Charles Douglas WHITCOMBE (1836-1904)

Taranaki Herald 17 Nov 1866 Local and General News
Military Settlers – The Cambridge correspondent of the Daily Southern Cross says: During the last week we have had a delegate from Taranaki, in the person of Mr C. D. Whitcombe, who came here to confer with the "Back Pay Committee" as to the desirability of their co-operating with us, to bring the matter to the Supreme Court. At a committee meeting, with delegates from the 2nd and 4th Regiments, it was unanimously agreed to co-operate with the Taranaki Military Settlers. They likewise have very good grounds to claim their pay, &c., from the Government of New Zealand. Mr Whitcombe will have an interview with Mr Gillies, our law adviser, who will, we have no doubt, take up their case likewise.

Taranaki Herald 15 Dec 1866 Advertisement
On and after the 17th December 1866, Poisin will be laid on all land in the occupation of the undersigned on the Huirangi block. C. D. Bennett, Chas. D. Whitcombe. Manutahi, Dec 15, 1866.

Taranaki Herald 20 Apr 1867
List of Persons who have preferred claims to vote at the Elections of Members of the House of Representatives for the Electoral District of Grey and Bell. Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Manutahi, Freeholder, 60 acres, Section No.50, Huirangi Block, Leaseholder, 50 acres, Section No. 26, Huirangi Block; attested by Edward S. Willcocks, Registration Officer. New Plymouth, 6th April 1867.

Taranaki Herald 4 May 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The object of this Society is the advancement of Agriculture, Horticulture, and kindred industries… Subscriptions and donations will be received by the undersigned viz: Messrs Cutfield, Hulke, Sharland, A. S. Atkinson, Burton, Laird and C. D. Whitcombe…

Taranaki Herald 25 May 1867 To the Electors of the Grey and Bell District
Gentlemen, In coming forward at the request of several of your body as candidate for the honor of representing your interests in the Provincial Council, I beg to assure you that in the event of my being returned I shall enter on the duties of my post unbiassed by party feeling and actuated only by an earnest desire to promote the agricultural and commercial prosperity of Taranaki in so far as it may lie in my power. I believe that until we can offer sufficient inducement to encourage immigration on an extensive scale, all our hopes for better times will be vain; our ills are such as can only be remedied by an influx of population, and I shall always be ready to give my cordial support to any measure tending to this end. Until we have land at our disposal it will be vain to look for any material increase of population, and it is my opinion that to ensure the progress of this Province we should first secure to it the control of its waste lands, and this being accomplished, by the passing of liberal land regulations, encourage the speedy settlement of our extended territories. The present Government regulations will act only as an impediment to progress. The Provinces may soon be called on to give their opinions on the comparative merits of Provincialism and Centralization; should my vote be required on this question I shall give it in favour of Centralization in so far as concerns the general government of the Colony: in this case extension of Provincialism means only extension of offices, and immensely increases the expenses of the machinery of government. But looking upon the Provincial Governments as bodies appointed for promoting, and interested in, the speedy settlement of their several districts, I think that the

provincial system, under certain modifications, might with advantage be extended. Devote all general taxes to the Central and General government of the Colony, and leave to the Provinces the revenue derived from the sale or lease of their lands. Should you approve of my views and return me as your member I shall gladly undertake the trust, and I hope I shall long continue to deserve your support, meanwhile, I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient servant, Chas. Douglas Whitcombe. New Plymouth 23rd May, 1867.

Taranaki Herald 25 May 1867 Local and General News
Representation of the Grey and Bell. We publish elsewhere an address from Mr Chas. D. Whitcombe to the electors of the Grey and Bell, offering himself as a candidate for the seat in the Provincial Council rendered vacant by Mr W. M. Burton's resignation. We believe that if the electors entrust their interests to Mr Whitcombe they will find that he will conscientiously do his best for them. Lines of policy are matters comparatively unimportant in our small Council. The watchwords should be a constant cry of "Agriculture and Colonization" and then political finesse and cunning statecraft will take care of themselves. Mr Whitcombe appears to admit this truth, and will, no doubt, to the best of his judgment, act up to it.

Taranaki Herald 1 Jun 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
A meeting of intending Members of the above Society will be held this day (Saturday), 1st June, at the Taranaki Institute, at 3 p.m., to receive the Report of the Provisional Committee and to elect Officers. Persons wishing to join can give in their names at the meeting. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*

Taranaki Herald 1 Jun 1867 Election for the Grey and Bell
On Monday last the electors of this district assembled at the Institute, for the purpose of choosing a member to represent them in the Provincial Council. Mr Whitcombe whose address to the electors appeared in our last issue, was disqualified for election, as his name is not upon the roll, otherwise we believe he would have been returned without opposition. Dr Samuels proposed Mr W. Tatton. The nomination was seconded by Mr Rundle, and no other candidate coming forward, Mr Tatton was declared duly elected for the district.

