

The Wood Family, Wainuiomata

Written by Horace William Wood, son of John William and Eliza Wood
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I have had the urge for sometime to place on record some of the story of the Wood Family which settled in Wainuiomata about the middle of the 19th century. This account has been written so that my children and grandchildren will have some knowledge of the people from whom they descended – people who had some very admirable qualities – courage, industry, determination and integrity. Descendants today live in many areas of the North Island.

In the first issue I recorded all I knew, but since, I have obtained further information from Mrs Gladys Wood and one of her grand-daughters, Mrs Jan Staffan of Wellington. Mrs Wood's late husband, John Burt Wood, was a master builder and farmed at "Woodlands", in Wainuiomata for many years. John was a South African war veteran. Mrs Staffan had obtained much information from England and she has kindly passed this to me.

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The Beginning

The immigrants who came to the Wellington area during the years 1840-1855 came out on ships chartered by the New Zealand Company, which was really brought into being by the vision and initiative of Edward Gibbon Wakefield. There are some who affirm that this gentleman has not been accorded enough credit for the scheme he organised in England and did not come to New Zealand until 1853.

The Immigrants

These came from the British Isles seeking a better life. The economic position in Britain was bad. The times were called the "Hungry Forties." The company's agents chose people of good character. They had to be healthy and comparatively youthful. The Company bought land from the Maori and re-sold to those in who wished to buy. About half were labourers who had good work records. Any who had been in receipt of parish relief were unacceptable. Coopers, joiners, rope-makers, cobblers, blacksmiths, small tradesmen, wheel-wrights, saddlers and harness makers were welcome. The rest who had some capital, purchased land and became farmers so the type of people who came ensured the success of the scheme. Not many, I believe, failed to make good.

How the People Lived

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Wainuiomata was bush clad and this bush had to be felled so that land could be prepared for grass and cropping. The timber provided material for houses and other buildings. At first timber was pit-sawn, a labourers job. But when the Prouse and Sinclair families set up saw-mills things were much easier.

The walls were built of weather boards and at first, wooden shingles covered the roofs. Quite a number of the houses were two storied. There was plenty of timber and most families were large. There would be no bath rooms as we know them today. Water had to be heated over the open fire. Baths would be taken in a wooden tub or tin bath.

When the men of the house came in for a meal they would wash in a basin on a bench outside – or in the kitchen. Bedrooms were provided with wash stands with large jugs and basins with ablutions could take place there. Water was obtained from wells or creeks – many houses were built near a creek or a spring. If there was a wash-house this could be used, otherwise washing would be done on a bench outside with water from the creek, kept in barrels.

In my boy-hood I knew of one house where there was a well under the kitchen floor with a hand pump. Another house on a

[no page identification]

Health

Medical attention could be obtained from the Hutt. To call a doctor, before 1876, before the telephone had been invented, some one would need to ride over the hill and the doctor would come over in the same way. This meant that delay could prove fatal.

Culture

It seems that the early settlers all had some education, in England, some quite a good one. Quite early, a library, was instituted sometime in the 1860s. At first the books were kept in the school house and later, after 1913, in the public hall. It has been stated that this library was the first to be established in the Wellington area. The first librarian was Miss Mary Crowther. Jim Burrows, J. J. Wood and B. Burdan kept the Library going for years.

Music

A Mr J. Clarke became the second teacher at the school about 1860. He was a cultured man and musically inclined. He taught many of the young people the rudiments of a Music and singing. Unfortunately Mr Clarke got lost in the bush while looking for his cow and his body was discovered later. However, his influence lived on and music played a part in the life of the community. Mr John Prouse, famous New Zealand baritone of the 1880s and 1890s learned first from Mr Clarke.

2nd Revised Edition – 1A

The Wood Family and Wainuiomata. Written 1970. Story compiled by Horace William Wood, son of John William and Eliza Wood, Bunnythorpe.

I have had the urge for some time to place on record some of the story of the Wood family. This account has been written so that my own children and grand-children will have some knowledge of the people from whom they are descended – people who had some very admirable qualities.

The pioneers came here over 100 years ago in search of a better life. They had to be people whose main characteristics were courage and a determination to make good in a new country where conditions were not easy – and rather primitive.

