

Richard CHAMBERS (1840-1912)

1841 Census Stortford Park, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, England

George CHAMBERS	35yrs	Farmer	born in the county
Ann CHAMBERS	35yrs		born in the county
William CHAMBERS	7yrs		born in the county
Ann CHAMBERS	6yrs		born in the county
Caroline CHAMBERS	5yrs		born in the county
John CHAMBERS	2yrs		born in the county
Richard CHAMBERS	1yr		born in the county
Susannah ABRAHAMS	20yrs	Female servant	born in the county
Eliza PATMORE	15yrs	Female servant	born in the county
William TRIGG	15yrs	Male servant	born in the county
John GOATS	14yrs	Male servant	born in the county
George PERRY	14yrs	Male servant	born in the county

1851 Census Stortford Park, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire, England

George CHAMBERS	Head	47yrs	Farmer 306 acres, 17 labourers	b Great Hadham, Hertfordshire
Mary Ann CHAMBERS	Wife	54yrs		b Standon, Hertfordshire
George CHAMBERS	Son	20yrs	Banker's clerk [unmarried]	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
William CHAMBERS	Son	17yrs	Grocer apprentice [unmarried]	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
Ann CHAMBERS	Dau	16yrs	[unmarried]	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
John CHAMBERS	Son		Scholar	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
Richard CHAMBERS	Son		Scholar	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
Joseph ELLIS		16yrs	Farm Labourer	b Stortford, Hertfordshire
Isaac ELLIS		14yrs	Farm Labourer	b Thorley, Hertfordshire
James ELLIS		12yrs	Farm Labourer	b Stortford, Hertfordshire

Standon Church – Vestry Minutes 25 Mar 1861 – LDS Film 1593809

At a vestry meeting held at Standon Church on the 25th day of March 1861 due notice was given the following persons come on rotation to serve the office of overseer - David Queenborough, Richd Chambers, Chas. Chapman, Jas. Chapman.

1861 Census Standon Friars, Standon, Hertfordshire, England

Richard CHAMBERS	Head	21yrs		b Stortsford, Hertfordshire
Farmer occupying 468 acres employing 10 men & 3 boys				
Caroline CHAMBERS	Sister	24yrs	Housekeeper [unmarried]	b Stortsford, Hertfordshire
Annie SAVILL		23yrs	Housemaid [unmarried]	b Standon, Hertfordshire
Annie TYLER		16yrs	Cook [unmarried]	b Great Hadham, Hertfordshire

Standon Church – Vestry Minutes 13 Apr 1861 – LDS Film 1593809

At a vestry meeting held this 13th day of April 1861 at the Parish Church of Standon the notice of which meeting was given and adjourned to the Bell Inn. It was proposed that a Voluntary Church Rate of one penny halpenny in the Pound be made and unanimously agreed to. Present: Thos. Chapman and John Acres (churchwardens), Chas. Chapman, James Knight, Thos N. Burr, James Whitaker, J. B. Smith, Thos. Kite, Thos. Johnson, Jas. Chapman, A. Waller, George Underwood, Thomas Finn?, Richd. Chambers.

The Friends of St James the Great, Thorley – Parish Registers - Marriages 1850-1899 - <http://www.friends.stjames.btinternet.co.uk/index.htm>

Richard Chambers, Full age, Bachelor, Miller. Father: George Chambers, Gentleman
Julia Green, Full age, Spinster of Thorley. Father: Thomas Green, Gentleman
Married 25 Feb 1863. Witnesses: Emily C. Green, Emily M. Bigg, Lucy Anthony

Directory of Hertfordshire 1864

Richard CHAMBERS, miller, West Mill, Ware

Baptism Register St James, Upper Edmonton, Enfield, Middlesex

Entry No.197 Dated 1 Apr 1865 Howard Thomas Chambers, son of Richard and Julia of Northumberland Park – Profession of Richard: factor
Baptised by George Phillips

Baptism Register St Stephen, Tredeger Road, Tower Hamlets, London

No.1501 Evelyn Mary Chambers, born 02 March 1871, baptised 16 April 1871, daughter of Richard and Julia Chambers of 11 Campbell Road, Miller.

