

Samuel WALKER (c1842-1880)

Journal of the Whanganui Historical Society Inc. Volume 24 No.1 May 1993 – The Rise and Fall of Major Brassey by Clem Earp, Wellington

In early 1865, the military authorities thought it necessary to lodge a strong garrison at Pipiriki... the point where the Whanganui river transport ended and overland trails began; it was the boundary between the Government controlled area and the country controlled by Pehi Turoa's insurgents... In the following months... when the Native Contingent departed, the Patea Rangers refused to occupy the vacated huts... on 4 July, Brassey wrote to Wellington asking if he was to report to Major Rookes, and the next day he wrote to say he was under arrest. Major Atkinson, the Minister of Colonial Defence, ordered that Brassey was to be released immediately, but confirmed that he was to report to Major Rookes. Prior to this, Brassey had been complaining directly to Wellington about matters under Rooke's command – the Native Contingent not being paid and deficiencies in the river transport... Brassey's garrison, reduced to 231 men, withstood a siege from 19 July to 30 July in the face of a Pai Marire force estimated at upwards of 400... He inflicted casualties on his enemy, while no-one was killed on his side... After the siege of Pipiriki was lifted, Brassey and most of his men were ordered to return to Wanganui to prepare for the Opotiki expedition. Brassey was the hero of the hour, and because of this, was put in overall command of this larger undertaking... On Friday 8 September 1865, the first Government troops landed at Opotiki to avenge the killing of the Reverend Volkner... After the initial skirmishes at the time of landing, Brassey seems to have concentrated on fortifying his position and scouring the countryside for food, livestock and implements. On 14 September there was a skirmish at Te Puia pa. This was the only fighting until 5 October, when McDonnell attacked Te Tarata... The troops returned to camp early in the afternoon of the 6th... Major Stapp wrote that evening... I have the honour to report that I have this day placed Major Brassey in arrest for being drunk and have assumed command of the Expeditionary Force pending further instructions. Enclosed were letters from Major George, Captain Pennefather, and Major McDonnell as witnesses to Brassey's condition... McDonnell states... I regret to say I found him drunk so I placed him under arrest according to (Stapp's) order."

Note: Army Department Inwards Correspondence sources referenced in this article include:

AD 1 [1865/3219,3519,3347,3733,4024](#); [1866/795,1474,1818,4628,5024](#); [1867/1483](#)

Commission Document – Family papers

By His Excellency Sir George Grey, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c. By virtue of the Power and Authority in me vested by an Act of the General Assembly of the Colony of New Zealand intituled the "Militia Act 1858" and reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage, and Good Conduct, I do hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you **Samuel Walker** to be **Ensign** in the **Wanganui Militia**. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge all the duties of Ensign in the said Militia and the Officers of inferior degree to yourself – and the Soldiers – are hereby respectively commanded to obey you as their Ensign; and you are to observe and follow all such lawful orders and directions as – from time to time – you may receive from me or the Officer administering Her Majesty's Government in this Colony for the time being, or from any other your Superior Officer for the Public Service. Given under my hand, and issued under the Public Seal of the Colony, at Government House, at **Wellington**, this **fourth** day of **September** in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty **five**. By His Excellency's command, [signed] T. M. Haultain and G. Grey.

Passenger Shipping Lists for Port of Wanganui to 1880

Ensign Walker, 'Stormbird', from Opotiki to Wellington – 20 Nov 1865

Journal of Rev. Richard Taylor – Wanganui Museum

28 Nov 1865. This afternoon the Stormbird arrived with the native contingent on board, they were received with repeated volleys as the vessel steamed past Putiki, and a war dance was enacted by our natives, later in the afternoon they arrived at Putiki and were received with a loud tangi.... Gov. (?) Paipai came late in the evening to say that the native contingent was going to come to the morning service to return thanks.

29 Nov 1865. A very rainy night and morning. I had to wait some time after the bell ceased, the native contingent came at a very slow march and filled the church, the psalms for the day seemed very appropriate. I selected one and gave them a short address. They were extremely attentive, after the service at the word of command from their officer they formed outside the church. Abraham, Basil and I then went round and shook each of them by the hand and welcomed them back, poor fellows they had indeed great cause for thankfulness for although they have done so much for the pacification of the island still they have been mercifully spared and have not lost a single one of their number.

30 Nov 1865. We had Dr Featherston and Colonel Haultain over in the afternoon when they met the native contingent and wanted them to go against the Nga ti rua natives which at present they appear unwilling to do.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 183 dated 24 Dec 1865 written by Lt-Colonel Lepper, New Plymouth

Subject: With letter from Captain Good relative to the Native Contingent being struck off pay &c

Letter No. 2 dated 29 Dec 1865 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Has instructed Major Von Tempsky in accordance with letter 890 & reporting relative to issue of clothing to Native Contingent

Letter No. 9 dated 30 Dec 1865 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Native Contingent under command of Major McDonnell left Wanganui for West Coast 30th December

Letter No. 15 dated 30 Dec 1865 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With proceedings of Court of Enquiry relative to loss of arms &c by Native Contingent when crossing the Bar at Opotiki

Journal of Rev. Richard Taylor – Wanganui Museum

29 Dec 1865. The Superintendent came over and saw the natives about their going to Waitotara. I am sorry to see so many of them confirmed drunkards.

30 Dec 1865. The native militia left today and also the general, town full of drunkenness as usual our authorities manage to commence war on the sabbath, for although this is Saturday, tomorrow most probably they will be face to face with the enemy. War a sad termination & beginning of the year.

Evening Post 6 Jan 1866 The Waitotara Expedition

On Saturday last an expeditionary force left Wanganui en route for the Waitotara, and we can confidently say fully determined to crush rebellion in that direction. Major-General Chute accompanies the expedition, which consists of 30 of the Royal Artillery, with two 6-pounder guns under Lieut. Carre, 100 of H.M. 14th Regiment under Captain Furneaux; 150 of the Native Contingent under Major McDonnell and Ensigns McDonnell and Gudgeon, with Dr Walker as Surgeon to the Contingent. Fifty more natives are to leave today, and Major Von Tempsky with his Forest Rangers will complete the force, unless General Chute should consider it advisable to take with him part of the troops now stationed at Waitotara. The Native Contingent is composed of the Wanganui, Rangitikei, Aramo and other tribes, showing beyond a doubt that the natives of these districts are loyal to a man. The public have the utmost confidence in General Chute, and fully hope that this expedition will finally settle the disturbances in these districts. Our correspondent with the force will keep our readers advised of passing events – Wanganui Times, 2nd January.

Journal of Rev. Richard Taylor – Wanganui Museum

7 Jan 1866. The steamer came in, with several of the native contingent. The general reached Kai Iwi.

8 Jan 1866. This morning all returned from the war. Dr Featherstone the Superintendent who accompanied the troops also arrived. The General took all the pas but it appears the men with few exceptions escaped, their plantations were all destroyed but they appear as determined as ever to carry on the war. Te Ua the originator of the Hauhau faith has given himself up, the general went to New Plymouth by the forest expecting to get through in three days & taking provisions only for that time, they lost their way and were nine days in the forest and were reduced to the necessity of killing some of their horses and eating them. Colonel Gamble and Major Pitt came to the general and advised him to retreat and return, the general turned to Featherstone and asked his opinion, he said it would be the greatest disgrace possible, the general dismissed them and then burst out into a laugh and said it was the furthest from his intention, by compass they knew they could any time reach the coast, the next day succour arrived and they safely reached New Plymouth, where a Triumphal arch was made for them to pass under, this the general declined saying the war was not yet finished, a public dinner was given to the entire force. The general has been so far successful, he did not spare any who fell into his hands, he would not have any prisoners but bid his men take them away which they did and shot them, neither would he let the sabbath be respected the natives were compelled to fight on the Lords day, this they wrote to me about how sad that natives should have to remind English Xtians of their duty and in vain. God has been very merciful and all have returned safe and with some 4 or 500 horses and many head of cattle as loot.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 137 dated 09 Jan 1866 written by Hon. Col. Haultain, Taranaki

Subject: Directing Mr O. Carrington to lay out a Township for the Native Contingent under Captain Good

Letter No. 139 dated 10 Jan 1866 written by Hon. Col. Russell

Subject: Lt-Col Gorton to select two Officers for Native Contingent in consequence of Major McDonnell & Ensign Gudgeon being wounded

Letter No. 167 dated 13 Jan 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Acknowledging receipt of instructions to proceed to the Front & consult with Major McDonnell relative to the appointment of Officers for Native Contingent

Letter No. 272 dated 18 Jan 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Relative to the appointment of Officers for the Native Contingent

Daily Southern Cross 19 Jan 1866 War in Wanganui

The Wellington Independent of the 13th thus details the particulars connected with General Chute's expedition:- ... 150 of the Native Contingent, under Major McDonnell and Ensigns McDonnell and Dudgeon, with Dr Walker as surgeon to the contingent. These were afterwards joined by the Forest Rangers and an additional number of natives, while later a company of the 50th and a detachment of the Royal Irish were also sent for. Dr Featherston himself accompanied the Native Contingent, and by the latest advices was at the front, not exactly actively engaged, but certainly exercising a considerable influence in the direction of proceedings.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 380 dated 29 Jan 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting arrival of wounded and proceedings of Native Contingent

Letter No. 426 dated 29 Jan 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Lepper, New Plymouth

Subject: Covering "conditions" of Native Contingent under Captain Good

Letter No. 524 dated 02 Feb 1866 written by Major McDonnell, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting that 70 men of Native Contingent had refused to proceed to West Coast on 27th December that in consequence they were dismissed from service, but some of the number were afterwards re-enrolled

Letter No. 522 dated 06 Feb 1866 written by Major McDonnell, Wanganui

Subject: Covering reports of his proceedings with Native Contingent & recommending Captain Kupa [Kemp] & others to the notice of Government for bravery & good conduct

Letter No. 529 dated 09 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting arrival of Native Contingent & Forest Rangers at Wanganui & as to rationing the Guides

Letter No. 553 dated 10 Feb 1866 written by Ensign Walker, Wanganui

Subject: Has received his Commission

Journal of the Whanganui Historical Society Inc. Volume 25 No.1 May 1994 Extracts from the Diary of Ensign Mathews 57th Regiment

05 Feb 1866: The Native Contingent began to arrive here [Manawapou] at about 10.30am and the General with his staff and the remainder of the Field Force arrived here at about 1pm... The natives had with them Te Ua, lately High Priest of the Hau-haus. Great war dance in the evening.

06 Feb 1866: The General's camp broke up at 9am, all marched off to Patea with the exception of the 2/14th Regiment, the General himself, and some MT orderlies, who were to remain at Manawapou a few hours longer.

Wanganui Regional Museum - Folder: McDonnell - Colonel Thomas & Captain William - Reference AC 5162/2g Letter dated 15 Feb 1866

To Lt Colonel Gorton from Colonial Defence Office Wellington

Sir, By direction of the Hon. the Defence Minister I have the honor to inform you that on the withdrawal of the Military from the different posts on the Wanganui river, one hundred men of the Native Contingent Militia with a proportion of Native Officers and Non Commissioned Officers under the command of Ensign McDonnell will be stationed at Pipiriki. You will however take steps to have them informed that their pay will now that they are in their own District be reduced to the following rates – which are the same as those paid to European Militia when not removed from their Districts. Captain 14s 7d; Lieutenant 9s 6d; Ensign 8s 3d; Sergeant 3s 6d; Corporal 3s; Private 2s 6d. They will be rationed by the Commissariat but they will have to draw their supplies at Parakino conveying them themselves at their own cost from that place to Pipiriki - All the rest of the natives who have been on Service with the Major General (that is, the Kupapas and Friendly natives &c) must now give in the Arms & Ammunition which have been issued to them by the Government. Quartermaster Sergeant Austen will be continued on pay for the present to assist in rationing the men &c &c . Lieutenant Gudgeon and Ensign Walker must be informed that their services will not be required after the 31st March next.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 758 dated 15 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Lepper, Taranaki

Subject: With letter from Captain Good requesting that Uranui & Mimi Natives be kept on rations & placed on same footing as Military Settlers

Letter No. 717 dated 17 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With letter from Major McDonnell recommending that Lieutenant Gudgeon be still kept on pay – also relating to Land for Native Contingent

Letter No. 724 dated 17 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Has sent copy of instructions to Officer Commanding Native Contingent to proceed to Pipiriki

Letter No. 725 dated 18 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting that the Native Contingent will proceed to Pipiriki

Letter No. 753 dated 20 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With letter from Ensign Walker, Native Contingent enquiry with what Company he gets his land

Letter No. 750 dated 21 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting that the Native Contingent refuse to proceed to Pipiriki, covering correspondence

Letter No. 803 dated 23 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: That Captain Powell has no authority to issue pay of Assistant Surgeon to Ensign Walker, Native Contingent

Letter No. 806 dated 23 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: As to loss of rifle and certain accounts by Native Contingent with certificate of Lieutenant Gudgeon & Captain McDonnell

Letter No. 834 undated [1866] written by Mr Buller, Resident Magistrate, Wanganui

Subject: Memo upon requisition by Ensign Walker for medicines for Native Contingent

Wanganui Regional Museum - Folder: McDonnell - Colonel Thomas & Captain William - Reference AC 6152/2h Letter dated 23 Feb 1866

To Captain McDonnell commanding Native Contingent from W. B. Graham, Taranaki Military Settlers

Sir, I am directed by Lt-Colonel Gorton to inform you that he has received a letter from the Hon. Defence Minister expressing the satisfaction felt by Government at the number of arms recovered from the Kupapas and returned into store.

