

And So It Began
Motueka & District Historical Association

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In 1848 a grant of Maori land was given for church mission house and cemetery purposes. This site was on the western corner of Pah and Atkins Streets and the remains of the old cemetery are still there. The next year a weather-board church and small mission house. According to local tradition, this was the former chapel from Port Underwood, moved and erected, but this cannot be substantiated, although it is significant that no record of its cost appears in the report drawn up by Ironside. The buildings were for the use of the Maoris in Motueka and **William Jenkins**, a catechist, had been transferred from the Cloudy Bay mission to Motueka - the largest centre of Maori population in the area. By 1851 the Maori School had 30 scholars and 300 were attending the Sunday School.

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Apart from the church building and a new substantial hall, the young Methodist community built a mission house which was soon occupied by **Mr William Jenkins and his family**, who had formerly served with Ironside in the Port Underwood mission. The early records of the Motueka Methodist Church contain the names of W. Andrews (formerly of Nelson), John Riley, Samuel Stone, **W. Jenkins**, the Staples and Harding families and a number of others whose descendants have continued their interest in the Church which meant so much to the pioneers in this area.

Painting by Mrs T. V. Banfield JENNENS (nee Thomasina Banfield) – the second Methodist church built in 1849.

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Pah Street Cemetery - oldest cemetery in Motueka - burial ground for both Maori and European. In 1848 the present grants of land for church, mission house and cemetery purposes were made. The plot records have been lost. "1 rood 37 perches portion of Native Reserve Section 184 as a site of a cemetery for the benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of whatever religious denomination resident in the District of Motueka and Riwaka." The Maori Chapel was still there in September 1888.