1871 Census 11 Campbell Road, Bromley St Leonard, London

Richard CHAMBERS	Head	31yrs	Miller	b Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
Julia CHAMBERS	Wife	31yrs		b Thorley, Hertfordshire
Howard Thos CHAMBERS	Son	6yrs		b Tottenham, Middlesex
Walter Lawrence Fred CHAMBERS	Son	3yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Stanley George CHAMBERS	Son	19months		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Evelyn Mary CHAMBERS	Dau	1 month		b Bromley, Middlesex
Jane SUTTLE	Sevt	19yrs	Domestic servant [unmarried]	b Sheuly Comps, Cambridge

1881 Census Stanley House, Derby Road, Woodford, Essex

Richard CHAMBERS	Head	41yrs	Miller	b Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire
Julia CHAMBERS	Wife	41yrs		b Thorley Wash, Hertfordshire
Howard T. CHAMBERS	Son	16yrs		b Tottenham, Middlesex
Walter L. F. CHAMBERS	Son	13yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Stanley G. CHAMBERS	Son	11yrs		b Ware, Hertfordshire
Evelyn Mary CHAMBERS	Dau	10yrs		b Bow, Middlesex
Eliza TURRELL		18yrs	General servant	b Ingerstone, Essex

New Zealand Herald 3 Oct 1883 Arrivals

Otaki, ship, 1014, Worster, from London. Passengers:- First and second class. Mr and Mrs R. Chambers and family, Mr J. W. Toplis, Mr G. Marillier, Miss Bird, Mr R. Colquhoun, Mr E. Brydges-Sayers, and twenty three steerage passengers. – New Zealand Shipping Co., agents. Shortly after eight o'clock yesterday morning the signal for a "sail in sight outside Tiritiri" was run up, and at about nine o'clock the signal was altered to "a ship". It was at once conjectured that the ship would prove to be the New Zealand Shipping Company's ship Otaki, from London, although there were those who had an idea that she would prove to be the Hermione. This latter surmise arose in a great measure from the fact that the New Zealand Shipping Company had announced the departure date of the Otaki as being August 2 instead of July 2. How such an error could have arisen we are at a loss to understand. However, the Otaki has reached port, and that after a good passage. She comes into port like all the vessels owned by the company we have already named in excellent order, trim and clean aloft and below, and as a proof of the good feeling that exists on board, the passengers all speak in most glowing terms of the attention and urbanity of her worthy master and officers. The trip has been a most uneventful one, and has speedily passed over, the tediousness of ship life having been hardly felt, owing to the cordial relations that existed between the passengers themselves, and also between them and the officers and crew of the ship. Having powder on board, the Otaki brought up off the Powder Ground, from which she will be brought up harbour upon discharge of her combustible cargo. Of the passage out we learn that the Otaki left Gravesend on July 2nd; towed to Beachy Head, and beat down Channel against variable westerly winds. On the 6th abreast Scilly; from thence had moderate and light winds, and light N.E. trades. Crossed the Equator on August 4th, in long. 26oW. Had light N.E. trades to 30oS, when we commenced the westerly winds. Sighted Tristan de Acunha on August 22nd, and from thence had favourable winds and fine weather the remainder of the voyage, now and then fresh winds, but no gales; the maintop-gallant sail was only taken in three times during the voyage. Passed the Cape of Good Hope on August 29th, Cape Lewin on September 17th; Tasmania was rounded on the 23rd, and arrived off Tiritiri yesterday at

daylight, 92 days out from Gravesend. Signalled the following vessels:- Lord Canning, Liverpool to Calcutta; Irby, Liverpool to Calcutta; barque Stormy Petrel, London to Vancouver; four-masted ship Albyn, Liverpool to Calcutta; barque Fairy Belle, Conception to Falmouth; ship Minister of Marine, Cardiff to Rio de Janeiro; ship Hawkesbury, London to Sydney; ship Greta, Liverpool to Melbourne. On the 10th September, lat. 44o 14' S., long. 90o E, passed the dead body of a man; appeared to be dressed in blue serge shirt, &c.

