

William COUPER (1801-1879)

New Zealand Electronic Text Centre - <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-TurOldP-t1-g1-g1-g14-g7.html>

Maori Deeds of Old Private Land Purchases in New Zealand, from the year 1815-1840, with Pre-emptive and other claims. Deeds – No. 430

Motuhara Block, Porirua, Wellington District.

1839. 6 November. Wellington District. Motuhara. This Indenture made this 6th day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-nine Between [William Couper of Sydney New South Wales](#) and Thomas Mirya a Native and Mirya two Chiefs of New Zealand of the Tribe of William Couper. Mutuarra in the territory of New Zealand and having right and authority to alienate the land hereinafter mentioned and described hath contracted with the said William Couper For the sale to him of the said land for the price and consideration hereinafter mentioned and the same is now intended to be enfeoffed and conveyed to the said William Couper in manner hereinafter expressed Now this Indenture Witnesseth that in consideration of 5 Blankets 1 Musket 7 Shirts 50 lbs. Tobacco 4 Gallons of Rum One Hundred Pipes One Chest Four Rugs or Bed Covers One Keg of Powder Twenty Receipt. Pounds of Shot In hand well and truly paid and delivered by the said William Cooper To the said Mirya and Thomas Mirya Chiefs of Mutuarra before the sealing and delivery hereof the receipt whereof and that the same is in full for the absolute purchase of the Inheritance in fee simple in possession of the land and hereditaments hereinafter described and intended to be hereby enfeoffed and conveyed the said—doth hereby acknowledge and from the same and every part thereof doth acquit release and for ever discharge the said—His Heirs and Assigns And also the said land He the said—Hath given granted and Enfeoffed and by these presents doth grant Enfeoff Boundaries. and Confirm unto the said—And his heirs All that Land One Mile and a half Frontage of Mutuarra on the North Side and Six Miles in Land backwards of the said Mutuarra Or howsoever otherwise The said land and premises or any part thereof is bounded situate known or distinguished Together with Ways Paths Waters Woods Timber and other Trees Mines and Metals and all appurtenances to the said Land and premises belonging or in anywise appertaining And all the right and Title whatsoever of Him the said Chief or Chiefs Or any of the said tribe of Mutuarra in or to the same To have and to hold the said land Hereditaments and premises hereintofore described and hereby granted enfeoffed and confirmed or intended so to be with their and every of their rights priviledges advantages and appurtenances whatsoever unto and for the use and behoof of the said William Couper His Heirs and Assigns for ever and the said —For himself and his Heirs doth hereby covenant with the said—His Heirs and Assigns that He the said—and his Heirs do shall and will warrant and for ever defend unto and to the use of the said—his Heirs and Assigns all the said land and premises Hereby enfeoffed against him the said—And his Heirs and against all and every other person or persons whomsoever claiming the said land or premises or any part thereof. In Witness whereof the said—Hath hereunto affixed his seal and signature the day and year first above written. MyryaX.L.S. ; tomas mirya x. ; William Couper. Signed sealed and delivered by the within-named Mirya and Thomas Mirya the same having been previously read over and explained to him which He seemed perfectly to understand in our presence. Witness— John Wilson. George Davison.

Adventure in New Zealand: an abridgement by Edward Jerningham Wakefield Chapter XI p342

Captain Lewis... kept a house on Hiko's island, and was often there. A small party of very disorderly whalers had established themselves with the natives on the other end, and were positively despised by the men of the other stations, because they were often so drunk, or ill from continued drinking and debauchery, as to miss many chances of whales. An industrious Scotch carpenter, who had left a whaling-ship some years before, afforded a striking contrast to their disgusting behaviour. His name was [William Couper](#), and I had known him when I was here before in the Tory. He kept steadily sober and industrious and was said to have accumulated a good little capital, what with mending the whale-boats and ships, and trading with the natives, who, under the influence of Hiko, had befriended and patronized him. He had patched up two old boats, and was about to take them for sale to Port Nicholson, where he thought of setting up in some line, should the place appear "likely."

