselves readily to the electrical harness and yield up thousands of horse-power now running to waste simply for lack of enterprise and energy.

Where did these boys get the engineering expertise to build one of the first hydroelectric plants in Taranaki? (See pages 132 and 133)

Haxey produced another family of Duckers – cousins of our James Ducker, as it happens, who emigrated to America. One of them became a successful businessman, another was the President of the Illinois Operatic Society – and the third became famous as a self-taught scientist, scholar and teacher of Greek and Latin classics.
How and where did these boys from the village of Haxey obtain their early education?

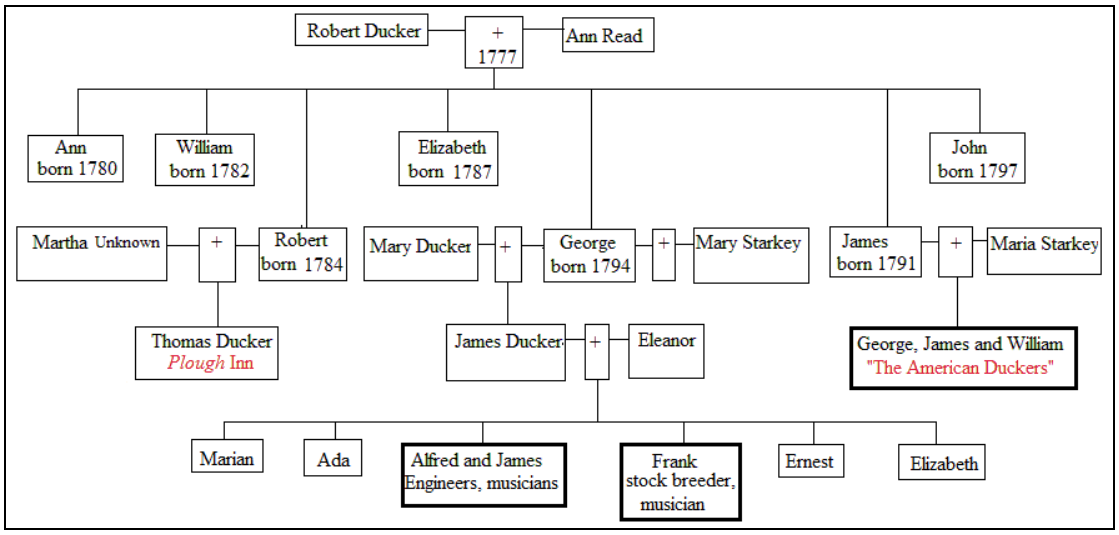
The American Duckers

George, James and William Ducker were cousins of our New Zealand James Ducker.

Their mother was Maria Starkey. Maria did not come from Haxey, and seems not to have been related to Mary Starkey who was the first wife of our George Ducker.

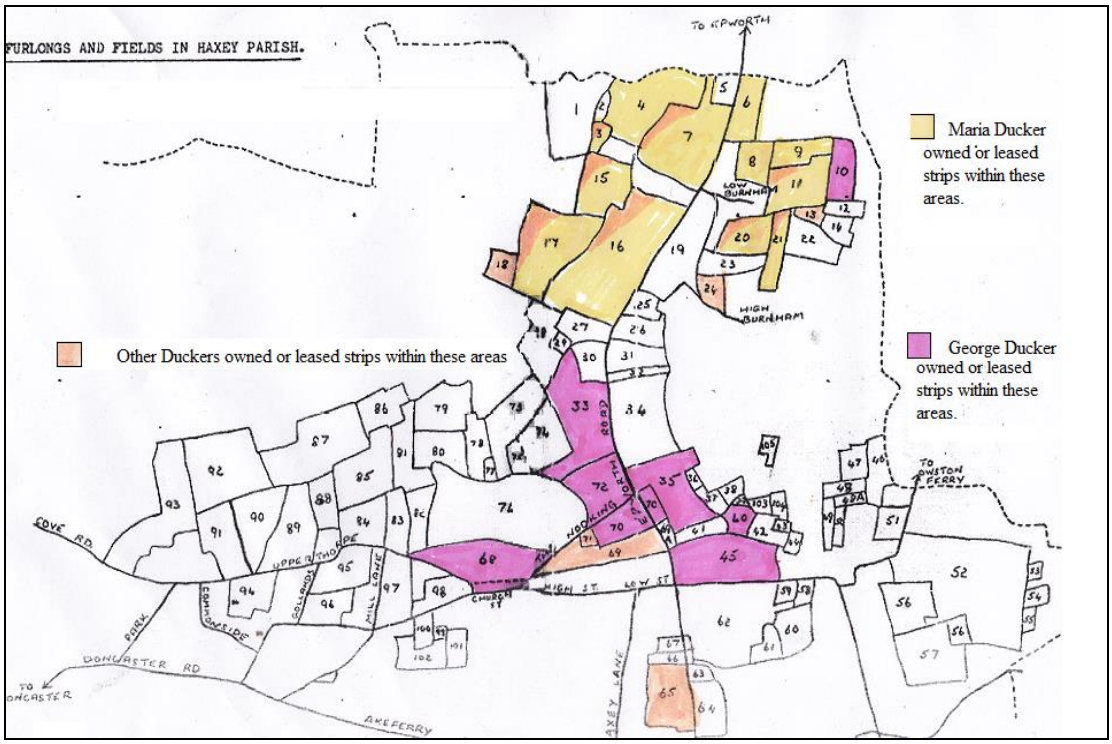
Their father was James Ducker, brother of our George Ducker.

Thomas Ducker "Plough Inn" "Our Duckers" "The American Duckers"



These three boys grew up in Burnham, about half way between the villages of Haxey and Epworth. Their father was a farmer, who died relatively young – and their mother Maria, perhaps unusual for the time, continued to manage the farm.

In the 1851 census is Maria is recorded as the head of the family, farmer, 32 acres. By 1861 the holding had grown to 42 acres.



Owner of Land	Occupier of Land	Plan No.	Name of Land	Acreage.
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3737	Rates Field	0-1-29
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3760	Red Flatt	0-3-33
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3800	Douthand Hill	0-2-19
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3802	Douthand Hill)	0-3-24
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3803	Douthand Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3827	Douthand Hill	0-2-30
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3873	Fister Stie	0-2-02
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3334	Burnham Ings	0-3-06
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3335	Burnham Ings	0-3-07
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3376	Dry Spot furl.(G)	0-3-17
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3710	Pease Lands	0-3-12
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2771	Rails Vin Hill	1-2-16
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2772	Rails Vin Hill	5-1-16
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2796	High Close	5-0-29
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2819	Dam Hill	0-2-31
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2834	Dam Hill	0-3-07
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	2848	Dam Hill	0-3-04
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3324	Skiers)	1-3-07
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3325	Skiers)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3490	Ings Field	0-2-30
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3557	Garden	0-0-22
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3585	House,Blg & Yd	0-0-33
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3618	Goose Hill)	2-2-30
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3619	Goose Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3620	Goose Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3620	Goose Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3620	Goose Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3622	Goose Hill)	2-2-30
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3623	Goose Hill)	---
Ducker Maria(LB)	Herself	3624	Goose Hill)	---
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3343	Bolton Intake(G)	1-2-07
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3341	Encl.Low furl.(G)	1-2-21
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3341	Encl.Low furl.(G)	1-1-02
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3506	Suckstall furl.)	2-3-15
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3507	Suckstall furl.)	---
Wroot Hannah	Ducker Maria	3508	Suckstall furl.)	---

Act of Tithe Redemption 1847.

Maria Ducker's land in 1847

Marked in yellow on the previous page.

Maria Ducker died in 1875



At Epworth, on the 18th inst., Maria, widow of Mr. James Ducker, of Burnham, aged 77 years; and on the

Lincolnshire Chronicle 26 Nov *1875*



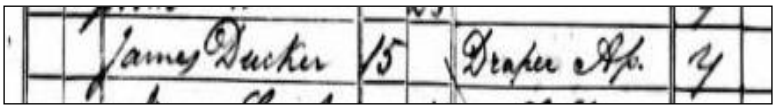
In memory of **JAMES DUCKER** of Low Burnham who departed this life April 7th 1844 aged 52 years
Also **MARIA**, wife of the a bove at rest Nov 18th 1875 aged 77 years.

(Ron Henderson collection)

Three of the sons of Maria and James Ducker are missing from the UK census of 1861.