Taranaki Herald 8 Jun 1867 Local and General News
Agricultural Society. A large meeting was held at the Institute on the afternoon of Saturday last, for the purpose of receiving the report of the provisional committee and enrolling members of the association. Mr Cutfield took the chair. Mr Whitcombe, honorary secretary, then read the report of the provisional committee, and the rules proposed by them… Mr Burton, seconded by Mr Rundle, proposed Mr Whitcombe as Secretary. Carried.

Taranaki Herald 29 Jun 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The second general meeting of the Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute, at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, the 3rd July, 1867, when the subject for consideration will be "The cultivation of Wheat," on which a paper will be read by Mr Snell. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 7 Sep 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will he held at the Taranaki Institute on the 11th instant, at 6 p.m. Subjects for consideration:- "The rate of Wages in relation to the present state of the Province," and "The Cultivation of Tobacco," on which papers will be read by the Secretary and Captain Gibson. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 28 Sep 1867 Roads and Bridges Ordinance, 1858
We copy from the Provincial Gazette the following list of Commissioners and Auditors appointed for, and the rates per acre imposed on all lands within, the several Road Districts in this Province for the year 1867-8, at the general meetings of Electors held last month:- Eleventh or Huirangi – Commissioners – J. Kelly, P. Henry, G. Marshall. Auditors – C. D. Whitcombe, S. Andrews. Rate – 6d.

Taranaki Herald 5 Oct 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute on Saturday next, the 12th instant, at 5 o'clock, p.m. Subject for consideration:- "Pasture Grasses, in relation to their fitness for the soil and climate of this Province." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 30 Nov 1867 St Mary's Schoo – Rudimentary and Advanced Classes
Mr C. D. Whitcombe is about to open classes in the above School, and will conduct them on the principles adopted in English Grammar Schools; also preparing pupils for advanced classes in Nelson or Wellington Colleges. An Evening School will also be opened, when French and Italian lessons will be given as extras, if desired. Terms:- Children under 12, £1 10s. per quarter; Children over 12, £2 per quarter. November 29, 1867.

Taranaki Herald 30 Nov 1867 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute, on Saturday next, the 7th December, at 5 p.m. Subject for consideration – "The Improvement of Stock." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

1867-1868 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – between 20 Nov 1867 and 1 Sep 1868 (dated 20 Nov 1867)
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Taranaki Herald 1 Feb 1868
The monthly meeting of the Taranaki Agricultural Society will be held at the Institute on Saturday, the 8th instant, at 5 p.m. Subject for consideration:- "The prevention of ravages by Caterpillars and Insects." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 4 Apr 1868
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute on Saturday, the 11th instant, at 5 p.m. A full attendance is requested, a letter having been received from the Sydney Agricultural Society, relative to the introduction of Bulls. Subject for consideration:- "Caterpillars and other Insects," continued. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec. T.A.S.

Taranaki Herald 30 May 1868 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The first annual meeting of the above Society will be held in the Court Room, Taranaki Institute, at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday next, the 6th of June. The first Report of the Society will be read, and officers elected for the ensuing year. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec. May 29, 1868.

Taranaki Herald 13 Jun 1868 The Treasurer in Account with Taranaki Agricultural Society
…Mr C. Bishop proposed and Mr J. S. Smith seconded "That the present Secretary (Mr C. D. Whitcombe), retains office." Carried.

Taranaki Herald 20 Jun 1868 High School, Powderham Street
Formerly conducted by Mr Lysnar, - Will be re-opened by Mr C. D. Whitcombe, on Monday, 5th July. Elementary Class, £1 per quarter; two in a family, 15s each. Advanced Classes, £1 10s to £2; two in a family, £1 5s to £1 15s. Evening Classes 7 to 9, £1 per quarter, payable in advance.

Taranaki Herald 25 Jul 1868 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute, on Saturday next, the 1st August, at 5 p.m. Subject for consideration:- "The Importation of Stock." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 19 Sep 1868 High School, Powderham Street
The Spring Quarter commences on Monday, 5th October. Terms, £1 to £2 per Quarter. Evening Classes 7 to 9 p.m., £1 per Quarter, payable in advance. C. D. Whitcombe.

Taranaki Herald 19 Sep 1868 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Institute on Saturday next, 26th instant, at 5 p.m. Subject for discussion, - "Hedges, with a view to ascertaining what description of Hedge is best suited to the Province." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec., September 18, 1868.