New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 10 Oct 1840

List of Licensed Publicans in Port Nicholson: William Couper, Thistle, Britannia

New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 26 Jun 1841 Advertisement

Commercial Wharf – Capital £250. Provisional committee. Maj. Baker, [Mr Couper](#), John Dorset, Esq., Captain Hay, Major Hornbrook, Mr U. Hunt, John Wade, Esq. The Wharf in course of erection in front of Medical Hall having given rise to numerous objections on the part of the Public, in consequence of its being hitherto the sole property and under the management of a few private individuals, it is determined by them to open it to the Public in the shape of a more extended Joint Stock Company, with shares of the small sum of £2 each, which will give the future Proprietors the benefit of the monies hitherto expended by those private individuals. The above arrangement having been made in consequence of the supposed monopoly of the present Proprietors of an investment so valuable, it would be deemed unjust to them to keep the Share List open, in its present liberal shape, for any length of time, and it is therefore determined that the List of Shares shall remain open to the Public for fourteen days from this date, at the houses of the Provisional Committee, where any information can be obtained. Wellington, 26th June 1841.

New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 18 Jun 1842 Advertisement

List of subscriptions towards the Erection of a Scotch Church in Wellington: Mr W. Couper (Thistle Tavern) £2 2s.

New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser 15 Nov 1842 Public Subscription

List of Subscriptions paid, and deposited in the Bank, up to 3 o'clock Monday, 14th of November:- The Committee sits every day, at the Town Hall Exchange, at 11 o'clock a.m., where, and at the Bank, contributions will be thankfully received... Mr Couper, Thistle Inn £5.

New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser 29 Nov 1842 List of Donations to the Mechanic's Institute

"The best means for improving the condition of the Maoris" is the subject for debate at the Mechanics' Institute, on Friday Evening next. The debate will be opened by Mr J. Woodward. From Appendix C of the Report, omitted in our Paper of the 18th. Mr Wm. Couper £1.

New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser 10 Mar 1843 Notice of Hearing New Zealand Land Claims

I, William Spain, a Commissioner appointed for investigating and determining Titles and Claims to Land in the Colony of New Zealand do hereby give notice, that I will proceed to investigate the undermentioned Claim in the Port Nicholson District (being in addition to the Claims already advertised for hearing in the New Zealand Colonist and Port Nicholson Advertiser of the 7th February, and in the New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator of the 8th of February 1843) at my Office at Porirua, on the 25th instant, and following days, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon. All parties interested are hereby summoned to be in attendance with their Witnesses, and they will be required to produce before me all original Deeds and Transactions thereof, relating to their Claims, with attested copies of the same, the latter to be left with me. Claimants are reminded that the Fee of £5 must be paid to me before the investigation of any Claim, or of any opposition thereto.

Case No. 74 William Couper, of Sydney, claimant: All that piece or parcel of Land, having one mile and a half frontage to Mutuarra on the north side, and six miles inland backwards of the said Mutuarra. Contents not stated. Alleged to have been purchased by claimant from Mirga, chief of the Mutuarra tribe. Consideration – various articles of merchandise; value not stated. Nature of conveyance – Deed in favor of claimant dated November 6, 1839. William Spain, Commissioner, March 7, 1843.

New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 08 Nov 1843 Wellington Baking Company

A General Meeting of the above Company will take place at Mr Couper's the Thistle Inn, to-morrow evening, Thursday, at 7 o'clock precisely, and a full meeting of the shareholders is particularly solicited. John Wade, G. W. Bennett, J. W. Hales – trustees. Te Aro, November 7, 1843.

New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 08 Nov 1843 Coroner's Inquest

An inquest was held on Sunday morning last, at the "Thistle Inn," Mr W. Couper, Mulgrave-street, Thorndon, before J. Fitzgerald, Esq., M.D., Coroner, and a respectable Jury, on the body of Robert Franklin, a whaler, who died from the effect of a wound in his throat, inflicted by himself...

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 22 Nov 1844

Post Office, Wellington. Unclaimed letters, November 22, 1844. William Couper.

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 12 Apr 1845

The 'Velocity' arrived from Auckland on Monday, having on board fifty troops of the 58th Regiment. This reinforcement increases the number of the military stationed at Wellington to 106 men. The large brick building recently erected by Mr Couper, on Thorndon Quay, beyond the pa Jakiwai, has been converted into barracks for their use, for which purpose it appears to be very well adapted. – Spectator, April 12.