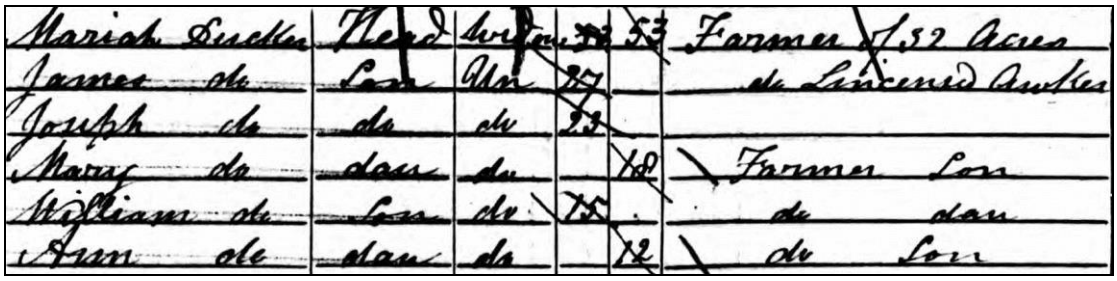
They are the "American Duckers": **James, George and William**, who each emigrated to America between 1851 and 1861.

James Ducker (Merchant of Chicago St., Joliet, Illinois)

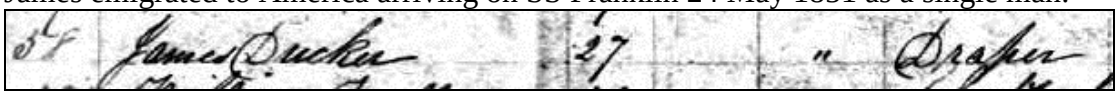


1841 census, James is recorded as a draper's apprentice.

In the 1851 census James is recorded as 27 and unmarried, occupation: farmer and "Licensed Awker". (Beryl Ward interpreted this for me: "Licensed Hawker.")



James emigrated to America arriving on SS Franklin 24 May 1851 as a single man.



James Ducker 5'8 27 years of age, occupation: draper
From the passenger list of the SS Franklin 1851

File contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by:
Deb Haines ddhaines@gmail.com November 10, 2007, 3:46 am
Author: Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County

"JAMES DUCKER. For many years one of the county's most influential citizens, Mr. Ducker was a pioneer dry-goods merchant and long held a prominent place among the business men of northeastern Illinois. When he started in business on the corner of Clinton and Chicago streets, in 1874, his was the first dry goods house on Chicago street; he continued to occupy Ducker's block, erected by himself, until his death, and meantime built up a very large trade in dry-goods, clothing and carpets. While he was in some respects conservative, yet in business matters he was progressive, and he always led in matters bearing favorably upon the welfare of the people or the development of local interests. With Hon. George H. Munroe he took an active part in the building of the Joliet theatre, and for a time was president of the company that erected the building. He also bought the old Exchange hotel site, adjoining Barrett's hardware store, on Chicago street, where he had a frontage of sixty-six feet. So high was the opinion in which others held him as a merchant that after the Chicago fire he was offered a partnership in the firm of Marshall Field & Co., with the position of foreign buyer, but he had left England on account of its unhealthful climate and felt it inadvisable to return to that country, so declined the tempting offer. During early days his opinion in regard to goods and purchases was often sought by western merchants, notably Marshall Field & Co.

The life which this narrative sketches began in Epworth, England, October 27, 1823, and closed in Joliet December 16, 1885. The Ducker family in a remote period migrated from Holland to England, where subsequent generations became prominent. James and Maria Ducker lived upon a farm at Epworth and were members of the Society of Friends. Their son, James, Jr., who forms the subject of this article, was apprenticed to the dry-goods business in Hull at fifteen years of age and served

for five years, after which he worked for wages. In 1852 he came to America, hoping that the change would benefit his health. After a short time in Chicago he settled upon a farm in Frankfort Township, this county. One year on a farm convinced him that agriculture was not his forte in life. His crops were destroyed by hail and he gained nothing except experience. In 1853 he started one of the first stores in Mokena and during the twenty-one years of his residence there he became a prosperous merchant and large grain dealer.

After he had been in America for a time two of his brothers crossed the ocean to seek homes here. One of them, George, is now engaged in ranching near Red Cloud, Neb., and the other, William B., died in Nebraska.
In 1874 Mr. Ducker removed from Mokena to Joliet and began business in the block he had erected the preceding year. It had been his intention to rent the building and settle in Chicago, but, owing to the block being remote from the business center, it was impossible to secure a tenant, and he therefore decided to engage in business himself. His success was steady and encouraging, and continued without a break until his death. He was never active in politics, although he kept posted concerning national issues and voted with the Republicans. In religious belief he was a member of the Episcopal Church. His wife is a member of the Universalist Church.

In Chicago, in 1854, Mr. Ducker married Jennette Allison, who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, a daughter of John and Jane (Mason) Allison, natives of Paisley, Scotland. She was third among six children, five of whom are living, all but herself living in Sterling, Whiteside County, Ill. She was reared in Scotland and was twenty years of age when, in 1853, she came to Illinois. Her father, and grandfathers, James Allison and George Mason, were all manufacturers of shawls in Paisley, and the last-named was a prominent Presbyterian elder. She built the residence which she occupies, at No. 507 Union street. In her family there are five children living: James W., a merchant in Mokena; Maria J., wife of Dr. Lewis Beck, a physician in Red Cloud, Neb.; George A., who is represented on another page; John J., a merchant of Joliet; and Jessie M., wife of John S. Luthy, of Chicago, a trusted man in Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.'s wholesale house.

Additional Comments:
Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County Illinois Containing Biographies of Well Known Citizens of the Past and Present, Biographical Publishing Company, Chicago, 1900"

Notes: The statement (above) that the Ducker family migrated from Holland to England is interesting, if correct. However the Ducker family was certainly established in England long before Cornelius Vermeyden and his Dutch workers and shareholders came over to the Isle of Axholme to carry out the drainage scheme.

The reference to James's place of origin and growing up as "Epworth" is slightly inaccurate. He grew up in a village called Burnham, within walking distance of the neighbouring village of Epworth. It is most likely that American people would have had no idea where Burnham was, but many would have heard of Epworth as it was the birthplace of the Wesley brothers and the place of origin of a number of the non-conformist sects which took root in America.

It is natural therefore that the Duckers in America would tend to refer to their home village as Epworth rather than Burnham.



Ducker's Corner
Joliet, Illinois.

"When [James Ducker] started in business on the corner of Clinton and Chicago streets, in 1874, his was the first dry goods house on Chicago street; he continued to occupy Ducker's block, erected by himself, until his death, and meantime built up a very large trade in dry-goods, clothing and carpets." (Photo around 1900)



Joliet Opera House

"With Hon. George H. Munroe [James Ducker] took an active part in the building of the Joliet theatre, and for a time was president of the company that erected the building."

Another reference states that for a time he was President of the Joliet Opera Company.

(Photograph taken around 1900)

Above photographs: Howard and Lois Adelmann Regional History Collection Lewis University

Page No. 27

Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Frankfort, in the County of Wilk[illegible], State of Illinois, enumerated by me on the 29 day of July, 1870. 73

Post Office: Mokena P. E. Dodson, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation	Families, numbered in the order of visitation	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Description: Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, state months in fraction, thus, 6/12	Sex—Males (M.), Females (F.)	Color—White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate Owned: Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Parentage: Father of foreign birth.	Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	Attended school within the year.	Education: Cannot read.	Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	Constitutional Relations: Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.	Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards, whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or crime.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
205	211	Ducker James	47	M	W	Dry Goods Merch	2000	10000	England	/	/							/	
		Jeanette	37	F	W	Keeping house			Scotland	/	/								
		James	15	M	W	Dry Goods Clerk			Ill	/	/								
		Maria	13	F	W	at home				/	/								
		George	10	M	W					/	/				/				
		John	7	M	W					/	/				/				
		Jessie	5	F	W					/	/								

Census July 1870 Frankfort in the County of Wilks, State of Illinois. Mokena.

James Ducker, 47, married, white, Dry Goods and Services,
Value of real estate $2000, value of personal estate $10,000 Place of birth England.
His wife is Jeannette, 37, "keeping house". Place of birth Scotland.
Eldest son James, 15, Dry Goods Clerk. Other children Maria 13, George 10, John 7 and Jessie 5.

This shows the level of prosperity attained by James in 19 years, since leaving England.

In 1874 the family, home and business, moved to Nth. Chigaco St., Joliet.
Joliet 1875 Directory.

Ducker, James dry goods 43 and 45 N Chicago st.....res same
Ducker, James W clerk..... .....bds 43 and 45 N Chicago st
Ducker, Maria saleswoman.....bds 43 and 45 N Chicago st

Census 4th June 1880 City of Joliet, County of Wilks, State of Illinois.

