

## Thomas John DRAKE (1814-1889)

*Marriage Register Deptford St Paul, Lewisham, Kent*

No.849 Thos. Jno. Drake of this parish, bachelor and Ceres Selina Walters of this parish, spinster were married in this church by Banns this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1836 by me B. S. Finch, Rector in the presence of Reuben Cos and John Veness.

*The New Zealand Gazette 11 Jul 1840 List of Passengers*

In the barque 'Aurora' Captain Heale, from London: Mr Samuel Parker and lady, Mr G. T. Palmer, jun., and lady, Mr T. J. Drake, lady & child, Mrs R. Stokes, Mrs R. Parke, Miss Morgan, Major Baker, Messrs J. W. Child, W. Deans, W. and C. Maxwell, J. and F. Deighton, George White, and C. M'Gurk; R. Stokes, Esq., surgeon.

*New Zealand Journal 18 Oct 1840 Extract of a letter from Mr Thomas Drake, Passenger by 'Aurora', to his father*

Brittania, Port Nicholson, New Zealand, April 2, 1840. Dear Father, I write to inform you of our safe arrival here; we had a very pleasant passage of four months from Gravesend. We arrived at Port Hardy on the 17th of January, and at Port Nicholson on the 18th. We are all quite well, and have been so since we left England. Little Ceres has grown a very fine and beautiful child - is very much admired by everyone. Our fresh provisions lasted all the way to Port Nicholson; there was plenty of wine, spirits and porter, and on the whole we lived very well indeed. Our cabin was the most comfortable one in the ship. We had several gales; in one off the Cape we lost our fore-topmast, and main and fore-top-gallant masts, and yards &c. The worst gale was between the Cape and New Holland; it lasted 2 days and a night. We sailed at 14 knots an hour, with close reef foresail; the waves were exceedingly long, and as high as our foretop: we were often quite buried in the sea. The Aurora was the first ship that arrived; we only had one death, and that was a child who was very bad when it came on board. The Tory made a very quick passage here, only 93 days from Ushant; she purchased this port and about 800,000 acres of land before the Sydney folks knew of her leaving England; they were close at her heels, expecting to buy this place before her arrival. My articles purchased at Wood's came out in the Glenbervie; I was surprised you did not write as you said you would. We fell in with a large ice island with a number of large pieces near it, on Christmas day, while at dinner; we were sailing with a fair wind at 10 knots an hour. We met some others two days afterwards between the Cape and New Holland, about 41 deg. south latitude. There are 3 ships here from Sydney and Port Philip with horses, cattle, and sheep; there have been several brigs and schooners from Sydney, and the north of New Zealand, with provisions, potatoes, pigs &c; there have been 12 ships lying here at once. I understand that there are a great number of people leaving New South Wales, Port Philip and South Australia, owing to the drought and great price of provisions, and coming to New Zealand; there were six-and-twenty came here last week in a schooner from Port Philip. I suppose before this you have seen the chart of Port Nicholson, which was surveyed by the nautical surveyors in the Tory; it is a very magnificent port indeed. Ships can come in or out against the wind, the entrance being sufficiently large to tack about. The opposite part of the bay was originally selected by Col. Wakefield and the surveyors of the Tory for the town, and named Thorndon, after Lord Petre's estate; the harbour is name Lambton, after the Earl of Durham. The site of Thorndon is most desirable for a commercial town; it is a most beautiful spot and exceedingly healthy, and the land is cleared; it contains about 1,500 acres; quite sufficient for the town. Clay in abundance for bricks, of very superior quality and all other materials for building. The foundation for houses and cellars is excellent, dry and level; plenty of most excellent water. The natives plant and sow all the year round, the climate is so equable. Large vessels can very nearly lay alongside the town. The district of Britannia is a beautiful large valley, with several smaller valleys branching out of it, right and left. The soil is exceedingly rich, and nothing can equal the luxuriance of the many beautiful shrubs and plants.

It is delightful to hear the sweet notes of the numerous birds here; the pigeons are very fine and large. The climate is exceedingly salubrious and the woods are as green in winter as in summer. The only house when I came here was the Company's provision store, built by the natives; they have built all our temporary houses on the beach for us at a cheap rate. They have built several at Thorndon on speculation, the better sort plastered with clay &c., the roof lined with bark and then thatched, and when fitted with doors and windows, are far superior to any houses brought from England, and do not cost one-fifth so much. There is an abundance of fish here, but no fishers at present; the natives supply their own wants, and being employed building &c., they have plenty to do. It has been a loss of time and capital the town not being ready, but now Thorndon is selected, it is worth waiting for, and will be surveyed within a month. Lambton harbour is the finest in the world; it is very spacious, and the anchorage very safe indeed, and is well protected from all winds. Town and country land must be exceedingly valuable about Port Nicholson. There is no port to equal it in New Zealand, having a large extent of excellent land in the vicinity of the port, and being connected to the immense tracts of splendid country right and left of it. Your most affectionate Son, T. J. Drake

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 21 and 28 Nov 1840*

Building allotments to be let. The Town Acre opposite to Mr Wade's, No. on the plan of the town 467, beautifully situated on a bank, commanding a fine prospect of the port. A stream of excellent water runs through the acre, which also possesses an abundance of fire-wood. Apply to Mr Drake.

