# Frederick John KNOX (1794-1873)

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 21 Nov 1840*
Shipping Intelligence - Arrived - 14 November "Martha Ridgway, 621, from England; left the Downs 9th July. Passengers - Mr and Mrs T. E. Losack and five children, Miss Whitaker, Mr and Mrs F. John Knox and five children. Mr and Mrs H. Robson, and Messrs. Geo. Moore, William James, W. B. Ralph, T. Hine, R. B. Barnes, A. Renny, J. Butler, and J. and A. Alexander. 195 in the steerage. Agents - Messrs Ridgways, Guyton and Earp.

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 11 Sep 1841 Birth*
At Wellington, on the 6th inst., the lady of Frederick John Knox, Esq., M.D., of a daughter.

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 29 Dec 1841 Contributions to the Ichthylogy of New Zealand – Letter to the Editor*
By Frederick John Knox, M.D. Mr Editor, - The natural history of the fishes frequenting the coast and bays of New Zealand will, no doubt, one day be given to the world as a distinct work. It will be a work of great interest, but, being one of great labour, and probably little profit, it has appeared to me that a succession of articles in the periodical publications, either here or in Europe, would be the true way to bring the information before the public; a mass of authentic information on the subject would thus be collected, to be ultimately condensed by some master hand, as De Blainville. The subject also is so extensive, and withal so formidable to grapple with, that it would in all probability be a failure it attempted by a single person; and, *entre nous*, a series of distint articles on each genus, or even species, will, in the present advanced state of the science of natural history, be more acceptable than any attempt at a voluminous work by one person, however talented; so much information has to be gleaned from others, such a want of *authenticity* pervades the entire production, that the real lover and strict investigator of truth finds little that can be depended on in such productions, and thus the advantages to society which might immediately occur by the scientific observations being brought before practical men are lost. Another strong objection to a general work is the necessary expence in getting it up, and the details which the naturalist is compelled to enter into in describing every species with the same care, whether of use to man or not, which to the practical man will always appear as labour lost. The subject of the present communication appears to me likely to attract the attention of all classes of society, and may, at no distant period, be the means of enriching the land of our adoption. Article 1 Remarks on a species of Chondropterigeous (Cartilaginous) fish, allied in all probability to the Genus Accipenser of Linnaeus by Frederick John Knox, M.D. [article follows] – [*to be concluded in our next*].

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 24 Apr 1844 Letter to the Editor*
Dear Sir, - Your insertion of the following notice in an early number of the *Gazette* may be the means of drawing attention to a product of nature which, so far as I can ascertain, has not hitherto been observed by naturalists as a production of these Islands, I am , dear Sir, Your's very truly, Frederick John Knox, M.D. [Article follows: Observations on one or more species of aquatic plants, belonging to the Class Cryptogamia of Systematic Botanists…]

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 26 Jun 1844 – Letter to the Editor*
Observations on a species of Lamprey, found in the District of Port Nicholson, by Frederick John Knox, M.D. Mr Editor, - It is a fact well known to most persons who have visited New Zealand, that the eels frequenting most of the rivers are not only very numerous, but exceedingly good as kai, not only for the Maori, but also for the Pakeha. By the kindness of a friend, I have within these few days had brought under my notice a species of eel, so uncommon in the Port Nicholson district, as not to have been recognized as an eel; it was taken in the Kai Warra stream, near its entrance into our Harbour, and is, in all probability, marine or migratory at certain seasons. That it should be unknown to most of our fishermen, after a residence in the country of from four to five years, proves it to be either extremely rare, or that our fishermen are inefficient… continues…

*New Zealand Gazette and Wellington Spectator 4 Sep 1844 Birth*
On Saturday, August 31, the wife of Frederick John Knox, M.D., of a daughter.

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 2 Jun 1852 Resident Magistrate's Court, Wellington*
In the case Frederick John Knox, Plaintiff, and Stephen Hunt, Defendant. By virtue of a Warrant of Distress issued out of the aforesaid Court, I, the undersigned, will sell at the Police Barracks, Kumutoto, on Friday, the 4th day of June, 1852, at 12 o'clock at noon, (unless this execution be previously stayed), certain Goods seized under the warrant above mentioned. G. Scott, Corporal of Police.

*New Zealand Spectator and Cook's Strait Guardian 11 Feb 1854*
His Honor the Superintendent has been pleased to appoint John Dorset, Esq., John Patrick Fitzgerald, Esq., George Dalrymple Monteith, Esq., Frederick John Knox, Esq., and Charles Forbes, Esq., to be the Medical Board for the Province of Wellington. By His Honor's Command, William Fitzherbert, Provincial Secretary.

*Wellington Independent 22 Oct 1861 – From the Provincial Gazette, October 14, 1861*
Attorney General's Office, Auckland, 15th August, 1861. His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Frederick John Knox, Esq., to be Coroner for the Porirua District, Province of Wellington. Henry Sewell.

*Wellington Independent 7 Jul 1864 Resident Magistrate's Court, Wellington*
Monday, 4th July, 1864. Frederick John Knox v Harry Bowler. – Debt £1 1s. Settled.