D.

Page No. 16
Supervisor's Dist. No. 4
Enumeration Dist. No. 198

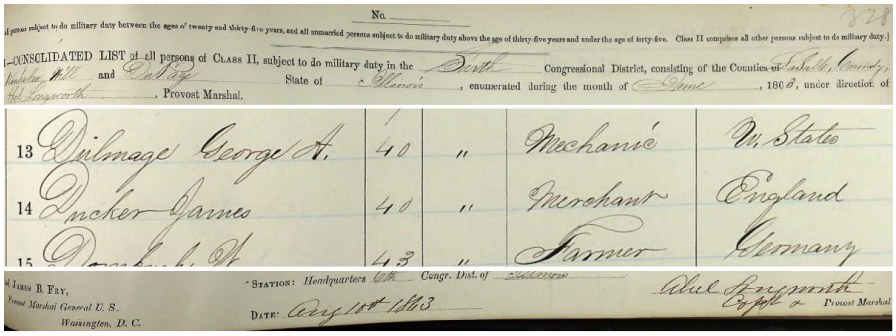
Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, and ends May 31, 1880.
Note B.—All persons will be included in the Enumeration who were living on the 1st day of June, 1880. No others will. Children BORN SINCE June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Members of Families who have DIED SINCE June 1, 1880, will be INCLUDED.
Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are not to be asked in respect to persons under 10 years of age.

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in the City of Joliet, in the County of Will, State of Ills.
enumerated by me on the 4th day of June, 1880.
James M. Ford

Ducker James	"	M	56			1	Dry Goods Merchant
" Jennette	"	F	48	Wife		1	Keeping House
" Maria	"	F	22	Daughter		1	Clerk in Store
" George A	"	M	21	Son		1	"
" John J.	"	M	18	"		1	"
" Jessie	"	F	15	Daughter		1	at School
Ducker Jamie	"	F	28	Servant		1	Servant

Ducker James, white, male, 56, married, Dry Goods Merchant - and family.

The American Civil War.
These documents were spotted by Beryl Ward and it is most likely that they refer to our James Ducker, dry goods merchant, from Burnham.



No. 824

A person subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty-five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty-five years and under the age of forty-five. Class II comprises all other persons subject to do military duty.]

CONSOLIDATED LIST of all persons of CLASS II, subject to do military duty in the North Congressional District, consisting of the Counties of LaSalle, Bureau, Henderson, Mercer and Rock Island, State of Illinois, enumerated during the month of June, 1863, under direction of Paul Angyal, Provost Marshal.

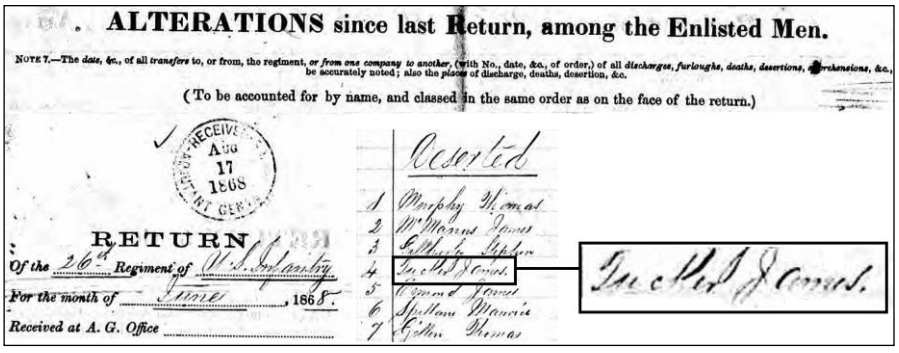
13	Dilmage George A.	40	"	Mechanic	U. States
14	Ducker James	40	"	Merchant	England
15	[illegible]	43	"	Farmer	Germany

Col. James B. Fry, Provost Marshal General U. S., Washington, D. C.

STATION: Headquarters 6th Congr. Dist. of Illinois
DATE: Aug 10th 1863
Paul Angyal Capt. & Provost Marshal

Military Service

Ducker James, 40, Merchant, England, Station: Illinois Aug1863



ALTERATIONS since last Return, among the Enlisted Men.

NOTE.—The date, &c., of all *transfers* to, or from, the regiment, *or from one company to another*, (with No., date, &c., of order,) of all *discharges, furloughs, deaths, desertions, arrests*, &c., be accurately noted; also the *place* of discharge, deaths, desertion, &c.

(To be accounted for by name, and classed in the same order as on the face of the return.)

RECEIVED AUG 17 1868 ADJT GEN'L

RETURN
Of the 26th Regiment of U.S. Infantry
For the month of June, 1868.
Received at A. G. Office

	Deserted
1	Murphy Thomas
2	McManus James
3	Wheeler Lyman
4	Ducker J. Jones
5	Osmond James
6	Sullivan Maurice
7	Gillen Thomas

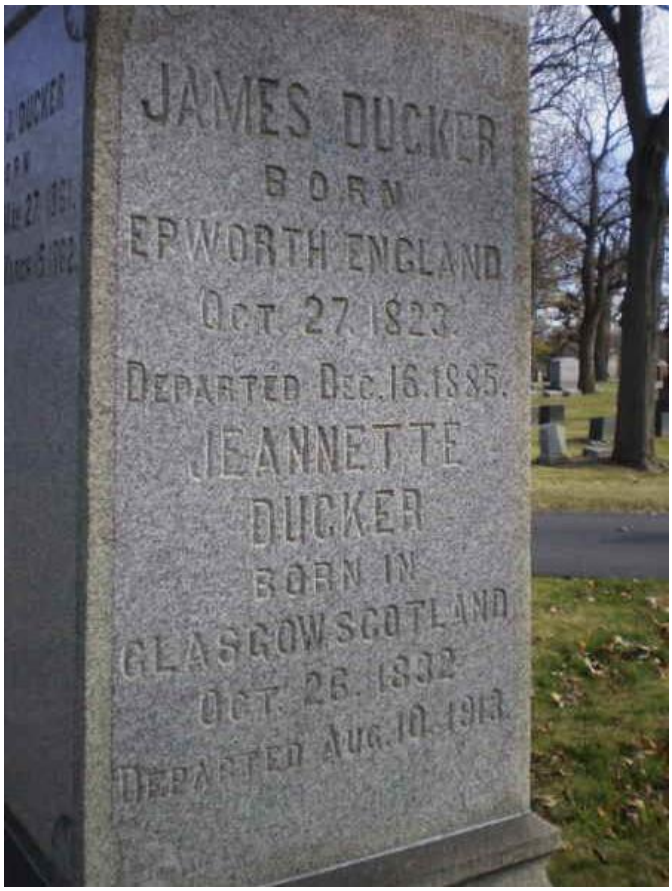
Ducker J. Jones

This document records that James deserted.

The date is significant. These men deserted in May/June 1868.

However the Civil war had been all but over by mid 1865.
Perhaps by 1868, sick of useless parades, they just refused muster and resigned informally.

James Ducker died on December 18, 1885.



James Ducker,
Merchant of Joliet,
together with his wife
Jeanette Ducker (nee Allison.)

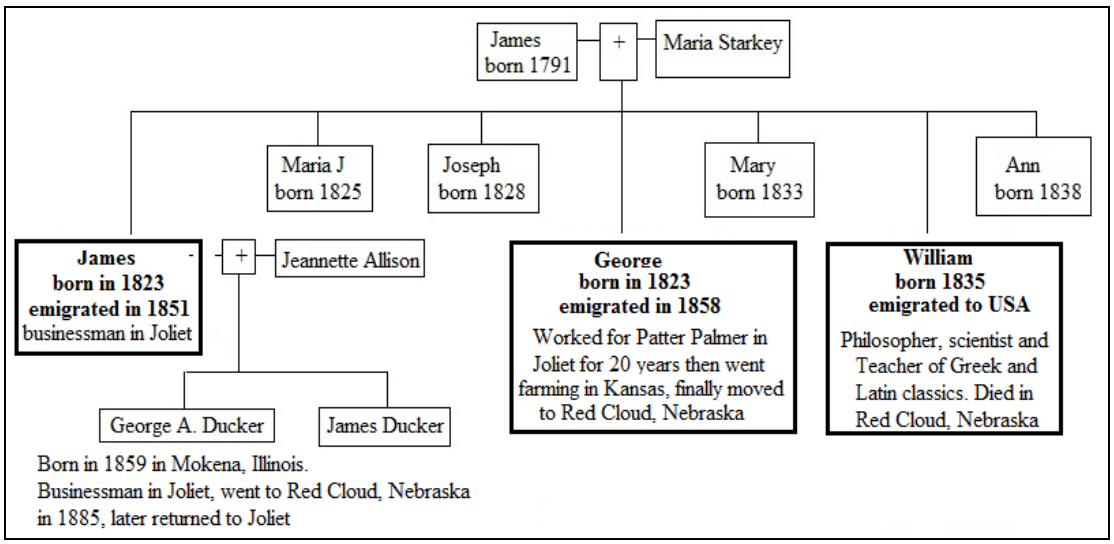
Joliet, Will County, Illinois.