It should be understood that although this account is mainly about the Wood family, there were other families who have had good records too, some of whom were to be connected by marriage to the Wood family.

2A

No doubt the early settlers had their foibles but they were people who had qualities of courage, honesty, industry, integrity and loyalty to one another. Today there are no doubt hundreds living in this country who owe their existence because of the coming of the Wood family to New Zealand. I would urge all who read these lines to spare a little time in their busy lives of today to think about what we owe to those who have gone before us.

I have recorded as much information as I could and there is much else I would like to know. At any rate I know that many of our family have spread to various, Hutt Valley, Manawatu, Wairarapa, the King Country, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Northland. In my boy-hood and youth I met quite a number of the family, 70 years ago, in some cases, and I had great respect for those I got to know over the years.

We are living in different times today but the qualities I have mentioned

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Above still hold good in these days too. Things are so much easier for us today and it is meet that we should be thankful for many things today which were denied to those of two or three generations ago.

The immigrants who came to the Wellington area during the years 1840-1855 came out on ships chartered by the New Zealand Company. This Company purchased land from the Maoris and resold to the immigrants.

These people came from the British Isles and the Company's agents chose people of good character. They had to be healthy and young, about 40 years and under. So the type of people who came out ensured the success of the scheme. Not many, I believe, did not make good.

The Wood Family

This family came from Harrogate in Yorkshire in 1851 and 1855. The New Zealand story really begins with the arrival of James Jackson, 30, and his wife Emma, 25. They had no children.

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They came out on the ship 'Duke of Edinburgh' – a sailing ship, of course. The ship arrived in Port Nicholson on 7th February 1840. Mr Jackson was the brother of Mrs John Wood who arrived in 1851. On the voyage our Mr John Wood, my great-grandfather, died at sea. Mrs John Wood, now a widow, went to live with her sister-in-law, Mrs Jackson, at Lowry Bay.

Mr Jackson had bought a lot of land in Lowry Bay. It is recorded that in 1844, Mr Jackson and others built a boat at Lowry Bay. In those days, people used to row across the Wellington harbour to Wellington, as the Hutt Road, was not a good one.

In 1846 Mr Jackson suffered an injury to his leg, which caused his death. Mrs Jackson stayed on in Lowry Bay for some years but eventually returned to England. Mr Hugh Sinclair managed her property for some years.

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Details of Great-Grandmothers Family

John and Maria arrived in May, 1855 by the 'Sea Snake'. George the second son born 1837, arrived in 1851. Name of the ship not ascertained. Nancy married John Crowther. Isabel married John Sinclair. Eliza married David Dick. Four younger children, Ursula, Kate, Emma and Jane died quite young between the years 1851-1860. Medical care was not good in those days. Their graves are in Lowry Bay.

Details of the above

John the eldest, my grand-father (detailed below).

George Wood married Anne Burt of Lower Hutt in 1875. They had two sons – John Burt and George Howard and three daughters – Bell, Kate and Ethel, none of whom married. These ladies spent the whole of their lives in the Hutt Valley and were highly respected citizens. It was George who built the two storied house "The Woodlands"

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on the Eastern Hills. ~~He went by the name of Captain Wood.~~ It was erected in 1859 and stood for many years until in 1958, it was destroyed by fire. It had become a land mark in Wainuiomata. George became a JP and was Captain of the Hutt Valley Mounted Rifles. He went by the name of "Captain" Wood. He was a highly respected man who unfortunately died at 47 in 1884 from an injury which evidently resulted in septacemia. A son George, was born some months later. George, who lives, 1969 in Manawatu has a son Rev Ronald Wood, a Methodist of Dunedin. John Burt Wood the elder son became a builder and lived in Lower Hutt for many years. He was a South African War Veteran.

Nancy Wood married John Crowther in 1866.

