

Annual General Meeting

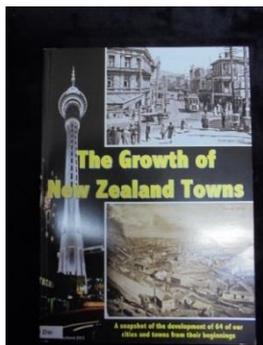
Now is a good time to remind you all to diary the date of our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 27 November at 7.30pm** at the **Cambridge Bridge Club**, in Fort Street next to the St John's Ambulance building. After the meeting, Eric Hill from the Cambridge Heritage Charitable Trust will be speaking on the next steps to be taken for the extension to the Cambridge Museum.

Nominations for Committee positions need to be in the hands of the Secretary, Dave Payne, before Tuesday 20 November. Please hand the nomination, with signed mover and seconder, to Museum staff or email him: secretary.cbhs@gmail.com

The Growth of New Zealand Towns

Dave emailed you recently an invitation to a talk on 13 October in Hamilton by Hugh Dickey on his book "The Growth of New Zealand Towns".

The book is an historical and current survey of the development of 64 towns and cities. There are sections about Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Matamata, Tokoroa, and places further afield such as Rotorua, Thames and Waihi, as well as population graphs that include Morrinsville, Huntly, and Te Kuiti.



As the challenges relating to the growth of Cambridge continue to affect us, we need to remember that *"the history of our urban centres is one of resilience as towns grew to take advantage of local, national and international opportunities and then, as circumstances changed, reinvented themselves to prosper in new and different contexts."*

I hope you enjoyed the talk. The book is available for study in our Cambridge Museum Research Library.

ADDRESS LABEL FOR DELIVERY OF HARD COPIES (ON REQUEST)

Museum Manager's Report

As usual, the school holidays have seen a sharp spike in visitor numbers this month.

Parsons Puppets visited on the first Wednesday and last Thursday of the holidays to provide some lively entertainment for the children. The puppets jiggled along to music from much-loved children's character movies, such as *Angry Birds*, *How to Train your Dragon*, *Gnomeo and Juliet*, *Alice in Wonderland* and many more.



Afterwards, both children and adults enjoyed having a go themselves, with a selection of doozy puppets.

Continuing with the "Movies" theme, we have put together a small display about the beginning of movie theatres in Cambridge, and how they were promoted. We also have some old movie programmes from the 1960s which should bring back some memories.

Another change you'll notice next time you visit are the dresses. We have replaced Mary Fisher's wedding dress with an exquisite Edwardian lavender crepe dress, originally owned by a member of the Peppercorn family. We have also replaced the two 1950s evening dresses with two more tailored versions.

Kathryn Parsons
Museum Manager

New Members

A warm welcome to **Julie Shaw**, who joined us in August, and **Jutta Mark, Pam Gilliland and Roger and Johanne Gordon**, who signed up in September.

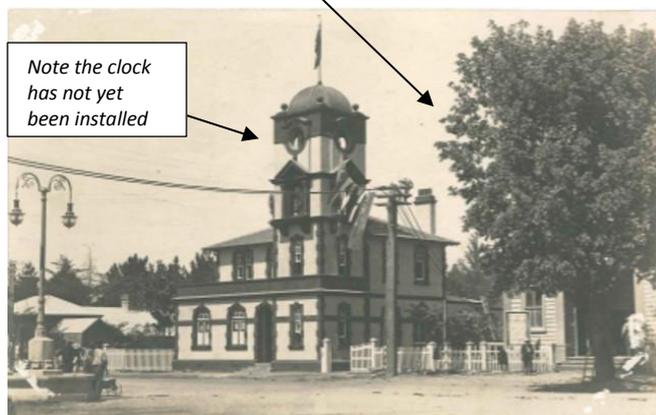
Please contact us (see below) at any time if you change your address or wish to add an email contact.



Post Office Butchery

I had a query recently about how many years various butcheries have occupied the site just down from the old Post Office.

When the Post Office was built in 1908, a Public Hall was to the right of the building:



In a photo taken not long after, we can see the Public Hall was replaced by a new building commissioned by **Charles Reid**, Cabinet Maker:



This was built by the end of 1908 and used as a furniture emporium, with a portion used as a factory. Mr Reid determined to use reinforced concrete instead of brickwork, and “in this respect, it was the first building to be so erected in the Waikato” (*Waikato Independent* 24/12/1908).