(Photograph from J.V. Powers Ancestry.com)

One of the sons of James Ducker, named George A. Ducker, followed him in the dry good merchandise trade, and became prominent in his own right.

There is confusion in some references between James Ducker and his son George A. Ducker, both prominent businessmen in Joliet.

The following diagram may help clarify:



Another faint claim to fame: Edna Ducker, The daughter of George A. Ducker, married Robert Stanton Baum – son of L. Frank Baum who wrote "*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"*

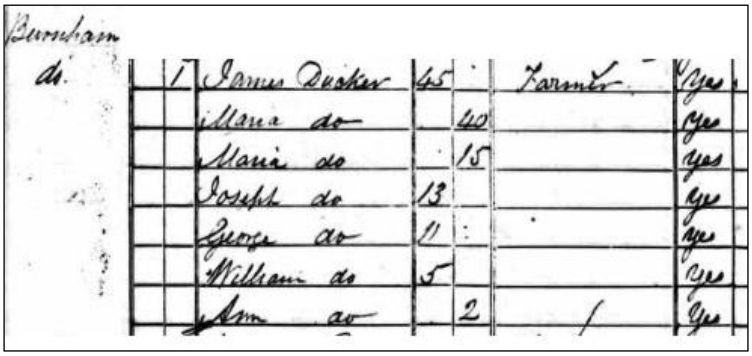


Edna D. Baum (nee Ducker)

grand daughter of James Ducker, reading "*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*" to her children Florence and Stanton.

(Photogtaph from the collection of J. V. Powers)

George Ducker



Burnham						
do.		1	James Ducker	45	Farmer	Yes
			Maria do	40		Yes
			Maria do	15		Yes
			Joseph do	13		Yes
			George do	11		Yes
			William do	5		Yes
			Ann do	2		Yes

The second of the three brothers, George Ducker, born in Burnham in 1830, son of James and Maria Ducker of Burnham, was present with his parents in the 1841 census.

According to J. V. Powers George Ducker emigrated to America in1858.

The following obituary outlines his story.

"Geo. Ducker Sr. Born April 16 1830 at Burnham England
Died, Jan. 21 1905 at Red Cloud Neb.
Funeral Sunday at 3 p.m. at the M.E. Church Red Cloud. The remains accompanied by his son Bert Ducker and a nephew Dr. Beck were taken to Rose Hill Cemetery seven miles north of Chicago for interment. There will be a funeral ceremony at Chicago under the auspices of the Marshall Field Co. Mr. D. having been in the employ of the company continuously for 20 years before coming to Kansas.
At Jolliet two nephews Geo. and James Ducker, merchants of that place, accompanied the funeral party on to Chicago. At the age of 27 Mr. Ducker came to America, shortly after his arrival he was engaged as clerk in the big wholesale house of Patter Palmer (now Marshall Field Co.) where he served 20 years being one of the firms foremost men when resigning 22 years ago on account of failing health. He then came to Smith county Kansas locating 9 miles north of where Lebanon now stands buying three quarter sections of land from Wesley Bozarth. He engaged extensively in farming and cattle raising. He lived on his farm until the past eight months when he moved to Red Cloud, Neb. Mr. D. was not thought seriously ill up to the time he died. Cancer of the stomach was the cause of death. The deceased leaves only two sons Bert of Los Angeles Cal. and Geo. V. Ducker of this place. His wife having preceeded him some 28 years ago, Mr. Ducker will be greatly missed by a host of friends."

(Posted on Ancestry.com vincepowers32003 Unknown Paper, Red Cloud, 1905)

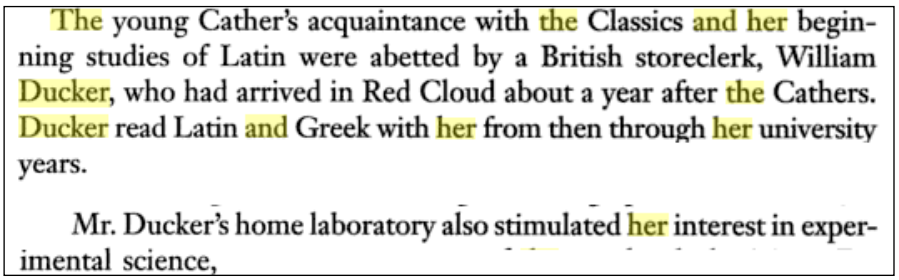
The nephews Geo and James referred to in the above obituary are George A. and James, the sons of his brother James. (See diagram on previous page)

William Ducker: the scholar, scientist and philosopher.

William Ducker, the youngest of the three Ducker brothers who emigrated to America, was baptised in 1835, and recorded living in Burnham with his parents and siblings in the 1841 UK census. (See previous section on his brother George.)
He was also recorded in the 1851 UK census (see previous section on his brother James) but is absent in the 1861 UK census.

His early period in America is unrecorded, but eventually he found his way to Red Cloud, then a small new town in Nebraska where he worked as a clerk in a dry goods store. It is said that he was working for his brothers. More likely they not his brothers but his nephews, George A. and James who were the sons his brother James.
(Refer to the chart on the previous page.)

The remarkable aspect of the life of William Ducker, the farm boy from Low Burnham, Isle of Axholme, who later became a store clerk, is that he was also known to have become a scientist, a scholar and a teacher of classical Greek and Latin.



The young Cather's acquaintance with the Classics and her beginning studies of Latin were abetted by a British storeclerk, William Ducker, who had arrived in Red Cloud about a year after the Cathers. Ducker read Latin and Greek with her from then through her university years.

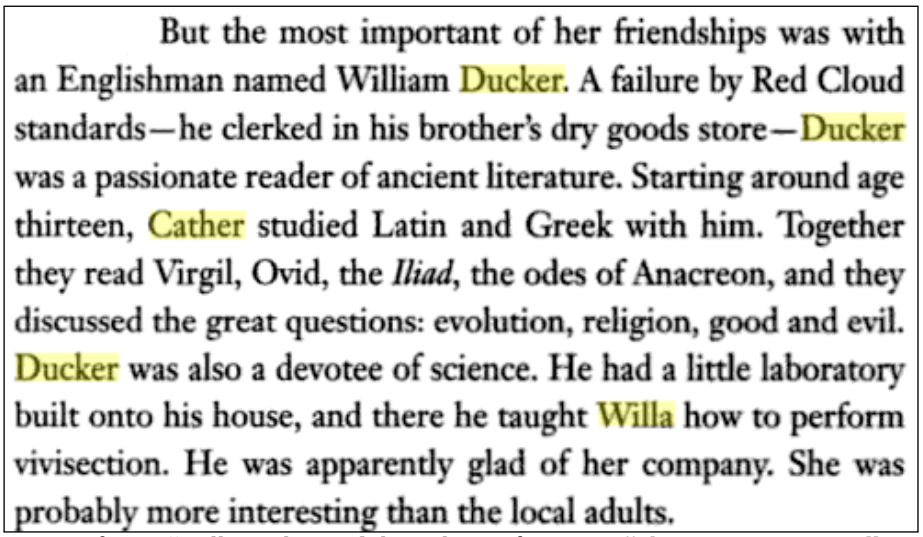
Mr. Ducker's home laboratory also stimulated her interest in experimental science,

Excerpt from:

"*Willa Cather: The Writer and Her World*"
edited by
David Stouck

How and when did William manage to become educated as a Greek and Latin scholar, scientist and philosopher?

It has even been suggested he was an Oxford graduate:
"*Willa Catha Remembered*" edited by L Brent Bohlke, Sharon Loover.
(However no other reference which supports this.)



But the most important of her friendships was with an Englishman named William Ducker. A failure by Red Cloud standards—he clerked in his brother's dry goods store—Ducker was a passionate reader of ancient literature. Starting around age thirteen, Cather studied Latin and Greek with him. Together they read Virgil, Ovid, the *Iliad*, the odes of Anacreon, and they discussed the great questions: evolution, religion, good and evil. Ducker was also a devotee of science. He had a little laboratory built onto his house, and there he taught Willa how to perform vivisection. He was apparently glad of her company. She was probably more interesting than the local adults.