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Mr Crowther was a builder. He purchased land in Moore's Valley and erected a home which stood for many years. The house was called "Brookfield." Mrs Crowther or Aunt Crowther, as we called her, was a kindly dignified sort of woman and we loved her. There was only one child, Ursula Mary or Mary, as she was called. Mary never married. She was born in 1869 and died toward the end of 1958. Mary lived all her life in Moore's Valley. She was educated at a College in Wellington and was a very cultured woman. She took part in community affairs and was the first Librarian in the Valley. Mr Crowther died in 1909 and Mrs Crowther in 1915. Mary lived on alone for the rest of her life.

Mary took an interest in the Boy Scout movement. She bequeathed her property – 400 acres – to the Scouts, the only condition being that the large area of native bush be cared for. In the ensuing ten years since Miss Crowther's death, the Scout organisation effected many improvements. A beautiful little chapel has been built in memory of Mary Crowther.

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On the 3rd January 1970, the Brookfield Activity and Adventure Camp was officially opened by the Governor General, Sir Arthur Porritt. The old residence, of course, has been demolished. As this residence was at the end of Moore's Valley, there had been no electric power. Kerosene lamps and candles were used. In the later years, kind friends always saw that Mary had a good stock of firewood.

Eliza Wood married David Dick of Wainuiomata and they settled in the Wairarapa district and today there are quite a number of descendants in the Pahiatua district.

Isabel Wood married John Sinclair in 1868. Isabel died in 1874 and the only child, Kate, went to live with her grandmother, Mrs Hugh Sinclair. Kate left Wainuiomata in 1880 and lived at Lowry Bay until 1885 when she went to Palmerston North. In later years, Kate became Mrs Chambers, her husband being the engineer to the Opunake Harbour Board.

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During the years Kate kept in touch with her cousin Mary Crowther, and they paid visits to each other. It is worthy of note that a grandson, Dennis McEldowney, born in 1921, was a blue baby and his case received much publicity. He was treated by Dr Robb of Auckland and regained normal health. Dennis had little or no ordinary schooling as he was not physically able to do so. However he studied at home and in due course gained an M.A. Degree. He is today Librarian of the Auckland University and is a broad-caster and book reviewer. He published a book in 1957, *The World Regained*, relating his struggle for health. He is now married and has a son. He was a young man when he had his operation.

Grandfather John Wood (eldest son) and Maria (Oddy) Grandmother

John and Maria were both born in Harrogate. John in 1830 and Maria in 1827. They were married at Harrogate in 1850 and left England for New Zealand on 1st January 1855 and arrived in Port Nicholson early in May. They were

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Accompanied by two young children. The ship was the "Snea Snake." John and Maria went to Lowry Bay to Mrs Jackson's place.

Anne Eliza the third child (later Mrs J. Devine) was born in Lowry Bay on 21st March 1856. She was the first child of the family to be born in New Zealand.

Soon after arrival in Lowry Bay, John took up land in Wainuiomata. He was only 25 but it was not long before he became prominent in local affairs. He was evidently a man who commanded the confidence of the people of the valley. Unfortunately he died at 36, when my father was only 2 years old.

From 1855 to 1862 it is recorded that Messrs J. Grace, H. Sinclair, R. Prouse, John Wood and R. Neill were appointed wardens of the main roads district. They were also appointed jurors. In 1861 John was one of 33 who petitioned the Wellington Provincial Council for more activity in roading and bridging.

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It could be explained here that before 1876 there was no central Government in Wellington, in charge of the whole of New Zealand. Each Province, Wellington, Auckland etc had a council to govern its own area. After 1876 the Provincial Councils were abolished.

In 1857 a move was made by settlers for a school to be established. There is in the Government Archives today the original copy of the letter sent to the Provincial Council. The signatories were Robert Neill, Richard Prouse, William Prouse, William Wakeham, David Dick and John Wood. The school was established in 1857, classes being held at first in a house owned by Mrs Prouse.

Grandfather John Wood died of a mishap in 1866. In those days the telephone had not been invented and a Doctor had to be sent for by a horseman and the doctor would also travel in the same way. So often medical attention arrived too late. Grandfather left a widow and six surviving children – Tom, Anne Eliza,

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James Jackson, George Farrow, John William and Isabel, the last being only two months old. Times were very difficult in those days for the bereaved. For some reason or other John was buried on his farm the "Woodlands." Later on Grandmother acted as a Maternity Nurse for some years. She died in 1887 and was interred in the church cemetery.

