

## First Edition 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### INTRODUCTION

The Thompsons –Hastings & Napier butchers in their own right from 1883 until 1991

Upon the front of the Heretaunga Street West shop they built after the earthquake there is ESTAB 1878. How to reconcile the 1883 and 1878.

The three Thomases.

Firstly there was **Thomas** Tanner – he leased the whole Heretaunga Block through Henare Tomoana – but unable to cover the rent for the whole block cut the lease into several parts – his being the 5,000+ acres of Riverslea.

1883 is when **Thomas** John (**TJ**) Thompson partnered with **Thomas** Higgins - being the butchers ‘Thompson & Higgins’ with shops in both Hastings and Napier. TJ lived in Hastings above the shop,

The shop was built by a brother Henry James (**HJ**) Thompson. Henry built the Carlton also.

Higgins died in 1885 and TJ continued on as TJ Thompson in Napier and he closed Hastings.

By 1886 his business failed. He sold up selling all the joint Thompson & Higgins assets.

HJ moved to Argentina to manage and then own several estancia – cattle ranches.

In 1888 TJ began again as TJ Thompson in Napier.

About this time his brother William Phillips (**WP**) Thompson joined him initially working with TJ in Napier.

WP moved to Hastings to work for butcher Thomas Foreman and then became Foreman’s manager.

Foreman established in Hastings in 1877 on Heretaunga Market Street corner later moving to the shop where Thompson & Higgins had been, next to the Carlton hotel as the Hastings Meat Market.

In 1895 Foreman died and his estate was put up for sale. There was a proviso that whoever bought the goodwill of the butcher business could purchase the slaughterhouse in Norton Road.

WP was successful in buying the goodwill – the butcher shop becoming ‘W P Thompson’ and soon after Thomas joined him, moving to Havelock - closing Napier and as Thompson Bros they traded from the Hastings shop.

About this same time - 1898 - they bought a farm from Bernard Chamber of Te Mata.

They were joined by another brother Joseph Barr (**JB**) Thompson and together the three farmed, acquired more land individually – putting all their efforts together as Thompson Bros and supplying the butcher shop.

They were joined in the late 1890s by brother David who worked for them.

In 1905 David departed for Argentina - and in 1912 there was a falling out between the remaining brothers - JB separated, TJ and WP continuing on for some while together.

TJ’s sons grew and worked in the shop and became involved in stock buying –



WP ceased his direct involvement in the shop and concentrated on farming - buying his own farms.

In 1907 a new shop was built by the King Street corner primarily of brick – a council regulation safeguarding against fire.

The 1931 earthquake saw it collapse. A new shop of ferro-concrete was built as a replacement.

1878 was put upon the front – a mistake cemented in place – it should have been 1877 – the continuation of the Thomas Foreman butcher WP bought the goodwill of.

What follows is not a book, but an assemblage of details, facts, photos, diagrams bringing together as many details of the Thompson Bros and Thompson & Sons story as can be found.

It is a work in progress. There is a vast array of facts but little of an anecdotal nature. Anecdotes give life to the story. This is largely bare bones but not totally. The quest to find out about Thompson Bros started at the MTG with the finding of a 1909 and 1912 sub-division plans – one Thompson Road Havelock, the other Konini and Waipuna Streets Hastings. With nothing about Thompsons to be found on line and in books except for TJ as a mayor the search slowly began.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The National Library's Papers Past has been essential and have exasperated as well enabling finding details inadvertently that couldn't be found in a search. New details were found within 72-hours of the deadline to get this Edition 1 completed.

An Ancestry.com family tree was established and details of the five Thompson brothers were entered.

1 – **Allan Pearson** found mention of HJ in Hastings which disputed the Thompson family story that he went directly from Northern Ireland to Argentina. He queried and was satisfied – HJ came first to Hawke's Bay.

2 – Allan provided a connection to **Catherine Clare Gulliver** of Surry, grand-daughter of the fourth youngest Thompson brother, Alexander (1873-1962). Clare had assembled and written up all she could obtain of the New Zealand branch and had the benefit of the work of **Val Swailes** of Napier, **Shane Paramore** and **Annabelle Thompson** – all three linked to TJ and also Allan Pearson who is a NZ descendant of another branch of the same Thompson line - his forebears came to the Otago goldfields.

3 – a connection was made with **Michelle Thompson** through **Michelle Smith**, then her father **Phillip Thompson** and through Phillip to daughter **Leanne Thompson**. These gave access to complete copies of Val Swailes work which was shared back to Clare and Allan.

The 1745 Thompson family home on Leitrim Road, near Castledawson, County Derry, Northern Ireland had descended to Alexander's family so Clare grew up knowing the home and 1717 farm that only passed from the family in 2023.

Clare has been the strength of what has been assembled here. Providing the historical background couldn't have been done without her and she has been generous with her time, her notes, photographs – PHOTOGRAPHS – the garnish to this work – Hastings Thompson family photos - photos that were sent back to the Leitrim family, kept and shared by Clare back to Hastings that bless this work.



*Figure 1 Clare Gulliver making repairs to a Thompson Leitrim farm gate post. PHOTO - CLARE GULLIVER*

This is a work in progress – the pressure is off as of today 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for there was a self-imposed deadline to have a document to go with the Slide Show of the Duart talk of the 18<sup>th</sup> uploaded to the Knowledge Bank - that those attending the talk whose interest was piqued could return home and read more – the talk necessarily being skeletal. The intention is to add to this present work and upload additions periodically. The edition number - dates and updates will be put on the front cover.

Kind regards to all – Wayne Collins



Figure 2 Havelock Road, from opposite the TJ Thompson's - taken 1908 just over a year after they left here to cross the bridge to the Frank Bee home.

**The well-remembered 'Lavender cottage' was 'The House that Tom Built'.**



### **HISTORY IN HAVELOCK**

Older style villa home located on a 1386m<sup>2</sup> industrial zoned very central location, potential plus.



There were three Thompson brothers who lived in Hastings for the rest of their lives after their arrival from Derry. This document has an emphasis on Thomas John (TJ) Thompson – known in the family as Tom. All three brothers were involved in the butchery trade at the beginning but, this ended about 1910 and it was Tom's family who continued it until the third generation.

**To begin we look at some Havelock Thompson connections.** The first two are familiar to long-time residents – though this T J Thompson connection likely is not obvious...

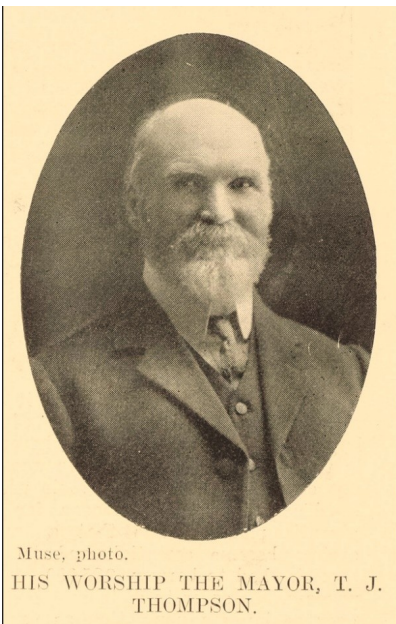


*Figure 3 The first Thompson house that became familiar to everyone after crossing the bridge despite its growing decrepitude ...*

The 1896 Thompson home was the first to be seen on the left - from the road - after crossing the bridge - demolished to make way for McDonald's.

She was built by Thomas John (TJ) Thompson in 1896 for the family's move from Napier to Havelock - and there'll be more of her story later...

### **Tom - T J Thompson - as mayor of Hastings**



And - it was the first Mayoral house in the Village – firstly a home for a sitting Hastings councillor and then for their mayor.

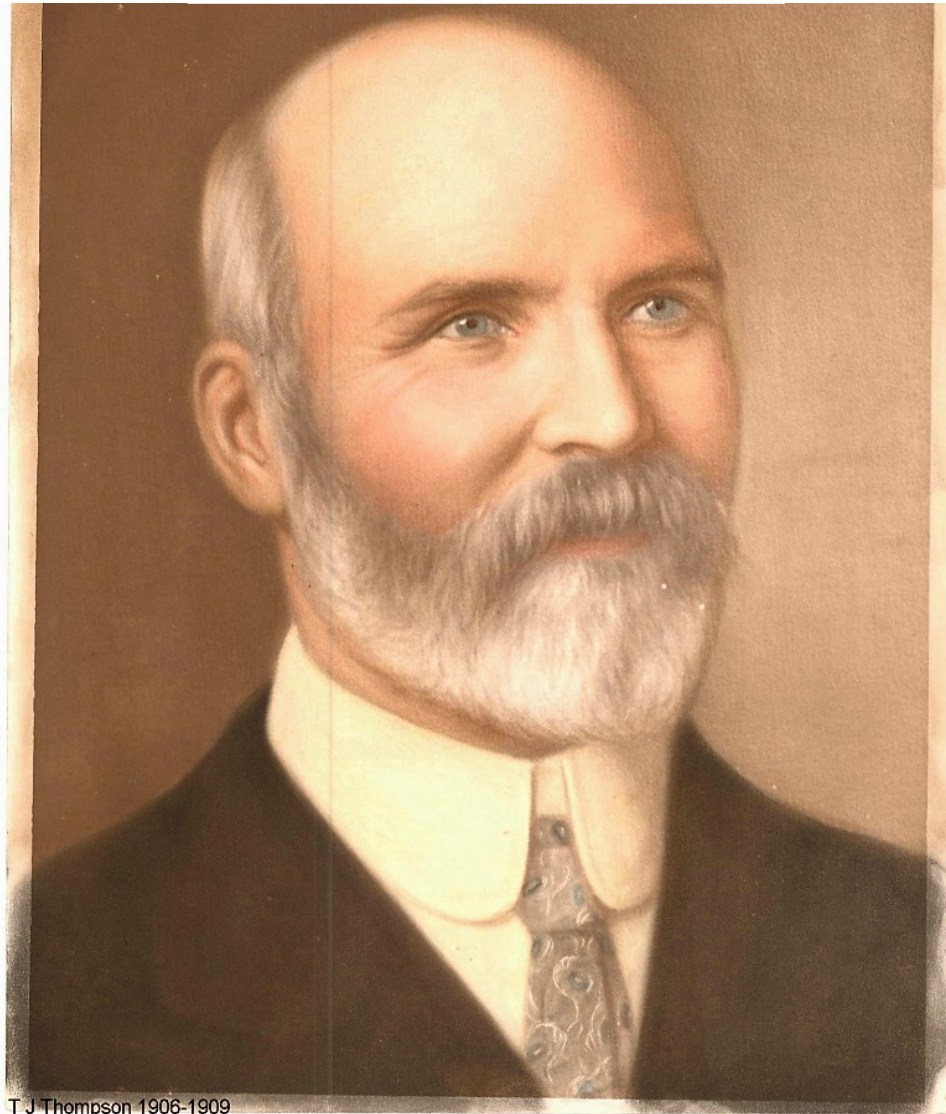
Tom was elected to the Hastings Borough Council in 1899 – as T. J. Thompson

He was resident in Havelock but had a Hastings qualification through a 20-acre farm he owned on Frederick Street. In April 1906 Tom defeated sitting Hastings Mayor Dennett and was mayor for three mayoral terms - until April 1909 – they had one-year terms back then - and so for a few months the Village housed a Hastings Mayor.