Auckland City Library Passenger Arrival Database

For the ship "Otaki" arrived Auckland 2 Oct 1883. Louise and Sarah Baker; G. J. Bird; Christina Blake; Allan, Evelyn, Howard, Julia, Richard, Stanly, Walter Chambers; Edward Colquhoun; Hans Drews; Joseph Forrest; Henry Hausch; Mary Hunt; Edmund Marillier; Edmund Marston; Amanda, Lawrence, Titus, W. Myers; Alwin, Bertha, Edward, Jacob H., Marie C., Phillip, Richard Rahler; Albert Robins; Richard Saville; George B. Sayers; J. Milne Shepherd; Alice Taylor; J. W. Toplis.

Wises Post Office Directory 1885-1886

Richard Chambers, manager mills, Ngaruawahia

Waikato Times 9 Nov 1886 St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

A concert was held in the St. Andrew's schoolroom on Friday last, in aid of the fund for providing music for the choir of the above Church, and was fairly successful, the room being nearly full. The programme was as follows:- Pianoforte solo, Mr Selby; glee, "Happy and light", choir; song, "Shells of ocean", Miss Selby; song, "Consider the lillies", Mr O. Garland; reading, "A butten off", Mr W. S. Stewart; pianoforte trio "Oberon" Misses Mary Moon, Annie Webber, and Effie Chambers; song, "White wings", Miss Moginie; song, "She is so innocent", Mr Hartly; Glee, "May Carol", choir. At this part, instead of the customary interval, the Ven. Archdeacon Willis gave a reading entitled "Mind what you say before children". Glee, "Sweet and low", choir; song, "The angel's gift", Mr Chambers; reading, "Mr Fogg's baby", Mr Paltridge; duet "O'er the hill, o'er the dale", Miss Moginie and Mrs Chambers; song, "Home of my heart", Mr O. Garland; song, "Carrier John", Mrs Macara; trio, "Oh memory" Mesdames Chambers and Chitty, and Mr Hartly; song, "Fond hearts at home", Miss Selby; song, "Daddy", Miss Moginie; glee, "The fairest flower", choir; National Anthem. The gems of the evening were no doubt the songs given by Miss Moginie and the duet with Mrs Chambers. The pianoforte trio was well rendered, as was also the vocal one, both having a fair share of applause. Mr Garland was evidently suffering from a cold, and was therefore heard at a great disadvantage, nevertheless "Consider the Lillies" was very nicely given. The glees were very fairly sung, the best being "Sweet and Low", and the worst the "May Carol", the latter being out of tune in the last four bars. Mrs Chambers, Mrs Macara, and Miss and Mr Selby gave every satisfaction in their respective solos. The readings were good and were well appreciated, with the exception of the one given by Mr Paltridge, which was about two thirds too long. The accompaniments were played by Mrs Chitty, Miss Effie Chambers and Mr Hartly. The choir meet in the schoolroom every fortnight for the practice of secular music, on which occasions they are joined by several ladies belonging to different denominational choirs, and who kindly assisted on the above occasion.

Waikato Times 18 Dec 1886 St Andrew's Church, Cambridge

About 90 members of the congregation of the above church met on Wednesday last in the schoolroom, and passed a very pleasant evening. Many sorts of interesting games and puzzles were provided and a galvanic battery caused a deal of amusement. Pianoforte solos were given by Mrs Chitty, the Misses Chambers, Gard, Hill, Wilson and Messrs F. Hartley, Annershaw, and Master J. Wilson. Songs were given by Miss Selby, "The Stepping Stones" and "Shells of the Ocean"; Mrs Macara, "The Three Maries"; Miss Roskruge, "Now, Turno"; and Mr Chambers, "The Message". Mesdames Chitty and Chambers gave the duet "Trust her not" and several friends gave a glee "The Forrester". Coffee and eatables were provided by some of the ladies, and were duly appreciated. Before separating the Archdeacon announced that on the previous evening a meeting of ladies had been held in the vestry to devise some means of paying off the debt of 550 pounds that remained upon the church, when the following resolutions were passed:- "That the town and country be divided into districts, and collectors be appointed to collect subscriptions of 6d per week and upwards towards reducing the debt." "That Mrs Mackay be requested to endeavour to organise a body of 10 collectors to undertake the work." "That a fair of all nations be held in December next, and contributions and help be invited from all friends, both in the district and elsewhere." "That the ladies present form an interim committee for the carrying out of the above resolutions, and that a meeting be held on Wednesday, January 12th, to report progress and appoint a permanent committee." The Archdeacon further stated that he should be pleased to provide anyone who would collect with a card for that purpose. He trusted all members of the congregation would help either in articles or subscriptions. The meeting terminated about 10 p.m.