Details of Grandfather's Family

Tom born at Harrogate, 15th August 1851, died in Palmerston North July 1938 aged 8.. Tom married Mary Anne Dick of Wainuiomata 1875. Mary Anne died in Palmerston North in 1939. Tom and Mary Ann had a family of eleven.

William Albert who married Miss Linetta Alice Buck, son Fred, daughter Minnie Palmerston North.

Anne Mrs P. Gill, Shannon, a son Norman resides in Palmerston North

Mary Mrs Shearman, Shannon

Nancy Mrs McCarthy, Auckland

Kathleen Mrs W. Berquist, Palmerston North (Nancy and Kathleen were twins)

Bertha Mrs T. Dalziell, West Coast

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Jessie Mrs Mason, Wellington

John never married, served in World War One

Thomas married Ada Ruff, Shannon

George, Shannon

Norman died on Gallipoli, 1915.

All the above are deceased, 1970, except Kathleen who lives in Palmerston North

Eliza born at Lowry Bay 1856, eldest daughter, married Thomas Devine and settled in Whiteman's Valley. Eliza died in Otaki, July 30th, 1933 and Thomas on October 30th, 1933. They had a family of eight.

Jack who lived in Levin for some time, spent his life in the saw-milling industry.

Thomas had a butchers business in Levin for years

James a farmer, settled in the Matamata district

Kate Mrs Noble of Otaki

Jessie Mrs Gurney, Otaki

George died at 23 in Levin, operation

Lizzie married Henry Nelson in Levin. Henry was a saw-mill worker for some years. While living at Taihape, Lizzie drew a section in the Taumaranui area and... and Henry did very well on the farm. They had a large family of boys and girls

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and they all did very well in their careers. Henry was a big strong man, a keen footballer of the first rank and some of his boys did very well in the game at Taumaranui.

Ethel, Mrs Yates, died comparatively young. There were two young children, Clara and Thomas. Clara trained as a Nurse and became matron of the Maternity Annex, Palmerston North Hospital, now retired and lives in Palmerston North. Tom trained as an Electrician and has done very well. He resides in Wellington. He is a J.P. and is Manager of C. L. Dentice and Company, Electrical contractors & engineers.

A Pioneer Farm Story

Thomas Devine arrived in Lyttleton in 1852 with his parents. Mr Devine, senior, soon moved to Wainuiomata where he managed a farm for Sir William Fitzherbert. After a few years Thomas, junior, married Eliza Wood and the couple took a bush section in Whiteman's Valley and their

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experience is similar to other pioneers of those days. For over forty years the couple worked hard and developed a good farm. Mr Devine and family worked on country roads in the early days to get enough money to buy grass seed. He and his family used to carry out kegs of butter on their shoulders to market and take back supplies to carry on while the farm was being carved from the wilderness. In the end success was achieved. Mr and Mrs Devine retired first to Upper Hutt and later on to Otaki where some of the family had settled.

1st. James Jackson Wood born Middlesborough, 1852, his second son died at Lowry Bay 1855 aged 3 years.

2nd James Jackson Wood second named, born at "Grovedale" Wainuiomata on 26th October 1857, died in Lower Hutt, August 16th 1940. James married Lucy Keys in 1881. Lucy died in 1882 in giving birth to a son, Leonard, who died recently in Wainuiomata. He was 86. Len spent most of his life in Wainuiomata. He worked for the Hutt County Council. James second marriage was to Mary Prouse in 1885. Mary died at Lower Hutt on June 23rd, 1949 aged 87.

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James and Mary had a family of nine.

Florence, Mrs Frank Jenkins died in Palmerston North in 1964. Born in 1886.

Arthur Jackson born 1887 married Helen Cairns who died in 1951. Arthur farmed in several areas, the last one being on Reid's Line, Bunnythorpe. This farm is now owned by his son James. Arthur died in 1961.

Ernest Richard born February 1889 married Edith Witcher in 1910. Farmed at Aria, died in October 1968.

Elsie (twin) born 1890 married Henry Witcher in 1910. Henry died in 1922 and in 1945 Elsie married Len Jenkins. Len died in 1968 in Palmerston North to which town he had retired. Len had been a builder, but also farmed for a number of years. Elsie lives at 36 Matamau St, Palmerston North.