Excerpt from: "*Willa Cather and the Politics of Criticism*" by Joan Ross Acocella

In Red Cloud, Mr. Ducker was familiarly known as Uncle Billy Ducker; but Willa Cather never called him so. Perhaps she felt in this appelation, however affectionately bestowed, something condescending, something that ignored what she considered his superiority over the people who so designated him. For the first time she was becoming conscious of certain very much opposed social values, and for the first time she was definitely taking sides. She never afterward deserted the side on which she then ranged herself.

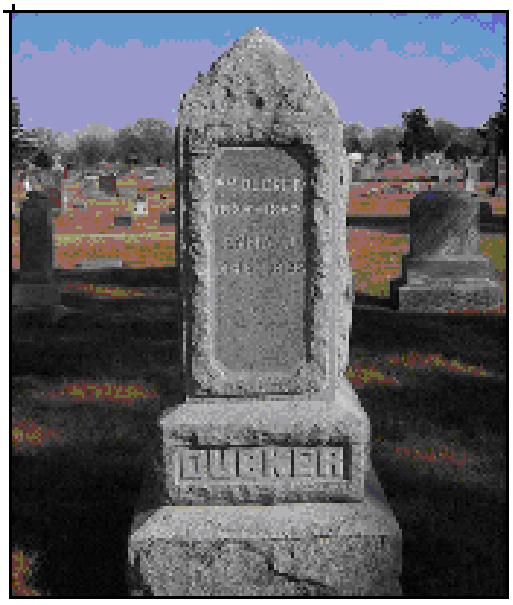
Mr. Ducker was regarded as a failure, a "dreamer," by the hustling business men of Red Cloud. He made a living for himself and his family by working in a store owned by his brothers; but his real interest was the great Latin and Greek classics, and, curiously enough, scientific experiment. In his house he fitted up a small laboratory, and there Willa Cather used to help him with his experiments. With Mr. Ducker she read Latin and Greek—Virgil, Ovid, the Iliad, some of the odes of Anacreon. And she had long talks with him—about Christianity, about good and evil, about evolution. Mr. Ducker was not a member of any church. He admired Christ, and believed that every man who loved his fellow-men was an incarnation of the Divine. He was not able to believe in personal immortality. In one of their talks he told her about the sacred scarab beetle that was the symbol of power in old Egypt; how it had just as good wings as the eagle, but had burrowed so long in the dirt, its wings had become callous and powerless. "I am content to devote my life to help give the beetle back its wings," he told her.

Willa Cather was perhaps thirteen or fourteen when she first began to read Latin with Mr. Ducker. Her passionate hero-worship of this old scholar was augmented, if anything, after she entered the University of Nebraska, and began to study Latin and Greek under more routine methods. In her summer vacations she continued to read with him. The second summer she noticed that he had begun to fail, and wrote Mrs. Goudy that she was trying to be with him as often as she could. One afternoon she was walking home with him from his store and he said to her, "It is just as though the light were going out, Willie." A few moments after she left him, a child came running after her to call her back. She found Mr. Ducker lying dead on the couch in his living-room, a copy of the Iliad lying open on the floor beside him.

At one time she was firmly resolved to become a doctor. Her laboratory experiments with Mr. Ducker had turned her mind in this direction—

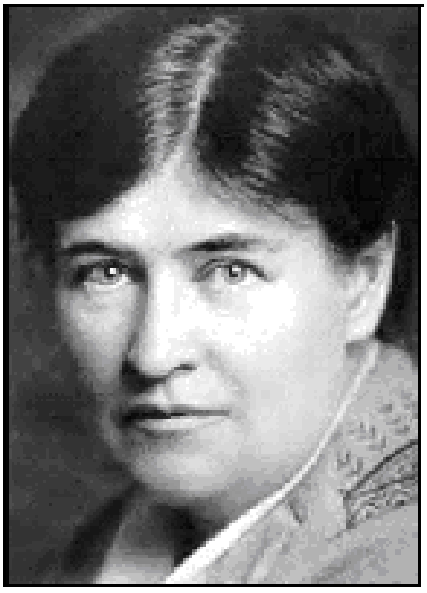
Her preoccupation with science dropped completely away; and although she went on with her classical studies, the formal methods of teaching Latin and Greek in the classroom, as contrasted with Mr. Ducker's more imaginative teaching, seemed to her lifeless and boring.

From "*Willa Catha Living: A personal Record*" by Willa Cather's domestic partner, Edith Lew



Photograph from J V Powers

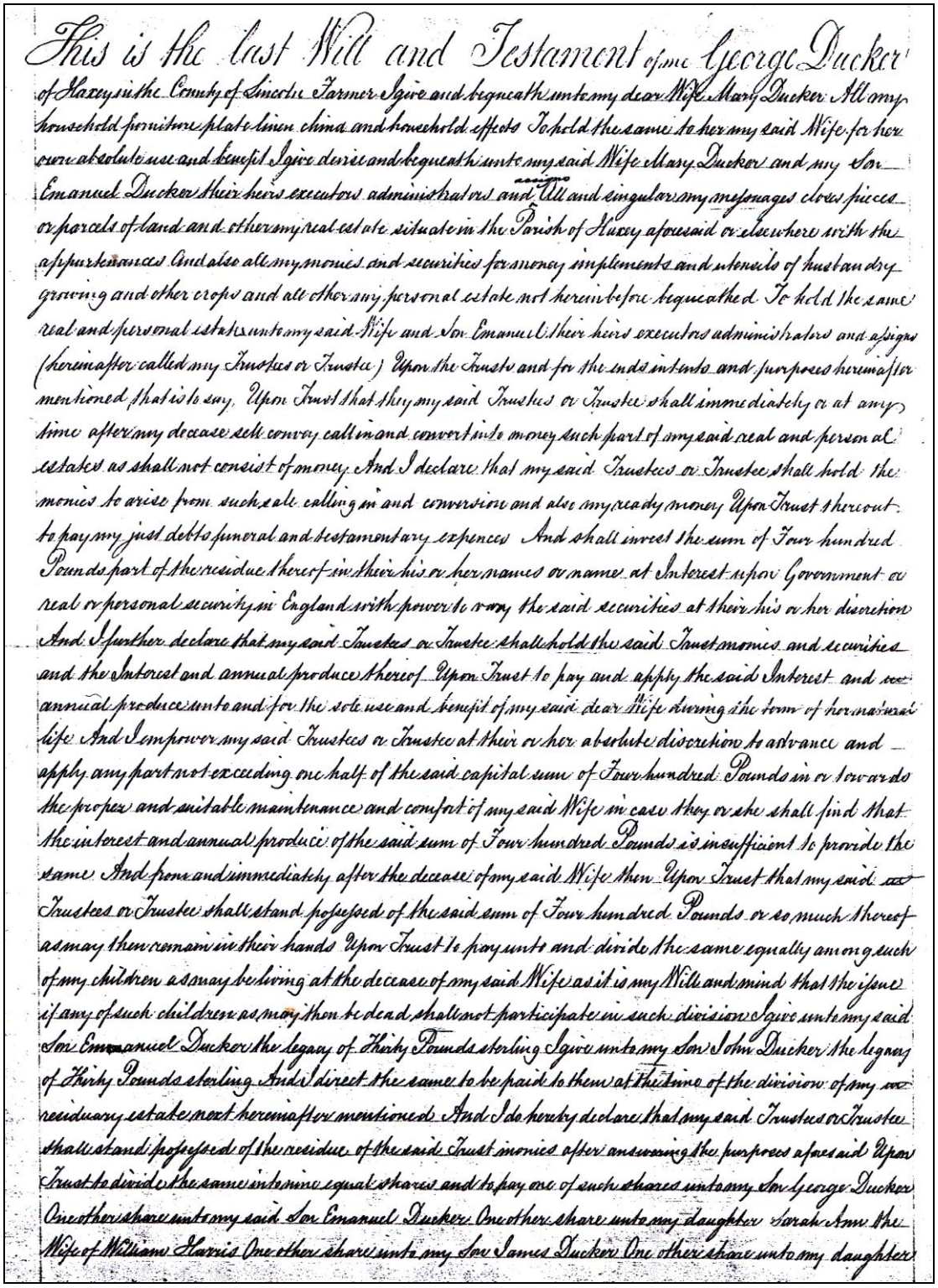
William Ducker 1835 – 1893
Emma J 1848 – 1925
Red Cloud, Nebraska



