

## APPENDIX 2

### A brief history of photography in New Plymouth and Nelson

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS.

**T**HE Undersigned will shortly be prepared to execute **PORTRAITS** and **LANDSCAPES**, by a Photographic Apparatus which he recently brought from England, and which has the latest improvements. An unexpected delay has arisen in consequence of the necessity of procuring from Sydney certain drugs which he omitted to bring from England.

H. B. SEALY.

Willis-street, August 15, 1848.

The first photographer advertising in New Zealand appears in Wellington in the

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian,  
16 August 1848

The process used by Sealy was probably "daguerreotype", an arcane process using copper

plates, iodine vapour and then in a darkroom exposure to mercury vapour, fixing with sodium hyposulphate and finally washing with water.

A trawl though the New Zealand newspapers on the 1850s shows the daguerreotype process continuing to be used until the middle of the decade, and gives an introduction to early photographers such as, in Auckland:

Hartley Webster (New Zealander, 10 September 1853),  
Montague Scott (Daily Southern Cross, 30 October 1855)  
J. N. Crosbie (New Zealander, 3 November 1855).

#### FOR SALE,

**A** PHOTOGRAPHIC CAMERA, with copying frame, plates and supply of chemicals, with complete instruction for taking portraits or views by the Collodion process.

May be seen at Mr. Hansard's Rooms, Shortland-street.

By 1855 new technology was becoming available – the so-called "collodian process."

New Zealander,  
01 December 1855

Daily Southern Cross,  
19 September 1856

During Mr. Crombie's stay in Auckland, he has taken the portraits of just 1088 persons, of every class in society; and, as an artist, has been more than ordinarily successful. His pictures have a roundness and boldness of character, which are frequently found wanting in portraits by the daguerreotype process.

By 1856 Crombie had converted to this new process and was about to move to Taranaki. Many of the "photographic artists" of this period were itinerant.

#### COLLODION PORTRAITS.

MR. SEYMOUR,

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST.

AT MR. WEBSTER'S, QUEEN-STREET.

Nearly opposite Wyndham-street.

**T**HE accuracy of Collodion Portraits is unsurpassed, they never fade, and are entirely free from the unpleasant metallic glare which is one of the great defects of Daguerreotypes. In England the Collodion process has superseded every other kind of portraiture executed by the agency of light.

New Zealander, 1 November 1856

The merits of the collodian process at Hartley Websters studio, Queen Street.

**A Photographic Apparatus,**  
with Achromatic Lens and all its require-  
ments.

In New Plymouth the well-known  
auctioneer and entrepreneur  
F. U. Gledhill advertised for sale:  
Taranaki Herald, 13 June 1857

Photographic Apparatus, by LERE-  
BOURS of Paris, cost price in Eng-  
land £130.

Another Taranaki entrepreneur,  
Newton King:  
Taranaki Herald, 5 Sept 1857

**H. W E B S T E R,**  
**Photographic Artist,**  
**DEVON ROAD,**  
**B**EGS to inform the inhabitants of Tara-  
naki that he intends to open a Photo-  
graphic Establishment for a short time, and  
that he will be prepared in a few days to  
take Portraits, views of person's residences,  
copies of pictures, &c., by the most ap-  
proved processes.

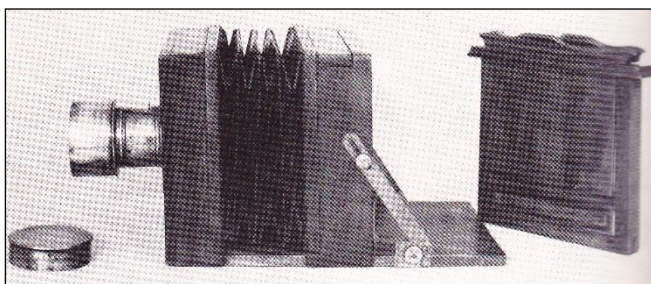
The professional photographer Hartley  
Webster had now moved south from  
his studio in Auckland, to set up a  
practice in New Plymouth.

Taranaki Herald,  
25 December 1858

Dozens of advertisements now regularly in the main papers. At least half a dozen are offering hardware or professional service.