*Figure 4 and that villa was his home at the time he was elected for the Mayor of Hastings'*

The most recent addition to the pictures adorning the walls of the Borough Council Chamber is a very fine portrait in oil of ex-Mayor Mr T. J. Thompson. The work is by the brush of Mr G. Lindauer, artist of Woodville. It is a striking likeness, and is excellently executed.

*Figure 5: Hastings Standard, Volume XIII, Issue 4278, 5 October 1909, Page 4*



**Could this be the Lindauer portrait mentioned...?**



## THOMPSON ROAD – JUST OUT OF HAVELOCK



Figure 6 Thompson Road is named for a Thompson Bros farm – here's the Napier Road end

At the MTG some years back – and finding sales adverts posters for two sub-divisions – the Te Mata (1909) and the Mahora 'Konini & Waipuna Streets' (1912) **Thompson Bros sub-divisions** – they prompted an inquiry to find out more - or anything - about the Thompsons - there was next to nothing to be found in local history books or in online searches.

The property went from the bridge over the Mangateretere stream through to the Mangateretere-Te Mata Road.



## The Thompson Bros 'Te Mata' Farm



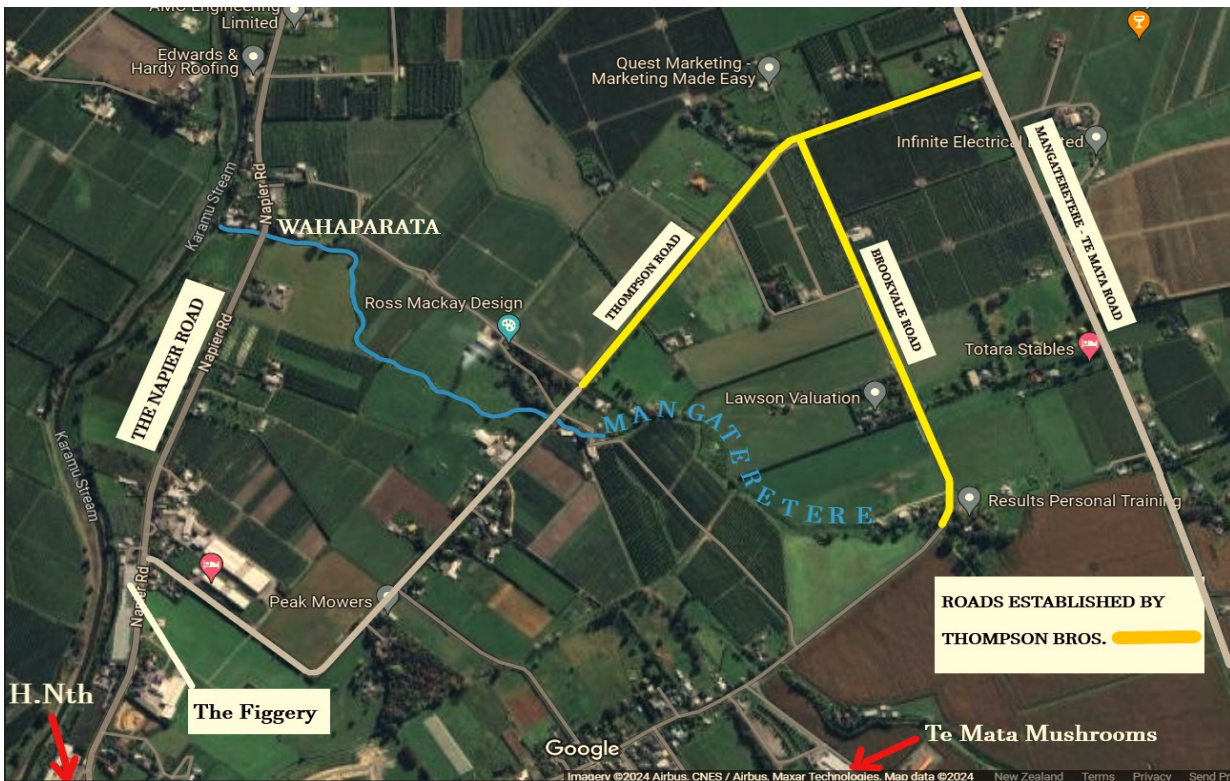


Figure 7 the sections of Brookvale and Thompson roads set out by Thompson Bros in 1909

At the end of the road Thompson Bros had 300-acres supplying their own meat. It was their first farm and was sub-divided in 1909 with the road being given their name.

## THE SOUTH HAVELOCK SLAUGHTERHOUSE



Figure 8 1883 and a butcher's slaughterhouse on Te Aute Road



It was on Te Aute Road, between Gilpin and St George's – back then every butcher needed their own slaughterhouse – and with the young Hastings surrounded by Tanner's 'Riverslea' with hardly a suitable section within town to establish a slaughterhouse that needed access to running water and also a drain, creek or river to carry away the effluent – different times back then. So, in December 1883, butchers 'Thompson & Higgins' purchased 5-acres on Te Aute Road between Havelock and Pukahu – the area was called South Havelock. It was Tom's first purchase of land.

## THE THOMPSON & SONS 'TARUI' FARM AT KAHURANAKI

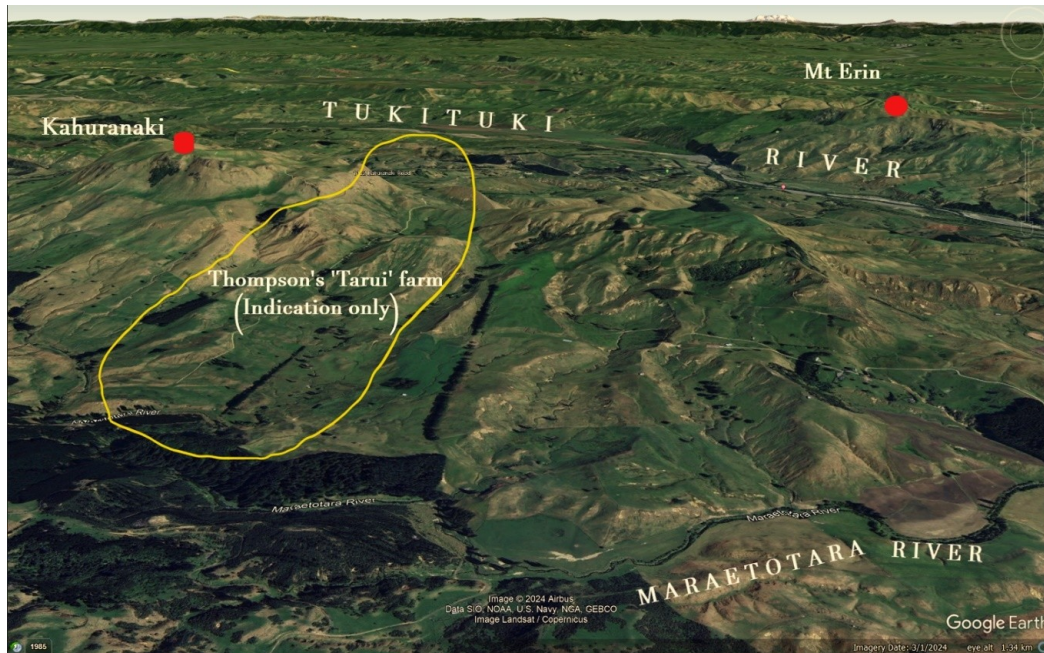


Figure 9 and the 1,400–acre 'TARUI' farm immediately east of Kahuranaki

In 1921 beyond Mt Erin and over the Tuki Tuki - T J Thompson & Sons purchased the 1,400-acre 'Tarui', a couple of years before Greenwoods bought the next door 'Kahuranaki Station'.

A last historic Havelock-Thompson connection was when TJ's great-grandson Douglas and Annabelle Thompson set up a small specialist Joll Road butcher shop in the 70s - with sausages they sold supplied by Doug's father, Bill, who had the Parkvale Butchery on Park Road corner with Heretaunga Street.

## NOW TO MEET THE THOMPSON BROTHERS WHO MIGRATED TO NEW ZEALAND

There were twelve Thompson brothers from Leitrim, County Derry, and six of them turned up in Hastings

**Tom** (TJ- b. 1855) arrived in 1874 - **Harry** (HJ-b. 1853) in 1876 who left for Argentina in 1889 -**Willie** (WP-b. 1857) came in the mid-1880s - **Joe** (JB-b.1864) in 1886 until 1894 – returning home and back again 1897.

**David** (b. 1874) came in the late 1890s probably via the Australia goldfields to work in the brothers' butcher shop for several years until 1905 when he left to join Harry in Argentina. **George** (b. 1874) only stopped off in Hastings for a family catchup before he left for Christchurch – he was about 3-months old when Tom left for NZ.

Six of the 12 Thompson brothers made their way to Hastings upon arrival in N.Z. - three remaining here for the rest of their lives



Figure 10 Introducing the Thompson brothers - from Derry to Hawke's Bay – shown here in order of birth.  
 BROTHERS PHOTOS FROM CLARE GULLIVER – Hastings photo from RECOLLECT

**The Thompson boys' parents back in Derry**



Figure 11 Esther in her younger days, an older Esther Hugh – the only photo of him to be had  
 PHOTOS FROM CLARE GULLIVER

Hugh born Leitrim and Esther born Ballynehone Beg near Maghera - married in 1853. Hugh inherited the family farm in Leitrim Road, Castledawson. Originally these Thompsons were from Westmoreland, England -



who came to Ireland at the request of the Dawson family in the early 1700s as either Head Gardener or Land Stewards.

In 1717 Hugh's branch were given access to 43-acres of land on which to settle.