Wanganui Regional Museum - Folder: McDonnell - Colonel Thomas & Captain William - Reference AC 6152/2i Letter dated 24 Feb 1866

To Lt-Colonel Gordon, Commanding Militia District Wanganui from the Colonial Defence Office, Wellington

Sir, I am directed by the Hon. Colonel Russell (acting for the Defences Minister) to acquaint you that the Kupapas to the number authorized viz, 150, who accompanied the native contingent in the recent operations on the West Coast are to be paid at the rate of 3/6 per diem each while so employed and I am to request you will be good enough to instruct Captain McDonnell accordingly. With regard to the Native Officers of the Kupapas I am to request you will ask Captain McDonnell to recommend, not more than three, chiefs and to state the amount of pay he considers each one should receive. You will also be good enough to instruct Captain Powell to prepare and transmit the usual estimates for this expenses.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 809 dated 24 Feb 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting that eighteen of the Native Contingent had left for Pipiriki – Captain McDonnell expects to increase his force to forty or fifty – all the natives in Town struck off rations

Letter No. 1007 dated 06 Mar 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With statement from Ensign Walker shewing how medicines were expended

Letter No. 1044 dated 08 Mar 1866 written by Major Atkinson, Taranaki

Subject: No promise of land was made by him, or by his authority to the Native Contingent

Letter No. 1016 dated 09 Mar 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With return of Native Contingent at Pipiriki on the 1st March

Letter No. 1092 dated 09 Mar 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Has instructed Lieutenant Gudgeon not to increase detachment at Pipiriki to more than 50 men – also relating to Captain McDonnell's Force for Waingongoro

Wanganui Regional Museum - Folder: McDonnell - Colonel Thomas & Captain William - Reference AC 5162/2j Letter dated 12 Mar 1866

To Captain McDonnell, Native Contingent, Wanganui from the Colonial Defence Office, Wellington

Sir, On the 24th ultimo, by direction of the Hon. Colonel Russell (acting for the Defence Minister) I requested Lt-Colonel Gorton to inform you that the Kupapas (to the number of 150) who accompanied and took part in, the late expedition under Major General Chute, were to receive pay at the rate of 3/6 a day for the days they were actually with the Expedition. You were at the same time authorised to select 2 or 3 of the principal chiefs of the Kupapas who were to be paid as Officers, and you were urged to see the whole paid without delay. The Hon. Colonel Russell is most anxious that these people should be settled with as soon as possible, therefore, if you have not already done so, I am to instruct you to send in at once to Captain Powell, the paymaster, a Requisition for the amount of money you will require. You must not forget that many of the Kupapas did not accompany the Expedition throughout, and you will therefore be very careful that each man is only paid for the number of days he was actually employed. In my letter of the 6th inst. No. 1163/2 I requested Lt-Colonel Gorton to inform you that, in consideration of her services, the native woman "Wikitoria" is to receive the pay of a Kupapa during the time she was with the Expedition.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 1106 dated 14 Mar 1866 written by Captain Graham, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting arrival of Captain McDonnell from Pipiriki and that he is unable to raise Native Force as directed

Letter No. 1108 dated 14 Mar 1866 written by Captain Graham, Wanganui

Subject: Captain McDonnell has returned from Turakina – the natives refuse to join his Force

Letter No. 1166 dated 16 Mar 1866 written by Captain Graham, Wanganui

Subject: With letters from Captain McDonnell and Lieutenant Gudgeon as to present state of Native Contingent

Letter No. 1168 dated 16 Mar 1866 written by Captain Graham, Wanganui

Subject: Reporting his sending to Wellington surgical instruments received from Ensign Walker

Letter No. 1175 dated 21 Mar 1866 written by Dr Grace, Wellington

Subject: Acknowledging receipt of letter relative to care of Surgical Instruments – will place them in Provincial Hospital medical store

Wanganui Regional Museum - Folder: McDonnell - Colonel Thomas & Captain William - Reference AC 5162/2k Letter dated 24 Mar 1866

To Captain McDonnell from Colonial Defence Office Wellington

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that arrangements have been made by Captain Powell Paymaster of the Colonial Forces here to place funds at your disposal for the payment of the Kupapas recently engaged in the expedition under Major General Chute. You will therefore at once take steps for the payment of these men as the Government are most anxious that no further delay in this matter should occur, but I must at the same time call your particular attention to former instructions in which you were to be careful that the Kupapas were to receive pay for these days only in which they were actually with the expedition and therefore although the sum now placed by Captain Powell to your credit is smaller than the amount named in your Estimate, it is considered that it will be sufficient to carry the object in view.

Archives NZ Wellington – 1866 Army Department Inwards Correspondence Register – Reference AD 3/3

Letter No. 1300 dated 27 Mar 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: Acknowledging receipt of letter No.1136 relative to grant of land to Native Contingent

Letter No. 1340 dated 27 Mar 1866 written by Major McDonnell, Auckland

Subject: That he may be allowed to select his land on the Waingogoro River

Letter No. 1403 dated 02 Apr 1866 written by Lt-Colonel Gorton, Wanganui

Subject: With letter from Captain McDonnell relative to reduction of Native Contingent at Pipiriki - draws attention to the disproportionate number of Native Officers to the number of men now serving

Forward letter references to come 1866/1465,1476,1780,2083,2302, 4244

Journal of Rev. Richard Taylor – Wanganui Museum

10 Apr 1866. The natives returned from Wangaehu they state that they have so arranged that when Hori Kingi and the governor they are willing to make peace.

05 May 1866. A number of natives came all this morning for medicine and amongst the rest Aperaniko came to say that his work as a soldier was finished and he wished now to return to his old work under me as a teacher. He had however been engaged in fighting therefore instead of returning as head teacher he wished to be the lowest that Nakopa and Wikirimi who had not left their post as teachers should stand before him. I am much comforted by this visit, I think this is an earnest of a speedy revival. Aperaniko was appointed a Captain and had captains pay and received 200 acres of land of the confiscated district, he now returns to his old office without any salary at all. I hail this as a good sign for the future.

Marriage Register Trinity Methodist Church, Wanganui

No.43 At the home of William Jenkins on 21 June 1866. Samuel Walker, full age, surgeon, bachelor to Jane Jenkins, minor, spinster. Witnesses: Henry Allen Clery, Agnes Jenkins, J. Martindale Quarter Master 57th Regiment, E. C. B...

Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 20 Jul 1866 Marriage

On the 21st June, at Wanganui, at the residence of the bride's father, Jane Tuton, second daughter of W. Jenkins, Esq., Interpreter to the Forces, to Samuel Walker, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon Native Contingent, eldest son of W. Walker, Esq., Tontall Abbey, Riversdale, County Dublin, Ireland [No cards].

Evening Post 1 Sep 1868

The Gazette, Colonial Defence Office, Wellington 27th August 1868. His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to make the undermentioned appointments, viz:- In the Wanganui Militia - Ensign Samuel Walker to be Lieutenant. Date of commission 24th August 1868.

Wanganui Officers' Club Incorporated History 1866-1966 by Major C. L. Lovegrove, E.D. Honorary Club Historian p11

Roll of Officers Wanganui Regiment of Militia 1860-1870.

S. Walker, joined the Regiment in 1868. Highest rank: Ensign

Archives NZ Wellington Reference AD 1 [Army Department] 1869/1867

Letter: Colonel Whitmore, Camp Patea 28 March 1869. Effective State of Force to 27 March & Return of sick. Distribution of Medical Officers: Surgeon Hooper, Patea Field Hospital; Assistant Surgeon Brown, Patea District; Assistant Surgeon Walker, Attached to the Arawas (No.8)

Daily Southern Cross 7 Apr 1868 The Pokaikai Commission

Frederick William Rolfe: I was formerly a private in No. 8 Company, T. M. S.; I was present at the attack on Pokaikai; we halted near Pokaikai and No. 8 and 10 Companies were then ordered to the front, followed by the Patea and Whanganui Rangers, the Native Contingent bringing up the rear; when within a few paces of the village the natives took the alarm, and firing commenced on both sides; several natives ran out of a whare on the left, and in that whare one woman was wounded; she recovered from the effect of her wounds, and is now present in this village; I called upon Dr Walker to attend upon her, and he did so.

Lieut-Colonel McDonnell: I know Marta; she was made a prisoner on the night of the attack; one of the officers took charge of her; a man named Bezar attempted to pull a greenstone ornament from her ear; Captain Newland told him that no one but a coward would attempt such a thing, and immediately made him a prisoner; I do not think that the ornament was pulled from the ear, though he tried violently to do so; he did not belong to the force, but was a private servant of Dr Walker's; he did not receive either pay or rations; he was in attendance on his master, and had a rifle given him for his own protection; I did not see Marta, but was standing close by, and heard Bezar complain loudly of being placed under arrest, urging that he had not taken the ornament; I saw her the next morning; I cannot say whether her ear was torn; I never heard of it till now.

Taranaki Herald 18 Jul 1868 Disturbance at Patea – Latest Intelligence from Waihi – Turuturumokai

... A private named Beamish, after being wounded and unable to fire, opened his pouch and handed cartridges to this few remaining comrades. The men who had made their escape, crept into the flax and lay there until the Light Horse from Waihi, which place had been reached by one of the men who made their escape, scoured the country around Turuturumokai. Dr Walker was first at the redoubt.

Evening Post 24 Aug 1868 – Capture of Te-Ngutu-o-te-manu

The names of the killed are – R. Wallace, Kerr, Mackay. The wounded were attended to by Dr Walker on the field.

Taranaki Herald 5 Sep 1868 Attack and Capture of Te-Ngutu-o-te-manu

Dr Walker and Acting Assistant-Surgeon Best, behaved with the greatest coolness during the whole time, Dr Walker getting a bullet through his coat. As soon as it was practicable, the wounded were placed on stretchers, and the retreat commenced – Colonel McDonnell with a strong rear guard remaining behind to destroy the village. Every whare was destroyed, and the pallisading pulled down. During the engagement, when one of our men was shot near the edge of the bush, the men were unable to approach him on account of the heavy fire from the natives, but Dr Walker went forward, and tried to bring him in, but was unable to do so, as the fire was tremendous. Major Hunter then went, followed by Roddy and Andrews – they took the man up and carried him into our lines....

Evening Post 11 Sep 1868 Latest from the Front – Fuller Particulars

From the Wanganui Chronicle of Thursday, Patea 9th September. I have just time to send you a few hurried particulars concerning the attack on the rebel position at Ruaruru, about a quarter of a mile in rear of Te Ngutu-o-te-manu. A force consisting of about 200 Europeans and 100 of the Wanganui Natives left Waihi at 3 a.m. on the morning of the 7th instant, in two divisions. No.1 commanded by Major Von Tempsky and the following officers:- Sub-Inspectors Roberts, Brown, and Cumming, Captain Palmer, Lieuts Hastings, Hunter, and Hirtzel. No.2 commanded by Major Hunter, Captain Buck, Captain O'Halloran, Sub-Inspectors Newland and Young, and Lieut. Rowan. Dr Walker accompanied No.1 division, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Best No.2. The force made a long detour to the right of Te Ngutu-o-te-many, and at 2 p.m. found themselves in rear of Ruaruru. Here they came across an outlying piquet who were fired into by the Wanganui Natives. The force then advanced and took up a position in a small gully about 200 yards distant from the rebel position, under a very heavy fire from all sides. They remained here about ten minutes without any casualty when Trooper Hogan was hit in the thigh, and soon after Lieut. Rowan dangerously in the face. The men then began to fall rapidly, Major Von Tempsky was shot dead, then Capt. Buck, and Capt. Palmer, and Lieut. Hunter. The Colonel then ordered the force to retire. The Wanganui Natives led the retreat, supported by about 70 Europeans; then the wounded; the rear guard followed under the command of Lieut. Hastings and Ensign Hirtzel. Lieut. Hastings was killed in the retreat. The men and officers behaved well. The Wanganui Natives especially so, if as reported that but for them our casualties must have been much heavier. All the dead were left on the field, and all the wounded who could not walk. The first men arrived at Waihi at about 8 p.m., and they kept on arriving in small parties until 10 a.m. the next morning. As may be expected at such a time of excitement there are a great variety of reports, but I hope to be able before long to be able to send you a detailed account, and think until the whole truth is known that too much credence should not given to any flying report. The position of the natives who have hitherto remained neutral has since this disaster become very unsatisfactory.