Taranaki Herald 3 Oct 1868 Taranaki Agricultural Society
… Hedges… The Secretary (Mr Whitcombe) introduced the subject by suggesting the holly as a hedge, as it was a plant of vigorous growth, strong and lasting. He stated that Mr Chilman had it in his garden, and he believed the shoots struck out eighteen inches in the year….

Taranaki Herald 24 Oct 1868 Taranaki Agricultural Society
The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute, on Saturday next, the 31st instant, at 5 p.m. Subject for consideration – "The 1868-9 Agricultural Show." C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec. October 23, 1868.

Taranaki Herald 31 Oct 1868 The Taranaki Association
The members of this Society met as usual on Tuesday evening last in the Taranaki Institute. *Resignation of Secretary and Treasurer.* – The Chairman announced that the Secretary had intimated to him that in consequence of his time being so occupied, he should have to resign the office. It was then proposed by Mr Jackson and seconded by Mr Vail, "That the thanks of the Association be tendered to Mr Whitcombe, and that a suitable present be made him, as an acknowledgement for his gratuitous services."…

1869-1870 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – between 31 Aug 1869 and 1 Sep 1870 (dated 14 Jul 1869)
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Taranaki Herald 2 Jan 1869 High School, Powderham Street.
The Summer Quarter will commence on Tuesday next, 5th instant. Evening Classes from 6 ot 8, and 8 to 10 p.m. C. D. Whitcombe.

Taranaki Herald 6 Mar 1869 Agricultural Society Notice
The Public are hereby informed that in consequence of the unsettled state of the Province, the intended Exhibition will not take place. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec. T.A.S., New Plymouth, March 3, 1869.

Taranaki Herald 25 Sep 1869 Mutilation of Letters
To the Editor of the Taranaki Herald. Sir, I was exceedingly sorry to see our old friend, your contemporary, the *News*, start on its journey under its new management with such glaringly false and illogical premises as exhibited by its disreputable extra of Thursday last. It is a thing, to say the least, to be ashamed of. However, I do not purpose noticing further that weakly scurrilous production, but shall at once proceed to examine the two letters signed "Somebody Else," and "Old Settler," which appeared in your issue of the 18th instant, the paternity of which is claimed by Mr C. D. Whitcombe (*vide* the *News* extra of 23rd instant). And I would first remind that very clever gentleman that something more than smart writing is required to produce any effect on the minds and opinions of those who are in the habit of using judgment in the concerns of life, and that if his mind is liable to get in the "jumble" he so elegantly describes, and he does not know "which is which, and who is who," he may possibly be able to write smartly, but is as utterly and completely incapable as an infant of forming a correct judgment as to the merits or demerits of the respective candidates for the Superintendency. Next to this, his most prominent trait seems the fancy to throw dirt enough, "some of it will stick." "Somebody Else," whoever *he* may be, viz., - Mr C. D. Whitcombe – would doubtless be very thankful for even half the salary he growls at Mr Kelly for getting, to say nothing of that other "unknown amount," which seems to have oozed out of his brain like a mist from a swamp. Passing on to his letter signed "Old Settler" (which by the way is a misnomer), I call on this said Mr C. D. Whitcombe to substantiate the following expression, "besides, I think too strong a feeling in favour of principle and rectitude exists in this community to allow any probability of a person so utterly destitute of both as Mr Kelly has proved himself in his dealing with Mr Richmond, commanding the suffrages of any considerable number." Bursting as Mr C. D. Whitcombe doubtless is, with virtuous indignation, he can now earn the thanks of this community if he will only maintain his position, and prove (mind, not merely assert) his charge of Mr Kelly's destitution of principle and rectitude. I will now pour what little balm I can into this excited young man's mind, by assuring him that Mr Kelly's supporters have much to complain of in the matter of curtailment of their letters, but instead of thinking it was done to support either Carrington or Richmond, *they know* it was done that every side might have a fair field, and no favour, "which could only be done by clipping" all letters. In conclusion, I shall direct his attention to the foot-note of the Editor of the *Taranaki News*, which I shall quote

for his delectation, “One or two objectionable passages in the above are omitted. The rest speaks for itself.” With due respect and deference to you, Mr Editor, I sign myself Mr C. D. Whitcombe’s Mentor.