*New Zealand Colonist 4 Apr 1843 p2*

Since our last publication, we have been gratified by a visit to the Wellington Brewery, erected by Messrs Drake and Northwood, a building of no mean pretensions, both as to the size and the arrangements, and we cannot help congratulating our fellow colonists on this great addition to our self-production and comforts. The outlay must have been very considerable, but we hope the proprietors will reap the benefit of their spirited undertaking, which we have no doubt they will. Mr Masters has also a small brewery, and another one is about to be erected on Te Aro Flat.

*New Zealand Gazette 8 Apr 1843*

We have neglected to notice the establishment of two breweries, one on Te Aro Flat, by Mr Masters, and the other one on Wellington Terrace, by Messrs Northwood and Drake. Real Port Nicholson ale and beer can now be purchased, and we think the colonists will encourage that which is produced in their own place.

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 14 Oct 1843 p3*

Police Court 12 Oct 1843. Mr Thomas Drake appeared to answer a complaint of setting fire to some rubbish on his own premises. Mr Holroyd attended for Mr Drake. The charge was of a frivolous character, and not being within any statutable enactment, the magistrate very properly dismissed the case without a hearing.

*New Zealand Gazette No.2 Auckland 17 Jan 1845 p6-7 District of Wellington*

A Statement of the Returns of Rates payable on Income and Property, that have been made at this Office by the Persons under-mentioned, in terms of the Ordinance of the Governor and Council of New Zealand, No.2, of Session IV, between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> days of November 1844, inclusive. Thomas Drake, Brewer – Rate: £2

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 2 Jan 1847*

Wanted: From 1000 to 1500 bushels of Chevalier Barley for Malting. Apply to Drake & Northwood, Wellington Brewery, Wellington Terrace. Wellington 1 Jan 1847.

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 10 Feb 1847*

List of all persons qualified to serve as Jurors for the District of Port Nicholson, for the year, 1847. Thomas John Drake, Wellington Terrace, brewer; Thomas Northwood, Wellington Terrace, brewer

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 7 Apr 1847*

Wanted: From 1000 to 1500 bushels of Good Malting Barley. Apply to Drake & Northwood, Wellington Brewery, Wellington Terrace. Wellington 1 January 1847.

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

Memorial of the Settlers of Wellington and the neighbouring districts on the land claims ordinance and pasturage regulations. To His Excellency Sir George Grey &c &c &c. We, the undersigned Settlers and Landowners of Wellington, in the colony of New Zealand, beg respectfully to express to your Excellency our strong sense of the serious evils to our interests, and injury to the colony, arising from the Act to regulate the affairs of certain of the New Zealand Company's settlements, passed during the last session of Parliament. Under the New Zealand Company's Land Claimants Ordinance, passed by the General Legislature of the colony, the different questions arising out of these claims were arranged on a liberal and equitable basis, and Crown Grants were offered to the land purchasers and holders of land under the Company's Compensation Scrip, which gave them a valid and unquestionable title; whereas, the Grants offered to them, under the Act of Parliament referred to, are of so qualified a nature, that no land purchasers will agree to accept them, while serious doubts are entertained whether any titles can be issued under the Act of Parliament to the owners of land selected under the Company's Compensation Scrip. The Act of Parliament revives the Terms of Purchase and Pasturage of Land, issued by the New Zealand Company in Wellington, and in force at the date of the surrender by the Company of its charters to the Government, which fix the price of rural land in this settlement, in blocks of 25 acres, at £2 per acre: the effect of these terms, when in force under the Company, was such that no rural land was sold in this settlement. But since that period so much additional land has been granted in compensation to resident and absentee land purchasers as to reduce the price of rural land, except in particular situations, considerably below 20s per acre. The attempt to fix the price of land, therefore, at £2 per acre would, we believe, be absolutely to stop any sales of land by the Government, while the Terms of Pasturage are such, and the tenure of the land so precarious (being annual leases terminable at any time by six months' notice, and no allowance being made for improvements,) as altogether to prevent any settler from investing his capital in pastoral pursuits under them; and these terms appear in a still more unfavourable light when contrasted with the liberal pastoral regulations issued by your Excellency, and which were superseded by the present Act of Parliament. For, these and other weighty reasons, we respectfully beg your Excellency will, by suspending the Act referred to (except such of its provisions as relate to the Trust Funds at Nelson), relieve the settlers from the serious evils which would result from its operation; and that you will cause the arrangements under the Land Claimants Ordinance to be immediately revived, and the Pastoral Regulations issued by your Excellency to be again put in force, and a uniformity of management to be established of the Crown Lands of the Colony under the Australian Land Sales Act, and the Charter and Royal Instructions. We strongly protest