**Figure 12** *Hugh and Esther and the family who remained in Leitrim - taken at the time Harry came visiting from Argentina in 1894* Harry sits on his mother's left PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

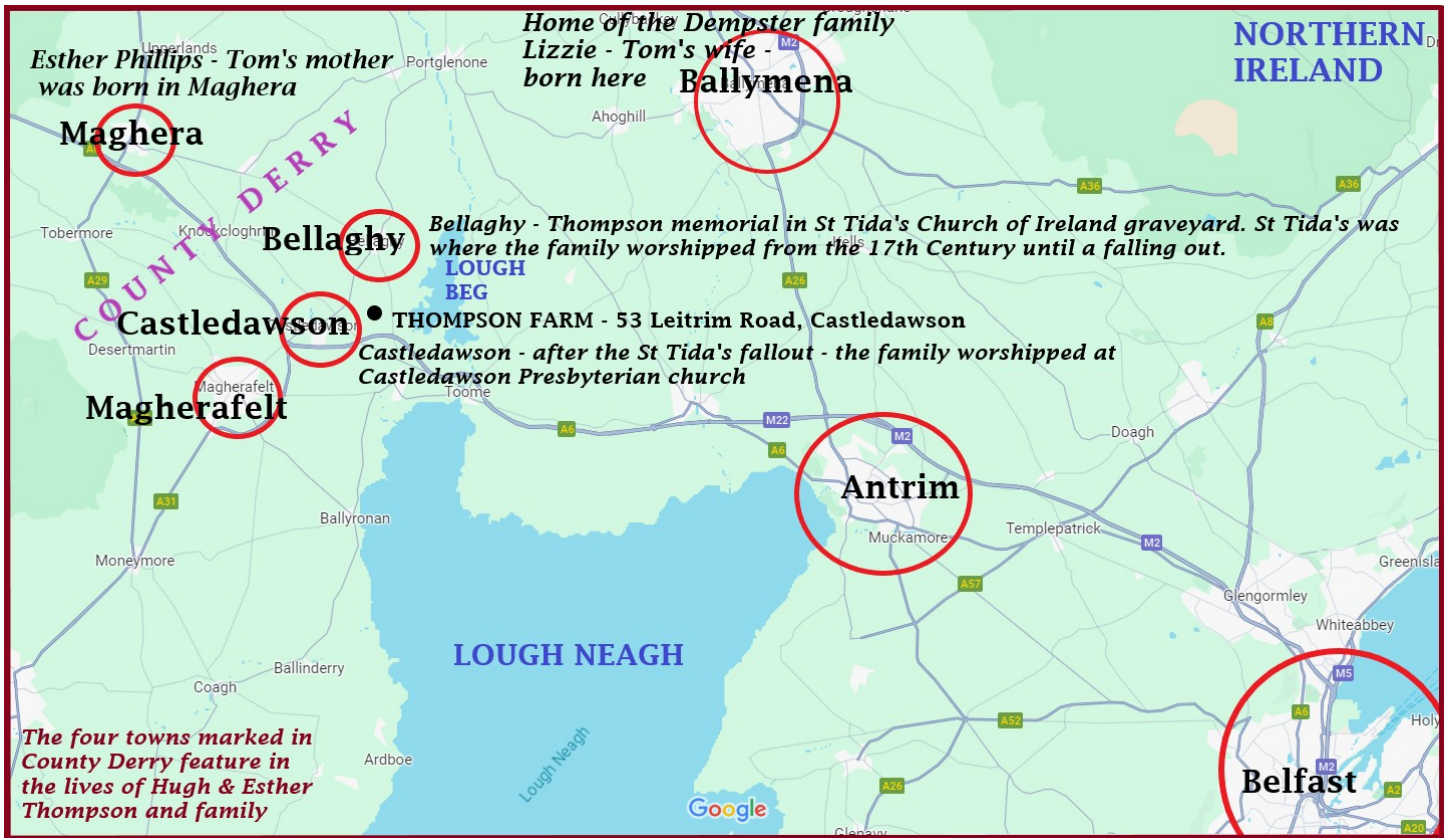


Figure 13 *the Derry origins of the six brothers headed to Hawke's Bay*

Hugh and Esther married at Maghera. Their Leitrim Road home - Leitrim Villa – was on what had been the family farm since at least 1717 - possibly even before that.

Hugh was the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of this Thompson family and he inherited the farm.

The six sons shown above were born in four locations (*marked on the map*) within the five and a half (5½) miles between Bellaghy and Magherafelt. Bellaghy was 'town' for the Thompsons, they attended the St Tiv's Church of Ireland there until there was a fallout when they shifted their church adherence to Castledawson Presbyterian church. The family graves and memorial are in Bellaghy in the St Tiv's church graveyard

The memorial was erected by Harry for his parents.

*PHOTO from Clare Gulliver*

*Following photographs from Allan Pearson (NZ)*















**LEITRIM FARM**

*Figure 14 The extent of the Thompson farm to the east of Castledawson*

*Fields were bought or leased to enlarge the farm.*

*Rock walls, hedgerows and streams were the boundaries*



*[all details provided by Clare Gulliver]*

The Thompson farm is in the townland of **Leitrim**, a couple of miles from the village of **Castledawson**, in the parish of **Ballyscullion** and barony of **Loughinsholin**.

*Castledawson's original Irish name was **Shanemullagh**. It was changed by the Dawson family, the local big landowners who'd come from Northern England.*

The shape and size changed over times as leases around the periphery of the freehold farm expired and others were taken up.

Field 2 is **Brickworks** - where two ponds are a testimony to the clay excavated to make the bricks - fired on the spot. This left a pond, known as '**Clayhole**'. There is another clayhole at the edge of **Moor Field**. Fields 17 to 19 - the '**Moss Meadows**' are where the turf - the peat - was dug for the home fires.

Leitrim farm was a mixed one - dairy and a few beef cows, pigs, a few hens, grass, hay and silage as fodder, potatoes, flax - the stench of flax retting in the ditches was odorous - and some vegetables. No sheep.



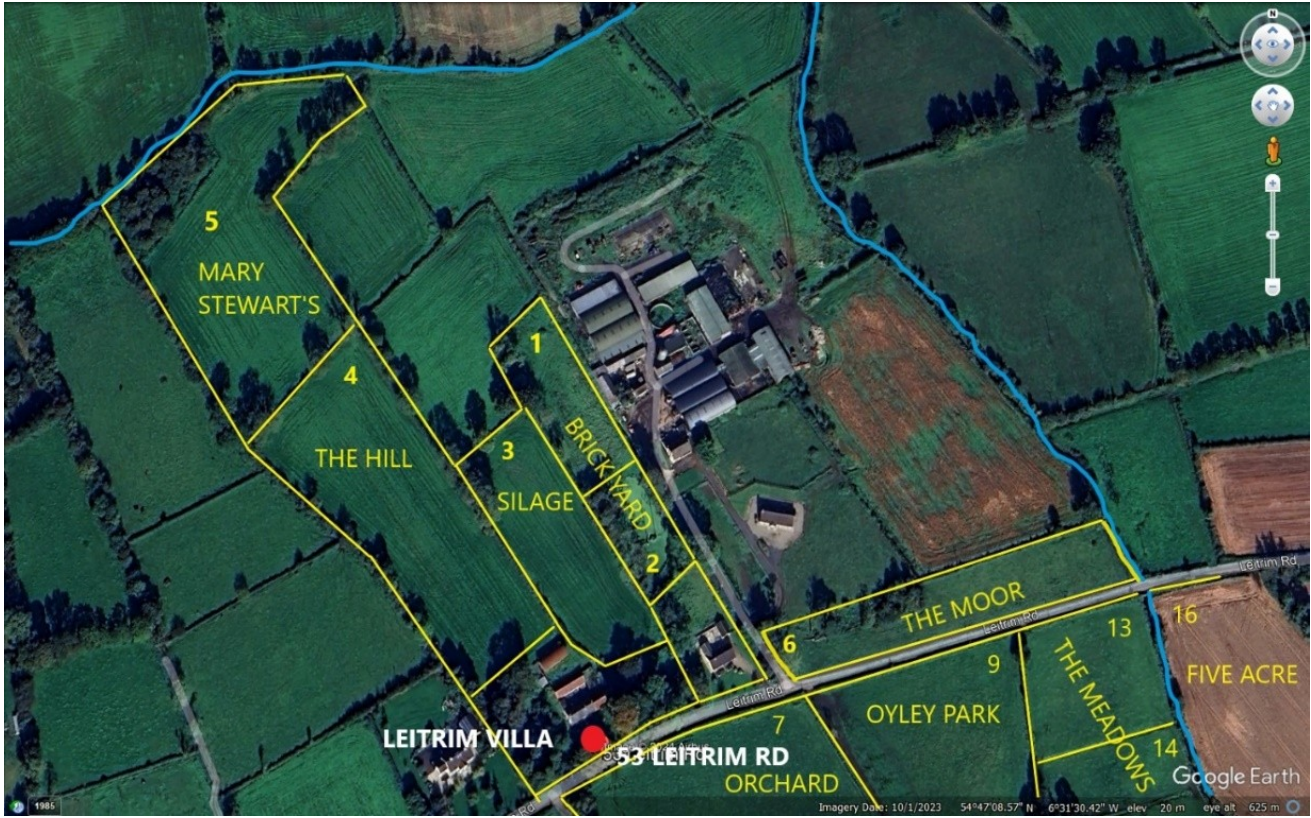
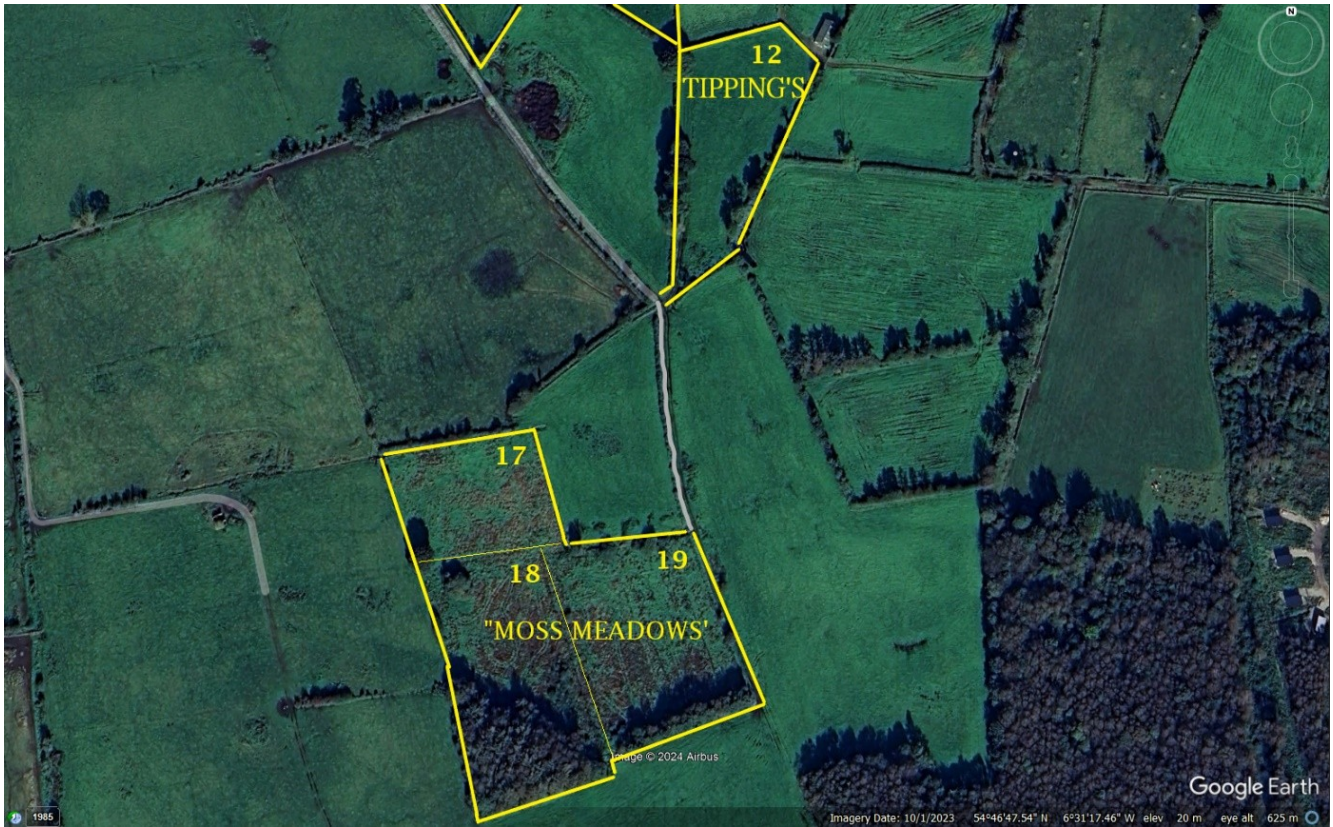


Figure 15 - Leirim farm field names [1] as recorded in the 1905 farm diary



Figure 16 - Leirim farm field names [2] as recorded in the 1905 farm diary





**Figure 17 - Leitrim farm field names [3] as recorded in the 1905 farm diary**

**Some views of Leitrim Villa and the Leitrim farm.**







Leitrim farm - the yard behind the house

Leitrim Villa - the red roofed portion was an original typical Irish cottage and likely was there when the Thompsons arrived - the two storied portion was added on by James Thompson in 1745 - built on the ground - no foundations - built from rocks and bricks and concrete into a wall - decidedly sagging in parts by the 2000s

LEFT : The farm portion that went with the 2023 Leitrim Villa sale

PHOTOS FROM CLARE GULLIVER



The shed - 9<sup>th</sup> August 1970 Various shovels, spades, potato forks, manure forks and the barrow

PHOTOS FROM CLARE GULLIVER





**Figure 18** *The Derry landscape - a patchwork of fields of varying irregular shapes, sizes and differ very much from New Zealand's*

A bird's-eye view of the area surrounding the farm - and even in 2024 it's still a patchwork that is kind to the eye, and a wonder that it is still current - given modern machinery's demands for large expansive paddocks and wide gateways. The eye-catching gate posts (these two remain near to Lough Beg) were characteristic of the Castledawson area and have largely been removed to facilitate vehicle movements





## LEITRIM VILLA AT 53 LEITRIM ROAD, CASTLEDAWSON



Figure 19 Leitrim Villa

An interesting way to take a group photo.