Taranaki Herald 2 Oct 1869 Mutilation of Letters

To the Editor of the Taranaki Herald. Sir, I must request space for a few lines in answer to a writer in your columns of to-day, who professes to be my Mentor. First, I must explain that the letter addressed to Mr Carrington, which appeared in the *News* Extra, was never intended for publication; it was a hurried scrawl sent, with the “omissions,” to Mr C., who was by it empowered to take whatever steps he might think advisable to show that his supporters did not get fair play from the *Herald*. Such was my impression: I adduced proofs, and I was fully entitled to make use of my grievance. I do not find fault with Mr Carrington for publishing the letter, - he was perfectly at liberty to do as he pleased with it, but, I own that I think it would have been better to have inserted a short paragraph explaining the omissions, and to have withheld the letter. “An old Settler” is certainly a misnomer since my name has appeared, but writers to newspapers seldom pay much attention to the appositeness of the signature which they append so long as it is one which suits their purpose. For instance, I can scarcely recognise the calm and dignified style of a “Mentor” in the letter of to-day – “Xantippo” would comport much better with its ill-bred acridity and rabit ill-temper. I must remind this writer that “Somebody Else” wrote in answer to “Somebody,” who indulged in a tissue of personalities, without adducing a single proof of the fitness of the candidate he extolled – Mr Kelly to wit. Among other amenities of expression, I remember that all subordinate officials were styled “fawning sycophants.” Surely “Mentor” must own that “Somebody Else” as compared to “Somebody” (whose very coarse splenetic style “Mentor’s” most suspiciously resembes), was as oil to vinegar; besides “Somebody Else” did give some valid reasons for supporting Mr Carrington – a subject on which his ideas are perfectly clear and free from confusion. The charge of throwing dirt was first, and very justly, brought against “Mentor’s” party, and, now, after the fashion of thick-headed school boys, he throws back the charge, but without reason, in a “*tu quoque.*” Mr C. D. Whitcombe would be thankful for half the salary he growls at Mr Kelly for getting. Very true; I suppose that this is meant as a tremendous hit; “this is rote sarcastioul” as Mr A. Ward has it; but I own the soft impeachment true, and there are few people in the Province who would not be equally glad to get such a nice little annuity; however, I deny that I growled about it. “Destitution of principle and rectitude” charged against Mr Kelly. The letter quoted, signed “An Old Settler,” fully explains this charge, and any one believing, as I do, the truth of Mr Richmond’s allegations, must endorse the charge. “Mentor” seems a very bad chemist; he talks about pouring balm whilst he is actually making use of vitriol; fortunately I am not at all sore after his attack, otherwise, this species of balm would by no means allay the inflammation. The objectionable passages mentioned in the *News* were, I presume, contained in my letter to Mr Carrington, which, I repeat, was written without any view to publication. In conclusion, I beg to decline acting Tolomachus to his Mentor, and remain, &c., C. D. Whitcombe. P.S. – After, “the rest speaks for itself,’ Mentor has omitted “but does not speak well for the *Herald*,” thereby altering the sense of the whole passage in a most dishonest manner; - the intention is worthy of the style. September 25, 1869. [All correspondence on this subject must now cease – Ed. T.H.]

Taranaki Herald 9 Oct 1869 Provincial Council Elections – Nomination of Members for the Grey and Bell
Wednesday being the day appointed for nominating candidates for the Provincial Council, to represent the Grey and Bell District, a large number of persons assembled about noon at the Taranaki Institute. H. Eyre Kenny, Esq., Returning Officer, opened the proceedings by reading the writ, authorising him to return seven members. The following gentlemen were then proposed and seconded:- Mr F. U. Gledhill, Mr P. Elliot, Mr C. W. Hursthouse, Mr I. Bayly, Mr James Hill, Mr C. D. Whitcombe, Mr J. Dingle, Mr J. Henry, Mr Z. W. Wells, Mr W. Black, Mr John Elliot, Mr Upjohn, Mr Paul Inch. The candidates were then called upon to address the electors…. Mr W. Webster apologised for Mr Whitcombe who was prevented from attending on account of his military duties at the front…. On Thursday last the poll was taken with the following result:- Hill 81, Hursthouse 80, Black 63, Whitcombe 59, Gledhill 58, Dingle 49, Isaac Bayly 47, Peter Ellior 45, Henry 45, Golding 36, Z. W. Wells 33, John Elliot 26, Upjohn 25, Inch 0.

Taranaki Herald 13 Oct 1869 Election of Members for the Provincial Council
Declaration of the Poll for Grey and Bell District. Yesterday, H. E. Kenny, Esq., the Returning Officer, declared the result of the poll, taken for the Grey and Bell district. There were very few persons present, and only one of the successful candidates. He then declared that the following gentlemen were duly elected to sit in the Provincial Council for the Grey and Bell district:- Mr J. Hill, Mr C. W. Hursthouse, Mr C. D. Whitcombe, Mr F. U. Gledhill, Mr J. Dingle, and Mr I. Bayly. Mr J. Hill, then addressed the electors present. He thanked them for the manner they had acted during the election, especially the old settlers, who had proved by returning him at the head of the poll, that they had no dislike to the discharged soldiers who had settled down amongst them. He did not promise that he could do them much good, but would do what he was able towards getting roads made to their land. He would urge the Government to find employment for the labouring class, instead of allowing them to go to other places, carrying every shilling they could muster out of the place, and after a while returning again penniless. He again thanked them for the position they had placed him in, and assured them he would look after their interests to the best of his ability.