Mr Vincent Joseph Fitzpatrick advertised in the *Waikato Independent* on 30 April 1912 that he was opening a butcher’s shop in Victoria Street. This was named the Premier Butchery but became generally known as the Post Office Butchery.

THE PREMIER BUTCHERY
V. J. FITZPATRICK desire to intimate to the public of Cambridge and district generally that he will open a Butchery establishment at Victoria Street—next Post Office—on or about May 2nd, and trusts that by careful attention to business he may be favoured with a fair share of the patronage of residents of the district.

The butchery was sold to **Charles Dawson** in March 1916. Mr Dawson sold it back to Mr Fitzpatrick in August 1917.

IN taking over the Premier Butchery I respectfully ask for a continuance of the custom accorded to Mr Fitzpatrick, and I also announce that I will continue to kill only to best meat procurable, which will be retailed at lowest prices.
C. D. DAWSON.

In September 1917, Mr Fitzpatrick and Frederick Arthur Grimes (who had a butchery in Empire Street) notified that they had amalgamated their butcheries in Cambridge to prevent overlapping. In the photo below, the Premier Butchery signage is on the building, with Mr Grimes’ name clearly visible from the street. This butchery was now a monopoly in Cambridge.



A butchery has occupied that site since the original Premier Butchery opened in 1912. The site is now home to the Wholly Cow butchery.

Events

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Annual General Meeting

to be held at 7.30pm, Tuesday 27 November at the Cambridge Bridge Club, Fort Street, Cambridge.

Followed by a mix and mingle with tea, coffee and refreshments and a presentation by **Eric Hill** on the progress of the proposed extension to the Cambridge Museum.

Please email nominations for Committee positions, with a mover and seconder, to our Secretary **David Payne** at secretary.cbhs@gmail.com, or hand to museum staff, before Tuesday 20 November 2018.



Past Residents: DANIEL THORNTON

Thornton Road was named after Daniel Thornton's family. From an article written by Eris Parker for the Cambridge Independent, 17 July 1990.

The Thornton family, originally from Yorkshire, were owners of a large woollen mill in Russia.

Daniel Thornton's father had been invited to Russia to assist with the Russian mills and from this the Thornton Mill had eventuated. Daniel was four years old at this time. He married in 1846 [aged 21] to Hannah Isherwood and they had a son James. Hannah died in 1852 and Daniel married his cousin Sophia Firth in 1856.

With Josiah Firth and his family, they emigrated to New Zealand in 1856. Their nine children were born in Auckland.

Their first business venture was a corn milling business and subsequently they built up the firm of Thornton, Smith and Firth, a leading flour mill which was later known as Northern Roller Mills.

On the death of Daniel's father in around 1870, they returned to Russia. In 1874 they were about to return to New Zealand when Daniel's elder brother John died. Being guardian of John's children they stayed on in Russia to run the woollen mill business. In 1880 Daniel retired from the mill, again intending to return to New Zealand. He died suddenly at his Surrey home on 12 August 1881, aged 56. Sophia outlived Daniel by 29 years.

After Daniel's death, Sophia and her children returned to New Zealand and built their dream house on the top of the Maungakawa in 1890. But this wasn't just an ordinary house; this was a two storeyed mansion [pictured] built by Mr Julien of Auckland who had all the material carted up the hill by horse and wagon – an enormous task.

In 1892, the property passed to William Thornton, Sophia's youngest son, who in 1896 married Hilda Worsp. They had one son Daniel, who was killed in WWI.

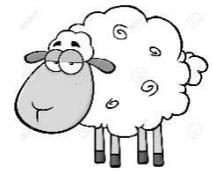
In September 1902, part of the Thornton's property was sold to the Government for £4,000 and they established the first open air sanatorium for Tb sufferers in NZ. The Thornton home was now officially called Te Waikato Sanatorium.

Kiwi ingenuity at work

In his letter to Charles Scott in 1940, JAMES BURNS-MURDOCH who farmed in Pukerimu for a few years in the 1890s, mentions the Thorntons and gives a vivid picture of the technical challenges back then:

"Your mention of having hydraulic rams to supply the house with water makes me smile. I do not know of course if it is still the same little ram I had just about half way down the face of the terrace in front of the house, or whether that one had gone west since my time.