## HARRY

From Nov 1904 until June 1906, Harry was home on a visit from Argentina after his father, Hugh, had died in 1901.

He had left his properties in the charge of brother Hugh Anderson Thompson and returned to Leitrim to sort out family matters and hopefully find a wife – without success in that matter.

In November Harry bought an adjacent 1¼-acre field from neighbour Robert McWhinney and before he returned to Argentina, he gave it to his sister Minnie (Mary) in May 1906

He is mentioned in the farm diary of 1905 and in June 1906 he gave the Leitrim farm to his brother Robert.

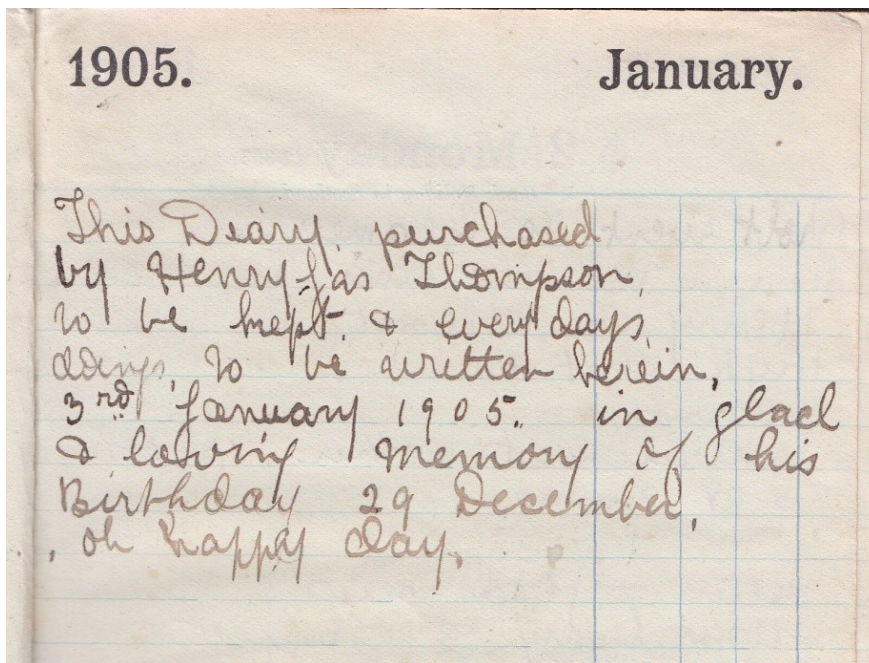
There was an anecdotal story in the family that Harry had sent home a large horse for the farm from Argentina. That he could do this was confirmed with a report in the Hawke's Bay Herald in 1893 that at that time Harry pioneered live shipments of sheep, cattle and horses from the River Plate to Liverpool. (*That report is included later*)

THE FOLLOWING IS FROM CLARE GULLIVER]

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 1904**

“**This Indenture** made the third day of November 1904 **Between Robert McWhinney** of Leitrim in the county of Londonderry farmer of the one part and **Henry James Thompson** of Leitrim aforesaid in the county of Londonderry farmer of the other part **Whereas** by an Indenture of Conveyance dated the 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 1877 made between James McCord and Mary Jane McCord his wife of the one part and said Robert McWinney of the other part **after reciting** as herein is recited **It was witnessed** that for the consideration therein the said James McCord and Mary Jane McCord did hereby grant unto the said Robert McWhinney his heirs and assigns **All that and those** that part of the town and lands of Leitrim situated in the Barony of Loughinshollin and county of Londonderry and bounded on the North by the farms of Hugh Thompson since deceased and George McWhinney and on the East South and West by said Hugh Thompson’s farm containing one acre two rood statute measure or thereabouts  
Agreed 1<sup>st</sup> September with R Mawhinney”.

Henry purchased a diary in 1905 and below are some of the entries of the time he was home, in Leitrim



Monday 2 Jan

“**Robert** (Henry’s brother) went to creamery then to Bellaghy fair. **Henry** in Belfast. **Hugh** sent us all xmas presents (was Hugh in Argentina looking after the ranches he and Henry owned?). **David** (may also have been in Argentina) sent Mother 10 pounds for xmas. Letter and good news from **Henry** out of Belfast.

Wednesday 4 Jan

“Robert went to station for Henry’s luggage then to Wynne’s for load of gravel for grave”



Friday 6 Jan

**Robert** went to creamery then commenced ploughing in “*New Field*”. M<sup>c</sup>Eldoon (*Catholic*) at home a holy day. **Henry** walking around and also showing **Robert** how to make straight furrows. Dr Garvin called in to see Mother. Day very stormy.

Saturday 7 Jan

**Robert** ploughing in “*New Field*.” M<sup>c</sup>Eldoon scattering soil, wages 3 shillings 4 pence. **Henry** down showing how to open up drains, he had a very busy day, also a useful one. Day stormy but good.

*Henry was going in and out of Belfast. I think maybe he was looking for a wife to take back to Argentina and failed. He visited relatives and friends and worked on the farm.*

Tuesday 21 March

“Henry still in Belfast. Day drying. H home last train, all to no avail, after all these months of happy hopes and aspirations.”

Wednesday 17 May

“Henry away to see a girl, didn’t return, must have got on very well.”

Saturday **20 May 1905**

“Robert drove Henry into station on **his way to England**”      Diary entries stop 20 May 1905.

## **1906**

Indenture of Conveyance dated the **tenth day of May 1906** between Henry J Thompson of Leitrim in the county of Londonderry **formerly of La Libertad Escheverria Buenos Aires** in South America farmer of the one part and Robert G. Thompson of Leitrim aforesaid in said county of Londonderry farmer of the other part Whereby after reciting as therein it was witnessed that in consideration of the natural love and affection which said Henry J Thompson has for said Robert G Thompson his brother and in consideration of the Covenants on the part of the said Robert G Thompson herein after contained said Henry J Thompson as the heir at law of said Hugh Thompson (deceased) and as beneficial owner thereby **conveyed to said Robert G Thompson first** the said perpetual yearly sum as rent of £30 created by the Indenture of 29 May **1855** and all powers and remedies for recovery thereof and all the estate and interest of the Grantor under the said Deed and **Secondly** part of the lands of Leitrim otherwise Tullenaveagh situate in the Barony of Loughinshollin and County of Londonderry known upon the Ordnance map as Killyfad and other part of said lands known as the East part of Tullyenaveagh called on the Ordnance Sheet Tolnaveagh which lands and the lands out of which the rent thereby granted issued contained 33 acres and six perches

## **4 June 1906**

**THIS INDENTURE** made the fourth day of **June 1906** between Henry J. Thompson of Leitrim on the county of Londonderry farmer of the one part and Mary Thompson of Leitrim aforesaid in said county of Londonderry spinster of the other part **Whereas** by an Indenture of Conveyance dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> November **1904** made between Robert McWhinney of the one part and the said Henry J Thompson of the other part after recitings as therein is recited it was witnessed that for the consideration therein the said Robert McWhinney as beneficial owner thereby conveyed to said Henry J Thompson **All that and Those** that part of the town and lands of Leitrim

together with the moss or bog attached thereto as then in the possession of said Robert McWhinney or his undertenants situate in the Barony of Loughinshollin in the county of Londonderry bounded on the North by the said Henry James Thompson's and George McWhinney's farms and on the East South and West by the said Henry James Thompson's farm containing **one acre and two roods** statute measure or thereabouts with the rights members and appurtenances **To Hold** said hereditaments and premises together with the moss or bog attached thereto unto the said Henry J Thompson his heirs and assigns subject as therein **And Whereas** said Henry J Thompson **being about to emigrate** And with a view of making provision for the support maintenance and clothing of his sister said Mary Thompson has agreed to convey the hereditaments and premises conveyed in said recited Conveyance to said Mary Thompson for the consideration hereinafter mentioned?

Henry also seems to have given his sister's Mary and Hester (Essie Jane) £200 but no evidence of this now.

H. J. Thompson left England for Buenos Aires on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1906 on the "Amazon". There is a tick in the married column on the passenger list but it seems likely that this is Henry. At the back of 1905 diary it says H J Thompson left Leitrim **5 June 1906** (for Argentina?).

#### Henry James Thompson's wills

*Copy (held by Hugh Anderson McKeown Thompson)*

That signed below, being in order to **make a journey to Europe**, I make my will, so that death does not take me by surprise without leaving made arrangements I wish it to contain. These arrangements and declarations that I consider appropriate are the following.

1. I am a bachelor, an adult and I am resident in the Partido (*a division of Provinces in Argentina*) de Junin in the Province of Buenos Aires.
2. I am a native of Ireland and legitimate son of Mr Hugh Thompson and Mrs. Esther Thompson, the one deceased.
3. I have no sons or daughters.
4. I have an abode named "San Francisco" in the Partido Ninth of July and another abode named "La Libertad" in (*the Partido*) Junin, whose sign is rented, the two abodes in the Province of Buenos Aires.
5. My brother Hugh Anderson Thompson of Junin has worked with me for some time and although the said abodes appear in my name, he posses half of them, the same as with other possessions that may exist and that which I may currently have in the Republic, since the two of us have contributed equally to the formation and acquisition of the said abodes and the rest of which I have here.
6. I bequeath in equal parts to my bachelor brothers David and Alexander Thompson and my spinster sisters Minnie and Esther J. Thompson of Castledawson, County Derry, Ireland, a third of my possessions in this Republic.
7. The remainder of all my possessions in this Republic, having bequeathed half to my brother Hugh Anderson Thompson and a third of the other half to the legatees stipulated in the above clause, I institute and name my only and universal heiress my said mother Mrs. Esther Thompson of Leitrim, Castledawson, County Derry, Ireland.