Otago Witness 26 Sep 1868 The Wounded

(Wanganui Chronicle) The task of telling unbiassed truth may not at all times be pleasant to every one concerned, but it is no less the duty of the authorities to see that nothing is left undone that is possible to be done, in the way of attending to our wounded. Such, we are sorry to say, has, from a variety of causes, not been the case in this district. This may be best explained by reviewing the hardships of the wounded in the last engagement – the storming of Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu – and tracing their movements from the field of battle to Wanganui, where a number of them are present. It is known that three men were killed and nine wounded in that engagement. It is creditable to our men – and more than creditable to several individuals of the force, who, under a perfect storm of bullets, carried off the dead and wounded from under the muzzles of the enemy – that none were left on the field of battle. Rude stretchers, the best procurable in the circumstances, were improvised, and the retreat effectually covered. By the time the force reached Waihi, one of the wounded died, leaving eight for hospital. But at Waihi there is no hospital accomodation and, worse than that, there seems to have been a want of proper medical attendance. Will the public credit the assertion that all the wounded were not looked to on arrival? Strange and improbable as this sounds it is no less truth. Some were not attended to till twenty hours after dropping in their places in the ranks. Three had not their wounds even washed till ten o'clock on Saturday morning – the fight having taken place about noon the day before – and then only on the urgent entreaties of the comrades of the wounded men. This, too, while the Government pays for the services of three medical men to attend to the invalided. The coincidence is somewhat startling. One of these medical gentlemen has since been cashiered; but this, while diminishing numerically the staff, cannot possibly add to its efficiency. It is but just to explain that the officer commanding was not in camp during this gross dereliction of duty, else (the men we are assured feel confident) the wounded would not have been so cruelly slighted. Colonel McDonnell and Dr Walker had proceeded on to Patea.

Daily Southern Cross 2 Oct 1868

The p.s. 'Sturt' arrived at Whanganui from Patea about 12 o'clock on Thursday night, bringing Captain Gudgeon, Captain Morrison, Dr Walker, Sub-Inspectors G. McDonnell and Fookes, Mr Evans, Mrs T. Middlemiss and child, Mrs Douglas and two children, 130 Kupapas, and about 60 time-expired men of the Wellington Rangers. At 1 p.m. on the 25th the p.s. 'Woodpecker' arrived with Colonel Haultain and Colonel Whitmore. It is reported that one storekeeper had to leave £200 of goods at Waihi as there were not drays sufficient to bring them away. A Hauhau, on taking possession of Waihi for Titokowaru, generously promised to bring in all abandoned property of that kind. The remnant of the force is now at Patea, with the exception of 150 men at Manawapu and about thirty at Kakaramea. It is said that Tauroa has not gone over to Titokowaru, but that he is very useful in giving information as to the movements of the Hauhaus and the feelings and opinions of the Pakakohi tribe. That plan of employing Tauroa to give information cuts both ways, and enables that old dodger to keep well in with both parties. Consequently the Pakakohi tribe still remains neutral, but ready to act according to circumstances.

Wanganui Herald 07 Dec 1868 Birth

On the 6th inst., the wife of Assistant-Surgeon Edward Walker, Colonial Forces, of a daughter.

Evening Post 27 Jan 1869 Two men killed – Times office – 26th January

About half-past 5 o'clock this morning, as a reconnoitering party was returning to a redoubt situated on the main road leading to where Moore's house was burnt down, they were fired upon by a party of some 30 of TitokoWaru's men. The volley was a deadly one. Thomas Cummins, and ? Kelly, of the Armed Constabulary, fell mortally wounded, and Frank Williamson was shot through the thigh. The assailants rushed forwards and tomahawked Cummins, but the men from Colonel Lyon's redoubt were quickly upon them and opened fire, which compelled them to retreat. Dr Walker in a very daring manner carried off Kelly's body before it could be tomahawked. The poor fellow had been shot through the breast, and death must have been instantaneous. It is not known whether any of the enemy have been killed, but they must have suffered some loss from the volleys, which compelled them to retreat. The Thomas Cummins shot and tomahawked is not the son of our respected townsman of that name, who is now at the Front. It is to be regretted that with such an overwhelming force at the Front, in every attack TitokoWaru's men appear to have the best of it.

Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 27 Feb 1869 Expedition in search of Titokowaru

From the Correspondent of the Wanganui Times – Waitotara – Tuesday, February 16. At eight o'clock in the morning the following force started from Nukumaruru to try if possible to discover Titi Kowaru's main position: Arawas, 60; Wanganui Natives under Kemp, 67; Volunteers, No.1 Division, A. C., 20, under Sub-Inspector Northcroft; Scouts, 8 Europeans, under the command of Captain Swindley. Dr Walker accompanied the force in medical charge. We crossed the Waitotara by means of two old canoes, and arrived at Wairoa shortly before noon on that day. Remained there until an hour after midnight, say until –

Military Records of the Wanganui-Rangitikei Districts 1860-1900 pages 72-73

Holders of the New Zealand Cross 10 March 1869

The New Zealand Cross ranked equal to the Victorian Cross and carried the same pension, at that time, £10 p.a. Nearly all the awards were made on past recommendations, some going back to 1863. It was the only decoration available, at the time, to officers and other ranks of the Colonial Forces. There is no doubt that had there been a decoration similar to the Military Cross or the Distinguished Conduct Medal available to the Colonial Forces, the number of Crosses would have been fewer. Trooper William Linguard of the Kai Iwi Cavalry, would no doubt have won the V.C. Also Captain J. M. Roberts and Assistant Surgeon S. Walker, on September 7, 1868 at Te Ngutu-o-te-Manu. Sergeant George Hill and Captain H. W. Northcroft deserved their decorations.

Otago Witness 3 Apr 1869 – Wanganui – From our own correspondent – March 16

The telegraph will already have apprised you of a fight and a victory on the West Coast, and I proceed now to give you the particulars. Tito Kowaru has been gradually falling back for some time. There are various reasons for his doing so. Like not a few prophets and seers of his kind he uses his ascendancy for gross and sensual purposes, and some of his followers have quarrelled with him on that account. Chiefly, however, the potato harvest has come, and the crop requires to be gathered in. Hence a partial break-up of his force, and the necessity for temporarily, at least, betaking himself to some fastness in the bush. As the enemy retired, however, Colonel Whitmore kept upon his trail, steadily, persistently; and the colonial force gradually moved on, until on Thursday last, headquarters were once more at Patea. Fires had been observed for two or three days about five miles inland, evidently on some spot situated on the narrow strip of land lying between the Patea and the Whenuakura rivers, and Colonel Whitmore resolved to penetrate to the place. The country was entirely unknown, and great difficulty was experienced in obtaining a guide, but this necessity once supplied, the Commanding Officer proceeded to arrange his plans for the contemplated raid. Preparations being completed, about midnight on Friday last Colonel Whitmore, with a force of about 350 men all told, recrossed the Patea, and proceeded to thread his way in the dark through bush and jungle towards Otoia, which was supposed to be the locality of the encampment. At the same time Lieut-Colonel St John started from Patea, keeping on the further side of the river with the view of preventing the enemy crossing, if such a movement should be intended by him. All night long Colonel Whitmore and his force continued to toil through the bush. It was a most wearisome and harassing operation; And just as day began to break (date, Saturday, 13th March), they found they had reached the place. Little could be seen, for besides its being only grey dawn, a thick fog enveloped everything. It was just possible dimly to discern that they were at the base of a slightly wooded spur of considerable height; and they were sure it was the rebel encampment, because, coming from the summit, rising and falling in regular cadence, they could hear in the calm of the morning some of the natives singing their hymns and orisons, a sign that no danger was apprehended. Here they were then in close proximity to the enemy at last. A track leading upward was discovered, but Colonel Whitmore wisely judged that it, if any place, would be defended, ordered the advance guard to make the ascent without taking this route. Slowly and cautiously then then men made their way upward, until at length the heads of the three foremost were level with the plateau, and tents and all the other accompaniments of a Maori pah lay before them. It was a moment of intense interest. Very near them were three sentries, nodding over a smouldering fire. One of our men slipped his foot, and caused a slight noise; the sentries started up, and peered through the gloom in the direction of the frequented track – quite opposite to that where the Colonial force was. Crack went our rifles, one, two, three; and the bullets on this occasion sped truly to their marks, for all the three rebels fell dead. It was the signal for a close and determined fight. The Colonial troops rushed up the hill; the Hauhaus, most of whom were asleep, started to their feet perfectly naked, and seizing their rifles and pouches, filled the air with terrific yells, but stood their ground with remarkable determination. The crack of rifles, the barking of dogs, the shrieks of women, the groans of the wounded,

made up a sufficiently discordant chorus. Backwards and forwards surged the contending forces on this narrow plateau for fully an hour, when all at once the enemy broke, and fled precipitately down the nether side of the hill into a deep gorge or gully. Here they made another stand. Our men would have followed them, but the Commanding Officer forbade such a movement at the time, as it was impossible to discern objects in the fog and smoke of battle. From the top of the hill, however, volley after volley was poured into the gorge, the shrieks and yells from which were something awful. In the course of an hour the fog cleared away, and the order to "charge" was given. Down went the men of the Colonial Force, and then for another couple of hours the fight went on, from tree to tree and bush to bush. Occasionally a hotly pressed rebel would try to obtain shelter by climbing, but for the most part before he could reach a leafy covert he had tumbled with a bullet in him. The women carried off the dead and wounded; but here too, at last, the enemy gave in, and dispersing in ones and twos fled through the bush. It was past 10 o'clock; for nearly twelve hours the men of the Colonial force had been a-foot, and wearied and worn, the call to fall in was given at last. Up to the top of the hill for breakfast, and for loot. In his haste and panic the enemy had abandoned everything. Here were piles of blankets, numbers of tents, rifles, revolvers, tomahawks, ammunition, potatoes, flour, spades, shovels, and some forty sovereigns, which last, we believe, fell to the lot of Dr Walker, than whom no one deserved it better, for he was one of the first to step upon the plateau and take part in the melee. As much as could be conveniently carried away was taken – no man left without a souvenir of the fight at Otoia; the remainder was burned and destroyed; and after a rest the men returned to the camp at Patea...

Archives New Zealand Reference AD 1 84 1869/3994

Fort Alfred 15 June 1869. Letter to Hon. Colonel Whitmore commanding Colonial Forces. Sir, I have the honor to forward an application from Doctor Walker for your favourable consideration, I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant Lieut-Col. St John, commanding Armed Constabulary.

Letter from Dr Samuel Walker to Lieut-Col. St John, Commanding Armed Constabulary, East Coast

Whakatane Camp 1st June 1869. Sir, I have the honor to request you will be pleased to forward and recommend this my application to the Honble Colonel Haultain... on the West Coast last... the Honble Col. Whitmore informed me that the Honble the Defence Minister had been pleased to offer me a Sub Inspectorship in Armed Constabulary or the option of remaining as a Medical Officer should the Honble Col. Haultain consider that I am better suited for one position than the other I respectfully beg that he may be pleased to decide which and in the event of my remaining as an Acting Assistant Surgeon that I may be promoted in the Militia. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedient Servant, Saml. Walker, Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Surgeon, Colonial Forces.

Dr Walker is a most useful Medical Officer and although not registered – should I think remain in his present capacity – He is a gallant Officer and doubtless is competent to hold a Sub Inspectorship but there is no vacancy and indeed some Officers in that rank too many – Colonel G. S. Whitmore, Officer commanding Field Force No.181/7 dated 07 July 1869. Approved Donald McLean 06 July 1869.

Journal of the Whanganui Historical Society Inc Volume 23 No.2 November 1992 – Cobb's coach to Patea

An early newspaper report submitted by Judith Crawley – from the Weekly Herald 12 February 1870

... I noticed on arriving in Patea that a migration is taking place from the lower to the upper or new township, where some very pretty shops have lately been erected, particularly Messrs Taplin and Muir's. The lower township (it can hardly be called a township as it has never been laid off for one) is on a sandhill, and, with half the houses taken down, it looks a dreary god-forsaken place, and before many weeks it will probably be deserted altogether. The new township stands on an excellent site but no street has yet been recognised as the leading one, and the consequence is that the buildings are rather struggling. The centre of the town will doubtless be near the new ferry. The telegraph office will shortly be erected, and in the ordinary course of things a church and gaol will soon follow upon the heels of population.

Taranaki Herald 12 Mar 1870 Patea

A serious incident occurred the other day to a carter named Nelson. He was carting a plough to the new township of Carlyle, and whilst moving, a portion of the plough touched the shaft horse, who immediately bolted. When close to Mr Casey's hotel, the dray overturned, the plough falling upon Nelson, and smashed his left arm near the elbow; he was picked up and conveyed to the hospital. Dr Walker was in immediate attendance and paid every attention to the injury.