Willa Cather 1873 - 1947
William Ducker's protegee

Appendix 12

The Will of George Ducker



This is the last Will and Testament of me George Ducker of Hurcy in the County of Lincoln Farmer I give and bequeath unto my dear Wife Mary Ducker All my household furniture plate linen china and household effects To hold the same to her my said Wife for her own absolute use and benefit I give devise and bequeath unto my said Wife Mary Ducker and my Son Emanuel Ducker their heirs executors administrators and All and singular my messuages closes pieces or parcels of land and other my real estate situate in the Parish of Hurcy aforesaid or elsewhere with the appurtenances And also all my monies and securities for money implements and utensils of husbandry growing and other crops and all other my personal estate not hereinbefore bequeathed To hold the same real and personal estates unto my said Wife and Son Emanuel their heirs executors administrators and assigns (hereinafter called my Trustees or Trustee) Upon the Trusts and for the ends intents and purposes hereinafter mentioned that is to say Upon Trust that they my said Trustees or Trustee shall immediately or at any time after my decease sell convey call in and convert into money such part of my said real and personal estates as shall not consist of money And I declare that my said Trustees or Trustee shall hold the monies to arise from such sale calling in and conversion and also my ready money Upon Trust thereout to pay my just debts funeral and testamentary expences And shall invest the sum of Four hundred Pounds part of the residue thereof in their his or her names or name at Interest upon Government or real or personal security in England with power to vary the said securities at their his or her discretion And I further declare that my said Trustees or Trustee shall hold the said Trust monies and securities and the Interest and annual produce thereof Upon Trust to pay and apply the said Interest and annual produce unto and for the sole use and benefit of my said dear Wife during the term of her natural life And I empower my said Trustees or Trustee at their or her absolute discretion to advance and apply any part not exceeding one half of the said capital sum of Four hundred Pounds in or towards the proper and suitable maintenance and comfort of my said Wife in case they or she shall find that the interest and annual produce of the said sum of Four hundred Pounds is insufficient to provide the same And from and immediately after the decease of my said Wife then Upon Trust that my said Trustees or Trustee shall stand possessed of the said sum of Four hundred Pounds or so much thereof as may then remain in their hands Upon Trust to pay unto and divide the same equally among such of my children as may be living at the decease of my said Wife as it is my Will and mind that the issue if any of such children as may then be dead shall not participate in such division I give unto my said Son Emanuel Ducker the legacy of Thirty Pounds sterling I give unto my Son John Ducker the legacy of Thirty Pounds sterling And I direct the same to be paid to them at the time of the division of my residuary estate next hereinafter mentioned And I do hereby declare that my said Trustees or Trustee shall stand possessed of the residue of the said Trust monies after answering the purposes aforesaid Upon Trust to divide the same into nine equal shares and to pay one of such shares unto my Son George Ducker One other share unto my said Son Emanuel Ducker One other share unto my daughter Sarah Ann the Wife of William Harris One other share unto my Son James Ducker One other share unto my daughter

Elizabeth the Wife of Robert Sykes One other share unto my said Son John Ducker One other share unto my daughter Harriet Ducker One other share and the half of another share unto my daughter Susannah Ducker And the remaining half share unto and equally between my two Grandsons James Smith and John Smith the children of my late daughter Mary Ann to whom I give and bequeath the same accordingly And I direct that the half share given to my said Grandchildren shall be paid as and when they respectively attain the age of twenty one years with benefit of survivorship but in the event of the death of both of my said Grandsons under the age of twenty one years then I give the said half share unto my said daughter Susannah absolutely Provided always and I do hereby expressly declare that my said Trustees or Trustee shall either forthwith sell and convert into money my said real and personal estates or any part thereof or defer such sale and conversion at their his or her own absolute discretion without being responsible for any loss to be occasioned thereby And I declare that the receipts of my said Trustees or Trustee for any money payable to them him or her shall be effectual discharges And further that the provision hereby made for my said Wife shall be in lieu of all dower thirds or freebench to which she may be entitled out of my said real estate And it is my Will and mind and I direct that any said Son Emanuel shall be paid for his time in taking Journies or otherwise attending to the trusts of this my Will in addition to all expences paid by him Provided further and I do hereby expressly declare that if at the time of my decease I am in the position of surety for any sums of money borrowed by any of my said children such monies must be paid off and discharged by such children before they receive the money bequeathed to them by this my Will and in case they neglect or refuse to do so and to hand over to my Executors the documents signed by me after having received notice from my Executors to that effect then I hereby authorise my Executors if they think proper to pay the sums for which I may be surety out of or with the monies to which such children may be entitled under this my Will and any such payments made by my Executors shall be held to be in discharge of the same bequests hereby made to the extent of the sums so paid as aforesaid And I do hereby appoint my said Wife Mary Ducker and my said Son Emanuel Ducker joint Executrix and Executor of this my Will and also Guardians of the persons and estates of my said children during their respective minorities And I revoke all former Wills and declare this to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have to this my Will contained in this and the two preceding sheets of paper set my hand this Twenty third day of November One thousand eight hundred and sixty seven — George Ducker — Signed and declared by the said George Ducker the Testator as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses the word "twenty" in the twelfth and the word "twenty" in the thirteenth lines from the top of the second page having been first struck through with a pen and the words "thirty" and "thirty" interlined in lieu thereof And also the words "revoke all former Wills and" having been first interlined between the fourth and fifth lines from the bottom of the last sheet — Thos. Taylor — George Graham —

This is a Codicil to be added to and taken as part of the last Will and Testament of me George Ducker of Haxey in the County of Lincoln Farmer which Will bears even date herewith Whereas I have by my said Will directed my Trustees and Trustee to divide my residuary trust monies into nine shares and pay the same to my children and grandchildren as therein directed Now it is my Will and mind that in case of the decease of any of my daughters before they shall receive such shares and without leaving lawful issue them surviving ~~them surviving~~ I do hereby declare that the share or shares of them or her so dying without issue as aforesaid shall go to and be divided equally between such of my children as may be then living And in all other respects I confirm my said Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this Twenty third day of November One thousand eight hundred and sixty seven — George Ducker — Signed and declared by the said George Ducker the Testator as and for a Codicil to his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who in his presence at his request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses — Thos Taylor — George Graham —

To 18.

Proved at Lincoln with a Codicil the Twenty sixth day of June 1869 by the oaths of Mary Ducker Widow the Relict and Emanuel Ducker the Son the Executors to whom administration was granted —

The Testator George Ducker was late of Haxey in the County of Lincoln Farmer and died on the second day of December 1868 at Haxey aforesaid —

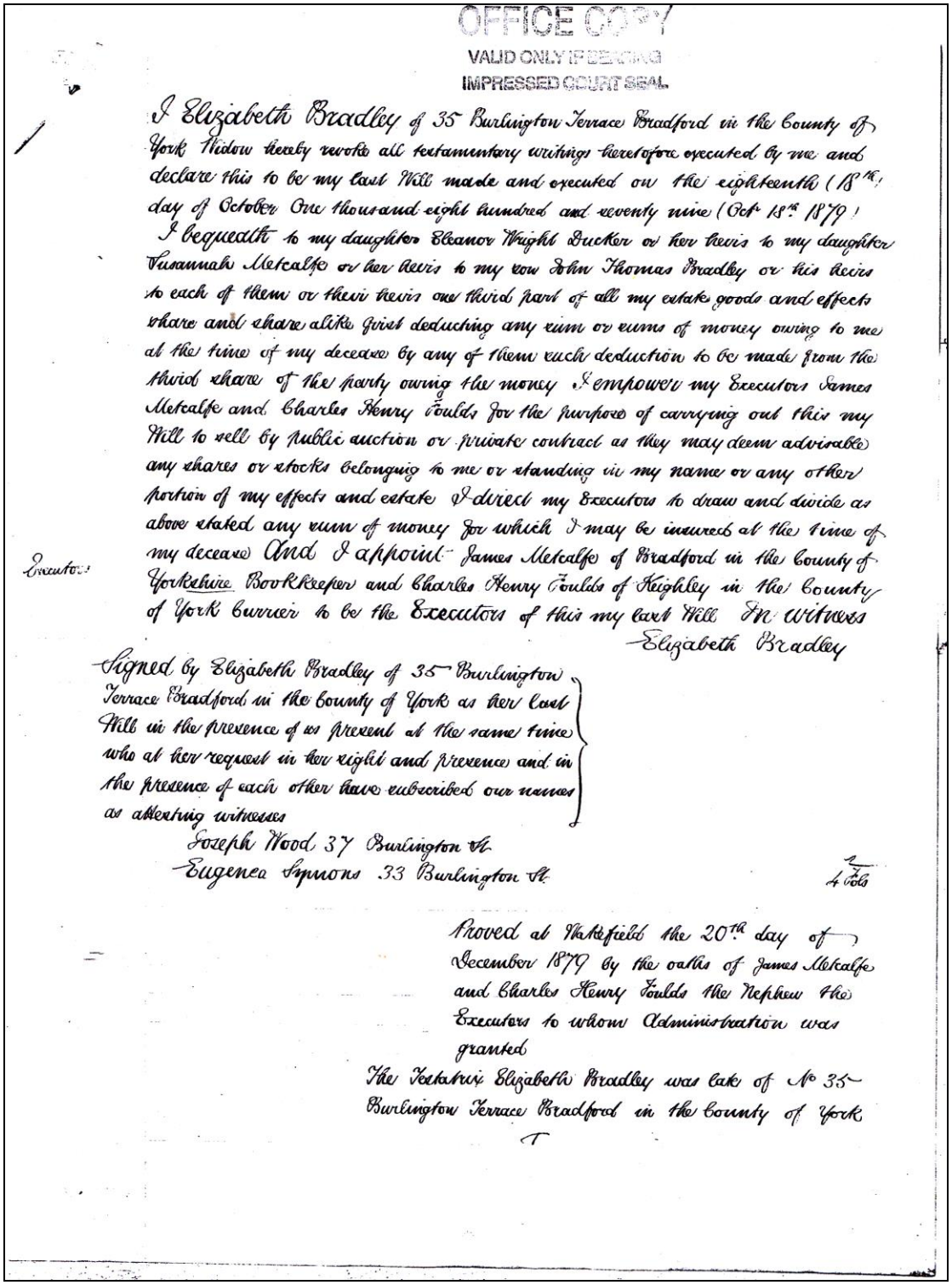
Under £200 — Robert Swan Solicitor Lincoln —

