



At our 2021 AGM, Bev and Bruce Dean were awarded Life Memberships of the Cambridge Historical Society.

Bev Dean joined the Society over 30 years ago when, just out of interest, she attended

the AGM of the Society and immediately found herself on the committee. She subsequently served for many years as a committee member, secretary and president.

She was later joined in her efforts by husband Bruce, and they have both since worked tirelessly for the Society.

For years they have covered many miles delivering the Society's newsletters. Bruce has also been involved with maintenance of our collection items and the "kissing gates" at the entrance to Lakewood. Both have a keen interest in collecting antique glassware.

Bev and Bruce have stepped down from the committee this year, but will remain active and much valued members of the Society.

## Happy Christmas from Grant

*Season's greetings to you all!*

Thank you to those members who attended our AGM.

I would like to congratulate Bev and Bruce Dean who, after 30 plus years of dedicated service to our Society, were presented with Life Membership.

I want to thank outgoing President, Bruce Hancock for a very successful year and a half in the position. While standing down from the committee Bruce is keen to maintain his links with the museum collection project.

Roger Gordon has decided to stand down from the committee after two years. Roger is a Waipā District Councillor and has found that his committee membership was seen as a conflict of interest around the Council table.

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He is a keen advocate of our Cambridge history and will maintain his interest in the Society.

I wish to welcome two new members to the Committee: Lyndall Hermitage, who has a background in museum design; and Fiona Faris, a local marketing and advertising executive who has been advising us over recent years on marketing matters. Welcome to you both.

As mentioned in her report Kathryn has resigned from the museum, her last day is in early January. Kathryn has been with us for over five years and has been instrumental in many changes during that time. We wish her well in her new position with Hamilton City Libraries.

In the year ahead we look toward raising the profile of the museum in our community.

**Grant Middlemiss**  
President

## A New Chapter for Kathryn

I am sad to say this is my last report for the newsletter. I will be signing out on 7 January 2022 as I have a new job as Rangahau Research Librarian at the Heritage collection of Hamilton City Libraries.

I have really enjoyed learning about Cambridge history and people and working at the Museum. It has been a fascinating experience discovering the taonga, collections and rich documentary heritage of Cambridge.

Working with the community has been very special particularly the committee, Cambridge Historical Society members and Museum staff.

It has been an honour to work with you all and my very best wishes for the future.

**Kathryn Parsons**  
Museum Manager



*One of the more unusual additions to our collection!  
Taken in July 2017  
Karen (L), Kathryn (R)*





## The Ballad of Robert Barlow



Robert Barlow, aged 34,  
*Observer*, 8 July 1882

**According to an entry in the Cambridge Police Charge Book, Robert Barlow, alias Tanete, was imprisoned at 4pm on 8 February 1871 “for stealing from a ‘whare’ at Maungatautari certain articles of clothing also a Revolver.”**

Barlow had served as a soldier with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Waikato Militia in Cambridge, so I was curious as to why this man, who had been allocated a Crown grant of an acre in town and 50 acres outside the town belt, was compelled to steal from a Maungatautari whare. His story turns out to be surprising.

### Background

In 1847, **Robert Stanley Barlow** was born in Te Awamutu. He was baptised by John Morgan in Te Rore, on 9 October 1849, as Robert Stannet<sup>1</sup> Barlow. He was known as Tanete, which may have been the Māori version of his middle name.

When interviewed by the *Observer* in 1882, Robert said that he grew up in Rangioawhia where his Pākehā father, John Barlow (nicknamed Billy Barlow<sup>2</sup> or “Mr BB” in Annie Shepherd’s diary written at that time) ran a general store. Before that, his father had been a carpenter in Te Rore. His mother Makareta was a chieftainess of Ngāti Apakura descent with links to Ngāti Maniapoto.

Robert was described as “immensely powerful”<sup>3</sup> and of “Herculean proportions and strength”<sup>4</sup>.

He became a stockrider until, in April 1866, he enrolled with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Waikato Militia in Cambridge. In October that same year, he applied for a Crown land grant as the Militia disbanded. An early map of Cambridge East shows his name on a one acre section on the corner of King and Weld Streets. He was 19 years old.

<sup>1</sup> May have been a mis-spelling of Stanley, although the alias Tanete suggests not.

<sup>2</sup> Billy Barlow is a fictional comic figure who features in several songs originating in the early 19th century.

Barlow may have immediately sold his land grant. Much of the land granted to soldiers was swamp and could not be farmed without significant financial investment. Money had become almost unobtainable in Waikato at that time. The men of the Waikato regiments were first taken off pay and then their rations were stopped. Military sections of land could be got “for anything you liked to offer.” When the Thames goldfields were operating, nearly all the military settlers left Waikato, and there were “no more than 300 or 400 able-bodied men left in the district.”<sup>3</sup>

### Arrest and sentencing

**William Moon** arrived in New Zealand from England in 1860. The Moon name is immortalised in Moon’s Creek, which provided water for Cambridge’s first water supply in 1903. In 1871, he was working for E B Walker who was leasing Maungatautari, Pukekura and Puhue blocks from local Māori. Moon, who was in charge of stocking these blocks with cattle, lived at Maungatautari in a whare or hut, with several other of Mr Walker’s employees in similar whare. According to Moon’s account, written some fifty years after the event, he went to Cambridge one day and, when he returned, he found that clothing (*trousers 2, coats 2, puggeries 3, shirts 1, vest 1*)<sup>5</sup> and a Tranter revolver had been stolen from his whare.