Wanganui Herald 26 Aug 1870 Resident Magistrate's Court

Before Walter Buller, Esq., R.M. – Civil – Daniel Harding v. Dr Samuel Walker. Claim £4 7s, balance of account for a suit of uniform, supplied in December 1868. Judgment ex parte for amount and costs 11s.

Taranaki Herald 22 Oct 1870 Fatal Accident to Mr Holland of Patea

Our Patea correspondent writes – "I very much regret having to record an accident which occurred at the flax works on Monday, 10th October, at about 10 a.m. Mr G. W. Holland, and Messrs Thomas Hirst and Newsham were at work fixing some portion of the framing for a water wheel, when a small quantity of earth gave way. Mr Holland was in a stooping position, and the earth appears to have fallen about four or five feet on to his back or shoulders, knocking him against a ladder, and injuring him very severely, so much so in fact as to cause death in about an hour to an hour and a half. Dr Walker was speedily in attendance, but medical science could avail nothing. Messrs Hirst and Newsham, who were quite close, were neither of them hurt, though Mr Holland actually fell against Mr Hirst. The deceased gentleman was in his forty-fifth year, and was deeply and universally esteemed and regretted, both in his private and public capacities. He leaves a widow and six young children, and had been about three years resident in Patea. A coroner's inquest was held the following morning, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned. The remains were consigned to the tomb on Wednesday morning by the Rev. C. Morley, of Wanganui, who kindly rode up for the sad duty. Almost every member of our community joined the funeral cortege, and all the places of business were closed."

Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle 26 Oct 1870

Mr G. W. Holland, manager of a flax-mill at Patea, was recently engaged conducting a pile to be used in some erections under the cliff, and was in the act of leaning over it when the slip fell on his back, crushing his chest against the beam, and also breaking one of his legs. He was extricated, and medical assistance sent for. Dr Walker promptly attended, but arrived only in time to see him breathe his last.

Taranaki Herald 30 Nov 1870 Accident at Patea

We have been informed that on the 11th November, a little girl, daughter of Mr J. Hirst, aged four years, was accidentally run over by a spring cart. Dr Walker was promptly in attendance on the little sufferer, and found seven ribs broken. At first no hope was entertained of the result being otherwise than fatal, but we are happy to hear that the patient is now recovering, and quite out of danger. Fortunately the spine was not in any way injured. No blame whatever attaches to the driver.

Taranaki Herald 14 Dec 1870 Patea – from our correspondent

A very serious accident happened on Friday last, a man named Gilbert was taking a load from Patea to Hawera, when he fell and the wheel of the dray passed over his leg, causing a very bad compound fracture; he was brought into Carlyle and attended by Dr Walker, but it is as yet too early to report progress.

Taranaki Herald 18 Mar 1871 Accident at Patea

It is with regret (says the Wanganui Chronicle) that we have to announce a rather serious accident which happened to Mr James Stent while he and a younger brother were driving a cart up to the Kakaramea hill. The horse jibbed at a critical part. The animal, cart, and driver were precipitated down a steep hill. We are sorry to learn that Mr Stent has had several ribs broken and also his collar-bone injured. The other escaped with a slight scratch on the face. We are glad to learn that the invalid is progressing favourably under the careful attention of Dr Walker.

Marriage Register Trinity Methodist Church, Wanganui

No.92 On 30 July 1871 in the house of Dr. Samuel Walker, Patea. Arthur S. B. Forster, Sub Inspector Armed Constabulary, bachelor married Emilie Ruth Walker, spinster. Witnesses: Maillard Noake, Forster G. Goring, and Percival Trosse Fortescue. Officiating Minister. ... Oliver

The Evening Herald 3 Aug 1871 Marriage

At Patea, on the 30th July, by the Rev. W. C. Oliver, Arthur S. B. Foster, Sub-inspector A.C., to Emilie Ruth Walker, second daughter of William Walker Esq., 53, Gt. Charles-street, Dublin.

Taranaki Herald 4 Nov 1871 Private Theatricals at Patea

An amateur performance took place on Thursday evening, the 27th October, in the Foresters' Hall, in aid of the funds of the Patea Dramatic Society, on which occasion was presented the laughable farce of "Fish out of Water." The part of Sam Taylor was taken by Mr George Sherwood and was admirably played, the only fault that could be found with that gentleman's acting being that he rather over did some parts; but for an amateur I have seldom seen the part played so well. Mr Cowan as Sir Charles Clifford looked and played the part perfectly. Mr Fortescue as Charles Gayfore was the character to appearance but was rather tame in his acting. Mr Meredith as the steward was all that could be desired. Mr Dundas as Alderman Gayfore reminded me of the good old aldermen of olden times, and was the best played part of the performances. Last though not least I must say, Mr Black's "make-up" and rendering of Mill Ellen Courtly, was capital. On the whole "Fish out of Water" was a great success. A cornet solo followed the first piece, and with which all seemed pleased. Then came the great hit of the evening – the "Nervous Cures" – in which Dr Walker and Mr Meredith excelled themselves. The "make-up" of both these gentlemen was capital, and from the moment they came on the stage till the downfall of the curtain, kept the audience in one continued roar of laughter and had to reappear to a tremendous encore. Then followed an Irish comic song by Mr Whealan, which passed off tolerably well, I think his age is a little against him. Mr Isaacs next appeared, and as usual delighted the audience with two capital comic songs. The performance concluded with the well known farce of "Chaos is come again," in which Dr Walker sustained the part of Mr Jacob Bunce, a gentleman that had seen the world; and very excellently the part was rendered. The Doctor gave himself thoroughly over to the business of the stage; and I must say of this gentleman there is a light comedian lost in him. Mr Meredith's rendering of "Colonel Chaos," was a first-class piece of acting, and the make-up good in the extreme, but I cannot imagine why he had two corks in his mouth; and think next time he plays the old man he would do better without the above-named article. Mr Perry played the Landlord to the life. In this piece, as in the first, Mr Black was quite the lady. The rest of the characters, by Messrs Beamish, Potts and Duncan, were very creditably played. On the whole the performance was a great success; the hall was crammed, the reserved seats being filled with ladies. If a crowded house and the satisfaction of delighting an audience be any encouragement for amateur theatricals, another performance by the Patea Dramatic Society may soon be expected, and I wish them every success.

Wanganui Herald 31 May 1872 Patea Subscription List

The following facts have been forwarded to us by a correspondent, in whose veracity we have every confidence. Some time back a young man named George Robinson had the misfortune to break his leg by a fall from a horse, and he was taken to the Hospital for medical attendance. Subscription lists were started, one of them being taken round Waihi and Hawera by a gentleman from Patea. The sufferer being a general favourite, a sum of £14 was quickly placed on the list. The same kindly feeling was exhibited in Carlyle, a list hanging in the Albion Hotel Bar being creditably filled. Thus far the facts disclose nothing more than what usually happens in a christian community when a fellow creature is in distress. What follows however does not bear anything like such a satisfactory aspect. Dr Walker, with his customary generosity, gave his professional services gratis, naturally supposing that the sum collected would not be too much to assist his patient during convalescence. On being discharged from the Hospital, Robinson was moving about from Patea to Hawera and back, but the persons in charge of the subscription lists did not speak to him about the matter. In justice to Mr Quinlivan, however, our informant states, that that gentleman did offer to Robinson the sum of 45s as collected by him. As some dissatisfaction has been expressed in several quarters over the matter, we would suggest that the original lists, marked paid and unpaid, should be published for general information.

Nominal Return of Officers in Defence Department and Armed Constabulary on 1st July 1872

Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1873 Section H24A

Sam WALKER, Assistant Surgeon; 237 pounds 5s per annum; Appointed 4 Sep 1865; service as at 1 Jul 1872 – 6 years 9 months

Also: Forage allowance, 3s per diem

Archives NZ Collections Search R24198387 – AD 1 1872/980

Letter: Major Turner 7 Aug 1872 – Dr Walker will visit Opunake as soon as possible.

Taranaki Herald 18 Dec 1872 Attempted Suicide at Patea

A man named Redding, an old soldier, whilst in *delirium tremens*, attempted to commit suicide at Patea last week by cutting his throat in three places. He is under the care of Dr Walker, and is likely to recover.

Taranaki Herald 8 Feb 1873 Rifle Prize Firing in the Patea District

One cannot fail to be struck with the amount of persistent energy the Armed Constabulary force in the Patea District displays to develop a spirit of comradeship and good fellowship. We have received the result of a most exciting rifle contest which took place in that district on the 1st February, for four prizes, value £22 10s.; the winner of the first prize, a bay mare (winner of the Waihi Armed Constabulary Cup, 1872), value £12, being Sergeant C. Stapp; second prize, saddle and bridle, value £5, won by Constable Roche; third prize, saddle and bridle, value £3, won by Sergeant Riddle; fourth prize, one bay horse, "Mickey Free," value £2 10s, won by Constable G. Charnock. The weather was favorable for rifle shooting, and the scores very good. Major Turner was in charge of the butts at Patea, and Sergeant-Major Hackett fulfilled a similar duty at Waihi. The following is the score list:-

	300yds	400yds	500yds	Total
Sergt. C. Stapp	16	17	14	47
Con. Roche	16	16	15	47
Sergt. Riddle	19	14	12	45
Con. Charnock	14	17	12	43
...				
Dr Walker	13	8	15	36

Taranaki Herald 22 Mar 1873 Patea Races

President: Major Turner. Vice President: Dr Walker. Judge: Mr Taplin. Stewards: Mr H. Davis, Mr A. Wood, E. C. Meredith, G. T. Potto, J. B. Tilly. Starter: Mr Russell. Clerk of the Course: Mr Davis. These races came off on Monday last, and were a great success. There were between four and five hundred persons present.

Evening Post 2 Jun 1873

The Chronicle says that Dr Walker is to receive the New Zealand cross for several acts of bravery performed during the late war.

Wanganui Herald 05 Jul 1873

“Our Own” from Hawera, writes as follows – “Died suddenly on Sunday, 22nd June, at 11.30 p.m., at the residence of Mr W. Worth, Mr Christopher Dowdall, late of the Taranaki Military Settlers. An inquest was held on the body at the Hawera Hotel, and a post-mortem examination made by Dr Walker. After hearing the evidence of Mr Worth, Mr P. Dowdall (the brother of the deceased) and Dr Walker, the jury without retiring, returned a verdict “that the deceased died from natural causes.” Major Turner acted as coroner. The deceased was a very industrious and steady settler, and was greatly respected by his neighbours. In early life he had been for some years in the service of the East India Company, in the Bombay presidency.

Wanganui Herald 16 Dec 1873

On Friday last an accident occurred at the Wairoa flax mill. One of the machines, whilst in full work, flew to pieces, a portion striking a lad named Killick on the head, fracturing the skull, and inflicting such severe injuries that Dr Walker, who was at once sent for, holds no hope of his recovery. The cause of the accident is said to have been an attempt to do an extra amount of work, by passing through more leaves at a time than the machine was constructed to carry.

Wanganui Herald 09 Jan 1874

Mr W. Bayly of Hawera met with a severe accident on Sunday last. Riding home from the township, his horse stumbled throwing him heavily to the ground. When picked up it was found that several of his ribs were broken, besides being much shaken. Dr Walker was sent for, and attended promptly. Mr Bayly still lies in a precarious position.

Taranaki Herald 14 Jan 1874 Fatal Accident to Mr W. Bayly, Sen.

We regret to learn that Mr W. Bayly, of Hawera, met with a severe accident on the 4th instant, which unhappily has since terminated fatally. Riding home from the township, his horse stumbled, throwing him heavily to the ground. When picked up it was found that that several of his ribs were broken, besides being much shaken. Dr Walker was sent for, and attended promptly. Mr Bayly remained in a precarious condition for several days, and we heard last night that he had died from the effects of the accident.

Taranaki Herald 17 Jan 1874

The Vaccination of children within six months of their birth is rendered compulsory by the “Public Health Act, 1872.” As this may not be generally known, we have thought it necessary to bring the matter prominently before the public. By the Act we refer to, the Governor is empowered to divide the Colony into districts, and to appoint convenient places for the performance of such vaccination. In each district a Registrar is appointed, whose duty it is to notify to parents, within seven days after the registration of the birth of a child not already vaccinated, that the operation must be performed within six months, or they will subject themselves to a penalty of forty shillings. During the last month this Act was brought into force, by the publication in the *New Zealand Gazette*, by the Governor, of the names of the places, and the days and hours when a public vaccinator will attend for the purpose of vaccinating children. At Patea, the operation may be done in the surgery of Dr Walker, Carlyle, on the first Wednesday in each month, between the hours of twelve and two.