Taranaki Herald 23 Oct 1869
We understand that his Honor the Superintendent has appointed Mr C. D. Whitcombe to the office of Provincial Secretary and Treasurer.

Taranaki Herald 6 Nov 1869
We believe that his Honor the Superintendent has appointed Mr C. D. Whitcombe and Mr W. Bayly, as members of the Executive Council.

Taranaki Herald 15 Dec 1869 Bell Block Ploughing and Sheep Shearing Matches
The winners of the Matches on the above occasion, can obtain the amount of their Prizes by applying to C.D. Whitcombe, Secretary *Pro. Tem.*

1870-1871 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – to 1 Sep 1871
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Taranaki Herald 15 Jan 1870 Bell Block Ploughing and Sheep Shearing Match

…The Chairman then proposed "The health of the Secretary, Mr C. D. Whitcombe," whose exertions had tended much to their success that day. Mr C. D. Whitcombe in returning thanks, said the only thing he regretted was that the matches were simply one event, and no provision had been made for it to become an annual institution. He was sorry to say that the Taranaki Agricultural Association had died out, and he found that there was no chance of its again being resuscitated. The blame did not rest with the Committee, for the first show was a decided success, and the second one would have come off, but for the murders at the White Cliffs. He thought that the district they were now in was more suited for a society of the kind than even the town, and he hoped a Bell Block Agricultural Society would be started. After some further remarks on the benefit derived from such institutions, Mr Whitcombe again thanked them for the manner in which they had drunk his health, and resumed his seat.

Taranaki Herald 2 Feb 1870 Wellington

We understand that his Honor F. A. Carrington, Esq., will proceed to Wellington this day, and that Mr C. D. Whitcombe, the Provincial Secretary will be appointed Deputy-Superintendent during his absence.

Taranaki Herald 9 Feb 1870 Taranaki Agricultural Society

A meeting of the committee of the above Society will be held at the Taranaki Institute at 4 p.m. on Saturday, the 19th instant. C. D. Whitcombe, Hon. Sec.

Taranaki Herald 23 Mar 1870 Taranaki Militia

Mr C. D. Whitcombe has been gazetted an ensign in the Taranaki Militia, his commission dating from 7th February, 1870.

Taranaki Herald 30 Mar 1870 Taranaki Agricultural Society - The Dinner

On the following evening (Saturday) the usual Annual Dinner took place in the Odd Fellows' Hall. The attendance was much larger than on the previous occasion, which fact furnishes one of the best testimonies that the Society, now it had been resuscitated, will gain in strength more and more every year. The chair was occupied by the President of the Society (G. Cutfield, Esq.) who was supported on his right by his Honor the Superintendent, and on the left by the Provincial Secretary and Hon. Secretary to the Association…. Mr C. D. Whitcombe (Provincial Secretary), said, with reference to the subject of two Shows in a year, he would like to point out to them that the original programme of the Society was that very thing. The Show to take place in December was to consist of flowers, poultry, &c., and the one in March, that of cattle, root crops, and late flowers. The first Show was advertised, and there was only one entry sent in, - the consequence was, it had to be postponed till March. Much had been said about the gardeners not taking an interest in the late exhibition, but he would remark that if they were to blame, so were the farmers. The gardeners had an excuse that they had no flowers at this season of the year, but surely the farmers could not state they had no root crops; he thought it right to say this that the blame might be shifted on to the right shoulders. He did not consider the Show was a failure. They were on the eve of holding the Show last year, when the cruel murders at the White Cliffs took place, and the Society, for a time, ceased to exist. It was much easier to organise a society than to revive one. The support accorded to the exhibition of the day before, showed that the importance of it was felt by the public. The support they had received was a good indication of what they might expect in future years when peace was fully established. This time last year the settlers were all flocking into town in fear, and it was satisfactory to see that in the short space of twelve months they had sufficient courage and energy to go back again to their farms and renew their work. No blame, he thought, could be attached to the community for

the short comings this year, as very short notice had been given them of a Show going to be held, but next year, when they would have ample time to prepare for it, he was certain they would have no reason to complain. The ploughing and sheep shearing matches would take place in the out-districts at their proper seasons; whilst the flower and poultry Show could take place in December; and the cattle Show and root crops might be exhibited in March. There were several things that had been suggested which might emanate from the Agricultural Society though they need not be connected with it, - one was a Farmers Protection Society, - which was very much needed – and the next was an Acclimatisation Society. The speaker then concluded his address by giving an example of the advantages derived from the introduction of small birds….