Waikato Times 22 Jan 1887 St Andrew's Church, Cambridge – Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the parishioners of the above Church was held in the schoolroom on Wednesday evening. Present: The Ven. Archdeacon Willis (in the chair), Messrs Wells, Popple, Paltridge, T. W. Hicks, O. Garland, R. Chambers, Hewitt, Bond, Robertson, H. Hicks, T. B. Lewis, Onions, Rowe, Stewart, Dyer, Masters, Boyce, Chitty, D. Stubbing, and several ladies. The meeting was opened with prayer, after which the Chairman read the following annual report for the year ending 31st December 1886:- Report of the Vestry of S. Andrew's Church, Cambridge for the Year Ending December 31st, 1886. The general work of the district was as well done during this year as in any year previous, and this is a matter for much thankfulness. All services and meetings arranged for were held without exception, and the parishioners were regularly visited. The Incumbent is thankful to say he begins the new year in better health than he has had for a long time and so with a good prospect, not only of keeping up work in the future to the average of the past, but, with God's blessing, of doing it better. Sunday School. - The Sunday School continues to do the good work under Mr W. S. Stewart that was reported of it last year. In August it was visited by the Diocesan Inspector, who thus speaks of it in his report:- "The discipline and the general tone of the school appear to be very good. The singing is excellent. The Catechism appears to be well taught. The library is good, and the books seem to be used by a good many of the children." With regard to the teaching, he says:- "The plan of having the upper classes seated round a table is a good one." Of the buildings he says:- "It seems very convenient and is well lighted and ventilated." During the year an advance has been made in the direction of more systematic and thorough teaching. The teaching now being done is probably in advance of anything hitherto attempted. The walls of the school-room have recently being hung with a number of pictures illustrative of Scripture subjects, which greatly add to their appearance. A statement of the receipts and expenditure on account of the school is appended in the general account. At the Cambridge West school Mr H. R. Hyatt has lately introduced a new system of teaching, which he thinks will be attended with advantage. Choir. - The choir has not made the advance in efficiency that was hoped for a year ago. The vestry was unable to continue the choirmaster's salary after the first five months of the year. The office of choirmaster is now vacant. Mr Hartley having resigned in the end of December. Attendance at Service, &c. - The attendance on Sundays averaged - morning 99, evening 71. There were 29 celebrations of the Holy Communion, and the average attendance at midday was 18. There were 14 persons confirmed. The baptisms were 40, the marriages 6, and the burials 9. Property. - The church and school and parsonage are in