Wanganui Herald 16 Mar 1874

The return match between the A. C. Force and Wairoa Rifle Volunteers came off on the 11th instant, at Patea, although the weather was anything but favourable, a drizzling rain falling nearly the whole time and a stiff breeze springing up during the firing at the 600 yards range, which accounts for the comparatively poor scores at that distance. As will be seen by the score, the Wairoa men proved the conquerors on this occasion, and as the A. C. men won the first match fired at Wairoa last year it is intended to finish the season with a third and deciding battle in April, at the new range at Wairoa. Wairoa Rifles – Corp. Hawes, 52; Lieut Winchcomb, 42; Privt. Dalziel, 55; Priv H. Manson, 56; Priv. W. McCaul, 36; Priv. A. Milne, 50. Total – 291. A. C. Force – Sergt. Meredith, 42; Const. Grey, 51; Const. Lloyd, 54; Sergt. Eyton, 39; Sergt Cowan, 52; **Dr Walker, 42**. Total – 280.

Wanganui Chronicle 01 May 1874 Patea

(From our correspondent April 27). The inquest on the fire which took place at the Carlyle Hotel on the morning of the 25th inst., was held at the Court House to-day, before Major Turner R.M., Coroner... Witnesses: Sergeant Meredith... my wife awakened me and told me McGuire's house was on fire... Felix McGuire stated that "I did not offer the house and part of the land to Dr Walker for £250."...

Taranaki Herald 20 May 1874 Patea Resident Magistrate's Court – Civil Cases

James Hirst v. Samuel Walker. Claim 4s 6d., freight and charges on a box. Defendant pleaded that the box was for the Government; and, therefore, that he was not responsible. The case was dismissed, and all costs remitted; the plaintiff being told to send in his claim against the Government, when the amount would be paid.

Wanganui Herald 14 Sep 1874

The football match between Wanganui and Patea, came off at the latter place on Saturday last, the Wanganui team having left on Friday afternoon. The Patea people were confident that their team would win the day, and consequently took much interest in the match, assembling on the ground where the struggle was to take place in strong numbers. By half past two both teams had assembled, and play was immediately commenced. The coin was spun resulting in favor of the Pateaites, Wanganui going in against a pretty stiff wind. It was afterwards resolved, that in order to admit of each team having an equal chance of winning the contest, positions should be changed every half-hour. Play was continued with unabated vigor for two hours, when the match was drawn, neither side having kicked a goal. Wanganui, however, managed to obtain a "touch down." Both teams have three hearty cheers for their opponents, and returned to town. Host Daniells had provided an excellent repast, to which, in the evening the teams, together with a number of guests, sat down, and did ample justice to. The *debris* having been cleared away, **Dr Walker** was voted to the chair, and proposed the health of the Queen, which was heartily drunk and responded to. The chairman then proposed the "Wanganui team," coupled with the name of Mr Steadman, the captain. This toast was drunk with musical honours. Mr Steadman replied in a neat little speech, descanting on the ready welcome they had received, and proposed the "Patea team," coupling with it the name of Mr Jacomb, the captain. Mr Jacomb responded. Minor toasts afterwards followed each other, and the meeting separated.

Wanganui Herald 17 Sep 1874

We noticed some time ago the healthy surroundings of Wairoa, where the cemetery, if there was one, had never been used, although the settlement was of several years' growth. A correspondent now informs us that the multiplication of the population is going on at a very rapid rate, Dr Walker having performed vaccination a few days since on no less than 40 infants. Wairoa's greatness is already an accomplished fact.

Taranaki Herald 19 Sep 1874 Patea – Ploughing and Foot Ball Matches

... from the Wanganui Chronicle... In the evening the Wanganui team were entertained at a dinner provided by Mr Daniell of the Albion Hotel. Dr Walker occupied the chair. After the loyal toasts had been disposed of Dr Walker proposed the health of the Wanganui team, coupled with the name of their captain, Mr Steadman, who in responding spoke in high terms of the reception they had met with...

Wanganui Herald 15 Dec 1874 Patea

An accident of a serious nature happened to Mr Sheehan of Whenuakura the other day. He was going into Carlyle with his dray, in which he was seated; he let the reins fall, and in his endeavor to recover them fell out of the dray, one wheel of which passed over him, breaking his arm and two ribs. Dr Croft, and subsequently Dr Walker attended the sufferer, who, I am glad to say, is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

Taranaki Herald 2 Jan 1875 Patea Sports

President – Major Turner, R.M., Stewards – Dr Walker, Messrs Tennant, Gane, Fraser, McRae, Mackay and Stewart. Judges – Messrs McRae and Gane. Starter – Captain Grundy. Secretary and Treasurer – Mr Mackay. These sports were held at Carlyle, on Boxing Day, under the management of the above gentlemen. There was a good attendance; and the various races were keenly contested.

Patea Mail 14 Aug 1875

We regret to learn that scurvy and whooping cough have broken out among the German families located in the Immigration Barracks, the former malady appears to have assumed a bad form. Dr Walker was in attendance yesterday at the barracks, and attended to the several cases, and with the aid of Mr Buski, translated the necessary prescriptions into German.

Patea Mail 14 Aug 1875

The settlers of Wairoa will be glad to learn that their petition, praying that a public vaccinator maybe appointed to vaccinate in that district, has met with prompt attention from the hands of the Colonial Secretary, as we learn that Dr Walker has been invited by the Government to accept the appointment, and will attend Wairoa on the second Thursday in each month, at the Waverley Hotel for the purpose of meeting the wishes of the petitioners.

Patea Mail 18 Aug 1875

Medical certificates were handed in to the Bench from Drs Croft and Walker which went to show that Gordon (J. G.) was suffering from mental aberration but with a companion could be trusted to return to his whare. The unfortunate man (Native Constable Himona) was taken to Odge's Hotel and Dr Walker, who is in constant attendance with the sufferer (injury of the spine) is unremitting in his efforts to afford relief (later died).

Patea Star Minstrels took place Monday evening but in aid of Patea Cricket Club "I'll throw myself away" by Mr Meredith was fairly rendered (sung) ...a negro farce entitled "Somebodys Coat" in which Messrs Baggett, Dasent, Meredith and Garwood took part but the piece had evidently been hurriedly placed on the stage as a little more attention to its rehearsal would not have been out of place. "The Nervous Cures" sustained by Dr Walker and Mr Meredith were unquestionably the gem of the evening. The make up was splendid and their appearance had the effect of producing irresistable roars of laughter, the singing and dancing earning a well deserved encore, which they generously responded to.

Patea Mail 28 Aug 1875

Fairwell dinner to Captain Daniels (late proprietor of Albion Hotel). The chair was filled by Dr Walker, supported on his right by Captain Daniels and on his left by Sergt Hurrell...

Patea Mail 11 Sep 1875

A peculiar extraction was effected from the bladder of a pig, killed at Opunake during Dr Walker's late visit to that quarter... was a curiously formed stone... consists of lithe of lime... The stone has been forwarded by Dr Walker to Dr Hector, for presentation to the Colonial Museum.

Patea Mail 11 Sep 1875 Inquest

Dr Samuel Walker deposed - I am assistant surgeon of the A.C. Force residing at Patea. On Monday morning 6th inst., I received a telegram from Mr Beamish informing me that his child had been scalded. I made preparations, and came by coach as far as Hawera. On arriving there I got a letter from Mr Beamish asking me to hasten on, and shortly after received a message stating the child was dead. I went on by coach the following morning and on arrival viewed the body and found that it had been scalded along the spine and abdomen - scalds of a nature which are generally fatal. I do not consider that if any medical man had been present that the child's life could have been saved. The cause of death was from the scald. The jury returned the following verdict: That Alfred Clarence Beamish came by his death on the 5th inst., through falling into a pot of boiling water.

Patea Mail 22 Sep 1875

Dr Walker notifies in our advertising columns his intention of visiting Wairoa on Friday for the purpose of performing free vaccination in that district. "Free Vaccination" I will be at Wairoa on Friday next the 24th September for the above purpose at 10 p.m. Samuel Walker, Public Vaccinator, Wairoa and Patea Districts.

Patea Mail 8 Jan 1876 Resident Magistrate's Court

Edward Lyttelton, a constable, was charged with having, on the 3rd inst., violently assaulted Taurua, a Maori chief with a loaded whip. Dr Walker proved that he saw the disturbance and the blow struck. He did not see Taurua strike defendant. The wound occasioned was not serious. Taurua was trying to make peace.

Patea Mail 29 Jan 1876

Dr Walker, after enjoying a short leave of absence, returned to Patea by coach on Monday last and has resumed his professional duties.

Wanganui Herald 23 Feb 1876

Our Patea correspondent writes:- A boy named Nickell, son of a servant of Mr Foreman's of Manutahi, was thrown from his horse on Saturday, dislocating and fracturing both bones of his wrist. He was brought down to Carlyle where Dr Walker attended upon him.

Wanganui Herald 3 Mar 1876

A man named Henry Guyatt, in Carlyle, was thrown from his horse yesterday, fracturing his collar bone. The accident happened near Dr Walker's surgery fortunately, where he was taken. The operation of setting the bone was accomplished with great pain to the sufferer, the fracture being very severe. This is the third instance in Carlyle within the month of accidents through riding.

Wanganui Herald 6 Mar 1876 Patea (from our own correspondent, March 3)

A severe accident occurred at the Ketemarae saw-mill yesterday to a man named James Harrison. One of the capstans slipping, struck him, breaking one of his ribs and rupturing the liver. Three accidents occurred yesterday all above Hawera. A man named Frederick Waller, at Normanby, was severely injured through the wheel of a dray, heavily loaded, passing over his body. Two of his ribs were fractured and the spine seriously injured. Another case of dislocation of the shoulder, occasioned by a fall, whether from a horse or dray is not known, occurred to a man named Guynott living near New Plymouth. He is now under Dr Walker's hands, who was also in attendance upon each of the other cases. Guynott will require to undergo an operation tomorrow which is likely to prove very severe. A number of accidents have occurred of late in this district, and in most instances to men whose means will not admit of the expense of a long protracted illness, and the necessarily heavy expense of medical attendance. Rangitikei was equally unfortunate some time ago, and although not so distant from Wanganui as Patea, saw the great necessity there was for a Hospital, and left no efforts untried until it achieved its end. Why should we not also have one here. The expense with us will not be half that of Rangitikei. There is the Immigration Barracks seldom if ever occupied, the half of which would be quite sufficient for immigration purposes, and the other half could without any loss to the Government, and with great advantage to the District be converted into a hospital. Dr Walker some time ago, offered his services gratis for twelve months, and is willing to abide thereto, although at considerable loss to himself. It would be as wise proceeding on the part of the whole district were the people to take this matter into serious consideration and use every effort to effect it.

Marlborough Express 26 Apr 1876

The Patea Mail of April 15th, says an accident of a very serious nature happened on Thursday last. Mr W. Vine, carter, loaded up a full cart of goods, and started for Ketemarae, sitting on the shafts, when by some mishap he fell off, just after clearing the township, and the wheel of the dray passed over his body longitudinally, breaking two of his ribs, and injuring him internally. Since the above was in type Dr Walker informs us that the sufferer is in a very critical state. [The W. Vine here alluded to was formerly a settler in this neighborhood.]

Patea Mail 10 May 1876 Sale of Town Board leases

Building sites for 21 years, paddocks for 10yrs. S. Walker, Block 20 Section 8 building site £1 12s.

Evening Post 13 May 1876 The New Zealand Decorative Distinctions

His Excellency the Governor has awarded the New Zealand Decorative Distinction, instituted by Order in Council on the 10th of March 1869 to the following officers and men of the New Zealand Militia, Volunteers and Armed Constabulary on account of the acts of bravery stated against the names of each:- Assistant-Surgeon Samuel Walker, Armed Constabulary – For conspicuous gallantry in the performance of his duties as Assistant-Surgeon on many occasions during the campaign of 1868-69, and notably at the successful attack upon the position and encampment of Titoko-Waru at Otauto, on the 13th March, 1869, where he was exposed to a very heavy fire, and bore himself with great courage.

Evening Post 9 Jun 1876

During the West Coast campaign of 1868-9 Dr Walker was known and respected by every member of the colonial forces for the zealous and indefatigable manner in which he discharged the duties of his profession. Kindly in his nature, a true gentleman in his conduct, and exceptionally skilful as a surgeon, he at that time did good service to the colony. But apart from this, his gallantry and courage were more than once manifested, the instances of which are on official record. He was lately awarded the New Zealand Cross, and this week it was presented to him at Patea, the ceremony being one which the Armed Constabulary, the Volunteer Cavalry, and nearly all the settlers in the district favored by their presence. In making the presentation of the medal to Dr Walker, Major Turner said:- "This is no ordinary decoration, for though every one who took part in the war, in any capacity, is entitled to the New Zealand Medal, there are but few who have distinguished themselves by conspicuous bravery sufficient to gain the decoration of the New Zealand Cross. I feel greater pleasure in handing it you, knowing, as I do, that it is fully deserved, and in saying this I only express the feeling of all who served with you at the time when it was won. You have not obtained it by undue influence, but have honorably and gallantly earned it." We heartily agree with every word of this. Nobody has better deserved this decoration than hearty, kindly, genial, and brave Dr Walker.

Taranaki Herald 26 Jul 1876 Accident to Mr T. Bayly, Jun.