Annie (twin) born 1890 married Len Jenkins in 1913, Annie died in Auckland 1942.

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Mabel (twin) born 1895 married Gordon Gapper of Auckland in 1954. Died 1962.

Connie (twin) born 1895 married Richard Collings of Christchurch. Died 31st December 1941.

Both Connie and Mabel married late in life and were in business together for a number of years in Christchurch, and did very well.

John Oddy Wood born 1897, in Wainuiomata until his sudden death in 1951 at the comparatively early age of 54. The farm was disposed of and Ada lives in Palmerston North. There are also two daughters, one in Wainuiomata and the other North Auckland.

Clare Elizabeth born 1903 married Eric H. Fisher, a school teacher in 1928. Both live in Matamata area, Eric is now retired.

James Jackson Wood J.P. the father of the above family was a very successful for many years till his retirement to Lower Hutt. James farmed in Moores Valley for some years but about 1903 he purchased "Northbrook" from John Wakeham. There is a special reference to "Northbrook" on a later page.

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James was a fine figure of a man 6'2" or so. He was chairman of the School committee for 24 years and was interested in other... He was a highly respected man because of his personality and integrity. He was a big man in both stature and in character.

George Farrow Wood born at Woodlands, 21 June 1891, died in Palmerston North August 1937. Married Jessie Wright. There was one daughter, Hilda, who died many years ago. George was a very big man 6'2" or 3" and weighed 19 stone. He spent much of his life in charge of mill operations in Levin and other places.

John William Wood, farmer, born 15th March 1864 at Woodlands. Died in Palmerston North 2nd November 1951 aged 87 years. John married Eliza Johnson in Wainui on 5th July 1888. Eliza died 27th June 1947 aged 83 years. John farmed in Wainuiomata for several years, then in 1895 went to Levin where he worked in the bush at first and then farmed. In 1909 a farm was purchased at Bunnythorpe. This was home for 42 years.

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As the eldest son of John and Eliza I would like to record that we had excellent parents who did the best they could for us. My mother & father had a life of 59 years together and the marriage was a very happy one. They were very loyal to each other.

Family of John and Eliza Wood

Horace William born 1889 at Wainuiomata, became a teacher, married Rose Holloway at Hunterville 1915. Rose died in 1967 at Whakarongo, aged 74.

Percy Newman born 1893 at Wainuiomata. Married Margaret Scott in 1925. Both retired in Waipukurau.

Edwin Wakeham born 1896 in Levin, died in France, Battle of Somme 1916.

Leslie John born Levin 1900, farmer. Took over Bunnythorpe farm which he recently sold and went to Fielding. He was a successful farmer. Married Grace Allerby in 1933. Leslie died on 17 January 1970.

Mavid Gladys born Levin 1908. Became a music teacher, married Gwynne Davies in 1939. Their home is in Woodville.

Isabel the youngest child of John and Maria Wood was born in Moore's Valley in 1866.

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Married Thomas Thomson in 1887. Died in 1907. The farm was in the swamp area, Wainuioamta. There was a family of eight. Thomas, William, Donald, Harold – all except Donald of Wellington, and Flora are deceased. Harold died on Gallipoli 1915. Ernest, Flora - Mrs W. Clifford, Upper Hutt. Myrtle, Mrs Rasmussen, and George. All were born in Wainuioamata. Thomas and Isabel were both buried in the same grave in Wainuioamata as grandmother Maria Wood.

“Northbrook”

The most outstanding residence of the Valley for many years was built in 1869 by Captain Mowlem who married Agnes, daughter of Hugh Sinclair, in 1868. The captain took his bride to England, but she was not happy there and they returned and “Northbrook” was built on a site given by Hugh Sinclair. The Captain Mowlem bought land from his father-in-law and farmed. The captain brought out with him the wall papers, windows, floors, slates for the roof and all the furniture. On the death of Mrs Mowlem's parents

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“Northbrook” was sold to John and Duncan Sinclair. The Captain moved to Palmerston North where he spent the rest of his life.