good repair. The only important work done during the year was to sink a new water well and build a concrete tank at the parsonage, and do some necessary inside painting and papering. The parsonage exterior ought to be painted soon and there is much need for enlargement. Finance. - The Vestry have not so good a financial report to bring down to the parishioners this year as they have been able to do for some years past, for it is a matter of fact that the income of the church from seat rents and offertories has fallen off about 100 pounds. Although a portion of this deficiency has been met from other sources, there is still a large discrepancy, and the Vestry have been unable to pay off any of the church debt, or even to meet all the ordinary expenses. A statement of the accounts for the year has been prepared and audited. An abstract of them shows the receipts to have been 452 pounds, as against 500 pounds in 1885; and the expenditure 505 pounds, as against 570 pounds. This does not include receipts and expenditure on account of the Sunday School. Current Year. - In estimating for the current year it has been decided to suggest some changes. Hitherto the contributions from the out districts have been received by the Cambridge Treasurer, and the clergyman's stipend has been charged in the Cambridge books for the whole district. In future it is proposed to receive and pay the contributions from Cambridge only. The estimated receipts which follow are based on the actual receipts of last year for ordinary purposes, and the expenditure is reduced to the lowest possible limit to come within it. In order to help in this matter the Incumbent has voluntarily agreed to accept a reduction of 20 pounds, and the Organist of 5 pounds. Estimated receipts: General offertories, 137 pounds; subscriptions, 75 pounds; seat rents, 73 pounds; rents of school, 13 pounds. Total, 298 pounds. Estimated expenditure: Clergyman, 220 pounds; organist... gardener 6 pounds; ... Total 298 pounds; This estimate leaves out any mention of liabilities and assets to December 31st last. The liabilities consist of the church debt of 550 pounds, and the liabilities for ordinary expenditure to date, about 110 pounds. The latter of these the vestry think ought to be dealt with by a special effort to be made at once to get in arrears of seat rents and subscriptions. Envelope System. - With a view to minimise the trouble arising from the collection of subscriptions, as well as for other reasons, the vestry suggest to the parishioners the advisability of adopting the envelope system in making their contributions to the offertory. Under this system the subscriptions would be superceded, and the sources of ordinary church revenue reduced virtually to two, namely, offertories and seat rents. The system is worked somewhat in this way. Each parishioner is invited to promise a definite sum per week towards the annual expenses, and to place it in the offertory each Sunday, in an envelope bearing on it a number. At the counting of the offertory from week to week the amount is credited to the donor's number in the treasurer's book. The adoption of such a system, if it could be made general, would help the church executive to a better knowledge of the income they might expect, and would save a periodical canvas for large subscriptions, which is often inconvenient alike to the collector and the subscriber. Church Debt. - In order to greatly reduce the church debt the ladies of the congregation have already resolved on two things - (1) To begin at once to raise weekly subscriptions, and (2) To prepare for crowning the year with a great effort next December by holding a "Fair of All nations". In these efforts the Vestry hope all the parishioners will join in so far as they can, and will encourage one another in the work, and also seek for aid from all their friends. The thanks of the parishioners due to Messrs C. Chitty and R. W. Dyer for their services as lay readers, to Messrs W. S. Stewart, H. R. Hyatt and F. J. Sanders and the other teachers of the Sunday schools, and to the members of the choir and the guild of Ringers. May God Almighty be graciously pleased to accept the labours of His servants, unworthy though they be. May He mercifully pardon what has been done amiss in the past, and guide His servants aright in the future, for Jesus Christ's sake. Wm. N. De L. Willis, Chairman. Balance Sheet for Year Ending December 31st 1886. Receipts:- By subscriptions, 74 pounds 8s 8d; seat rents, 72 pounds 12s 6d; offertories, 160 pounds 14s 5d; rent of school, 15 pounds 4s; social gathering, 66 pounds 2s; lecture and subscriptions for church debt, 5 pounds 17s; concert for parsonage improvements, 9 pounds 2s 6d; outlying districts, 48 pounds 0s 6d. Total 452 pounds 1s 7d. Cash in hand January 1st, 1886, 23 pounds 3s 7d; overdraft at bank December 31st, 1886, 62 pounds 16s 1d. Grand total, 538 pounds 1s 3d. Expenditure:- To salaries: Clergyman, 280 pounds; locum tenens, 10 pounds; organist, 20 pounds; choirmaster, 14 pounds 11s; verger, 14 pounds 7s; gardener, 6 pounds 3s; organ blower (part), 1 pound 14s; Parochial missions, 9 pounds 1s pd; Sunday school, 5s 16d; pension fund, 2 pounds 1s 1d; home mission, 6 pounds 19s 9d; Melanesian mission, 3 pounds 7s 8d; Society for Propagating the Gospel, 1 pound 5s 3d; Church Missionary Society, 1 pound 5s; insurance, 17 pounds 10s; lighting, 14 pounds 10s 6d; property improvements, 28 pounds 17s 3d; interest on building debt, 43 pounds 5s; sundries, 30 pounds 8s 10d. Total 505 pounds 12s 11d.