Moon made enquiries at the Maungatautari settlement and found that Barlow – or “Tamati” as Moon calls him (there is no indication that Moon ever knew his European name) – was heading off to Te Kuiti the following day.

Moon armed himself with a shotgun, and hid himself behind some fern on the track to Te Kuiti. He soon heard a woman’s voice up ahead say, “There is Moon’s dog. You will be taken, Tamati.” Barlow replied, “No Moon or anyone else will take me.”

Moon confronted Barlow, who was mounted with a swag rolled up in front of his saddle. The woman galloped off, but Barlow unfastened the straps of his swag and handed it over. He then slipped off the saddle and grabbed hold of Moon’s shotgun. Moon somehow managed to fling it away, but fought for his life when Barlow pulled out from his coat the Tranter revolver. In the scuffle, the gun exploded, the bullet passing between Barlow’s arm and side. Barlow let the gun go, possibly because he thought he had been shot. Moon grabbed the weapon and ordered him to raise his hands.

Edward Robson and James Turner of the Armed Constabulary were patrolling the area. They heard the shot, rode up, caught Barlow’s horse, bound Barlow and hoisted him on to its back. Moon then made his way back to his whare with his prisoner.

<sup>3</sup> William Moon’s manuscript 1926, copy held at Cambridge Museum.

<sup>4</sup> NZ Herald 30 June 1882

<sup>5</sup> Police Charge Book entry. A puggery is a cloth band or scarf for wrapping around the crown of a hat.





Many Māori were already gathered there in support of Barlow. The men offered Moon horses if he released him; the women cursed Moon for trying to shoot him. Moon promised not to charge him if the Māori provided him with a guarantee, endorsed by E B Walker, that he would not be troubled over the episode. The Māori agreed, and Moon took Barlow to a friend's house in Cambridge West (Leamington) to await the arrival of Mr Walker. He untied him, they partook of bread, cheese and beer, and got on quite well.

However, the Armed Constabulary arrived en masse at 3pm, arrested Barlow and took him away. Moon was so incensed that he would not press charges or appear in Court. Robson and Turner acted as prosecutors. Barlow was tried and sentenced to nine months hard labour at Mount Eden Gaol. He was 24 years old.

### National notoriety

In 1876, a man named **Henare Winiata** (Henry Wynyard) was accused of murdering **Edwin Packer**, his workmate, at a farm in Epsom. Winiata escaped to the King Country where he farmed in Te Kuiti until he was captured in 1882 by one Robert Barlow.



*Edwin Packer and Winiata, Auckland Weekly News 1 July 1882*

Barlow was by this time a married father of four living on his own settlement at Mohaonui, near Ōtorohanga, and was a successful cattle dealer. He was reportedly 6'2" tall, weighed 118kg and was 34 years old. He was liked and trusted by King Country Māori, but was tempted by the £500 reward offered for Winiata's capture.

Barlow met with **Sergeant McGovern** and **Constable Gillies** of Te Awamutu, and together they formed a plan. Barlow was given money to purchase pigs from Winiata at Te Kuiti on condition that the pigs were to be delivered to him at Mohaonui. When Winiata and five others arrived, they were plied with drink, and while the others slept, Barlow overpowered Winiata, tied him up and transported him to Constable Gillies at Te Awamutu.

Barlow testified at the trial in Auckland that Winiata had admitted showing "a half-caste named Harry" where Packer lived, but that Winiata had taken no physical part in the murder. Winiata admitted at the trial that he knew Harry's

intention was to kill Packer.<sup>6</sup> Winiata was found guilty and executed in Auckland.

Initially, for his own safety, Barlow was separated from his family in Mangere after the trial. He was allegedly shot at by when he visited Alexandra (Pirongia) to check on his horses in August 1882. This was after drinking at Connell's Hotel on the corner of Parry and Crozier Streets with Tu Tāwhiao (Kingi Tāwhiao's son), Patupatu and others. Barlow ended up with bullet holes through the edges of his waistcoat but the would-be assassin was never found.

Barlow eventually joined his family in a seven-roomed house in Mangere village near the bridge. It sat on three acres of rich volcanic soil, and had a first-class stable, fowlhouse, piggery and spring of water.

Barlow contended that although he had claimed the £500 reward, he had lost far more financially, including his home at Mohaonui, stocked with horses, cattle and 200 pigs.<sup>7</sup> He had been a well-to-do cattle dealer but no longer had a means of livelihood.