*Wellington Independent 18 May 1865 Scarlatina – Letter to the Editor*

Sir, - In your paper of date 9th February, 1865, you favored me with the insertion of a notice touching the then sanitory condition of the Province and more especially the prevalence of an epidemic in Wellington, precisely similar in all its stages to the scarlatina or scarlet fever so well-known in Britain for a period little short of a century. I observe from carefully drawn up statistical tables, that it still holds its ground in Great Britain, carrying off its victims daily. One would imagine that the accumulated experience of ages would have enabled the medical profession if not to overcome, at least to have greatly modified the virulence of this well-marked fever, but I do not observe from the recent medical works sent out to the colonies that this has been the case. When studying my profession in Edinburgh, I remember the professional men were nearly divided in following a precisely antagonistic treatment; the one using warmth and stimulants, wine, bark, &c., and the other the cold water douche with fever diet. As the disease attacks persons of all ages, sexes, and constitutions, the treatment must evidently be varied almost in every case, and the *routinier* will most assuredly kill more patients than he cures. Since my communication in February last, scarlatina has prevailed in the Porirua district, and considering the great number attacked, is most assuredly not particularly fatal; indeed when the disease has exhibited its typical form the patients have without exception recovered. Occasionally great debility and dropsical effusions have occurred, but these in all cases arose from too early exposure, or want of proper care during convalescence. I beg leave to subjoin the result of my meteorological observations for the three autumnal months (1865) contrasted with those of last year (1864). I am, &c., Frederick John Knox, Resident Surgeon, Porirua District.

*Wellington Independent 11 Feb 1866 The Gigantic Moa – Letter to the Editor*

Sir, - A valued friend informs me of a remarkable specimen of the remains of some unknown animal having been discovered on the West Coast. The entire head and a great part of the body has been found, and my friend has little doubt of its identity with the Moa. He describes the head which is entire as that of a bird, having the eyes in their orbits, and also the lower jaw; there appears no vestige of teeth in either jaw. As my friend informs me of his intention of securing the specimen and sending it to me by the first favourable opportunity, I shall not fail in furnishing you with all particulars connected with this exceedingly interesting discovery. I am, &c., Frederick John Knox.

*Wellington Independent 15 Sep 1866 Death*

On September 7, at Herbert-street, Mary, the wife of Mr Waring Taylor, aged 39yrs.

*Wellington Independent 7 Feb 1867 Meteorological Observations – Letter to the Editor*

Sir, - Amongst the various notices on the temperature and state of the weather with which you favour your readers, I observed a notice headed "Heat in Auckland," copied from the *Southern Cross* of 10th January last, which stated that on the 5th the thermometer stood as high as 89° in a place completely shaded. In the locality in which I reside, near Wellington, the morning of January 5th was calm, overcast; temperature in the shade at 9 a.m., 60°. As the day advanced the weather cleared with a gentle N.E. breeze, and at 5 p.m. a temperature of 72° was indicated. The following day (the 6th) was the warmest we have had during the season; the thermometer at 9 a.m. being 62°, and at 5 p.m. 75°. These observations can only be interesting to the scientific enquirer, when contrasts can be drawn, and the time of day, locality, &c., carefully noted. Trusting that in any future observations on the weather at Auckland and other settlements the precise locality, time of day, state of the wind, &c., may be given, I conclude this short note with adding my observations for the month of January. Meteorological observations observed in the shade, facing west at 9 a.m. – Mean temperature 64°, Highest during the month 70, Lowest during the month 55. Direction of the wind. Northerly (days) 18, Southerly 5, Calm 8, Rain fell 11. Frederick John Knox, Resident Surgeon, Porirua District. P.S. – Although the number of days on which rain has fallen during the month may be considered an average with previous years, yet the *quantity* of rain which has fallen appeared to me very great, especially from the 21st to the 28th of the month, delaying getting in of the hay crop, I should fear, to a very serious degree.

*Wellington Independent 4 Apr 1868 Acclimatization – Letter to the Editor*

Johnsonville, March 25, 1868. Sir, - In the *Independent* of 21st March, (1868) you have with your accustomed desire to advance the best interests of the colony, given your readers an early notice of the return of the Redcliff from the deep sea fishing, and amongst other rare fishes taken during the cruise you mention the salmon. The members of the Otago Acclimatisation Society, no doubt with praiseworthy anxiety, boarded the Redcliff, and found amongst others a fish which, "if *not* the true salmon, presented a strong family likeness." The salmon family are characterised in the most *un*mistakeable way by the presence of a small adipose fin placed on the dorsal line immediately above the *vent*, a never-failing characteristic to the naturalist; but the comparative anatomist furnishes an additional character in the number of vertebrae, which will be found to be sixty (60) whatever may be the size or age of the fish. There are numerous fishes of even superior economic qualities who have *no* mort fin and by no means so many vertebrae, and the grand test, as appears to me, would have been the "kettle"; the Scotch proverb applies well, "the proof o' the pudding is the preeing o't"; by this means, also, the number of vertebrae could have been easily ascertained. Trusting that some old Edinburgh *coulic* will see this notice and take the hint. – Iam, &c, Frederick John Knox, M.D.

*Wellington Independent 7 Aug 1873 Death and Funeral Notice*

On July 5, at the Provincial Hospital, Frederick John Knox, L.R.C.S.E., aged 82 years. The friends of Dr Frederick John Knox are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, which will leave the Provincial Hospital this day at 2.45 p.m. Gascoin & Parsons, Undertakers.

*The other brother - a brief account of the life and times of Frederick John Knox LRSCEd by Prof. A. W. Beasley.*

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