Overdraft at bank January 1st 1886 30 pounds 17s 7d; cash in hand December 31st 1886, 1 pound 10s 9d Grand total 538 pounds 1s 3d. Signed J. W. Merrick and John Dods, Auditors. The Rev. Chairman then said he was pleased to see so many present. The balance-sheet he had just read was not a very satisfactory one, but he did not feel discouraged. When the church was being built many people said they were foolish to spend so much money upon it. (The contemplated cost at that time was 2,000 pounds). Yet the church had been built, and had cost 3,000 pounds, of which only 500 pounds remained to be paid. The times were very bad, and the only way to meet them was to economise, and then he thought they would be able to ride over the bad period, and meet the good one with a clean sheet. Mr T. Wells remarked that Mr Willis practised what he preached, and, as they had heard in the report, had voluntarily offered to sacrifice 20 pounds of his salary for the present year. After further complimentary remarks he moved "That the stipend of the clergyman for the present year be 220 pounds, with full authority to the church wardens to pay the full amount if possible." Seconded by Mr W. S. Stewart, and carried unanimously. Several gentlemen spoke upon the "envelope system" and after a protracted discussion the Chairman moved, and Mr Chambers seconded "That it is the opinion of the meeting the envelope system should be given a fair trial during the coming year." Carried. It was resolved "That the new vestry be desired to get in the outstanding accounts as soon as possible, to clear off the liabilities. The Archdeacon announced that the ladies intended to collect weekly subscriptions to pay off the church debt. A resolution was passed to support the ladies in their endeavours to pay the debt, both by collecting and by holding a bazaar. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the lay readers, choir, Sunday school teachers, ringers, secretary and auditors. The Ven. Archdeacon announced that he had appointed Mr W. S. Stewart as the warden for the ensuing year. Mr W. S. Stewart proposed Mr E. Hewitt as people's warden. Seconded by Mr T. W. Hicks. Mr T. B. Lewis was proposed by Mr Masters and seconded by Mr Boyce, but declined to stand. Mr Hewitt was therefore elected unopposed. It was decided to have the same number upon the vestry as last year, viz. 9 and the following were elected:- Messrs T. Wells, T. B. Lewis, R. Chambers, R. W. Dyer, F. J. Sanders, W. M. Douglas, T. W. Hicks, Major, Wilson, and James Young. A vote of thanks to the Incumbent for his untiring labours throughout the year, and for conducting the meeting closed the proceedings.

Waikato Times 1 Mar 1887 St Andrew's, Cambridge – Garden Fete

We have been supplied with the following particulars relating to the effort of Monday next at Cambridge:- There are several committees working to make the fete a great success. The fruit stall committee are: Mesdames Selby, Hart-Hicks, Lewis, and Miss Hunt. The committee of the produce stall: Mesdames Forrest, Mackay, Hughes and Soutter. The work stall will be presided over by Mesdames Wilson and Stewart and the refreshment stall by Mesdames Williams, Robertson, R. Chambers, A. J. Hill, Bates and Willis. There is also a general executive committee and an entertainment committee. Mr W. O. Garland is arranging for a promenade concert, and the Cambridge Brass Band have kindly promised their assistance. The executive meet this evening at Major Wilson's at half-past four to make general arrangements. On Thursday the ladies meet also on the grounds to arrange the position of the various stalls. We are asked to say that all contributions for the work stall should be sent in to Mrs Wilson as early as possible, that they may be arranged and marked. Contributions of produce, &c., sent in before Monday will be received and taken charge of at the parsonage and stored in S. Andrew's schoolroom. Contributions sent on Monday should be sent to Major Wilson's direct, and early in the day. Also: Mr S. Chambers assisted.