Owners of “Northbrook”

Captain Mowlem

John and Duncan Sinclair

John Wakeham

James Jackson Wood 1903-1938

Ian Whitcher, a grandson of J. J. Wood

This two-storyed structure still stands but its glory has departed.

The Dick Family

This family played an important part in Wainuioamata development. David and Sarah arrived on Petone Beach on 20th February 1840, on the “Bengal Merchant” which left Glasgow on 30th October 1839. There were two young children and six others were born later. The fourth son, David married Eliza Wood. The youngest daughter, Mary Anne, married Tom Wood in 1875. Mary Anne was born on December 31st 1851 and died in Palmerston North in 1939, aged 87. Tom and Mary lived in Wainuioamata for 13 years after their marriage.

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They then migrated to Waikanae, then to Shannon where they lived for 40 years. In retirement they lived in Palmerston North. Mrs Wood was a wonderful mother to her eleven children. She enjoyed good health to the end. The eldest Dick daughter, Margaret, is recorded to be the first European child born in the Wellington area. She married Tom Prouse and lived in Canterbury where she died in 1936 and another daughter Eliza, Mrs Hugh Campbell died in 1937 aged 93.

The Sinclair Family

Hugh Sinclair, was one of the most prominent settlers in Wainuioamata. He came from Sydney, accompanying his employer, J. D. Crawford, F.C.S., a New South Wales squatter.

They came in the "Success" and there were 10 other passengers. The "Success" arrived in Cook Strait on November 14th 1839 and went on to Kapiti where there was a whaling station. Crawford and Hugh came to arrange for the transport of goods to trade with the Maoris. They left the "Success" and travelled on foot to Port Nicholson.

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They were there on 22nd January when the "Aurora", the first immigrant ship arrived on January 22nd 1840. There were 150 passengers, including about 36 under the age of 10 years. Crawford left for New South Wales at the end of the year but returned in 1846. He became resident magistrate in Wellington and a member, later, of the Legislative Council. He also farmed near Wellington. Apparently Hugh remained in Wellington. In 1844 a Dr Taylor, a friend, persuaded Hugh to buy a section in Lowry Bay and evidently Hugh settled there. In 1846 James Jackson died as a result of an injury to his leg and Hugh managed Mrs Jackson's estate for some years – probably till she returned to England about 1859.

It seems that Hugh, in the late 1850s or early 1860s bought a good deal of land in Wainuiomata and established a saw mill on flat land between the Wainui River and Moores Valley stream. The Mill was opposite the "Rock" – the high cliff above the Moores Valley stream. The road led from the "Rock" and crossed the stream one branch turned left up the Moores Valley and a branch to the right led to the Wainui

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river valley, called the Sinclair valley, but after 1880 it was known as the Waterworks valley. As John and Duncan became older they took over the milling operations, milling timber from Skerretts Gully and Waterworks valley. In the 1870s the brothers laid an iron railway track up to the Waterworks valley and imported a locomotive. They took delivery at the Wellington Wharf. The conveyance round the Hutt Road and over the hill was very difficult and the residents were 'en fete' when it arrived decorated with flags. About 1880 the Wellington City Council commenced laying pipe lines from the reservoir some of the Sinclair land had to be acquired. About this time milling in the valley became uneconomical as cheaper timber could be obtained from Wairarapa per the Rimutaka railway. The Sinclair mill was sold and the Prouse mill which was lower down the valley was taken to Whiteman's valley in 1890 to Levin.

Here is an interesting statement by Norman Sinclair, Duncan's son.

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I understand that it was at "Northbrook" that most of the children were born, being attended by mid-wives, when available. When I was one year old (I was born at "Northbrook") in 1881 I went to live in Lowry Bay. My father Duncan, John Sinclair and Captain Mowlem bought Lowry Bay (or part of it) for £3500 including the residence of the Governor, Sir William Jervois. After the purchase, our family lived at the Governor's residence for four years. When I was five my parents moved to Palmerston North where I have lived ever since.