The purpose is that this will is complied with upon my death, I write and sign it with my hand, in Buenos Aires,  
**11 August 1903**

H. J. Thompson



Another copy of his **WILL**, written in Argentinean/Spanish, was made in **Magherafelt**, Northern Ireland and dated **28 May 1906**. A note inside says “left to be called for by H J Thompson 4 June 1906”. In the back of the 1905 diary it says Henry James left Leitrim 5 June 1906 (to go to Argentina?)

Will says – “That signed below, being in order to make a **journey to Europe**, I make my will, so that death does not take me by surprise without leaving made the arrangements I wish it to contain. These arrangements and declarations that I consider appropriate are the following.

1. I am a bachelor, an adult and am resident in **Partido de Junin** in the province of Buenos Aires.
2. I am a native of Ireland and legitimate son of Mr Hugh Thompson and Mrs. Esther Thompson, here signed.
3. I have no sons or daughters
4. I have an abode (estancia) named “**San Francisco**” in **Partido Nueve de Julio**, and another abode named “**La Libertad**” in **Junin** whose sign is rented, the two abodes in the province of Buenos Aires.
5. My brother Mr **Hugh Anderson** Thompson of Junin has worked with me for some time and although the said abodes appear in my name, he possesses half of them, the same as with other possessions that may exist and that which I may currently have in the Republic, since **the two of us have contributed equally to the formation and acquisition of the said abodes and the rest of which I have here.**
6. I bequeath in equal parts to my bachelor brothers, **David** and **Alexander** Thompson and my spinster sisters **Minnie** and **Esther J** Thompson of Castledawson, County Derry, Ireland, a third of my possessions in the Republic.
7. The remainder of all my possessions in this Republic, having bequeathed half to my said brother Hugh Anderson Thompson and a third of the other half to the legatees stipulated in the above clause, I institute and name as my only and universal heiress my said mother, Mrs. Esther Thompson of Leitrim, Castledawson, Count Derry, Ireland.
8. After the death of my mother, if something remains of the goods/possessions that belong to her, I wish that the remaining party is divided into two equal parts between my nephews and nieces, **H.J.Thompson**, (*Thomas John’s son*) Havelock, New Zealand, **H.J.Thompson**, (*Samuel’s son*) 48 Edge Lane Liverpool, **Henrietta** Kennedy, Bellaghy (*Annie’s daughter*) and **Henrietta** McKay, Ahoghill, Ire (*Agnes’ daughter*) (*left to all named after him!*)



The purpose is that this will is complied with upon my death, I write and sign it with my hand, in Leitrim, Castledawson, County Derry, Ireland, the **28<sup>th</sup> May 1906.**”

*Nothing for siblings Samuel, Charles, Agnes or Annie. He had already given his brother Robert most of the farm.*

**Esther Thompson at her home, Leitrim Villa** PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER



Leitrim Villa in recent years, the yews along the front path have grown.

The yard is clean and attractive here but held farm animals in earlier days.

The farm ran pigs, fowls, milking cows and horses but not sheep.



*Figure 20 Leitrim Villa, The red tiled section is the earliest part of the home built 1745 - the whole is due for demolition and a new home to be built by the new owners from the 2023 sale*

***Esther on the front path and of the two boys either side of the front door - one was her grandson, Hugh, Clare Gulliver's father.***

PHOTOS FROM CLARE GULLIVER'





## SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE DEPARTURE TO NEW ZEALAND



Figure 21 *Leitrim farm - between Castledawson - home of the Thompsons - and Bellaghy Castle - which is the Clifton Station connection between Tom & Kenrick Hill*

It's 1874 and Tom is 18 and about to head off to London – and then aboard the ‘Bebington’ - direct to Napier - and this was no random emigration. On the passenger list Tom along with three other Derry men, James Daley (26) and sister Rosey, Hugh Scullion (30) and Thomas Housoton (25) – the men are listed as to be all employed at Mr. Hill's Clifton Station.

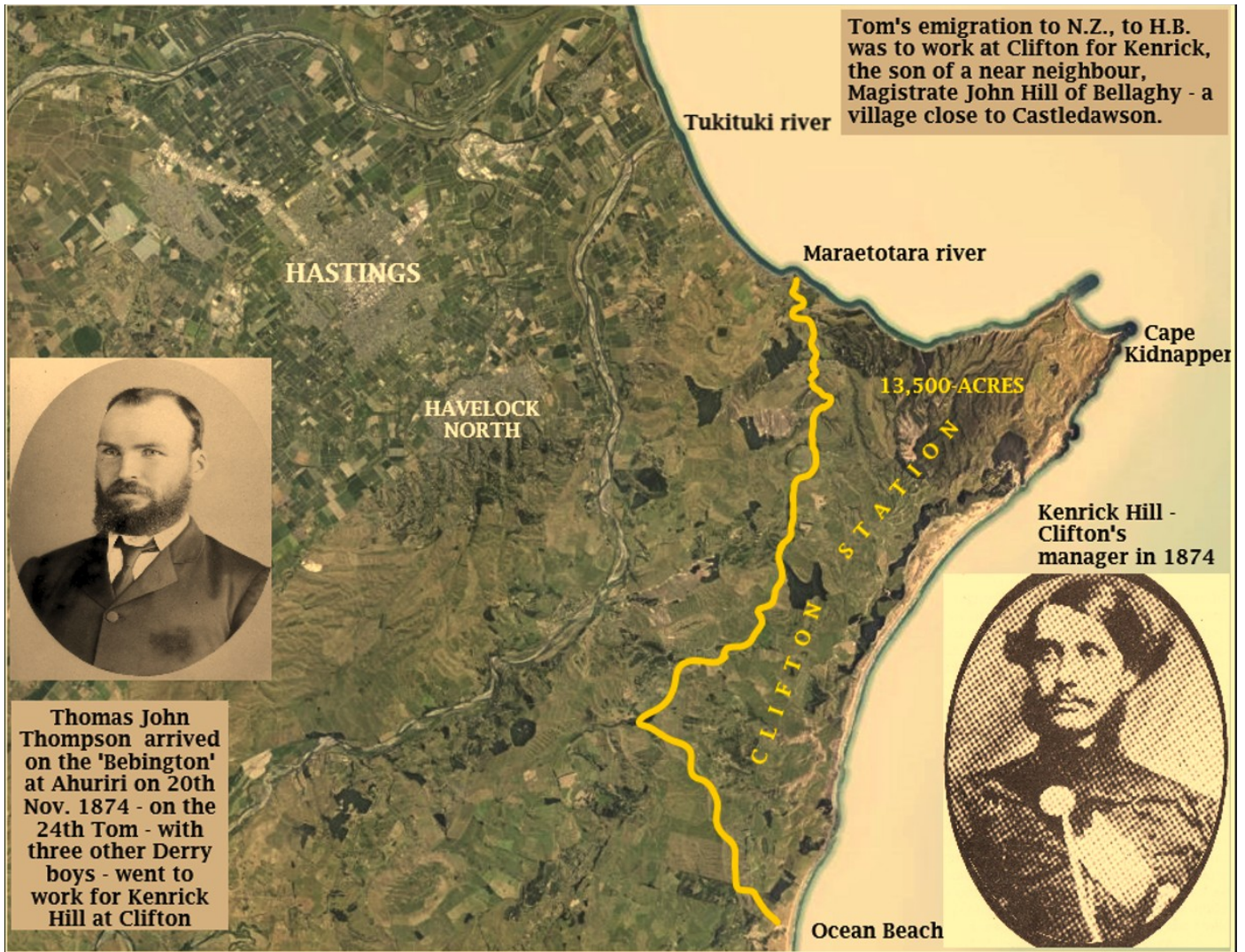
Clifton's manager Kenrick Hill's father, John Hill, was magistrate in Bellaghy and it seems reasonable that Kenrick had asked his father to find some single men as labourers to take advantage of the opportunities available. John Hill's home was Bellaghy Castle that dates from 1619, which correctly should be **Bellaghy Bawn**, a defensive roundhouse and courtyard – the **bawn** being the defensive wall surrounding the courtyard from earlier times - still standing in good order within the house complex today.

Of the four Derry men - Tom was the youngest – at 18 - and we can only wonder at what experience of farming he had from an 18-paddock – near 50-acre farm and then arriving to the gorges, plateaus, coastal sand-dunes and views of Cape Kindnappers.

63	1	Daily James	21	Londonderry	"	Mr Hill	Clifton £52
64	1	Thompson T.J.	18	"	"	"	"
65	1	Scullion Hugh	30	Derry	"	"	"
66	1	Housoton Tho	25	"	"	"	"

Figure 22 *From the Barracks register of the 'Bebington's passenger list - from the MTG collection (Napier)*





**Figure 23 1874 and Thomas John (T.J.) - Tom goes to London, and then aboard the 'Bebington' direct to Napier and then to Clifton Station where Col. Kenrick Hill is manager for Col. Gordon**

For Tom, the 50-acres of Leitrim farm to the 13,500-acres of Clifton had to have been mind-blowing.

According to the family Tom's principal work was fencing – stating he fenced the equivalent of Havelock to Kidnappers on £1 a week.

Col. Kenrick Hill afterwards managed Col. Gordon's 'Fernhill' property - later acquiring it, the two-storied homestead still there at the base of the hill.

In 1885 Thompson & Higgins were to make a speculative purchase of two sections of the 63 section Fern Hill settlement sale that Gordon & Hill put up for sale