The Patea Mail says – “An accident happened to Mr T. Bayly, at Mr Chubbin’s late sale, which proved more serious than at first supposed. That gentleman, whilst after some of the cattle, was thrown from his horse, both fracturing his collar bone and dislocating his shoulder. We are glad, however, to learn from Dr Walker, that the sufferer is going on well and recovering as fast as the nature of the injuries will permit.”

Wanganui Herald 28 Aug 1876

An unfortunate Maori named Heteraka arrived in Carlyle on Friday (says the Mail) in a state of destitution and the last stage of pulmonary disease. He was accompanied by his wife and two children, the youngest of whom is also dangerously ill, and the condition of the family was pitiable in the extreme. He applied for help to the Native Commissioner, as also to the Resident Magistrate, but neither of them was able to afford any assistance and there was no place for him to find needed care and shelter. Dr Walker prescribed for them, but that was all that could be done. The man is especially intelligent, and speaks English fluently and well. His passage was paid to Wanganui, he states, by the Government in Wellington, but how they came to ship him to this part is not clear, for he does not seem to have any friends in the district, and the future prospects of the family are of the gloomiest. In such a case surely the Government should do something.

Wanganui Herald 29 Sep 1876

Mrs A. Smith, of Hawera, met with a serious accident on Sunday last, by the horse she was riding falling backwards, with her underneath. The sufferer was taken home and attended to by Dr Walker, who on examination found that she had sustained a fracture of one of the bones of the pelvis. The unfortunate lady is suffering great pain, and it will be some time before she has fairly recovered.

Wanganui Herald 1 Dec 1876

The man named Thomas Finch, who was admitted into the hospital on Monday suffering from the effects of a gun shot wound, is progressing as well as could be expected, several of the shot have been discharged, but there are still some in his left cheek. The unfortunate fellow cannot yet speak, and is obliged to use signs to make himself understood. We learn from our Waverly correspondent that Finch was a sawyer in the employ of Messrs McLean and Pellatt, and went out shooting on Sunday last with two other men. He and his companions had stopped to rest, and were on the point of setting out again when the loaded gun carried by Finch by some unexplained cause caught in the fern, lifting the hammer, which fell again on the cap, causing it to explode and discharge the piece, the contents of which lodged in Finch’s face and neck. The lower jaw was much bruised, and the whole front part of the throat laid open. Dr Walker was sent for and succeeded in stopping the flow of blood. Finch was then forwarded on to Waitotara in a cart, where three of the settlers obtained a horse and buggy, and without delay had the sufferer brought into town, and got him admitted into the Hospital.

Wanganui Herald 5 Jan 1877

We learn that the man named W. B. Wood, who last Saturday made an attempt at suicide at Patea, is in a fair way to recovery. The Patea Mail says that the unfortunate man was stopping at the house of Mr Shaw, settler, in the Whenuakura Block, and in the absence of the proprietor, deliberately sharpened an old carving knife, got hold of a bucket, inflicted five wounds in his throat, and bled himself into the vessel in question. Owing, as he states himself, to the weapon being too blunt, the wounds were not as serious as intended, but they were so severe as to cause him to faint, and on Mr Shaw's coming home, he found him prostrated with nearly a quarter of a bucket of blood alongside the would-be suicide. Assistance was at once obtained, temporary bandaging being applied, and Dr Walker was sent for post haste. All that could be done was done by Mr Shaw, and on Sunday Wood was taken into Carlyle, and housed in the temporary hospital, where he is now being treated. The person in question is, we understand, well connected at home, was formerly a medical student, and, in consequence, went by the soubriquet of "the doctor."

Wanganui Herald 15 Jan 1877

The Patea Mail chronicles a serious accident which befel Mrs Ussher's youngest son, Edward, on Wednesday last. He was riding a pony, in the track of another horse, when the latter threw up its heels and struck little Ussher on the leg, fracturing the bone a little below the knee. Subsequently he was put on his pony again, but fell off, and at that time dislocated his ankle in addition to the fracture. This occurred in a paddock near town. After falling from the pony Mr H. I. Davis most kindly carried the little sufferer in his arms from the scene of the accident, a long distance, to his home. Dr Walker set the limb, and reduced the dislocation on Thursday last, and the patient is going on admirably.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P 2/9 1877/12

Letter written by Inspector Roberts of Taupo dated 27 Jan 1877: forwarding application of Asst Surgeon Walker for his commission in A. C. Force.

Wanganui Herald 29 Jan 1877

Mr Derrett, junior, who recently sustained a fracture of the leg by a heifer rushing at him and jamming his leg against the rails of a stockyard, is showing but slight signs of recovery, and acting on the advise of Dr Walker the patient called in Dr Mussen, of Wanganui, and the two medical gentlemen examined the fracture. It was decided that all that could be done had been done, but they were not certain as to what the results would be. With care and attention we hope the sufferer will speedily recover.

Wanganui Herald 29 Jan 1877

During the thunderstorm last Tuesday a young man named Rogers, residing at Mr Delamere's, Kakaramea, was riding home from work, when he was struck insensible by a flash of lightning. From the Patea Mail we learn that fortunately he was in company at the time, and was conveyed to the hotel, where every effort to restore consciousness was made. All was unavailing, the stricken man remaining in a state of coma. Finding that ordinary means of restoration were impotent, Dr Walker was sent for, and after 48 hours his efforts were successful, and the sufferer recovered his senses. He is now all right, so as to be able to walk about, but, as a matter of course, still feels the effects of the shock very severely.

Wanganui Herald 2 Feb 1877

Dr S. Walker, of the Armed Constabulary Force, who has been stationed at Patea for some years past, is to be transferred to Taupo.

Wanganui Herald 12 Feb 1877

An accident which might have resulted seriously happened to Miss James at Patea on Thursday evening last. She had been on a visit to Kakaramea, and was returning, when her horse suddenly took fright at some imaginary object on the roadside, and bolted towards Carlyle. Miss James lost all control over the animal, which went down Taranaki road at a terrific pace. On the horse turning Mr McCarthy's corner, its rider fell off, and sustained a slight concussion of the brain. She was taken into Mr McCarthy's house, and attended to by Dr Walker, for whom a messenger had been dispatched almost immediately. We are glad to state that on the following morning she had almost recovered.

Wanganui Herald 12 Feb 1877 At the Patea Magistrate's Court

The man Wood who attempted suicide some time ago was also produced, when Dr Walker deposed to the effect that he had now regained his mental equilibrium, and in reply to the Bench, prisoner stated that he intended returning to Mr Shaw's farm, where he had been working previously. The Bench cautioned Wood, and advised him to lead a more temperate life. He was then released from custody.

Wanganui Herald 14 Feb 1877

Mr G. P. Hill, of the Waverley branch of the Bank of New Zealand, got his arm fractured on Saturday by a fall from a horse. He was out riding in the afternoon, when his horse took fright at some thistles on the roadside, and reared, throwing its rider, who sustained the injuries already mentioned. Dr Walker was sent for, and got the sufferer conveyed to Patea. We are glad to learn he is progressing as favourably as can be expected.

Wanganui Herald 19 Feb 1877

From the Mail we learn that a petition is being taken round the Patea district for signature with a view of retaining Dr Walker in the district.

Colonial Secretary Inwards Correspondence Register – Archives NZ Reference IA 3/1/30
1877/1198 Mar 06 For vaccine lymph (S. Walker, Public Vaccinator, Patea) - destroyed

Wanganui Herald 31 Mar 1877

Last Tuesday morning a nasty accident befel the manager of Mr J. Hamilton's station at Manutahi, who was walking to his horse to give it a feed when it suddenly kicked out and broke the man's leg just below the knee. The Mail says it appeared that the horse had not observed or heard the man approach till he was close up, and being startled, let drive. Dr Walker was speedily in attendance on the sufferer, and set the limb, which he found to be a compound fracture, leaving the sufferer as well as could be expected under the painful circumstances.

Wanganui Herald 2 Apr 1877

Previous to his departure for Taupo, Dr Walker was entertained at a social gathering of friends at the Albion hotel, Carlyle, on Friday last. On the occasion Mr Lett presented the doctor in a few appropriate remarks with a handsome gold albert as a souvenir from his many friends, and said it was intended to get a medallion, bearing a suitable inscription, which would be forwarded to Dr Walker in due course. The health of Dr and Mrs Walker was proposed and heartily responded to, when the leave-taking took place. Considerable regret was expressed at Dr Walker's departure, as during his long residence in the district he had made many friends amongst both rich and poor, the latter of whom have been particularly grateful to him on many occasions.

Bay of Plenty Times 7 Apr 1877 Shipping – Port of Tauranga – Arrivals

April 5 – Rowena, s s, Sellars, from Auckland via Mercury Bay, with general cargo. Passengers: **Dr Walker, wife and child**, Messrs Vercoe, Peachey and Lee. Two in steerage, and 1 for Mercury Bay.

Wanganui Chronicle 21 Jul 1877 Local and General

Dr Samuel Walker has been appointed public vaccinator of Cambridge district.

Taranaki Herald 25 Jul 1877 Twenty Natives Poisoned – Taupo, July 24

A dreadful event occurred last night at Ohinemutu. Over twenty natives were poisoned through eating out of a pot in which there was verdigris. Three died, four are recovering, and a number are still ill. They attribute their illness to witchcraft. Dr Walker and Dr Campbell left during the night for the scene of the accident.

North Otago Times 26 Jul 1877 – Auckland, July 25

The poisoning at Rotorua occurred under the following circumstances:- Last Tuesday a fowl was cooked for a sick Maori child. The child being too ill to eat it, the fowl was left in an iron pot until Sunday when it was eaten by a party of ten persons. During the night they all felt ill, but thinking nothing of it, did not ask for European assistance until Monday morning, the 23rd inst., when a lad 12 years old, who had partaken of the food, died; another, a girl, died next night. The rest are now recovering, thanks to the exertions of Capt G. Mair, who sent for Dr Walker with Assistant-Surgeon Campbell. These gentlemen having arrived from Taupo, the patients are now under their care.

Bay of Plenty Times 11 Aug 1877 – from our own correspondent – Ohinemutu, 8th August

In my last letter I was in a position to state that our district had been unusually free from even the ordinary rate of sickness and death that might be expected in a scattered population of some 1500 persons. Last month, on the contrary, has been one of the most disastrous that has ever been passed in the Lake District. At the close of June Temuera Te Amohau, one of the leading chiefs of the Arawa, after a prolonged illness caused by spinal disorganisation, passed away, leaving a void in the councils of his people that they will find it very hard to fill. His death was succeeded by that of the esteemed wife of Wi Keepa Te Ngawhau, of Pikirangi, Pauro, and several others of lesser note speedily followed. But the worst was yet to come, and the last fortnight of July, 1877, will long be remembered not only by relatives of the little ones who have “gone before,” but by every one whose sad duty it was to assist in relieving the mental and physical pain of the survivors, or to render the last hours of those who were marked by death as easy as possible. It seems a native woman, who had brought a sick child from Maketu, had a fowl killed to make some broth for her dying infant, who, however, was too far gone and was not able to take it; with a mother’s hope, that only ends with life, the poor woman placed the pot on one side, thinking the child might get better, but after keeping it from Tuesday until Sunday, she handed the broth over to her friends, and they to the number of ten eat of the soup. Everyone of these persons were seized with illness, which assumed the form of diarrhoea in its worst form, and was accompanied by a torpor that raised the suspicion of narcotic poisoning. Eight out of the ten recovered after suffering severely for from six hours to three days; but two, a boy of 12 and a girl of 10, the children of Pirimi, died. The father and mother were absent at Taupo, and have not yet returned to their desolate home. An inquest was held by George Preece, Esq., and a jury of 16, 8 Europeans and 8 natives; **Dr Walker**, from Taupo, being in attendance. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had died from blood poisoning, but how caused there is no evidence to show. But the trouble was not yet over, for on Saturday, the 21st ult., Mr George Alexander Brown, a gentleman who was on a visit here in search of a cure for rheumatism, was accidentally scalded so severely that after lingering until the Wednesday following, at six p.m., death gave him a happy release from his miserable condition.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P 2/9 1877/572

Letter written by Inspector Roberts of Taupo dated 14 Aug 1877: forwarding Asst Surgeon Walker's report re sanitary conditions of natives at Rotorua.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P 2/9 1877/573

Letter written by Inspector Roberts of Taupo dated 14 Aug 1877: forwarding voucher in favour of Asst Surgeon Walker £15 12s expenses incurred while attending natives at Rotorua in July and August.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P 2/9 1877/574

Letter written by Inspector Roberts of Taupo dated 15 Aug 1877: forwarding voucher in favour of Asst Surgeon Walker 4s 6d medical comforts supplied to natives.