Wises Post Office Directory 1887-1888

Richard Chambers, flour mills, Pukekura
Richard Chambers, miller, Cambridge

Auckland Star 18 May 1899 In the Superior Court of Bankruptch holden at Auckland

In the matter of "The Bankruptcy Act, 1883," and of the Bankruptcy of Richard Chambers, of Cambridge, Miller, a Bankrupt. Notice is hereby given that the abovenamed Richard Chambers has this day filed a petition to be adjudged a Bankrupt. The First General Meeting of Creditors will be held at my Office, Government Insurance Buildings, Queen street, Auckland on Thursday, the 23rd day of May, 1889, at 2.30 o'clock. Proofs of debt must be furnished prior to the meeting. Proxy forms can be obtained at my office. No proof can be admitted except under order of the Court after the expiration of four months from the date of the filing of the petition. Accounts sent in unsupported by proof of debt as proscribed by law cannot be recognised. Dated this 17th day of May 1889. John Lawson, Official Assignee in Bankruptcy. T. Cotter, Shortland-street, Solicitor for the Bankrupt.

Auckland Star 24 May 1889 Cambridge Flour Mills – Statement in Bankruptcy

A meeting of creditors in the bankrupt estate of Mr Richard Chambers was held yesterday afternoon. The following sworn statement made by the debtor was read:- After a service of nineteen years as manager of a flour mill in England, I came out to this colony in 1883, with my savings, amounting to £1,020. I landed in Auckland in October, 1883. Four months afterwards I obtained a situation as manager of a flour mill in the Waikato at a salary considerably less than I had at home, and continued there until January, 1885. Shortly afterwards I entered upon my present undertaking at Cambridge – a flour mill – which I leased for five years at £100 a year rental, £1,000 being the purchase money. The machinery was old, and I have had to spend £820 on improvements at various times. It never has been a success until this last year. I managed to clear £500. The first two years were worked at a loss. At the end of that time the dam burst, causing loss and delay to the extent of £200. In the third year I had to wipe off nearly £400 of bad debts, and there was a further loss of nearly the same sum through a fall in the price of wheat, but the latter was compensated for in the fourth year when, as stated, I cleared £500, chiefly by a rise in price and the production of a better class of flour – the latter result being the fruits of expenditure on improvements. In order to carry on my business it was necessary to have a guaranteed Bank overdraft of £1,000. I actually started with a capital of £675 – all that was left of the £1,020 I brought to the colony. At the end of two years – say February 1887 – my indebtedness to the bank was £1,800, and it was then arranged that I should work under their supervision, and this has continued ever since. Seeing no prospect of retrieving myself, and in view of the necessity for extensive repairs and improvements to anything like successfully compete with modern appliances without means or credit to carry on, I determined to file after offering to assign my estate. My books are thoroughly kept by double entry reported to date. My assets are all unencumbered, and I have estimated values as follows: - Stock-in-trade, £750 9s; book debts, £600; cash in hand, £55 1s; insurance estates, £29 11s; furniture, £25; working plant, £500; and farming stock, £85: total, £2,045 1s. There are five creditors, and the claims amount to £2,436, of which the principal creditor claims £1,899 13s 5d. After the above statement had been read, a letter signed by a number of Cambridge settlers was put in. It was stated therein that the settlers learned with very great regret of the probability of Mr Chambers's flour mills being closed, as he had done so much to stimulate wheat-growing in the district, and had proved that first-class flour could be produced from Waikato spring wheat. On the motion of Mr Allen, seconded by Mr Tewsley, it was decided, "That the Official Assignee and Mr Brooks, the representative of the Bank of New Zealand, make arrangements for the realisation of the estate at their discretion, and that Mr Brooks be appointed supervisor, under the provisions of the Act, at a remuneration of £1 per cent on the net sum realised." The following motion was also agreed to: "That Mr Chambers be allowed to retain his furniture and household effects, and that the creditors recommend that Mr Chambers's services be retained, if possible, during the realisation of his estate."

Auckland Star 02 Oct 1889 In Bankruptcy

In the Court of Bankruptcy holden at Auckland. In the matter of "The Bankruptcy Act, 1883," and the amendments thereof. Notice is hereby given that, by separate orders, made on the dates specified hereunder, in the matter of the several bankruptcies hereinafter mentioned, the said Court did order and declare that the said several bankruptcies had closed. September 30th, 1889 – No. 989 Richard Chambers, of Cambridge, Miller.