Hardwicke Knight, in "Photography in New Zealand" wrote: "Most of the New Zealand photographers who were working during the 1860s and 70s... were using the wet plate collodian process.

Collodian is a mixture of gun cotton, alcohol and ether and forms a film when flowed onto a sheet of glass. Scott Archer used it to bind the light-sensitive silver salts on to glass plates and the process became known as the *wet-plate process* because the plates had to be exposed and developed before the coating had time to dry.....It meant carrying heavy loads of apparatus such as tent or portable darkroom, chemicals and glass plates.....



By 1860 most cameras were made with bellows...exposures as short as one second were more satisfactorily made with the lens cap than with the early roller blind of flap shutters which caused camera shake..."

Wet plate camera from the 1860s. Larnoch Castle Collection. Taken from "Photography in New Zealand" by Hardwicke Knight

J. Wilson (Otago) and a Mr. Mountfort (Christchurch) were advertising regularly.

Newspaper references to "photographic art" were becoming less wondrous, and commercial advertising was becoming more common.

## Photographic Portraits.

**M**R T. KELLY begs to inform the Public of Taranaki that he intends taking Photographic Portraits, Views, &c. on the completion of his rooms for that purpose, at a reduced scale of prices.

Another photographer set up business in Taranaki....

Taranaki Herald, 30 April 1859

Crombie, who had moved to Christchurch, now moved again to Nelson where he attracted reviews from a number of newspapers....

## Portraits for transmission.

**H.** WEBSTER having disposed of his Photographic Business to a novice in the art is under engagement to remain a few weeks longer, to give his pupil efficient instruction, and takes this opportunity of giving publicity to a new process of taking PORTRAITS ON PAPER.

They have all the sharpness of pictures on glass, and the advantage of representing the figure in the natural position. They can be transmitted through the post (without fear of injury) in a letter, or can be mounted in the usual way. Five shillings each, on cards.

... and for the time being, Hartley Webster moved on.

Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle, 28 September 1859

Taranaki Herald, 22 October 1859

(Later Hartley Webster was to return to New Plymouth, and in 1975 around the time he closed down his business for good, he successfully sued Carlin Gill for a debt of £5 1s 7d)

Note the price of a photograph printed on card at this time has reduced to 5 shillings – about the price of half a day's work for a labourer.

The early 1860's was the time of the first Taranaki war.

## Photographic Portraits.

**M**ILITARY duties interfere so much with the time of George Hoby, that he is obliged to request that his friends will leave word with Mr. Yems the day before they require a Likeness taken, and G. H. will make arrangements to attend.

A new photographer established in New Plymouth at this time.

Taranaki Herald, 16 Feb 1861

Hoby (or his son) was still advertising in 1866 when Carlin Gill arrived in New Plymouth. Cartes de visites 5s, copies for 2/6.

**G E O R G E J A C K S O N,**  
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST,  
Begs to inform the public of Taranaki, that he has commenced business in the above line in the premises lately occupied by Mr. Tuffin, adjoining Mr. Young's on the Devon-line, where he hopes, by attention and moderate charges, to merit a share of their patronage.  
21st July, 1865.

T. Tuffin had arrived from Wanganui and was advertising....

Taranaki Herald, 4 February 1865

....to be replaced by George Jackson in July the same year.

Taranaki Herald, 22 July 1865

By the time Carlin Gill arrived in New Plymouth, photography was no longer a novelty.

**J. E. BATES,  
Stationer & Photographer,**

In fact the term “photographer” had first appeared as early as 1862.

Taranaki Herald, 8 November 1862

Taranaki Herald 30 June 1866

**A. J. WATT & CO.,  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,  
Importers of  
PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS,  
Perfumery,  
Patent Medicines, &c.,  
534, GEORGE-STREET, SYDNEY.**

Druggists were advertising photographic materials and chemicals, which suggests by now photography also existed as a hobby, and Carlin Gill would have been able to purchase his materials in town, over the counter.

**Drugs and photographic chemicals  
Sir Wm. Burdett's *disinfecting fluid***

Taranaki Herald  
22 September 1866