Bay of Plenty Times 02 Jan 1878 Taupo Christmas Festivities

26 Dec. Christmas Day was spent with unusual festivities at this place, as the chief Hohepa Tamamutu invited all the Europeans to his village (Rangatira) on the border of the lake, about four miles from the township. Numbers availed themselves of the invitation, and on arrival were received with a hearty native welcome, and informed that a series of sports had been arranged for the day's amusement. These, which consisted of canoe races, running and swimming matches, and jumping, were keenly contested; and to add a little extra excitement, a running and also swimming race, in which the Maori fair sex displayed their agility, was added to the programme. The event of the day, however, was the dinner, which was tastefully laid out in a large marquee; the bill of fare consisted of all the native and European delicacies of the season, and from the havoc made amongst the edibles, seemed to be thoroughly appreciated. The Irish members of the party exhibiting much delight at the display of the potatoes, cabbage, and pork which met their gaze, and no doubt brought back vivid recollections of similar feasts in the "ould country." One gentleman looked quite pathetic picking a *crubeen*, but thoroughly at home with the same. After the good things had been done ample justice to **Dr Walker** on behalf of the guests, proposed the health of the host, together with that of the chiefs Hamuera and Tahou and the other natives, saying that he trusted the present meeting would help to still further cement the bond of friendship existing between the natives and Europeans of the Taupo district, and that they might all meet on many future occasions at similar happy festivities. In reply, Hohepa Tamamutu thanked the Europeans for their good wishes, and said he wished the present happy day and occasion could last forever, that this was the first time the natives had attempted to give their European friends and neighbours an entertainment, but he hoped it would not be the last. He regretted that at times any disputes should take place between natives and Europeans, but if both parties would only use a little forbearance these matters could be settled by the decision of the law, which was equal and just for all. He wished to thank Mr Mitchell and the other gentlemen who had so kindly interested themselves in seeing the day's amusements so satisfactorily carried out. After a very pleasant day's enjoyment the European visitors left for home thoroughly pleased with the day's amusement and the hospitality they had received.

Bay of Plenty Times 10 Jul 1878 Taupo

One of the Armed Constabulary Force, whilst out shooting, met with an accident by the fowling-piece going off whilst he was loading it; at first it was thought that the hand which received the charge was seriously damaged, but, however, I am happy to say, that under the skillful treatment of our medico (**Dr Walker**), the patient will not be in the least inconvenienced for future work.

Wanganui Museum Samuel Walker Papers – Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives 1878 Section G8

Taupo 4 Sep 1878 Samuel Walker, Surgeon, Armed Constabulary, medical attendant to Natives to Native Minister.

The Taupo Natives may be said to enjoy an immunity from skin diseases, when compared with the Coast natives. There is however a strange form of skin disease which affects the face & extremities, called by the Natives 'ngerengere', considered by Dr A. Thompson a species of elephantiasis graecorum or leprosy of the Greeks, and what he proposes calling "lepra gangraenosa". I have treated three cases of this very singular disease. I find among the Maoris it is very contagious; but they affirm we are proof against it. This is not correct, as I have seen one white man with which the disease was so far developed as to be unmistakeable. The history of the case pointed to infection by direct contagion. I found (if I may be allowed to mention treatment) in this instance the case yielded to ergot exhibited internally, with opium and aconite externally and this treatment served well in the Native cases also... goes on to comment on lack of milk cows & infant deaths.

Evening Post 4 Oct 1878

In his sanitary report on the natives of the Taupo district, Dr Samuel Walker says that comparatively few natives die of disease *per se*, but that the majority of deaths occur through want of proper food, a slow process of starvation being the chief cause, in that district at any rate, of this mortality. The Maori economy is amenable to medical treatment, physic speedily affecting it, and cuts and fractures heal rapidly, without leaving unpleasant results. Dr Walker thinks the potato not sufficiently nutritive food, often badly cooked. He adds that the sick Maori craves for pakeha food, but in such case he wants cooking utensils as well. "Their dirty whares, without chimneys, insufficient clothing, conjugal consanguinity – in fact, a total disregard of the most essential laws of sanitation have succeeded, in spite of this very healthy climate, in establishing scrofulous diathesis, which manifests itself in many forms of disease. Taupo natives may be said to enjoy an immunity from skin diseases when compared with the coast natives." There is, however, a strange form of skin disease which affects the face and extremities, called by the natives "ngerengere," considered to be a species of leprosy of the Greeks, and which Dr Thompson calls "lepra gangraenosa." Dr Walker has treated three cases of this disease. He points to the fact that while the Maoris have plenty of horses they have no cattle. The want of cow's milk is a great one, and many children, when mothers cannot suckle them, die speedily for want of that substitute.

Bay of Plenty Times 06 Feb 1879 Rewi insults Major Scannell

Taupo, Tuesday night. A gross insult has been offered to the representative of the Government here by Rewi Maniapoto. Rewi sent a messenger to Major Sannell yesterday expressing a desire to see him, but as the Major's horse was not at hand he was unable to go. Today he went to Oranui (where Rewi is), accompanied by **Dr Walker** and an interpreter. After mutual greetings Rewi coolly rolled himself up in his blanket, and composed himself to sleep. Half an hour's silence ensued when Major Scannell said to him, "You sent for me, what have you to say?" Rewi answered that he did not send for him, and had nothing to say. Major Scannell then said, "If you have nothing to say to I will go," and left the whare without taking formal leave. Rewi distinctly refuses to answer any questions whatever. He says people will find out soon enough what his intentions are. The Oranui natives tell me that Rewi has dropped sufficient in conversation to show that the reports sent from Alexandra by the Press Agency, re the lands in that district are, in the main, true. They say that his influence is greatly on the wane, and that his present travels are undertaken to try and reinstate it. They care very little for him here, and say the Government have made altogether too much of him. He remains at Oranui for a day or two, and then goes down the West Coast of Lake Taupo to draw a line from the South end of the lake to Horohoro Moutain, near Rotorua, inside of which his mana is to operate.

Bay of Plenty Times 04 Mar 1879 Shipping Arrivals

March 3 – Tarura, s.s., 563 tons, W. C. Sinclair, from Melbourne and southern ports, with grain and sundries. Passengers – Miss Merrett, Dr Walker, and passengers and cargo for month.

Bay of Plenty Times 09 Mar 1880 The Irish Relief Fund

The undermentioned sums have been received by me since your issue of the 4th inst., ... Dr Walker £1 1s...

Bay of Plenty Times 01 Jun 1880

Through the courtesy of Mr Brabant, R.M., we have been favoured with a list of the members of Licensing Courts for the various Licensing Districts of the colony. The gentlemen appointed for this part of the East Coast are - ... Taupo: George Crossman, William Brady and Samuel Walker.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P1 135c 1881/1164

Telegram: Supr Scammell, Taupo to Col. Reader, Wellington 26 Dec 1880. Dr Walker died at 3pm yesterday Maemic? convulsion and brights disease of the Kidneys.

Bay of Plenty Times 30 Dec 1880 Taupo

Dr Walker, of the A.C., died suddenly on the 24th. He was buried the following afternoon with military honors.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P1 135c 1881/1164

Inspector Scammell, Armed Constabulary "B" Division Officer, Taupo 30 Dec 1880 to Lt. Col. Lyon, Waikato

Sir, With reference to my telegram of the 26th inst I have the honor to report that Surgeon Saml. Walker died at this Station about 3oc pm on Saturday the 25th inst. Sergt. Campbell informed me that Dr Walker was in the Surgery with him about two hours before he died - and it would appear that shortly after returning from the Surgery to his own house he was seized with one of the convulsive fits to which he was subject. Mrs Walker sent at once for Sergt Campbell the Hospital Sergeant and on his arrival he administered such remedies as he thought would be of benefit but without any success. Mrs Walker sent for me and on my arrival Dr Walker was quite unconscious breathing heavily and evidently dying, he died about a quarter of an hour after never having normal consciousness from the time of his first attack - Sergt Campbell informed me that in his opinion the cause of death was M...mic Convulsions and Brights disease of the Kidneys. I have the honour to be Sir, Your most obdt Servant ...Scammell Supt NC, Commdg Inspr Dist.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P1 135c 1881/1164

Armed Constabulary B Division Office Taupo Dec 30th, 1880 To: Lieut Col. Lyon, Commdy Reserve Division AC, Cambridge

Sir, I beg to bring to your notice for the consideration of the Hon. the Defence Minister that the widow and daughter of the late Surgeon Walker, AC have been by his death left in a very destitute state - no effects whatever having been left, except a few pounds realized by the sale of their personal household furniture about barely enough to enable Mrs Walker to reach her friends, among whom she can only expect a temporary shelter. The daughter is twelve years old, and if some provision were made to enable her to attend a good school for the next five or six years, she would then probably be in a position to get her own living. I need not mention Dr Walker's services, as they are well known to the Government. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedient servant, Scannell Suprdt Commdy Taupo District.

Response of Hon. Defence Minister 19 Jan 1881: I recommend the usual gratuity to the widow of one years pay be given to Mrs Walker. Her late husband did good service in the Colony and was one of the recipients of the New Zealand Cross.

The Yeoman 1 Jan 1881 Death of Dr Walker

On Christmas Day a telegram was received in Foxton which brought deep sorrow to one household there, while it will cause much regret throughout the district. The telegram in question announded the death at Taupo, on Christmas Eve, of Dr Walker, of the A.C. Force. The deceased gentleman, who was only 36 years of age, was brother to Mrs A. S. B. Forster, of Foxton, and had been connected with the Colonial Forces for eighteen years, having served through the native war of 1868-69, and received the New Zealand Cross for distinguished bravery under fire. Among the instances of this, it is recorded that Dr Walker, times out of number, carried wounded men out of the thick of various frays when the bullets were as plentiful as hailstones; on one occasion he was carrying a wounded man on his back to a place of safety, when he (the wounded man) was shot dead while being so transported. This happened, we believe, in the attack on Titoko Waru's pah at Otauto, on the 13th March 1869. But there is a foe who never misses his victim even though that victim may seem to bear a charmed life in the field of battle. Had he been allowed to choose the mode of his departure, the gallant hero who has gone from among us would, no doubt, have preferred a sudden and glorious death on the field; but that was not to be. Dr Walker succumbed, after a few days illness, to an attack of liver complaint of the kind known as "Bright's disease". He leaves a widow and one daughter to mourn his loss.

Taranaki Herald 5 Jan 1881

A telegram announces the death at Taupo, on Christmas Eve, of Dr Walker, of the A.C. Force. The deceased gentleman, who was only 36 years of age, was brother to Mrs A. S. B. Forster, of Foxton, and had been connected with the Colonial Forces for eighteen years, having served through the native war of 1868-69, and received the New Zealand Cross for distinguished bravery under fire. He was well known in Patea, where he resided for many years.

The Bay of Plenty Times 13 Jan 1881 Taupo - From our own correspondent

Our Taupo races have come and gone, and really were so shamefully contemptible that I shall let a more facile pen than mine describe them. The usual festive portion of the year has also come and gone, with them many recollections and remembrances of "Auld Lang Syne." Whatever little festivity we Taupoites might be inclined for at Christmas and New Year was abridged through one of the most sorrowful events that has happened here these many years, I allude to the death of Surgeon Walker of the A.C. Force. He was buried with military honours, which no officer or man in the Colonial Force was ever better entitled to. He had faced death many times. He had been ailing sometime, so that his sudden departure caused no surprise. Our little cemetery, thanks to the health giving waters of Taupo and its genial air to boot, is far from crowded, and long may it remain so. A handsome testimonial from our small community was presented to his respected widow. I hear she has gone to Wanganui.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P1 135c 1881/1164

Mrs Walker, Normanby Jan 26 1881 to Colonel Reader, Commanding Officer, Armed Constabulary Force, Wellington

Sir, Mr Forster having informed me that it is the intention of the Government to grant me a "years pay" consequent on the death of my lamented husband I have the honor to express my thanks for such kindness. I would however respectfully bring to the notice of this Government that the late Surgeon Walker was a member of the Colonial Forces for sixteen years during which period he was engaged for several years in "active service" and with one exception was the only officer in the A.C. Force who held the N.Z. Cross, under these circumstances I would ask that my case be reconsidered with a view to the "Grant" being increased to two "years pay" and bearing in mind that allowances similar to the one which I desire have already been granted to widows of officers. [note in margin: what cases?] I trust the Government will graciously accede to my request. I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant, Jane Walker.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference: P1 135c 1881/1164

14 Apr 1881: Memorandum for the Honble The Premier by Colonel Reader.

Doctor Samuel Walker of the Armed Constabulary died at Taupo on the 25th of December last after a Service of nearly sixteen years. He was awarded the New Zealand Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field during the Campaigns of 1868-69. He left a widow almost penniless to whom was given a gratuity of one year's pay. Mrs Walker asks that, in consideration of her late husband's Services, a second years pay may be awarded to her as was done in the case of Mrs St John, widow of the late Lt. Col. St John of the Armed Constabulary. I find in that case a vote was taken in the estimates passed in the 31st Octr 1876. If this gratuity to Mrs Walker is approved it could be chargeable to "unauthorised" and placed in the Estimates. In Cabinet 6 May 1881: In consideration of the late Dr Walker's services, a gratuity equal to two years salary (instead of one year's) to be granted to his Widow. - E. Fox Sec.