I do hereby certify this to be a correct copy

Lincoln 1st July 1869

COURT OF PROBATE
LINCOLN REGISTRY

The Will of Elizabeth Bradley



OFFICE COPY
VALID ONLY IF BEARING
IMPRESSED COURT SEAL

I Elizabeth Bradley of 35 Burlington Terrace Bradford in the County of York Widow hereby revoke all testamentary writings heretofore executed by me and declare this to be my last Will made and executed on the eighteenth (18th) day of October One thousand eight hundred and seventy nine (Oct 18th 1879)
I bequeath to my daughter Eleanor Wright Ducker or her heirs to my daughter Susannah Metcalfe or her heirs to my son John Thomas Bradley or his heirs to each of them or their heirs one third part of all my estate goods and effects share and share alike first deducting any sum or sums of money owing to me at the time of my decease by any of them each deduction to be made from the third share of the party owing the money I empower my Executors James Metcalfe and Charles Henry Foulds for the purpose of carrying out this my Will to sell by public auction or private contract as they may deem advisable any shares or stocks belonging to me or standing in my name or any other portion of my effects and estate I direct my Executors to draw and divide as above stated any sum of money for which I may be insured at the time of my decease And I appoint James Metcalfe of Bradford in the County of Yorkshire Bookkeeper and Charles Henry Foulds of Keighley in the County of York Currier to be the Executors of this my last Will In witness

Executors

Elizabeth Bradley

Signed by Elizabeth Bradley of 35 Burlington Terrace Bradford in the County of York as her last Will in the presence of us present at the same time who at her request in her sight and presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as attesting witnesses

Joseph Wood 37 Burlington St
Eugenea Symons 33 Burlington St

4 Folds

Proved at Wakefield the 20th day of December 1879 by the oaths of James Metcalfe and Charles Henry Foulds the Nephew the Executors to whom Administration was granted

The Testatrix Elizabeth Bradley was late of No 35 Burlington Terrace Bradford in the County of York

The Deed of Roger de Mowbray
(taken from Stonehouse)

Relating to the isle of Axholme, from the 1359 decree of Roger de Mowbray

By this deed the Lord of the Manor grants the commons of the said Isle to these and all his other tenants. He gives them privilege to dig in the moors and marshes turf, trees, and roots found within the soil of the said moors and marshes ; to dig turf for the walls of their houses, and to enclose the walls of their messuages or mansions ; to dry flags in all the wastes, for to cover the ridges of their houses and walls, and to bring trees to repair the river of Trent, when cause of repairing is, and to make them new. He also granted them the further privilege of putting their hemp to be *rated* in the waters of the said wastes, except in the Skiers, a place in the parish of Haxey, which was reserved for the use of the said Lord ; and that those who, by their tenure, were bound to enclose the Lord's woods, might take underwood from certain places for that purpose. He further grants them the privilege of keeping dogs, free from the molestation of his servants ; exempts them from the penalty for not appearing to ring their swine ; and ordains that the chase of beasts of commoners be made only once a year ; and that none of the tenants should be amerced for trespass, when impeached by the minister of the said Lord, without answer given in Court; and "then by their peers to be fined if they be amerciable."

This deed bears date at Epworth, the first day of May, in the year of the reign of Edward the Third (after the Conquest), thirty three, and is now among the public records in the Tower. The original is in French.

Appendix 13 Descendants of James DUCKER

Based on a chart which was researched and compiled by Janet Fleming 2001 and updated by other family members.

I **James DUCKER** b. 3 Jan 1841 Haxey LIN ENG d. 27 Dec l9l7 New Plymouth
m. 29 Mar 1866 Bradford WRY ENG **Eleanor Wright BRADLEY** b. 25 Jul 1836 Harding (Harden) WRY ENG d. 26 Jul 1929 New Plymouth

2 **Marian DUCKER** b. 15 Nov 1866 6 Nelson Sq Bradford WRY ENG
d. I 1 Nov 1955 New Plymouth NZ
m. 6 Jun 1886 New Plymouth **Richard HOOPER** b. 2l Sep 1865 Moonta SA
d. 22 Feb 1936 New Plymouth

3 **Herbert HOOPER** b. 3 Aug l886 Taranaki NZ d. 12 Aug 1955 Hawera NZ
m. 13 Aug 1913 Auroa NZ **Elsie Irene CATLEY** b. 15 Jun 1893 Stratford
d. 29 May l99l Tauranga NZ

3 **Minnie Illingworth HOOPER** b. 2 Jan 1888 New Plymouth NZ
d. 29 Jun 1907 Otakeho NZ

3 **Edith (Edie) Adelaide HOOPER** b. 5 Oct 1890 d. 6 Sep 1985 Tauranga NZ
m. 25 Apr l9l7 **John Wilson KENYON**

3 **Doris HOOPER** b. 19 Oct I 892 New Plymouth NZ
d. l7 Jan 1894 New Plymouth NZ

3 **Richard Leslie HOOPER** b. 8 Jul 1894 d. 30 Mar 1977
m. 1 Jun 1920 **Emma Joanna CAMERON** b 29 July 1891 d. early 1991

3 **James HOOPER** b. 29 Dec 1896 Pihama NZ d. 3 Jun 1977 Hawera NZ
m. 12 Aug 1920 **Eva Elizabeth HALL**

3 **Marian (Mamie) HOOPER** b. 6 Jan 1899 Pihama NZ d. 3l Aug 1989
New Plymouth NZ m. 14 Jun 1923 Auroa NZ **Alfred Hicks BROWN**

3 **Thomas HOOPER** b. 20 Feb l90l Auroa NZ d. 30 Aug 1965 Awatuna NZ
m. 16 Jun 1926 Hawera NZ **Olive MUGGERIDGE**

3 **John Henry HOOPER** b. 22 Mar 1905 Auroa NZ d. 30 Sep l982
New Plymouth NZ m. 8 Feb 1928 Hawera NZ **Alice MUGGERDGE**

3 **William Ernest HOOPER** b. 17 Aug 1906 d. 3 Oct 1950
m. 1942 Newbury ENG **Marguerite Weir FORBES**

3 **Eleanor (Girlie) HOOPER** b. 26 Jun 1909
m. 1 Jan 1931 Riverlea NZ **William Arthur CARDIFF**

3 **Mary Evelyn HOOPER** b. 14 Apr 1912 Taranaki NZ d. 1989 Auckland NZ
m. I Jun 1936 **Reginald OLIVER**

2 **Herbert DUCKER** b. 9 Dec 1867 Bradford WRY ENG
d. 3 Dec, 1869 Bradford WRY ENG

2 **Ada DUCKER** b. 2 Jul 1 869 Bradford WRY ENG d. I 5 Jan I 954 Auckland NZ
m. 2 Apr l89l St Mary's Church New Plymouth **John William RAWLINSON**
b. 13 Oct 1864 Lancaster d. 9 Oct l94l New Plymouth