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 19 Apr 1845

Important sale, by order of the Mortgagee. To be sold, without reserve, on Thursday, the 24th day of April, 1845, by Mr S. Mocatta, at ¼ past 12 o'clock, at Te-aro, the following valuable property, situate in the Town of Wellington, and Hutt District, New Ulster, New Zealand – viz... Lot 2. Lease from said John Carne Bidwell, Esq., to [William Couper](#), of all that piece or parcel of ground, containing 60 feet in Sydney-street, and 80 feet in Mulgrave-street, being part of Town acre No.515, together with the Public House, known as the "Thistle Inn" and the buildings known as the Court house, held for 11 years from the 10th of February, 1841, at the yearly rent of £26. Lot 3. Lease from the said John Carne Bidwell, Esq., to

William Couper, of all that piece of ground, containing 37 feet 6 inches on the Beach, and 39 feet in Mulgrave Street, 76 feet in Sydney Street, by a depth in the rear of 78 feet, together with the several buildings now in the occupation of William Couper, held for the term of 10 years, from the 11th April 1842, at the yearly rent of £21.

Wellington Independent 26 Apr 1845 Sale by Mr Mocatta

... Lot 2. Lease to W. Couper, Thistle Inn, 60 feet Sydney-street by 80 feet Mulgrave-street, per foot 12s. A. Ludlam. Lot 3 – Lease to W. Couper, 37 feet 6 in. frontage to beach, - to Sydney-street, at per foot 12s. A. Ludlam...

Wellington Independent 30 Apr 1845 Tinakori Road

The bridge from the barracks known as Mr Couper's brick house, to the Thorndon Flat stockade, is very difficult to find on a dark rainy night, and could only be very slowly passed. Should any alarm be given on a dark rainy night, it would be found very inconvenient to pass, and might perchance be found to have been cut away. We state therefore that the small piece of swamp which prevents persons from proceeding by the surveyed road, ought immediately to be made practicable.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference IA 3/1/5 - Colonial Secretary's Inwards Correspondence Register 1845

Letter 1437 Written 8 Sep 1845 by Commissioner Spain – reporting on B. Cooper, J. Holt & W. Couper & W. Hay's claim 72

Letter 1439 Written 8 Sep 1845 by Commissioner Spain – reporting on W. Couper's claim 74

Letter 1780 Written by W. Couper, Wellington (no date) – Memorial regarding his land claim

Wellington City Libraries – Ngauranga, Kaiwharawhara & Tiakiwai <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/maori/wellington/ngawaahingauranga.html>

Pakuao Kainga at the northern end of Tinakori Road, near the intersection with Hutt Road. Type of site: Kainga. Known Iwi/Hapu connections: Ngati Tama. Condition : Built over. Town Acres 659 and 660, selected as Native Reserves in 1840, were "at Pakuao." ... Similarly, in the early 1840's [William Couper](#) opened his Caledonian Hotel right next door to "Cliff Pa", as Pakuao was known to Pakeha at the time... (Source 1) In 1852 Te Kepa Napapa arranged a lease of 659 to William Couper, apparently to expand his Caledonian Hotel. (Source 2) Source 1: Cliff pa: Adkin, p 60 & Maps iv-2 & v. Source 2: Correspondence of Napapa, Couper, Kemp, Domett & Grey, ca. January 52 - Archives NZ Reference New Munster Inwards Correspondence NM 8 1852/Letter 42 (Waitangi Tribunal Wai 145 Doc A40 p 41lf)

The New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 14 Mar 1846

The Governor land at Mr Couper's station at Porirua, and had an opportunity of seeing the district round the harbour, and on Tuesday evening, the 'Castor' and 'Driver' returned to Port Nicholson.

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 20 Mar 1847

We have the satisfaction of announcing that after a good deal of negotiation, and two days' personal conference between his Excellency and the Natives, an arrangement has at length been made, by which we may hope that the harrassing question of the Land Claims, as regards the disputed lands in this district and those at Wairau, is finally disposed of. ... As much anxiety exists to know the particulars, we have collected from

different sources the following account, which we believe to be correct:- The amount of compensation in money to be received by the natives is £5000, namely, £2000 for the disputed lands at Porirua, and £3000 for the Wairau; these sums are to be divided into five annual payments, the largest instalment, amounting to £1600, will be paid this year... Three blocks of land have been reserved in the neighbourhood of Porirua for their use. The first block is bounded towards the south by a line drawn from Jackson's Ferry through section No.62 to the back of the last section (38) in the Ohariu district, and thence to the coast; and comprises the land between the south-western arm of Porirua Harbour and the sea, including that claimed by [Mr Couper](#)...