1871-1872 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – to 30 Aug 1871 to 1 Sep 1872
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Taranaki Herald 18 Nov 1871 Marriage
On the 15th November at the Henui Church by the Ven Archdeacon Govett, Charles Douglas, eldest son of Captain Thomas Douglas Whitcombe, M.A., K.S.G. to Mary Archer eldest daughter of Benjamin Wells, Esq. Woolcombe Terrace. Canterbury and Home Papers please copy.

Taranaki Herald 20 Jan 1872 Census of Taranaki 1871 – From the Taranaki Almanac
The following statistics relating to Taranaki have been kindly supplied us by C. D. Whitcombe, Esq., the census enumerator of the Province…

Taranaki Herald 24 Aug 1872 Birth
On the 20th August, at his residence, Hobson-street, the wife of C. D. Whitcombe, Esq. of a son.

1873-1874 Electoral Roll for Egmond – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1873 to 1 Sep 1874
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1873-1874 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1873 to 1 Sep 1874
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Taranaki Herald 21 Feb 1874 Birth
On the 18th February, the wife of C. D. Whitcombe, Esq. of a daughter.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference Registrar General's Office Inwards Correspondence Register - BDM 3/1 1873/44
Letter written by C. D. Whitcombe of New Plymouth dated 4 Dec 1873 – has received instructions about Census.

1874-1875 Electoral Roll for Egmond – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1874 to 1 Sep 1875
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1874-1875 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1874 to 1 Sep 1875
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

Archives NZ Wellington Reference Registrar General's Office Inwards Correspondence Register - BDM 3/1 1874/69
Letter written by C. D. Whitcombe of New Plymouth dated 2 Jan 1874 – Forwards list of Sub enumerators

Archives NZ Wellington Reference Registrar General's Office Inwards Correspondence Register - BDM 3/1 1874/76
Letter written by C. D. Whitcombe of New Plymouth dated 5 Jan 1874 – Forwards descriptions of boundaries of Census Sub Districts

Archives NZ Wellington Reference Registrar General's Office Inwards Correspondence Register - BDM 3/1 1874/91
Letter written by C. D. Whitcombe of New Plymouth dated 12 Jan 1874 – Forwards maps showing Census sub districts in Taranaki

1875-1876 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1875 to 1 Sep 1876
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1875-1876 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1875 to 1 Sep 1876
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

1875-1876 Electoral Roll for Town of New Plymouth – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1875 to 1 Sep 1876
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Town 228a, 254, 255, 280, 281, 283, 309

Taranaki Herald 9 Feb 1876 Birth
On the 6th February, the wife of C. D. Whitcombe, Esq. of a son.

1876-1877 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1876 to 1 Sep 1877
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1876-1877 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1876 to 1 Sep 1877
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

1876-1877 Electoral Roll for Town of New Plymouth – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1876 to 1 Sep 1877
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Town 228a, 254, 255, 280, 281, 283, 309

1877-1878 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1877 to 1 Sep 1878
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1877-1878 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1877 to 1 Sep 1878
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

1877-1878 Electoral Roll for Town of New Plymouth – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1877 to 1 Sep 1878
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Town 228a, 254, 255, 280, 281, 283, 309

1878-1879 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1878 to 1 Sep 1879
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1878-1879 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1878 to 1 Sep 1879
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

1878-1879 Electoral Roll for Town of New Plymouth – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1878 to 1 Sep 1879
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Town 228a, 254, 255, 280, 281, 283, 309

1878-1879 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Commissioner Crown Lands, New Plymouth

1879-1880 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1879 to 1 Sep 1880
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Oakura Township 247, 248

1879-1880 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1879 to 1 Sep 1880
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, New Plymouth, Freehold Huirangi 50, Leasehold Huirangi 26.

1880-1881 Electoral Roll for Egmont – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1880 to 1 Sep 1881
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Freehold New Plymouth, Commissioner Crown Lands, Oakura Township 247, 248

1880-1881 Electoral Roll for Grey and Bell – House of Representatives – 31 Aug 1880 to 1 Sep 1881
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Freehold New Plymouth, Commissioner Crown Lands, Huirangi 50.

Witnesses who gave evidence to Commissions & Committees 1858-1935
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Taranaki AJRH 1880 G2 pages 59 and 64

Taranaki Herald 27 Aug 1880 Birth
On the 27th instant, the wife of Mr C. D. Whitcombe, of a son.