In the late 1870s, Mrs Mowlem's parents died and the Sinclair family left Wainui as stated above. Duncan had married Martha Mowlem, sister of Captain Mowlem. He settled at Terrace End in 1885. He became the engineer to the Pohangina County Council. He also supervised the Marton Waterworks and the Apiti Bridge. Duncan became a Palmerston North Borough Councillor, a member of the beautifying society, a member of the Terrace End School Committee and a staunch member of St Paul's Methodist Church. Duncan died on 20th December 1920.

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The Methodist Church, Wainuiomata

This was built in 1863, largely owing to the interest and assistance of Richard Prouse, Junior. Services were held on the Sunday afternoons for many years. The preacher riding over the Hutt. Owing to the age of the structure services have been discontinued. Around the building is the cemetery where 50 or 60 people have been buried. As Wainuiomata is now an urban area there are several church causes today.

The Hill Road

In the early days there were tracks over the hills from Lowry Bay and Lower Hutt. The present road has been much improved as many buses travel over every working day. In the days when residents went to the Hutt in traps, people would often walk up the hill to ease the horses. On arrival at the summit (600ft) a most magnificent panorama could be seen. The Hutt Valley, Wellington Harbour, Sommes Island, Wellington City and even the Kaikouras were sights that would be long remembered.

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In those days the road was very winding and dangerous because of so many gullies. Many people "went over" into a steep gully. The journey was often rather nerve racking but butter and eggs had to be taken out and groceries etc. had to be brought in. Here is an extract from a letter written by Mrs C. E. Chambers.

"I have recollections of hazardous journeys. I remember someone saying of my uncle, Captain George Wood, of "Woodlands" – you have no idea of the calmness of the man! As his vehicle was going over the bank he just stood up and threw his children clear."

Interesting facets

On the 'Duke of Marlborough' there came out an amateur artist, Mr John Pearce, who kept an interesting Scrap Book which was recently acquired by the Turnbull Library. In it are several thumbnail sketches including two of the Jackson's Residence at Lowry Bay. Also about this time an artist, Mr Beetham, acquired a property at Brancepath, Wairarapa. This station is today owned by a great-grandson.

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Mr Beetham did not spend much time here but lived at Te Maho Naenae. It was no doubt about this time that he painted a portrait of Mrs John Wood with a daughter Eliza. This portrait is probably still in possession of the Beetham family. In the 1930s Mrs C. E. Chambers obtained photographs of this portrait and distributed them to various members of the Wood family. I have one of these. It shows Mrs Wood as a very fine woman.

Conclusion

I believe it has been worthwhile to compile this story. I have recorded all I know. The Wood family, of course, was only one of the many worthy families that settled in the period 1840-1855. They were people who had similar problems and who met their problems with brave hearts. They were really great people.

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This is a record of the Dick Family which I have.

David Dick 1st – born 1818 died about 1909 married Sarah Campbell who was born 1816 and died 1894.

Family

1. Robert born 1835 died 1893 married Mary McGibbon who later lived in Canterbury
2. John died 1887 in New Zealand (Robert and John were born in Scotland)
3. Margaret born in Petone 1841 died 1936 aged 95 married Tom Prouse and they lived in Canterbury
4. William born 1842 died 1869
5. Eliza born 1844 died 1937 aged 93. Married Hugh Campbell
6. David (2nd) born 1848 died about 1928 married Eliza Wood and they settled in Eketahuna area
7. Sarah born 1849 died 1936 aged 87 married David Dick, a cousin
8. Mary Anne born Dec 31st 1851. Died at Palmerston North 13th August 1939 aged 87. Married Tom Wood 11th March 1875 signed Horace

(This would be Fred Wood & Minnie Wood, Palmerston North, Grand Father)

Tom Wood's son, married Lynetta A. Buck, daughter of James Gregory Buck, Main Road Lower Hutt about 1906... George James Buck Jan 19

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Wairarapa Aspect

David Dick married Eliza Wood both of Wainuiomata. They settled in the Eketahuna area about the end of the century. They had four sons and one daughter.

