

## Thomas John DRAKE (1814-1889)

### *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 Glenberrie; 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. 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 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.