against the Imperial Parliament legislating upon matters affecting the daily transactions of the settlers, except upon the petition of the colonists. From the distance, the imperfect means of information, and the rapid changes which arise in colonies, it is impossible that the Home Government should be able to adapt its measures to the state of things existing at the time of their coming into operation. As far as we have been able to observe the general tendency of such interference has been either useless or injurious. In determining the amount to be paid to the New Zealand Company, we hope her Majesty's Government will take care that the amount of lands granted in compensation to its purchasers, and otherwise alienated by the Company, together with such other expenses since necessarily incurred by the Local Government as may be equitably charged to the debit of the Company, will be deducted from the gross amount said to be due to it; and we protest against any attempt to charge the settlers with the payment of interest on the debt alleged to be due to the Company, as they were in no way consenting parties to such an arrangement, while any attempt to charge this amount on the Colonial revenue, would, in our opinion, be in the highest degree unconstitutional and unjust. Signed... Thos.J. Drake, landowner, Porirua.

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

Memorial of the Settlers of Wellington and 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, in the Colony of New Zealand, beg respectfully to express to your Excellency our strong sense of the serious evils to our interests, and injury to the colony, arising from the Act to regulate the affairs of certain of the New Zealand Company's settlements, passed during the last session of Parliament.... Thos. J. Drake, signatory, landowner, Porirua.

*Evening Post Friday 16 Apr 1869*

... HRH the Duke of Edinburgh took an opportunity of commemorating his visit to New Zealand by planting four trees in the Government house grounds. The ceremony took place in the presence of his Excellency the Governor, the Hon. E. W. Stafford, Captain Pitt Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency, attended by the Government gardener. The following is a list of the names of the trees planted, by whom presented and their habitats. 1. Abies Nordmannia, The Crimea and the Caucasus by Mr Hale of Nelson. 2. Podocarpus Totara, New Zealand by Mr Drake of Johnsonville. 3. Cedrus Pensilis, Tasmania by Mr Drake of Johnsonville. 4. Arancaria Excelsa, Norfolk Island by Mr Epps of Nelson.

*Evening Post 15 May 1877*

We, the Undersigned Owners and Occupiers of Land, hereby authorise Mr George Hobbs, Ranger, duly appointed by the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, to Prosecute all Persons found Shooting, or in any way Trespassing on Land so owned or held by us. Upper Kaiwarra: C. Aplin, J. Aplin, J. Murray, H. A. White, J. Casey, J. Nairn, Thos. Hawkins; Porirua Road: J. E. Bannister, W. Pickin, R. Bould, Thomos J. Drake, Wm. Edwards, William Nott, Thos. Broderick, Alex. Brown, J. D. G. Macdonald, Henry Stebbing, Benjamin Stebbing, D. Brade, D. Hobbs, A. McPherson, James Andrew.

*1879-1880 Wellington Country Electoral Roll*

Thomas John Drake, Freehold land and house at Poriria Road

*Evening Post 08 Oct 1886*

Judgement in the case of Drake v. the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company was delivered in the Compensation Court this morning. The majority of the Court awarded the complainant £600 as damages for loss through the action of the defendants in taking their line through his property near Johnsonville. The assessors' fees were fixed at £10 10s each, to be paid in equal proportions by both parties. Mr Justice Richmond and Messrs Lockie and Ames, assessors, composed the Court, and the claim made by the plaintiff amounted to £900.

*Evening Post 22 Jun 1889*

Another old resident passed away yesterday afternoon in the person of Mr Thomas John Drake, settler, of Johnsonville. Mr Drake had been a sufferer for some years from an internal complaint, and during the last 18 months had lived almost altogether in the city for the purpose of consulting Dr Kemp. He died about 4 o'clock yesterday at a residence in Sydney-street. The deceased gentleman arrived in the colony early in the forties and started the first brewery in the district. Upon his retiring from business he purchased his present property at Johnsonville, and in this and in the surrounding districts he was very well known. He lived a very unostentatious life. Mr Drake was about 75 years of age at the time of his death, and he leaves a wife and family.

*Evening Post 19 Dec 1898 Death and Funeral Notice*

At the residence of her daughter (Mrs T. H. Jenkins), Dovedale, Eltham, Ceres Selina, relict of the late Thos. J. Drake, the Ranges, Porirua; aged 76 years. The Friends of the late Mrs Ceres Selina Drake, late of Johnsonville, are respectfully invited to attend her Funeral, which will leave No.55 Molesworth-street, To-morrow, at 3 p.m., for the Bolton-street Cemetery. Clark & Thompson, Undertakers, No.55 Molesworth-street.

*Hawera & Normanby Star 19 Dec 1898 Eltham*

An old lady, named Mrs Drake, died at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr Thos. Jenkins, at the age of 87. The body will be taken to Wellington to-day by train to be interred, she being one of the oldest residents of that place.

*Hawera & Normanby Star 22 Dec 1898 Death*

On the 16<sup>th</sup> December, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs Jenkins, Mangawhero, Ceres Selina, relict of the late T. J. Drake, Esq., Wellington, and daughter of the late Mr Walters, Ship-broker, Newcastle-on-Tyne, England.