Auckland Star 09 Dec 1889 In Banco

Solicitor's Costs. Costs of debtor's solicitor, in the case of Richard Chambers, fixed at £10 and costs out of pocket.

The Digest 1890 Volume XV page 90 – Bankruptcy

Richard Chambers, Cambridge, miller. Filed 17 May 1889. Date of discharge 24 Mar 1890. Dividends declared 9s 4³/₄d, first & final 17 Dec 1889. Liabilities & Assets – 156.

Wises Post Office Directory 1890-1891

Richard Chambers, miller, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1892-1893

Richard Chambers, flourmills, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1894-1895

Richard Chambers, flourmills, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1896-1897

Richard Chambers, flourmills, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1898-1899

Richard Chambers, flourmills, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1900

Richard Chambers, flourmills, Cambridge

Wises Post Office Directory 1901

Richard Chambers, Barrett st, New Plymouth

Wises Post Office Directory 1902
Richard Chambers, Agent, New Plymouth

Wises Post Office Directory 1903
Richard Chambers, Agent, New Plymouth

Opunake Times 05 Aug 1904
Crook's Patent Air Gas. To be seen at Mrs Page's, Fruiterer, Eltham. Gives a magnificent light. Cheaper than coal gas could be made there. Just puts out Acetylene. A 60 candle power light for less 16 candle power electric. R. Chambers, New Plymouth, Sole Agent.

Taranaki Herald 10 Nov 1904
Mr J. M. Chambers 12-horse motorcar ran from New Plymouth to Wanganui yesterday, with 5 adults and 5 cwt of luggage against a strong head wind all the way, in 5hrs 55 mins. Eight gallons of oil was used for the whole journey. Richard Chambers, New Plymouth agent. Advt.

Taranaki Herald 29 Dec 1904 Advertisement
For Sale. 1 Tangye 25 h.p. Girder Engine; 1 Tangye 25 h.p. Colonial Boiler; 1 Breaking-down Saw Plant, with pulleys and shafting complete; 1 Circular Travelling Bench, with pulleys &c., complete – All nearly new. Boiler Certificate, 85lbs. Price £735. Net cash. Richard Chambers, New Plymouth.

Wises Post Office Directory 1907
Richard Chambers, manufacturing & com agent, Brougham st (p r Gilbert st), New Plymouth. See advert.

Wises Post Office Directory 1908
Richard Chambers, manufacturing & com agent, Brougham st (p r Gilbert st), New Plymouth.

Progress 01 Jun 1908 Advertisement
Business Cards – Richard Chambers, Machinery Importer and Commission Agent, New Plymouth.

Wises Post Office Directory 1909
Richard Chambers, manufacturing & com agent, Brougham st (p r Gilbert st), New Plymouth.

Wises Post Office Directory 1910
Richard Chambers, manufacturing & com agent, Brougham st (p r Gilbert st), New Plymouth.

Waikato Independent 31 Oct 1912 Obituary

Old residents of this district will regret to learn of the death, at an early hour this morning, of Mr Richard Chambers, who took a prominent part in the public life of Cambridge for a number of years. Arriving in the district in 1881, Mr Chambers was engaged as miller at Messrs Hally's flour mill on the west bank of the Waikato river, below the town, and later on acquired an interest in the business. Those were the days before the dairying industry was started, and farmers round this district depended almost entirely for ready money upon the grain crops, some five or six thousand acres being utilised for grain growing. Leaving Cambridge nearly twenty years ago Mr Chambers made his home in Taranaki, establishing there for his brother branches of the firm of John Chambers, hardware merchants. Mr Chambers' memory will be revered by many as a firm friend and sympathetic adviser, and his numerous acts of kindness in crushing grain free of cost, when money was absolutely unprocurable, assisted more than one of the Waikato's well-to-do farmers to their present circumstances. Mrs L. Isherwood is the only daughter of deceased. The funeral will leave his late residence at 3pm on Saturday for St. Andrew's Church, thence to the Cambridge Cemetery.