3 **John RAWLINSON** b. 30 Dec l89l Panmure Auckland NZ
d. 30 Dec 1891 Panmure Auckland NZ

3 **Ida May RAWLINSON** b. 15 May 1893 New Plymouth
d. 29 Sep 1935 Wellington

3 **Gwendoline RAWLINSON** b. 21 Sep 1895 New Plymouth
d. 12 Nov 1978 Hamilton
m.6 Jan l92l Waitara Church **Henry Ernest BRABANT**
b. 16 Feb 1897 Taranaki d. 3 Apr 1929 Waitara NZ

3 **Eleanor Grace (Gay) RAWLINSON** b. 15 Aug l897 New Plymouth
d. 4 Jul 1980 Auckland NZ
m. 20 Jan 1920 Carrington Road Methodist Church N.P. **Joseph SHAW**

3 **Charles Leslie RAWLINSON** b. 10 Jul 1899 New Plymouth
d. 27 May 1981 Hamilton
m. 2l Feb 1924 New Plymouth **Gwendoline Ruby WATERS** d. 5 Oct 1968
m. 2l Jul 1973 Hamilton **Mary RIORDEN** d. 28 May 2015

3 **Alice RAWLINSON** b. 2 Aug 1901 Carrington Road, New Plymouth
d. 20 Feb 1991 Takapuna
m. 2 Jun 193l Christ Church Whangarei NZ **Edgar Le Clerc BRADNEY**
b. 30 Sep 1906 Pataua, North Auckland
d. 9 Sep 1975 23 Waitawa Road, Whangarei

3 **Kenneth RAWLINSON** b. 28 Jan 1904 New Plymouth d. 23 Feb 1979
m. 2l Dec 1926 **Irene Josephine GUNN**
d. 7 Dec 1997 Hastings

3 **Victor RAWLINSON** b. 20 Apr 1906 New Plymouth
d. 21 Dec 1907 New Plymouth

3 **Elsie RAWLINSON** b. 17 Apr 1908 New Plymouth
d. 13 Nov 1937 Wellington

3 **Evelyn RAWLINSON** b. 19 Feb 1911 New Plymouth d. 1 Sep 1965 Stratford
m. 26 Jun 1937 **Frederick Walter McCLENNAN**

3 **Mona Jean RAWLINSON** b. 20 Mar 1914 New Plymouth
d. 10 Jul 1914 New Plymouth

2 **Ernest DUCKER** b. 2l Nov 1870 Westwoodside Haxey LIN ENG
d. 17 Oct 1941 Hamilton
m. 3 Jan 1892 New Plymouth **Mary Ellen (Nell) RAWLINSON**
b. 3 Jun 1871 Lancaster d. 13 Nov l947

3 **Ivy Mytle DUCKER** b. 20 Jul 1893
d. 30 May 1932 Auckland

m. 14 Aug 1907 New Plymouth home of J DUCKER **Lilia CROON**
b.1885 d. 1933

3 **Dorothy DUCKER** b. 11 Apr 1910 d. 21 Jun 2003 Hawera
m. Norman Evans 22 Mar 1934 b. 13 Jun 1911 d. 25 Nov. 2003

3 **Elsie DUCKER** b.24 Feb 1916 d. 7 Dec 2004
m. Alfred George Carter Blanchard 1936

3 **Allan Wright DUCKER** b. 7 Nov 1917 d. 29 Jul 1946 Greymouth

3 **Leslie Basham DUCKER** b. 23 Jun 1919 d. 9 Feb 1993
m. Millicent Adele Campbell 1946

3 **Nancy Evelyn DUCKER** b. 17 Apr 1923 d. 21 Jan 2006
m. Cecil Haslett 1942

2 **Frank DUCKER** b. 21 Aug 1872 Westwoodside Haxcy LIN ENG
d. 2 Jul 1960 Auckland NZ
m. 2l Dec 1898 **Lily Antigone EYES** b. 19 Jan 1877 Papakura d. 4 Aug 1950

3 **Bradley Ward DUCKER** b. 23 Jul 1899 Eltham d. 24 Sep 1988 Australia

3 **Olive Lois DUCKER** b. l0 Apr 1901 d. 22May 1994 Tauranga
m. **Raymond Robert HENDERSON**

3 **Ronald Dudley DUCKER** b. 28 Jan 1903 d. 3 Jun 1982
m. 1931 **Gertrude Mary HEDLEY** b. Jul 1898 England d. 9 May 1939
m. 1947 **Isabelle Josephine (Joey) FINNIGAN (nee LOVICH)**
b. 2 Jan 1922 d. 10 Nov 1994.

3 **Cecil James DUCKER** b. 4 Jan 1905 d. 12 Mar 1923

3 **Leo Afred DUCKER** b. 24 Jun 1906
d. 15 Jul 2000 Takapuna
m. 1935 **Lorna Bayne (Billie) MITCHELL** b. l8 Apr 1916
d. 17 Apr 1999 Whangaraoa NZ

3 **Clarence Edward DUCKER** b. 26 Aug 1909 Opotiki NZ d. 1 June 2009
m.5 Oct 1938 Palmerston Nth **Lorna Elsie May FREEMAN**
b.4 Feb 1913 Palmerston Nth d. 6 Aug 1987 Auckland NZ

3 **Eric Norman DUCKER** b. 3 Apr 1912 d. 25 Mar 2008
m. **Gertrude Joan JOHNSTON** b. 8 Jul 1914 d. 1 Dec 2001

m. 3 Mar 1916 **Amy Grace TURNER** b. 18 Jun 1890 died 1974

3 **Neville Frank DUCKER** b. 3 Apr 1916
m. 2 Aug 1940 Trentham Military Camp **Gwenda Mary THORBURN**

3 **Leslie Herbcrt DUCKER** b.29 May 1917
m. **Dorothy Ada CARTER** b. _ d. 25 June 2001

3 **D'Arcy Clive Melville DUCKER** b. 7 Feb l919
d. 12 Dec 1942 Abbeville France

m. 23 Mar 1938 **Sarah Elizabeth HUGHES** b. c1873 Leicestershire England
d. 12 Mar 1944 Auckland

m. 26 Mar 1945 **Annie Kathleen TURNER** b. 5 Aug 1895 Queensland
d. 10 Dec. 1988 Queensland

2 **Alfred DUCKER** b. 26 Dec 1873 Westwoodside Haxey LIN ENG
d. 11 Jul 1960 Waiuku
m. 1945 **Amelia (Minnie) Ashton O'CARROLL** d. 1958

2 **James DUCKER** b. l8 Oct 1875 Haxey d. 16 May 1953 Waiuku
m. l9 Dec 1899 New Plymouth **Mary Frances Louisa GILL** b. 28 Apr 1876[69]
d. 26 Dec l 967

3 **Carlin James DUCKER** b. 23 Jan 1901 d. 13 Nov 1975 Auckland NZ
m. 28 Jan 196l **Eileen Rose HARDIENEILL** d.27 Oct 1984

3 **Kenneth Alfred DUCKER** b. 7 Jan 1903 d. 10 Jul 1982

3 **Eleanor Bradley DUCKER** b. 1l Nov 1908 d. 25 Nov 2010
m. 7 Jan l93l **James Stockwell HILL** d. 2006 Auckland

3 **Joyce Miriam DUCKER** b. 27 Oct l9l0 d. _ 1997 Auckland NZ
m. 9 Dec 1933 **Archer Maxwell DOUGLAS** d. _ 1967

2 **Elizabeth DUCKER** b.5 Jul 1878 Grimsby Eng. d. 7 Sept 1943
m. 1902 New Plymouth **Walter RUMBALL** b. 20 Feb 1871 England.
d. 11 July 1940

3 **Alfred RUMBALL** b. l0 Jan 1906 d. 7 Jun 1996

3 **Henry RUMBALL** b. I Jun 1908 d. 14 Mar 1992
m. **Louie WALTER** b. 28 Jun 1910 d- 1986

3 **Mary RUMBALL** b. 27 Jan l9l0 d. 20 Jan 1987
m. **John WALTER** b. 2 Aug 1904 d. 25 Apr 1966

3 **Amy RUMBALL** b. April 1914 d. 1 Mar 1914 age 5 weeks.

3 **Florence(Florrie) RUMBALL** b. _ 1915 d. 5 Mar1964 Service No. 82384
m. **Basil HOWSE**

3 Unnamed **RUMBALL** b. 1919 stillborn

3 **Olive RUMBALL** b _ 1922
m **Graham BASSETT**

[69] Nelson Evening Mail, 11 May 1876, Page 2