## 1876 AND HARRY ARRIVES IN HAWKE'S BAY

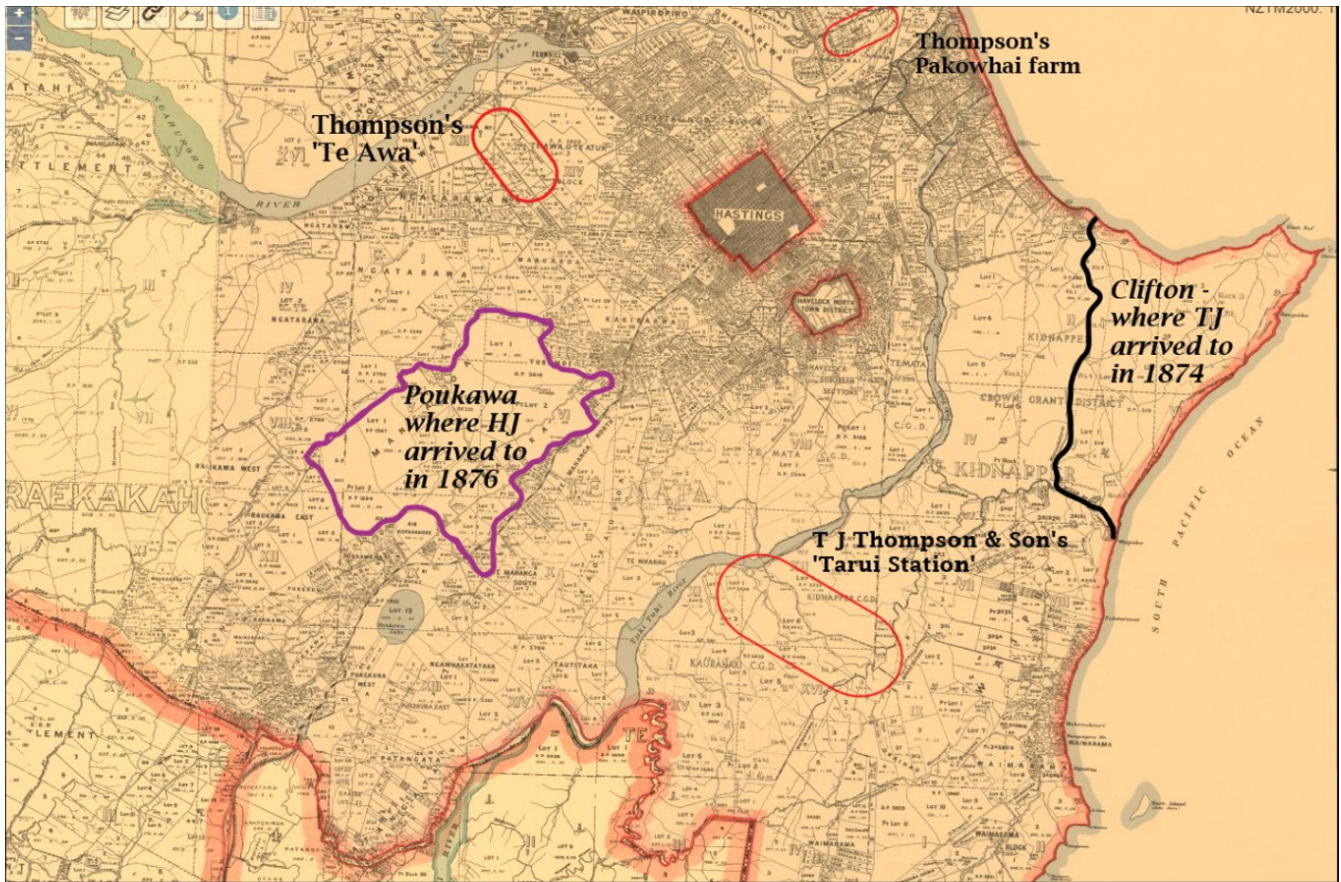


Figure 24 *and two years later - 1876 - brother Harry arrived at Napier - pre-arranged to work on Hugh Campbell's 'Poukawa' station*

Two-years later- in 1876 - Tom is joined by his older brother – Henry James Thompson (Harry).

Tom may have asked Kenrick Hill to find employment for Harry or perhaps Poukawa's Hugh Campbell took note of a recommendation.

So - in 1876 - 23-yr old Harry and another Derry lad who's 20 - are aboard the 'Inverness' both headed to Mr. Campbell at Peke Peka.

As with Tom - from those 50-acres of Leitrim, Harry arrived to 20,000-acres of 'Poukawa Station' - also on £1 per week.

Poukawa stretched from the Poukawa railway station across to the Raukawa Road.

Harry obviously thrived and impressed for...

...by 1879 he was on 'Riverslea' employed by Thomas Tanner as overseer - then as Tanner's manager for the Riverslea Estate – and he'd certainly be on more than £1 a week now.

An Irish farm boy to manager of a five thousand-acre station – how proud his parents reading the letter of how he'd 'made good' !...and by 1880 we learn that he'd employed brother Tom as a fencer.

The fledgling 'town' of Hastings was just 7 years old.



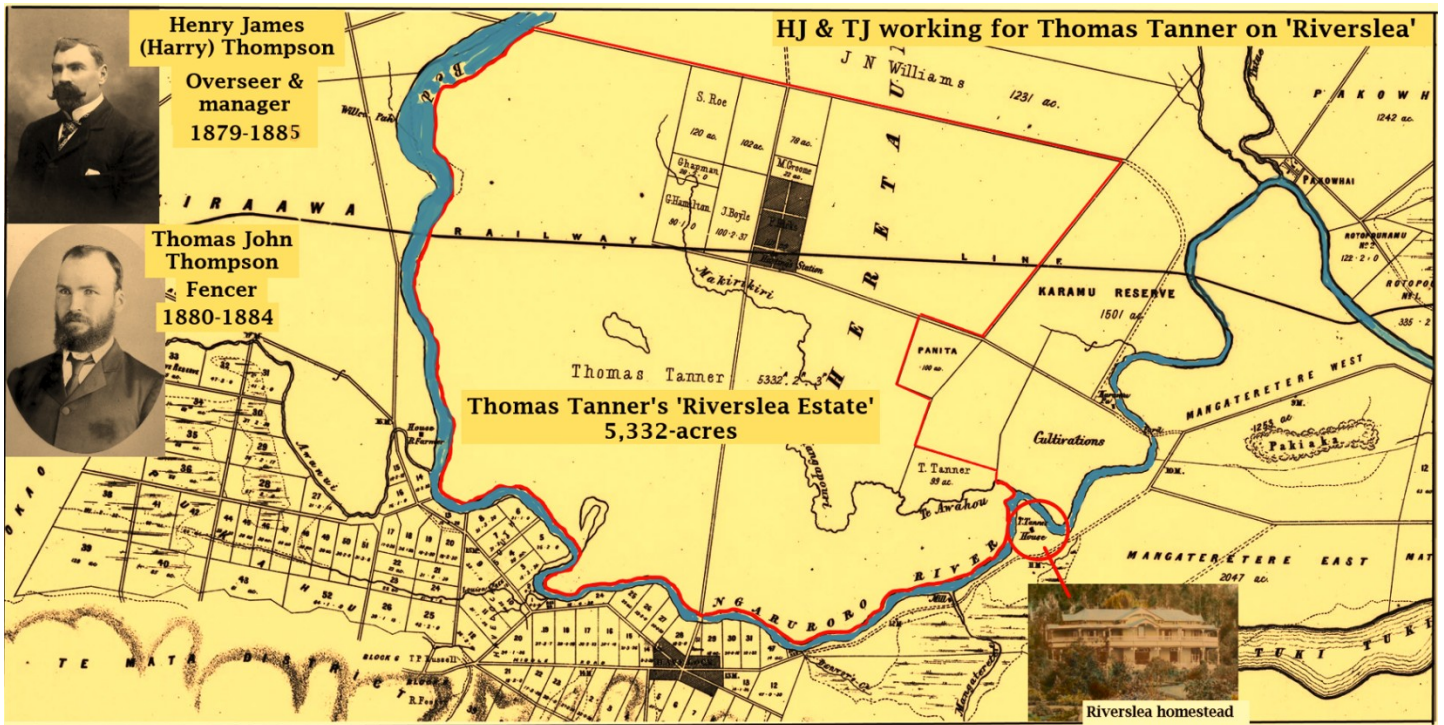



Figure 25 Within 3-years Harry was overseer for Thomas Tanner - and a year later Tom joins the Riverslea staff as a fencer...

**WANTED.**  
**WANTED**, a Steady Young Man as G.oom. Apply to W. A. Beecroft, Hastings 317  
**WANTED** a Cook for Riverslea Station, must be able to bake good bread. None but a steady man need apply to H. Thompson, Overseer, Riverslea Station. 309

H.B. Herald 13 October 1879 p.3

**Lost and Found**  
**FOUND**, on Thursday last, in the Riverslea paddocks, a Black Sheep Dog and a Retriever Slut. Unless these are claimed, and expenses paid, within a week from this date, they will be otherwise disposed of.  
 H. T. THOMPSON,  
 Manager Riverslea Station.  
 April 29th, 1884. 500

H.B. Herald 29 August 1883 p.3

**HEATHER JOCK,**  
 By Lord Glasgow,  
 Out of imported mare Duchess.  
  
 This horse, which was very highly commended 'at the' late Agricultural Show, will run with his mares this season at Riverslea Station. Grass free for six weeks, after which two shillings a week will be charged. Notice will be given to owners when mares are stinted.  
 Terms, £4 4s a mare.  
 H. THOMPSON,  
 Overseer.  
 Riverslea Station.  
 October 13th. 333

H.B. Herald 14 October 1879 p.1

**LOST**  
**THE** Owner of a Black and Black and Tan Sheep Dog found in the Riverslea Flocks can have the same by paying for the sheep that were worried, and for the cost of this advertisement. If not claimed within a fortnight will be shot.  
 H. J. THOMPSON,  
 Manager.  
 Riverslea Station, August 27th, 1883. 770

H.B. Herald 27 October 1883 p.1

**WANTED**, a Rough Carpenter for a Station. Apply, H. J. Thompson; Manager, Riverslea. 597

H.B. Herald 17 August 1882

**FOR SALE.**  
**MR** TANNER having purchased the thoroughbred entire horse "Opawa," he has for sale cheap the well-known hackney entire, "Royal Highlander." Apply  
 H. J. THOMPSON,  
 Manager, Riverslea.  
 469.