Taranaki Herald 22 Sep 1880 Death
On the 13th July at South Brading, Isle of Wight, Elizabeth, the wife of Captain T. Douglas Whitcombe, R.A., K.S.G., aged 64 years.

1880-1881 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Comr Crt. L. North Plymouth

Return of Freeholders October 1882
Mrs C. D. Whitcombe, New Plymouth. Land in New Plymouth Borough to the value of £205.

1883-1884 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Douglas Whitcombe JP, Land Commissioner, New Plymouth

1884 Electoral Roll for Egmont (Hawera 7 Jun 1884)
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Freehold New Plymouth, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Oakura Town 247, 248

1884 Electoral Roll for New Plymouth
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Residential, New Plymouth, Commissioner Crown Lands

1885-1886 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Douglas Whitcombe JP, Land Commissioner, New Plymouth

1887 Electoral Roll for New Plymouth
Charles Douglas Whitcombe, Freehold, Auckland, Commission agent, Oakura Town 247, 248

1887-1888 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, Victoria Ave, Auckland

1890-1891 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Douglas Whitcombe JP, teacher of French, Victoria Ave., Eden Terrace district, Auckland

1900 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe, JP, land gen & com agent, Devon st; p r, Elliot St, New Plymouth

1901 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, com agt, New Plymouth

1902 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, com agt, New Plymouth

1903 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, com agt, New Plymouth

1904 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, com agt & acct, Buller St, New Plymouth

1905 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles D. Whitcombe JP, com agt & acct, Buller St, New Plymouth

1906 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Aubrey Whitcombe, settler, Buller St, New Plymouth
John Douglas Whitcombe, clerk, Buller St, New Plymouth
Mrs Charles D. Whitcombe, Buller St, New Plymouth

1907 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Aubrey Whitcombe, settler, Buller St, New Plymouth
John Douglas Whitcombe, clerk, Buller St, New Plymouth
Mrs Charles D. Whitcombe, Buller St, New Plymouth

1908 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Aubrey Whitcombe, settler, Buller St, New Plymouth
John Douglas Whitcombe, clerk, Buller St, New Plymouth
Mrs Charles D. Whitcombe, Buller St, New Plymouth

1909 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Aubrey Whitcombe, settler, Buller St, New Plymouth
John Douglas Whitcombe, clerk, Buller St, New Plymouth
Mrs Charles D. Whitcombe, Buller St, New Plymouth

1910 Wises Post Office Directory
Charles Aubrey Whitcombe, settler, Buller St, New Plymouth
John Douglas Whitcombe, clerk, Buller St, New Plymouth
Mrs Charles D. Whitcombe, Buller St, New Plymouth

Alexander Turnbull Library Biographies Index
C. D. Whitcombe, TL 3/1, 9 Oct 1959

Taranaki Herald 28 Aug 1983 - Portrait
Turbulent character made Taranaki impact. To assume that Taranaki local affairs last century were always conducted with old-world charm and Victorian courtesy would be wrong. Charles Douglas Whitcombe was a turbulent character of his age. Born in Devonshire in 1836, he joined the audit department at Somerset House, London, at the age of 17. Eight years amid the dusty records and balance sheets of the past must have cured him of office work for life. At 25 he went off to fight for Garibaldi's struggle for the unification of Italy and rose to the rank of sergeant. Ill-health caused him to end his soldiering and he emigrated to New Zealand. At Lepperton he took up land as a military settler. A good linguist, witty with a caustic quality, imaginative and persuasive, provincial government attracted him more than farming and he became secretary to the Taranaki Provincial Council. In 1869 he represented Grey and Bell districts on the council and continued to be its secretary. From 1853 to 1875 Taranaki had an elected Superintendent and presiding over an elected council. Districts in addition voted representatives to the central government. In both areas there were no parties as such, just combinations around dominant personalities. In 1873 Taranaki's election of a Superintendent brought three outstanding candidates: Frederick Carrington (66) Chief Surveyor and planner of New Plymouth and Superintendent in 1859, Harry Atkinson (42) beginning his drive to power that would eventually reach the premiership, and Charles Brown (53), son of the famous friend of Keats, who had been elected the first Superintendent in 1853. Vote-splitting made the issue doubtful. The News was pro-Brown and the Herald for Atkinson, who had got a leg in to the central government, being the member for Egmont in the House of Representatives. Electioneering was active and heated. H. R. Richmond, writing from the Beach Cottage to his sister Jane said: "There was much excitement about the elections and A. Standish and Capt Handley got to blows over it, the latter coming off the worst. Handley is a strong Atkinsonian. Harry's committee are quite confident. "Atkinson had declared he would sit in the council and administer the office of superintendent without the help of a paid secretary." At this juncture Whitcombe (still the paid servant of the council) chose to print and publish nine stanzas of an anonymous verse