I quite well remember a chap calling in at Wai Valley. He was an expert in the way of knowing a Merino sheep when he saw it, and we got on the subject of Merino rams, and I told him that I had a priceless ram on the farm. We took a stroll round the whole farm with the idea of ultimately seeing this stud ram. I led him practically all round the farm, 400 acres odd, and when he was just a bit fed up with walking around, I lifted up the boards that were over this hydraulic ram and said to him, "Well, there you are. What do you think of it?" Gosh, wasn't he just ready to murder me. Funny thing, is it not, how some people cannot see a joke, especially when the laugh is on them.



THE RAM WOULD GO
CLICK, CLICK, CLICKING
AWAY MERRILY BUT DEVIL
A DROP OF WATER EVER
REACHED THE HOUSE ...



I remember there was a chap, **Thornton**, I think his name was, who lived up on the hill behind Cambridge (forget the hill's name). He spent a good deal of money on putting up a ram which had to lift the water far higher than mine had to do at Wai Valley, and then he spent some more cash trying to get experts to get it to do the work. The ram would go click, click, clicking away merrily but devil a drop of water ever reached the house, as it got tired just as it had got about three quarters of the way up. I was consulted on the matter, but why they did so was beyond me, as I had never even seen a ram till I had my little one at Wai Valley.

However, I sat down and thought over the matter one hot day, when the fleas were well up to scratch, and then it dawned over me if I put a heavier weight over the piston of the ram, it would only make about half the number of clicks per minute, but the water lifted per click would have much greater impetus.

So a lump of lead put on his ram valve solved the difficulty and the water got there all right."



Karapiro Dam construction – Housing

*Excerpts from "Up the Waikato River to Work" by Val Wood.
Photograph from the Cambridge Museum collection.*

The wooden huts provided for Karapiro Dam workers had been designed for workers on the Paeroa/Pokeno railway construction and were fitted on a flat top rail wagon for transportation as the railway progressed. When that railway was stopped, these cottages were diverted to Karapiro.

Lance Field (newly married): "We duly arrived in Karapiro and our house consisted of a three-roomed army hut containing three electric lights, one power point and a small wood stove. The lavatory was outside and another hut contained a wood-fired copper and tin bath, which we had to share with our close neighbour. One hundred and fifty houses all in little rows and all facing the same way.

I had arrived first about a week before my wife and we had no furniture, or any essentials, and even less money. I walked all the way into Cambridge to buy a few pieces from a second-hand shop there."

Lorna Adams: "We (Lorna and her two children aged two and four) set off along the road for about a quarter of a mile until we reached a stile, and there was our house with smoke pouring out the chimney. Bill said he had the kettle on for a cuppa.

That stove was used for cooking and heating the hot water and, like Aunt Daisy used to say, you had to first gather your wood.

I did not have any clues about cleaning out of accumulated soot, and my neighbour, who was a dab hand at this sort of thing, showed me how to do it. I had to get some old newspapers and put kerosene over them, and stuff the paper into the opening from which she had removed the cover under the oven door. Little by little, the paper was stuffed in.

Then she asked if I had any washing on the line. "Right, stand back" and she lit the paper and slammed the cover shut over the opening. WHOOMP, and the flames roared up the chimney.

"There you are, ready for baking. All the oven needs is a good pull through now and again."

Outside, what lawn we had was absolutely covered in soot and the children were forbidden to go outside until I had washed it clean."

Thelma Kepple: "It was very basic, a regular Public Works cottage of that time. The living room had a coal range and

there was a bedroom either side of the kitchen. A lean-to over the back door had a cold tap and a bench. The stud was only 4ft 6ins rising to 8ft in the middle with malthoid roofing. In summer, these little houses were extremely hot as the tiny windows gave very little ventilation and having to cook on the coal range just added to the problem.

Outside at the end of the house was the toilet, not very good on frosty

Waikato nights. The bathroom and washhouse set-up caused a lot of conflict as each was shared by two households, washing days and bath nights being arranged by negotiation. The copper had to be boiled up for hot water and it was not every person who left the copper and tubs clean after use and ready for their neighbour to use. When these houses were moved to the new Mangakino village, an extra living room was added and also a toilet and laundry. The new houses built were of modified design with all facilities under one roof and no sharing."

On 24 February 1947, the *Waikato Independent* reported from Karapiro:

"There are still a number of buildings which will be below water mark to be removed including the last 50 out of the 140 married men's huts. These 35ft by 11ft buildings are being taken to Mangakino at the rate of two a day. They are lifted on to massive trailers by crane and removed again at their destination by similar process."