By 1886, Barlow's home was listed as a polling place for the Western Māori District elections. And he was popular enough to have held a large birthday party at his home in Mangere in 1889 "when the guests of the two races fraternised in a gratifying manner."<sup>8</sup> This suggests that he was no longer concerned about retaliation from Winiata's supporters.

In 1888, Barlow was in the headlines again for helping to arrest Charles King who had mental health issues, and was causing mayhem at Manukau Heads to the consternation of local Māori. "Barlow kindly helped the constable with his charge to the top of the Titirangi Ranges."<sup>9</sup>

By 1892, he was in the Kaipara, and won a legal case against local iwi over rights to the land he was occupying at Kakanui on assignment from the Pākehā owner.

Times were hard, and in 1894 Barlow's house in Mangere was sold by order of the mortgagee. He lived out his remaining years with his family at Kakanui "as an industrious farmer"<sup>10</sup> and died 23 April 1896, aged 51.

*Details for this article have been gathered from Cambridge Museum files, National Archives, William Moon's manuscript of 1926, Pirongia Museum research and articles from Papers Past.*

*The assumption that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Militia soldier, the prisoner and the bounty hunter are the same Robert Barlow is due to his age, physical description and areas of residence. We would welcome any feedback that suggests otherwise.*

<sup>6</sup> NZ Herald 17 July 1882

<sup>7</sup> Thames Advertiser 30 June 1882

<sup>8</sup> Auckland Star 21 March 1889

<sup>9</sup> NZ Herald 11 May 1888

<sup>10</sup> Obituary NZ Herald 28 April 1896







## Te Ihingarangi

Part 7 of a history of the Karapiro-Maungatautari area by  
Te Kaapo Clark and Lyn Tairi

### 1800

KO NGATI RAUKAWA, NGATIKOROKI, NGATI WAIRERE,  
NGATI HAUA

The Reverend Alfred Brown, from Tauranga, and James Hamlin were the first Pākehā to visit the area in 1834. Brown made regular trips between 1834 and 1849 to preach the Christian message. During this period Ngāti Koroki flourished and prospered. Throughout the area they had extensive cultivations of wheat and potatoes and raised cattle and pigs for trade. Bishop Selwyn recorded in December 1842 that he “walked several miles through native cultivations and wheat fields of very considerable extent.” By 1857 Whareturere, one of the principal kainga, had a stock yard for cattle, a chapel, a mill house, plough, carts and immense wheat plantations.



Tioriori – DigitalNZ  
image

Whareturere also had its own courthouse. This belonged to Tioriori, the principal chief of Ngāti Koroki, who had been appointed as an assessor by F D Fenton, Resident Magistrate of Waikato, to administer law and order in the Maungatautari area. Tioriori also travelled around the Waikato and to Taranaki with Wiremu Tamihana, trying to keep the peace between Māori and Pākehā.

Several other kainga in the area can also be identified: Nga Totara, Te Wera a to Atua, Ihapa and Wharepapa were all inhabited and prospered during this period. Other places in the Pukekura/Maungatautari area were identified by claimants to the land at the 1873 Land Court hearing. Pukekura is the name of the block of land between the aukati boundary, the Hauoira Stream, and the Mangapiko Stream. However, only Mahuroa has been located, The other kainga mentioned are: Taurau, Motoa, Parapara, Tapaekairangi (probably Kairangi), Waipapa, Tauaroa, Kuruaro, Te Tapae and Ruapekapeka.

Te Manehu, Mangaroa (where the present marae is), Wareareki, Te Kakara, Wairengapoka and Te Reiwa were all sites of cultivations. Department of Conservation archaeological site records show areas of pits in the Pukekura region and along the river, near the Hauoira Stream. There were probably many more, but time and pastures have obliterated them. These pits were used for the storage of food, especially kumara.

## Swimming in Lake Te Koutu<sup>9</sup>

Waikato Times 26 February 1887

*A large concourse of people met in the Cambridge Domain yesterday to witness the swimming races, organised by the headmaster, Mr Stewart and a committee of old boys. The prizes were given by the townspeople.*

The proceedings commenced at 2pm by a procession of 20 persons who swam around a portion of the lake, after which the regular programme was commenced.

In the Duck Hunt, P Richardson caught the duck, while Paltridge gained the prize for walking the greasy boom.

During the height of the carnival, some planks gave way on the platform near the dressing sheds and a number of spectators were precipitated into the water and there was considerable laughter at their expense.

During an interval in the programme, Professor Pannell gave an exhibition of fancy swimming, etc. He took his position on the springboard commencing his exhibition with a neat dive.



It is estimated that fully 500 people witnessed the carnival and everybody had an uninterrupted view of the whole proceedings from the banks, which made a natural grandstand.



*The lake's surroundings were bare before tree planting changed its aspect. This photo is an indication of the “natural grandstand”.*

Beer Research Notes, Accession 799/2  
Diving illustration Getty stock image

<sup>9</sup>Now spelt Te Koo Utu