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 17 Apr 1850

Publicans' Licenses - Yesterday there was a numerous attendance of Magistrates at the Resident Magistrate's Court for the renewal of Publicans' Magistrate's Court for the renewal of Publicans' Licenses for the current year, and for the purpose of taking into consideration the applications for licenses for new houses. Of the new applications three were rejected, and six granted, and of the latter five are in the town of Wellington, so that the number of public houses in Wellington and its immediate neighbourhood will be increased this year to twenty-four. The names of those to whom licenses for new houses have been granted are as follows:... William Couper, Tiakwai [Wellington]

Wellington Independent 24 Jan 1852 Advertisement – For Sale

A thorough-bred Durham Bull, rising 4 years old, now running in the pastures of Mr Wm. Couper, Porirua. Price £25. Apply to Mr Meech, Caledonian Hotel, Wellington, or to Mr Peter Cooper, the owner, at Wellington. Porirua, January 22, 1852.

New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 3 Apr 1852

Memorial of the Settlers of Wellington & the Neighbouring Districts on the Land claims ordinance and pasturage regulations to His Excellency Sir George Grey. We the undersigned Settlers and Landowners of Wellington... William Couper, stock and landholder, Porirua; Peter Couper, stock and landholder, Porirua; Donald Couper, stockholder, Porirua Road.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference CS 2/1 - Civil Secretary's Inwards Correspondence Register 1853

Letter 752 Written 15 June 1853 by Michael Fitzgerald enquiring if the Grant to W. Couper includes any portion of Tom's claim
Letter 707 Written 20 June 1853 by M. Fitzgerald enclosing memo from Mr Thomas Fitzgerald relative to Mr Couper's grant for land at Porirua
Letter 933 Written 1 August 1853 by W. Couper requesting that land at Porirua may be purchased from Natives

Runs and Runholders in Early Hawkes Bay - www.angelfire.com/bc/Vincina/runholders.html

KAHURANAKI - William Couper 1854 - Couper was born at Latheran Wheel, near Caithness in north Scotland in 1801. He came to NZ in 1840 with Janet Hillman (wife) and Elizabeth (daughter). Janet died in the 1840's in Wellington and William married in 1848 Margaret Knox (dau. of Dr Frederick Knox - one of Wgtn's first Doctors and the first Librarian. The family decided to ship to their Hawkes Bay property in 1856. MANGAKURI - W. Frederick Hargrave and Peter Couper c.1853. (Peter was the brother of William of Kahuranaki).

Hawkes Bay Herald 9 Oct 1858 Birth

On the 29th inst at Mount Pleasant, Kauranaki, the wife of Wm Couper Esq of a son.

Otago Witness 3 Dec 1859

Hawkes Bay: The Provincial Council was to meet for the despatch of business on the 22nd ult. The sale of unagricultural land took place, pursuant to proclamation, on the 2nd inst. All the lots were sold, viz... 640 acres on W. Coupler's run, to Mr Couper, the applicant, at the upset price [of 5s].

Daily Southern Cross 6 Aug 1862 Marriage

On the 12th ult., at the residence of W. Couper, Esq., Kauranaki, by the Rev. H. Woodford St Hill, Thomas Lowry, Esq, of Okawa, in the province of Napier, to Maria Townsend, fifth daughter of Geo Beamish, Esq., Turakina, Wellington.

Hawkes Bay Herald 23 Dec 1863 Birth

Son born to William COUPER Senr

Hawkes Bay Herald 23 Dec 1865 Birth

At Kauranaki, on the 14th December, the wife of William Couper Esq., of a daughter.

Wellington Independent 6 May 1874 Advertisement

The following persons are objected to as not being entitled to have their names on the list of voters for the electoral district of the city of Wellington: William Couper, Ahuriri, Freehold, Parted with qualification, left the Province.

Taranaki Herald 16 Oct 1875 Sale of Property

Mr Miller sold Mr Maney's Pakouhai estate at Wairoa (5,276 acres), with 7,000 sheep, to Mr H. Nairn, for £14,300. He also disposed of the whole of the Te Kapu estate (4,677 acres) to Mr W. Couper of Havelock, at an average price of £1 15s 6d per acre.