H.B. Herald 1 May 1884 p.4

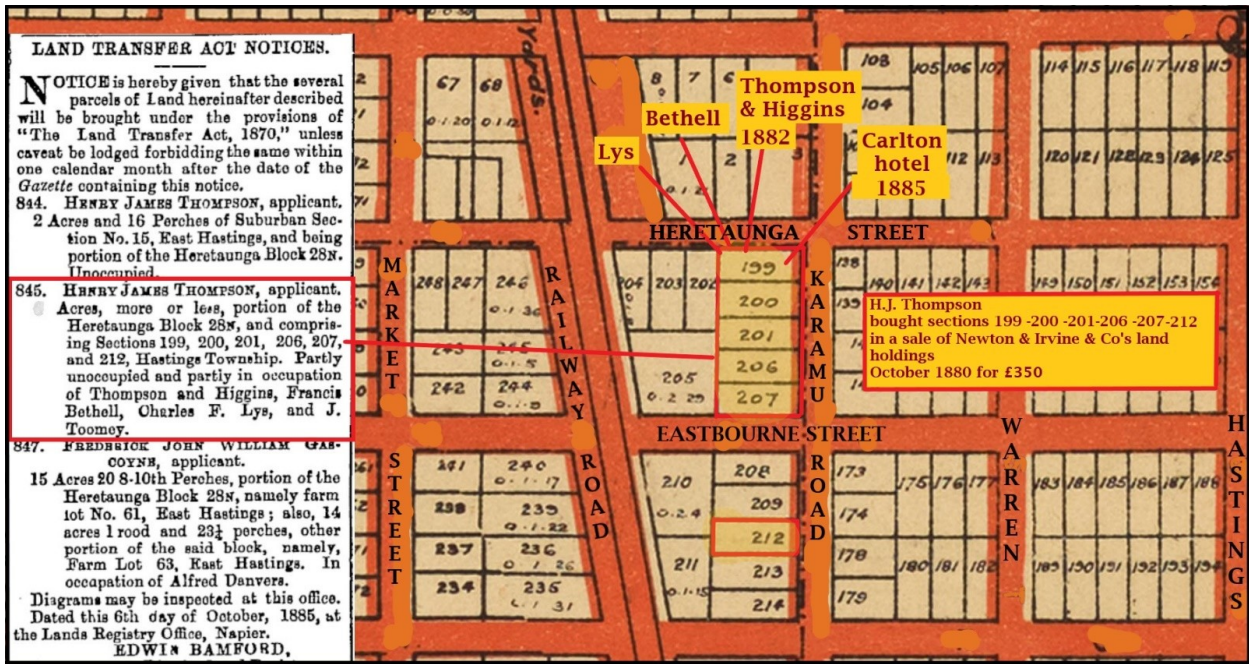


**HARRY'S HASTINGS CENTRAL PURCHASE**

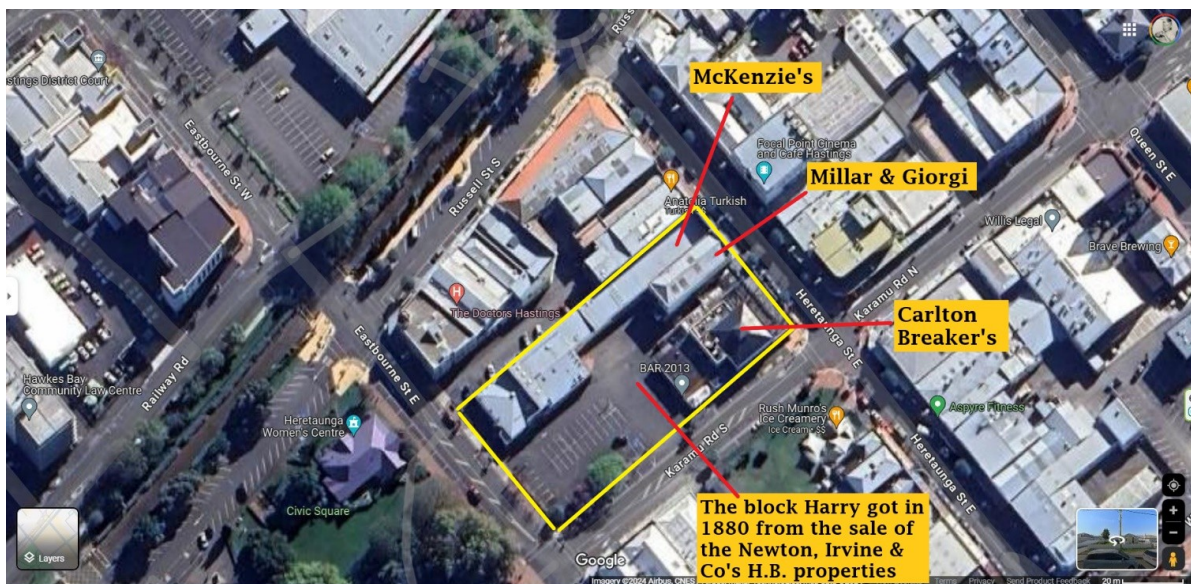
**Harry built the Carlton hotel on the corner and two shop buildings with two shops in each.**

Napier based Newton, Irvine & Co had a financial crunch as their portfolio of Hawke's Bay properties were put up for sale, including Napier, Hastings, Havelock, Waipawa. The list was extensive.

**In the centre of Hastings – 1880 - Harry acquired in the Centrepoint block**



Clipping from HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, OCTOBER 1880, p.2 Town plan was issued by the Hastings Standard in 1911



A more contemporary photo with familiar but older businesses named

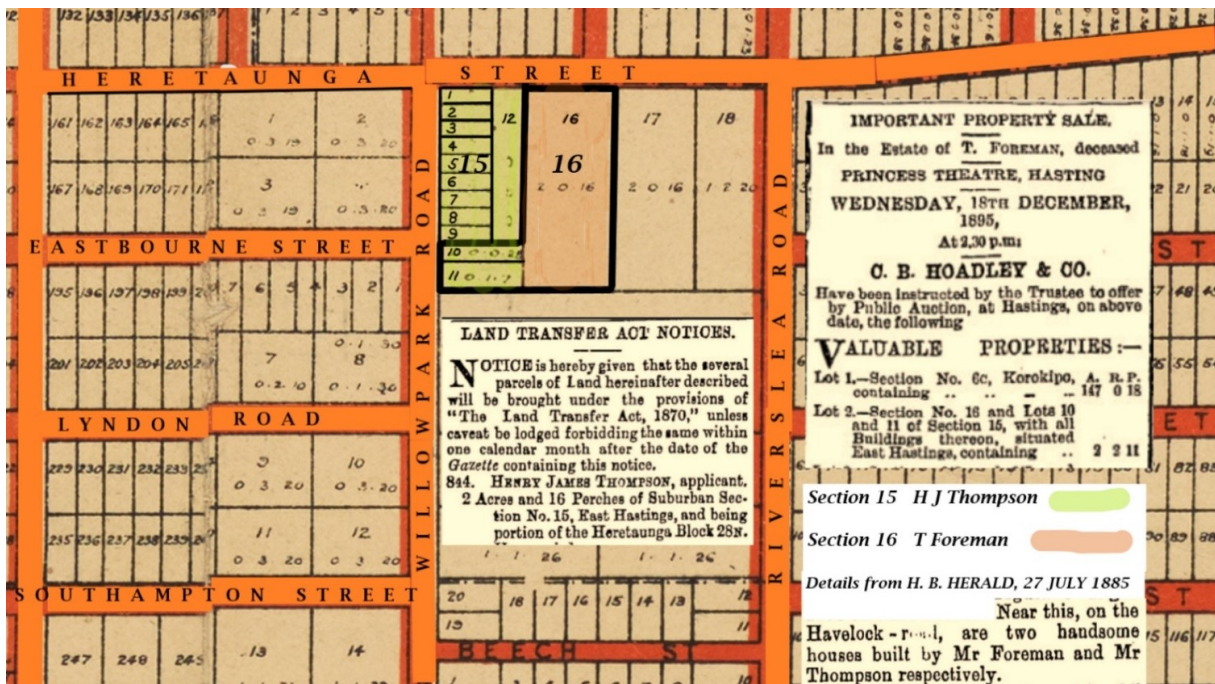


The Thompsons were no spendthrifts, endowed with a strong Presbyterian ethic, work hard and save and invest - no drinking, no gambling. In 1880 the Napier merchant firm of Newton, Irvine & Co liquidated their Hawke's Bay land assets, and included were properties in both Havelock and Hastings. Harry had enough to win at auction a block of five of their sections fronting Karamu Road - being half the Centrepoint Block. By 1885 he'd added Section 212 - in the centre of what's now Civic Square. In later years it was part of Harry's brother Willie's land portfolio - as was the King's Theatre adjacent.

### Where was Harry's home...?

We don't know where he lived but he later purchased Section 15 on the corner of Havelock and Willowpark Roads that he sub-divided into 12 lots selling 10 & 11 to Thomas Foreman of Section 16, and building an 8-room home for himself on 12. Foreman's whole property here later ended up in the hands of Tom TJ Thompson.

Tong & Peryer's 'Crestwood' funeral chapel is built on the front part of Harry's section 12



### Tom - from Fencer to Butcher

**TENDERS** are invited for the Erection of Two Shops at Hastings, each containing six rooms. Plans and specifications to be seen at Beecroft's Hotel.

Tenders to be sent into the undersigned not later than **SATURDAY, 15th inst.**

**H. J. THOMPSON,**

298

**Hastings.**

Two years later in July 1882 - after buying the 'Carlton block' - Harry built two shop buildings on Heretaunga Street, half of one shop was leased in September 1882 to Francis (Frank) Higgins, of a family of butchers of Napier.

Frank was Hastings' third butcher and two months later - in November 1882, as 'F. Higgin & Co.' he opened a butcher shop in Napier - on Hastings Street.

Figure 26 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, 11 JULY 1882, PAGE 3



By May 1883 - and now as 'Thompson & Higgins' – Tom now finished with fencing for Tanner had partnered with Frank and joined the butcher's trade . They bought two sections on Queen Street and built built two cottages - where Countdown's carpark is - and both Napier and Hastings butcher shops were now trading as 'Thompson & Higgins'.

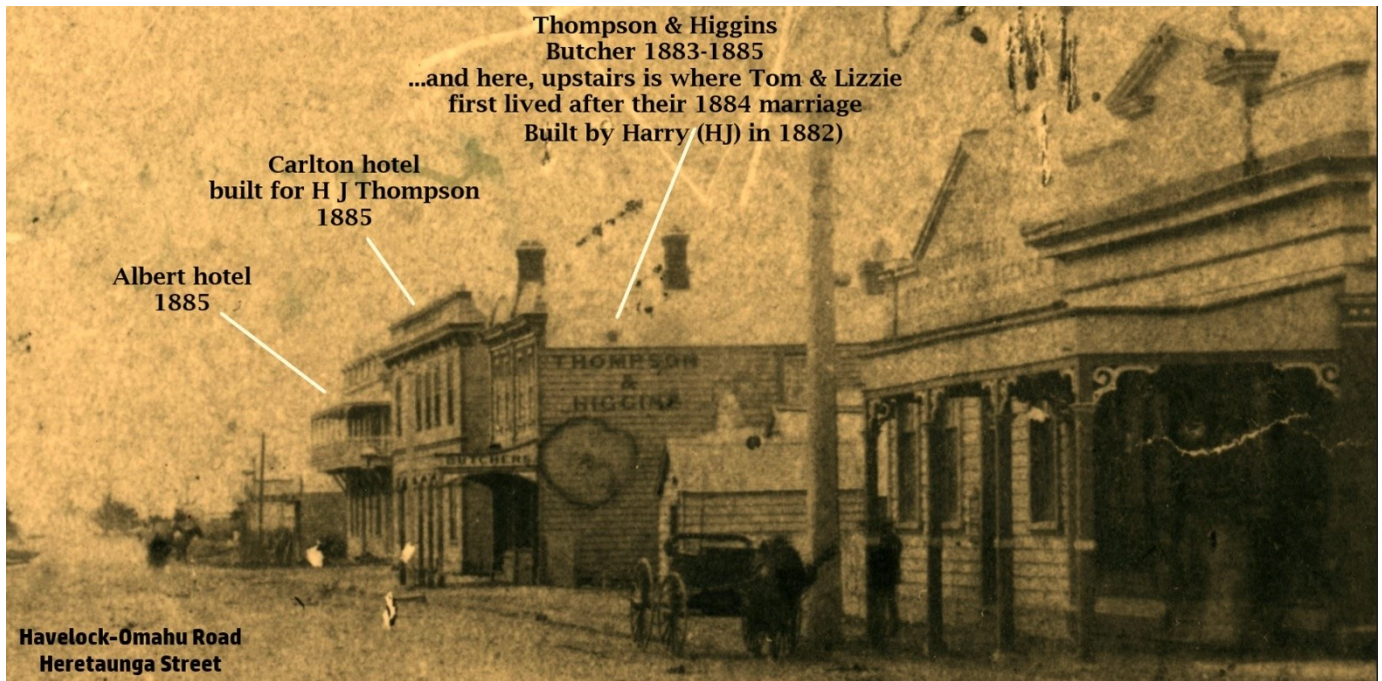


Figure 27 **Tom's brother, Harry, built two sets of shops in 1882 - half of one was leased to butcher Frank Higgins. In 1883 Tom joined Frank in business with butchers' shops in both Napier & Hastings.**

**NOTICE .**

**T**AKE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next meeting of the Hawke's Bay County Council for a **SLAUGHTER-HOUSE** License, the said House to be erected on Section 13 on Riverslea Estate.