Hawera and Normanby Star 13 Mar 1883 Death

At Normanby, on 12th March, Emily Constance Fortescue, the beloved daughter of the late Samuel Walker, N.Z.C. Surgeon to the Armed Constabulary, aged 14. The funeral will leave the residence of her mother (Wordlands Cottage) at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the 14th inst. Friends are respectfully invited to attend. John Hall, Undertaker.

Evening Post 30 Sep 1890

An asylum patient named Jane Walker, aged 40 years, died suddenly at a quarter past 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The District Coroner held the statutory inquest at the Hospital this morning, when it appeared from the evidence of Dr Hassall that the cause of death was general paralysis of the insane. The jury, of which Mr Allan Anderson was the foreman, returned a verdict accordingly. The deceased was a widow, and was admitted from Hawera in September 1887. She is believed to have no children living, but has two brothers in the colony, one of them having already been telegraphed to.

Coroner's Inquest case file – Archives NZ Reference (& FamilySearch) J46 47/ 1890/575 (R238177729)
Held 30 Sep 1890 at Wellington Hospital.

Witness George Hassall: I am a legally qualified medical practitioner and am medical superintendent of Mount View Lunatic Asylum. The deceased Jane Walker was a patient in the asylum. She was admitted on 02 Sep 1887 on the order of the Resident Magistrate at Hawera. She had been already over a year in the asylum when I took charge. When I first saw her she was in a state of sub-acute mania and also suffered from slight aphasia and a weakness of the right hand. Her bodily and mental conditions were both progressed. She became more demented and weaker in body and it became evident that she was suffering from general paralysis of the insane. For the last 12 months she has been absolutely helpless. Three or four days ago she became... convulsive twitchings of her left side and she gradually sank and died at 4.15 yesterday afternoon in presence of attendant Lyne. She was a widow and so far as I know has no children. Her maiden name was Jenkins. She had two brothers in the colony. One of the brothers have been telegraphed to. The cause of death was general paralysis of the insane. She was 40 years old.

Witness Lottie Lyne: I am an attendant in the Mount View asylum. The deceased Jane Walker was a patient. For the last three months I had the sole charge of her. She was paralysed and quite helpless and could not even speak for these last three months. I have been about 12 months in the Hospital. She seemed to get worse and worse all the time – she died at ¼ past 4 p.m. yesterday.

Jurors: Allan Anderson, John Silas Cox, Archibald McDougall, John Duff, William Newell and Robert Henry Holmes.

Verdict: That on the 29th day of September 1890 at Mount View asylum in Wellington Jane Walker, a lunatic patient in the said asylum did die of general paralysis of the insane in a natural way and not otherwise.

Evening Post 01 Oct 1890 Funeral Notice

The Friends of the late Mrs Jane Walker are respectfully invited to attend her Funeral, which will leave the Wellington Hospital for the Church of England Cemetery Tomorrow (Thursday), at 3.30 p.m. E. Morris, Jun., Undertaker, Taranaki-street.

Auckland Star 28 Jun 1927 Our N.Z.C. Men

The New Plymouth telegram published a day or two ago mentioning the New Zealand Cross won by Captain Mace in the Taranaki War under-stated the number of that decoration awarded to the colony's soldiers in the Maori Wars. The total number is twenty-three, not fourteen. Even at that, it is, I believe, the rarest military medal in the world. The number is frequently mis-stated, and the names of the three Maoris, the surgeon, and the civilian who won it are usually omitted. The Maori warriors were Major Ropata, of the Ngati-Porou tribe, Major Kepa (Kemp) Te Rangihwinui, of Wanganui and Sergeant Kepa to Ahuru, of the Arawa. The surgeon was Dr Samuel Walker, of the Armed Constabulary, who displayed great courage when he attended the wounded under heavy fire at Otautu, on the Patea River, in 1869. The civilian was Dr Isaac Featherston, Superintendent of Wellington Province, who stimulated the courage of the native allies at the storming of Otapawa, Taranaki, and accompanied General Chute on the march through the bush at the back of Taranaki Mountain in 1866. The winners of the cross were, with the exception of Dr Featherston, all members of the New Zealand Forces, but one or two, such as our Auckland veteran, George Hill, had served in the Imperial Forces before coming to New Zealand. In the list there is one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, five captains, a lieutenant, three sergeants, and the rest privates, troopers and constables. Today there are only four survivors, headed by Colonel Roberts, of Rotorua. In many cases those who were decorated had performed acts of "distinguished valour" again and again, and such men as the late Captain Northcroft earned the cross several times over.

In at least one instance, however, the award of the cross was regarded by military men as a rather scandalous abuse of the greatly valued honour. This was the granting of it to a colonial cavalry subaltern who was in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel St. John's escort of fourteen troopers left in camp at Opepe, near Taupo, in 1869. Through inexcusable neglect the unguarded camp was surprised by Te Kooti's men, and nine troopers were killed. The subaltern was recommended for the honour to cover up St. John's military default, and he got it, though all he did was to save his own life. But deeds such as those performed by Roberts, McDonnell, Mair, Preece, Mace and the rest far outweighed the deficiencies of the one or two others. The New Zealand Cross is, by reason of its rarity, an infinitely more precious decoration than even the Victoria Cross.

At least three names occur to one as those of men who earned the cross but never received it – the late Major Gascoyne, of Hastings, the late Major William Mair (elder brother of Captain Gilbert Mair), of Auckland, and Michael Gill (once of the 57th Regiment, and later of the Armed Constabulary), who was a hero of the defence of Turuturu-Mokai redoubt, in Taranaki in 1868. Gill is still living; he is in the Old Men's Home at Napier.

Auckland Star 26 Jan 1935 Pioneer Doctors – Civil and Military – Some Taranaki Memories (by J.C.)

The Military Medicos... Still another noted surgeon was Dr Samuel Walker, who was awarded the New Zealand Cross for his "conspicuous gallantry" on many occasions in the Hauhau wars, particularly at Otautu, on the Patea, in 1869, where he was exposed to a very heavy fire while tending the wounded. Later he was in private practice.

Patea: A Centennial History by Margaret Leslie, Livingstone Baker and Ian Church(1981) p93

The Imperial Forces had a hospital at the beach from 1865 to 1867 and a second military hospital under Dr S. Walker, was located in the town for a few years from 1869. When this closed with the reduction of the garrison, James Lett chaired a Hospital Committee to obtain a civilian hospital. In October 1876 the Government granted this committee the use of two immigration cottages near the present library. Dr Walker was the surgeon and J. Black the steward in charge. When Dr Walker moved to Taupo in 1877 he was replaced by Dr J. M. Warren and then by Dr A. C. Croft.

For Glory and a Farm by Frank Glen (1985)

The Story of Australia's involvement in the New Zealand Wars of 1860-1866 Chapter XI The Siege of Pipiriki and closing engagements.

The Medical Officer attached to the garrison was Surgeon Samuel Walker who some years later won the New Zealand Cross. Walker was not entirely qualified as a doctor, but was satisfactory so far as the New Zealand Militia was concerned. His case book survived the Pipiriki siege, and contains first hand information not available to earlier writers. The book opens with his signature and title beneath which is "Ass't Surgeon T.M.S." (Taranaki Military Settlers) and the word "pro-temp". He must have been unmarried for on the flyleaf is written: "But what's a table richly spread without a woman at its head". He then writes, "Outbreak at Pipiriki 19th July 1865. Was sent to take charge of Gundagai same day". He dealt with two gunshot wounds and a case of 'catarrhus' before a page written in German, but not in Walker's hand headed "Trappin cui Pipiriki vin 19 July, 1865". It could be one of the messages intended for a bottle that was never despatched. A translation carried out by the Alexander Turnbull Library gives a graphic first hand account entitled: The skirmish at Pipiriki on the 19th July 1865. "After having camped in vain at Pipiriki for some considerable time and waited for the enemy with great longing we received of a sudden intelligence from a spy on the 17th July, who had been captured by an outlying post at about half past six in the morning, to the effect that the enemy had surrounded us and that the natives intended to pay us a visit within the course of the same week. They were said to have gathered in large numbers around about: 200 men were in the pa to the north of us, and 200 to the south intended to cut all our lines of communication by water. A hundred more in small detachments of 20 men observed our doings from the heights surrounding us until the natives arrived from Weraroa 300 strong, in order to attempt together with them an attack on our three redoubts, to give us one last night at Pipiriki and not let a single one escape alive. This was no bad plan on the part of the natives, if it could be implemented. Before I go any further I intend to describe the terrain somewhat. Here the Wanganui River cuts through a valley in zig zag meanders. On the right bank of the river there lies right on the bank about 20 feet high on a narrow but fairly long plateau, the village of the natives which fell into our hands on the 3rd April without firing a shot. At the north end of the village the plateau starts to rise until a fairly considerable hill is reached. On this hill there is a fortified pa which at present is being held by friendly natives. To the immediate north this hill rises to 18-25 feet higher and on the opposite there is an almost sheer drop to the water level of the river. To the left of this hill in a north-westerly direction there is a small hill not far away..." After this remarkable siege only two men were wounded, both of them Military Settlers. Lieutenant Clery received a gunshot wound in the charge, Samuel Walker recording Sergeant Garrad as suffering a wound from the same source. Two men suffered sickness.

Taupo Times? Feb 1999? Wealth of interest in AC History

The Taupo Regional Museum and Art Centre will be holding an Armed Constabulary Exhibition from February 2 to April 27. In the 10 months taken to research and prepare for the exhibition, the director, Mr Ken Niven, has come across the following interesting points - Dr Samuel Walker, NZC, assistant surgeon in the Armed Constabulary was sent to Taupo while Colonel Roberts was in charge to investigate the causes of the poor health of the local Maoris. His findings were that most were grossly under-nourished and suffering from their poor sanitation. Food was scarce and the land was infertile. Dr Walker performed many clever operations. Among others, he successfully extracted from the back of a Maori chief's eye a large tumour which other medical men had declined to operate on, for fear of the results. Dr Walker died in Taupo aged 38. He is buried in the old cemetery, behind the St John Ambulance building, in Spa Road. His sword is in the museum in Story Place.

Taupo District Museum of Art and History: Press Release 20 April 1999

Surgeon Samuel Walker's historic sword has been stolen from the Armed Constabulary display in the Taupo District Museum of Art and History. It belonged to the doctor who was posted specially to the Armed Constabulary force in Taupo to investigate the reasons for poor health in local Maoris. Museum secretary/director Mr Alan Dance said the sword would have a certain monetary value. That is why the police had since informed all antique shops and collectors of military memorabilia, warning them against buying the sword. It would mean nothing to the sort of person who stole the relic that the sword was part of Taupo's history Mr Dance said. After performing many intricate operations in Taupo, Surgeon Walker died young, at the age of 38, and was buried in the Early Settler's Cemetery in the little reserve off Spa Road. Mr Dance said the thief would have found it relatively easy to steal the sword. The museum believed in a 'please touch' rather than a 'hands off' policy. But the theft may force a change in the museum council's thinking, and impose a greater security and surveillance.

This would disadvantage all the honest visitors to the museum. Already he had removed a rifle from the Armed Constabulary wall display in case that went the same way as the sword. Any information leading to the recovery of the sword would be much appreciated by the museum council and suitably rewarded said Mr Dance. "So two of the main items featuring in our main Armed Constabulary display are no longer on view there. And all because of some petty thief who couldn't care less about the people of Taupo and all the visitors to the museum" he said.

Taupo Times Thursday 13 May 1999 Theft of Historic Sword: Letter by Perry Fletcher

The theft of an irreplaceable historic sword from the Taupo Museum is regrettable but may have been prevented. The museum has not always adopted a 'please touch' policy. During the 10 years I was involved, John Greenfield, the museum's president at that time, was most concerned to ensure that certain exhibits, especially Surgeon Walker's sword, always remained within a locked glass display case. To state that Walker's sword "would have been issued to him in the 1880s" is not an informed one because if his headstone in the Early Settlers Cemetery is anything to go by D Samuel Walker, Surgeon A.C. Force died Christmas Day 1880. Walker would have had a standard issue sword throughout his service. Shortly after the 1869 battle at Te Porere, Walker was sent to a dying local friendly chief Paora Hapimanu Hariwaka after an accidental shooting. Very few unfriendly captured and wounded Hauhau men were spared. Government officials of the time were not too concerned as to the reasons for poor health among local Maori that Surgeon Walker was posted to Taupo as the Taupo Times April 23 article claims. The Armed Constabulary found it hard enough to look after themselves. Initially rations and equipment were given to gold prospectors at the Poutu Redoubt near Lake Roto Aira while the soldiers starved. If anyone was sent to Taupo to investigate such concern it was (after a five-year delay) from 1863 when Dr R. Hooper, the Government surgeon for the natives was at Oruanui "physicking friends and foes alike".