headed The Plant, A Dismal Story. The town knew who wrote it and also knew who were the main characters: “Spouting Tom” (Thomas Bayly), “Gawky Bill” (William Bayly), “Skinflint Grinning Ike” (Isaac Bayly), “Major Cheek” (Major Atkinson) and “Freddy Bluff” (F. A. Carrington). It purported to describe a disastrous business venture between the four first-named characters and its aim was to influence voters against Atkinson. The literary and humorous merits of the effusion could scarcely be compared with what Tom Scott or A. K. Grant might produce today. A portion read: *Now I have heard say that these precious rogues succeeded in their plan. Poor Bluff was sacked and Major Cheek was made the managing man. But sad the day for that business firm when they took a step so rash. For Cheek and his friends so managed affairs that the business went to smash. For Spouting Tom and Gawky Bill and Skinflint Grinning Ike. And Major Cheek they robbed the till and ran off as hard as you like. My masters all of the business firm called Taranaki and Co. Take warning betimes by this dismal tail or there’ll be a pretty go…* When the election ended Carrington was in with 324 votes. Atkinson polled 275 and Brown 172. But that was not the end of the matter. Not only had Whitcombe published his verse, he had made slanderous allegations against the business affairs of the Baylys who were an influential family. Thomas Bayly (69) was a zealous churchman. William Bayly was member of the Provincial Council for Omata from 1869 to 1874 and in the 1880s was twice Mayor of New Plymouth. By January 24, 1874, proceedings had begun against Whitcombe on the grounds of criminal libel. The preliminary hearing was before Mr H. Eyre Kenny, the resident magistrate, and Mr W. M. Crompton, and aroused much interest. Atkinson, in court, was asked by Whitcombe: “Were you ever proprietor of a butcher’s shop in this town?” Atkinson: “I was at one time part-proprietor of a butcher’s shop here but we called it a company. As an ex. (cabinet) minister I should consider it no degradation to own a butcher’s shop. I do not look on trade as a degradation.” Whitcombe, giving evidence, said his paper was a political squib and the contents merely allegorical. The hearing was adjourned. Bail was set at 100 pounds sterling from Whitcombe and two sureties each of 50 pounds from Whitcombe’s solicitor A. Standish, and from his father-in-law, Benjamin Wells. Meantime much was happening and letter writers were busy. It must have been an interesting of tense meeting of the provincial council on March 16, attended by Whitcombe, Standish and Atkinson. Writing to his solicitor-brother at Nelson on March 12, 1874, Atkinson said: “I telegraphed that we had arranged with C. D. (Whitcombe); the arrangement has however, I am sorry to say, fallen through. What I had thought we had settled was this – Whitcombe was to sign the apology as you wrote it, substituting the words ‘election squib,’ we giving him a discharge in full upon payment of 20 pounds sterling. The next day they agreed to our proposal… Standish produced the apology with nothing in it about costs… Whitcombe was to sign the apology and pay the 20 pounds or give an IOU for it but nothing else… We said a thing or two so negotiations were broken off. In arguing with old Mr Bayly that as Christians we ought to forgive he said ‘Yes we have a Bible to tell us that if a man repents we must forgive him but he does not repent and therefore stern justice must be done.’ I had a little difficulty to answer that… I shall do my best to get the matter settled but the Baylys are very angry now… Whitcombe is not, I believe, the least sorry for what he has done.” A special jury had been named when on April 15 all was settled with the appearance of this newspaper advertisement: “To Major Atkinson, Mr Thomas Bayly, Mr William Bayly, Mr Isaac Bayly: I Charles Douglas Whitcombe acknowledge that I am the writer of The Plant. I also acknowledge that the allegations of dishonourable and dishonest conduct against you were an election squib and without there being any foundation whatever in fact.” There was an agreement to pay 20 pounds on account of the costs of prosecution. Whitcombe’s colourful career was by no means ended. The same month he was appointed Commissioner of Crown Lands with minor responsibilities as sheriff and manager of the cemetery. Not until 1885 when he retired to Auckland did Taranaki cease to feel the occasional lash of his humour. For a period he was private secretary to Sir George Grey and in 1890 went to Tonga to become foreign secretary to the King of Tonga. But his wit upset the balmy humours of this Pacific paradise and in 1897 he returned temporarily to Taranaki. Three years later he was back in Tonga, thence to Rotuma near Fiji. An accomplished linquist, he became assistant editor of the Polynesian Gazette at Levuka, Fiji. He died in January, 1904, the end to a personality that was as untamed in Garibaldi’s army, as in Taranaki politics and in the easygoing palm-fringed islands of the South Pacific.