1. William married Molly Burrows. They had two sons, Bob and Eddie. Eddie married Ann Bill
2. David married Lily Snell. They had two daughters, Lilly, Mrs Simpson and Clarice, Mrs F. McDonald.
3. John married Lilly Bray. They had one son and six daughters. Leslie married Margaret Marshall; Dolly, Mrs D. Searancke; Nancy, Mrs Morgan; Ruby, Mrs T. Barrowman; Jean, Mrs H. Jane; Jessie, Mrs R. Burling; Gwen, Mrs L.T. Dick.
4. James married Isabel Lozell. They had three daughters and five sons. Enid, Mrs James Searancke; Avis, Mrs E. G. Sigverstren; Jack married Thelma Jackson (Avis and Jack were twins); Bryan married Sibil Walton; Bob married Melva Minihera; Laurie married Gwen Dick; Noel; Elva, Mrs V. Walker.
5. Florrie Mrs H. Udy. They had two sons Gordon, married Margaret Brown, Thomas married Betty Rindle.

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Thomson Family

Thomas John born 14 April 1888, 1st World War Service, died 193?
William Robert born 09 September 1890, died Featherston 1962
Donald born 17 October 1891, 1st World War Service, Lives in Wellington
Harold James born 15 August 1894, died on Gallipoli 1915
Ernest born 01 February 1896, died in Australia 1945
Flora Maria (Mrs W. Clifford) born 1900 lives at Paraparaumu
Myrtle Christina (Mrs Rasmussen) born 24 February 1925 [sic], died 24 February 1925
George born 20 Sep 1902, died 21 June 1942
All born in Wainuiomata.

Thomas and Isabel (Wood) were married in Wellington 29 August 1887. Thomas died in Hawera 1933.

A photo of the J. B. Wood home, No.1 Bellevue Road, Lower Hutt appeared in the Hutt News just before it was demolished. Date of Hutt News 1963? Cutting in Fred Woods copy of the Wood Family History written in 1970 by H. W. Wood herewith.

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Undated unidentified newspaper clipping – Deaths in pairs on road

Three double fatalities marred weekend driving. Two women were killed when the car in which they were travelling was involved in a collision near Mayfield 30km west of Ashburton late on Saturday afternoon. The dead women were Amey Francis, of Takaka, a widow, and Norma Margaret Francis, also of Takaka, a Presbyterian minister. The victims were the sole occupants of a car which collided with another vehicle driven by Graeme Bruce Whyte of Ashburton. Mr Whyte was not injured.

Two other women were killed after a two car collision on State Highway One, near Himatangi, also late on Saturday afternoon. They were Ethel Ruth Wood, 81, of Palmerston North, and her sister-in-law, Minnie Isobel Wood, 64.

The third double fatality occurred at Knobs Flat, 65km north of Te Anau, early on Saturday morning when a car ran off the road. The dead pair were Kevin Albert Duncan, 42, and Colleen Margaret Grainger, 34, both of Knobs Flat.

Death Notice – Dominion 06 April 1981

On April 4, 1981 (Result of accident) at Himatangi. Dearly loved wife of Fred Wood of 496 Church Street, Palmerston North. Loved mother and mother-in-law of Linetta Norton, Ross and Lynn (All of Palmerston North). Cherished nanna of Sylvia, Sharon and Wayne, Maree and Melanie. Loved sister of Olive (Mrs C. Stevenson, Paraparaumu) and the late Hazel (Mrs G. Henderson), Ruby (Mrs A. Bates) and Esma (Mrs V. Jefferies). And loved sister-in-law of the late Minnie Wood. "With Christ which is far better." Friends of the late Ethel and Minnie are invited to their funeral service to be held at the Queen Street Gospel Chapel, Palmerston North on Wednesday April 8 at 1.30pm thence to the Lawn Cemetery, Kelvin Grove. Robert J. Cotton & Sons Ltd, FDANZ, Palmerston North.

Of 496 Church Street, Palmertson North on April 4, 1981 (result of accident). At Palmerston North Hospital. Loved sister of Fred Wood, loved sister-in-law of the late Ethel. Loved auntie of Linetta, Sylvia, Sharon and Wayne, Ross and Lynn, Maree and Melanie. "Forever with the Lord."

See references to Wood family in:
Dennis McEldowney's book "Arguing with my Grandmother" page 62 etc.

First owners of land in Lower Hutt see:
Captain Damell of Trelissick by Norah Parr