New Zealand Electronic Text Centre - <http://www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-TurOldP-t1-g1-g1-g14-g7.html>

Maori Deeds of Old Private Land Purchases in New Zealand, from the year 1815-1840, with Pre-emptive and other claims. Deeds – No. 430
Page 415 Be it remembered that on the 6th day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and thirty-nine peaceable and quiet possession and full seizin of the land and hereditaments within mentioned to be granted and enfeoffed to the within named—was openly had and taken by the within named—and by him delivered to the said—to hold the same unto and to the use of the said—and his heirs according to the purport and true intent and meaning of the within written Indenture in the presence of us whose names are hereunto subscribed. I acknowledge to have received on the day of the date of the within written Indenture of the within-named—being the full consideration within mentioned to be paid and given to me for the sale and conveyance of the said land and hereditaments within described. Witness— John Wilson. Geor. Davison. A true copy of the original Deed having been carefully examined therewith by us. R. Forster, W. Lowe, Clerks to R. D. Hanson, Solr., Wellington. A True Transcript of Certified Copy of Original Deed. No. 74.O.L.C. H. Hanson Turton. Wellington, 30th October 1878.

Hawkes Bay Herald 14 Feb 1879 Death

At Havelock House, on Feb 13, William Couper Esq., aged 78 years. The funeral will leave for Havelock cemetery tomorrow at 2pm. We regret to have to record the death of one of our earliest and most respected settlers, Mr William Couper, who expired yesterday at Havelock after a painful illness. Mr Couper arrived in Wellington, we hear, about the year 1840, and after remaining there a number of years, came to Hawke's Bay when the district was in its infancy, and remained here up to the time of his death. The funeral takes place tomorrow at 2pm.

Napier District Testamentary Register 1876-1894 - Archives NZ Wellington Reference AAEC 638 74 pt1

1879/14 William COUPER died 2 Nov 1879. Beneficiaries: M. K. COUPER, widow; W. A. COUPER, son; J. N. MACKENZIE, dau; E. BEAMISH, dau; J. COUPER, son; M. COUPER, dau; R. J. COUPER, son; D. COUPER, son; B. COUPER, dau; F. G. G. COUPER, dau; W. ORR, grandson; E. MOORE, stranger (life interest); L. ORR, stranger.

NZ Genealogist 1976 Readers' Queries p344

315. Nicholson, John m Eliza Streeter at Sydney 1 Mar 1817 soon after they arrived from England - both possibly born near Newcastle-on-Tyne. Port Nicholson, NZ named after John who was Harbour Master at Sydney 1821-1842 but precise reason and date unknown. John's nephew, Wm COUPER, visited NZ late 1820s, later settled Wellington then moved to Hawke's Bay. Any information on either family appreciated. (I. H. Nicholson, 102 Lewin St, Lyneham, ACT 2602, Australia)

Dominion Post 1 Jan 2009 – Stuff <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/177809?label=Environment>

Someone should buy "map detective" George Holmes a beer for apparently cracking a Wellington pub mystery. The retired public servant has been responsible for the amended spellings of 72 Kiwi geographic features and localities, which have been accepted by the New Zealand Geographic Board over the past 10 years. His latest research has resulted in a Porirua hill being given its correct title and appears to have solved the mystery surrounding the naming of Wellington's historic Thistle Inn. Built in 1840, and rebuilt in 1866 after being gutted by fire, the Thistle Inn is the city's oldest pub. It is said that Te Rauparaha liked to beach his canoe outside the inn and duck inside for a drink. According to Pat Lawlor's Old Wellington Hotels, the pub on Mulgrave St could have been named after a thistle that grew on the site before it was built. But the map detective has found a much more convincing explanation. "The Thistle Inn is likely to have been named by a Scotsman, [William Couper](#), who built the hotel in 1840, and evidently named it after the national emblem of his country." Mr Holmes reached this conclusion after he researched the origin of the name Mt Cooper, a 104-metre hill to the north of Titahi Bay. He found that it was named after Mr Couper, who owned land around Porirua Harbour in the 1840s and 1850s, and the Thistle Inn site. The hill is now named Whitireia/Mt Couper - which incorporates its Maori name and the correct spelling of the Scotsman's name. Six other geographic name changes proposed by Mr Holmes were accepted by the geographic board this week. They included his first affecting Stewart Island, where Cooper Bay will now be known as Coupar Bay. Last month Mr Holmes said New Zealand should really be spelt as New Zeeland, the name which the Dutch gave to the country 350 years ago. He also suggested that Aotearoa would be a much more suitable name for the 21st century. Such a name change would require an act of Parliament.