**FRANK HIGGINS,**

Figure 28 *DAILY TELEGRAPH, 16 SEPTEMBER 1882, PAGE 3*

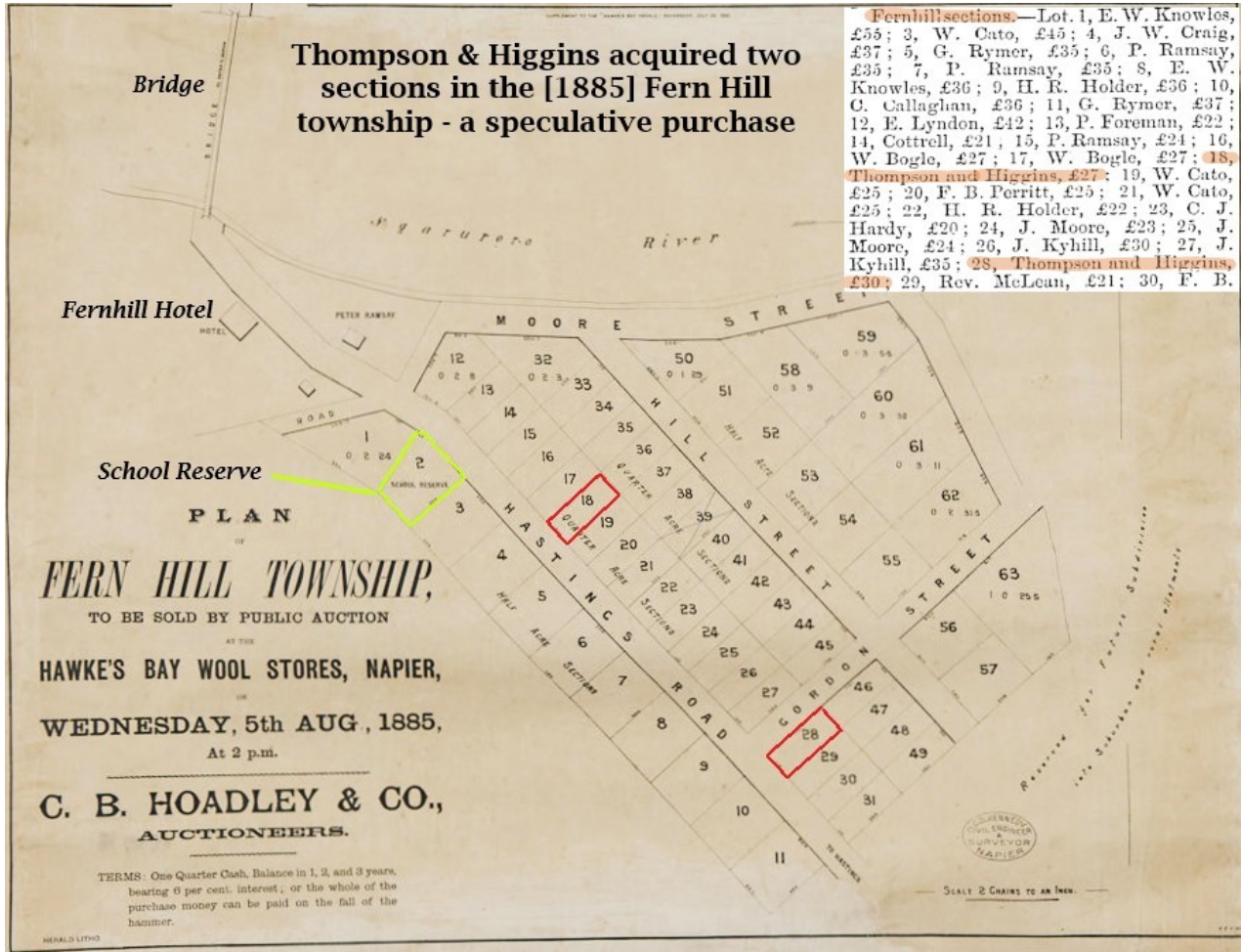
In 1882 Frank Higgins established a slaughterhouse somewhere on Riverslea but, in 1883 with Tom they purchased the 5-acres on Te Aute Road – what was called South Havelock, near to Pukahu, halfway along the straight heading to Scott's strawberry farm. *See the diagram on page 7*

## **HARRY'S SHOPS – HOME TO TWO BUSINESSES THAT MOVED FROM HAVELOCK**

In the photo above there was an adjacent but separate shop building of Harry's on the railway of the butcher shop that was leased by Frank Bethel who'd shifted his 1877 Havelock saddle maker's business. Another Havelock business that also shifted into one of Harry's shops, Arthur Lys, a tailor - Havelock was responding to the presence of the railway in Hastings and the changing growth opportunities.

**FERNHILL**

In August 1885 the partners caught the train to Napier and made a speculative investment – buying two sections in the surveyed but improbable Fern Hill township. Tom’s previous employer at Clifton, Col Kenrick Hill and Col. Gordon who owned Clifton were in partnership on the Fern Hill block – the western end of the original Heretaunga Block.



Plan of Fern Hill township - from the MTG Ref : 74113

**FERN HILL ESTATE**  
**HASTINGS.**  
**WEDNESDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 1885.**  
**C. B. HOADLEY AND CO.**  
 Have been instructed by Messrs Gordon and Hill to offer on above date, at the Hawke's Bay Wool Stores, Napier, 20 Acres of their Fern Hill Property, subdivided into about  
**63 QUARTER, HALF-ACRE, AND ACRE SECTIONS.**  
 The richness of the soil, beauty and convenience of situation, besides the demand for business and residential sites in this locality, justifies the Auctioneers in stating that this affords an exceptional opportunity to people with small means of acquiring an improving FREEHOLD, as it is the intention of the vendors to cut up their surrounding property into Suburban and Rural Sections at a future date.  
 A Coach is intended to be run daily between Napier and the Fern Hill Hotel.  
 Terms—One-quarter cash, balance in 1, 2, and 3 years at 6 per cent.  
 Plans are being prepared.  
**C. B. HOADLEY & CO.,**  
 Auctioneers.

Gordon Street (Road) still exists and Hill Road marked on the plan is now the short Fernhill Place. Hill Road now close by off Omaha Road towards Hastings.

Moore street disappeared under the 1930s stopbank. To understand how improbable the layout was, the school reserve marked on the plan is between the old store against the hill and the turn off to the old Fernhill Hotel.

**TRAGEDY IN THE PARTNERSHIP**

Just less than one-month later – on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1885 – Frank died - he was just 27-years old. Tom was 30 at the time, recently married and with first child, daughter Mary – and Lizzie about to give birth to Hugh 18-days later.

There must have been some deep trepidations, the plans the two young men had made now torn asunder.



## HENRY JAMES (HARRY) THOMPSON AFTER RIVERSLEA

The Carlton Hotel that has just been erected at Hastings to the order of Mr H. J. Thompson, and which has been leased by Mr H. J. Baker, was opened yesterday, and may be said to mark another stride in the progress of that wonderfully growing township. The house, of which Mr T. R. Cooper was architect, has been admirably designed to meet a branch of the trade that is rapidly developing itself with the increasing population. Commodious as the building is it will, probably, ere long prove none too large, and with such contingency in view, the arrangement of the windows and passages permit any amount of extension of the house. While abundant accommodation has been provided for ordinary trade purposes, especial care has been taken to secure the comfort and privacy of boarders, and no money has been spared in the appointments and furnishing of the house. All the rooms are lofty, well lighted and ventilated, and though some of the apartments are still in the hands of the carpenters there is sufficient evidence in those that are finished to show that the Carlton will be second to none amongst the hotels of Hawke's Bay. The contractors are Messrs Grigg and McColl, who have now established themselves in business at Hastings as builders. With the exception of the doors, the whole of the wood work required in the building was turned out of their steam factory which includes the latest machinery for sash making, planing, mortic-ing, &c.

Figure 29 DAILY TELEGRAPH, 10 NOVEMBER 1885, PAGE 2

" THE LICENSING ACT, 1881."  
 LICENSING DISTRICT OF HASTINGS  
 NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A  
 PUBLICAN'S LICENSE.

**I, HENRY JAMES THOMPSON**, of Hastings, do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain, and will at the next Licensing Meeting to be holden at Hastings, on the Third day of June, 1885, apply for a certificate authorising the issue of a Publican's License for a house, situate at Hastings, in Havelock Road, and known by the name (or sign) of the Carlton Hotel, containing Thirty-six Rooms, exclusive of those required for the use of the family.

Dated the Eleventh day of May, 1885.  
 H. J. THOMPSON.

HOUSEHOLDERS' CERTIFICATE.

**WE**, the undersigned Ten Household-ers, residing in the immediate neighbor-hood of the above-mentioned house, do hereby certify that the above HENRY JAMES THOMPSON is a person of good fame and reputation, and fit and proper to have granted to him a Publican's License.

Witness our hands this Eleventh day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five.

John Collinge	B. J. Knight
Charles Apperley	John Hunt
Arthur T. Haultain	R. J. Thayer
Alfred Taylor	E. Metherell
Thos. J. Thompson	Samuel Thos. Tong

Figure 30 DAILY TELEGRAPH, 10 NOVEMBER 1885, PAGE 2

In 1880 Harry had purchased the block of sections on Karamu/Heretaunga corner. He erected the two shop buildings - shops with livnig accommodation upstairs in 1882 -

In 1885 he built the Carlton hotel - designed by T R Cooper -the contractors 'Grigg & McColl'. He obviously didn't intend to run it himself, leasing it out to Baker - hence he likely saw it as an speculative investment.

March 1885 was the last time there'd been mention of Harry as Riverslea manager - Thomas Tanner was in some financial diffculties and had already begun selling off large portions of Riverslea. Whether Harry intended then to head to Argentina we don't know but he first embarked on some building projects in Hastings - the Carlton was his largest.

But, so soon after - in 1886 Harry headed to Argentina to manage an estancia for some years, later to purchase three estanica - cattle ranches - in Escheverria - an area to the south-east of Buenos Aires - his principal one in 1901 being Estancia La Libertad.

In 1905 his estancia and home was San Jacinto. The others he had were the smaller - Estancia La Britannia and Estancia Julia A Boca.

## THE CARLTON [1885] WITH THOMPSON & HIGGINS BUTCHER SHOP [1882] TO RIGHT

The Carlton was Hastings fourth hotel.



Figure 31 Harry's Carlton hotel of 1885 - Burton Bros photo mid 1890s Te Papa Ref : C.013176

## HARRY IN ARGENTINA

Within five years of his arrival in Argentina Harry was managing a large estancia using the most advanced NZ farming model of ring fencing and sub-dividing, and made headline news here under "New Zealand's Rival" – Harry being the very first to do successful live shipments of sheep from the River Plate to Liverpool grossing £2/3/- a head.

His third planned shipment was to be 146 bullocks and 1800 sheep. He ploughed several thousand acres a year, growing lucerne and was running 5 sheep to the acre. An article appeared in both the Hastings and other NZ newspapers.





## A HAWKE'S BAY RESIDENT IN BUENOS AYRES.

*Hawke's Bay Herald, Volume XXII, Issue 7695, 18 March 1887, Page 3*

**Mr. H. J. Thompson**, well-known in Hawke's Bay as a **former manager of Mr. Tanner's Riverslea station, some time ago left for the River Plate** and from an interesting letter written to Mr. Tanner we cull the following remarks, giving Mr. Thompson's impressions of the country —

"I spent a fortnight in Buenos Ayres, the chief city, and had a good look round the town and its surroundings. It is a large place, with about 410,000 inhabitants, and to all appearance is busy, although I cannot say anything in favor of its harbor accommodation or its sanitary arrangements, which are both very bad indeed. Yet it has many advantages over New Zealand towns, owing to the enormous extent of country it has at its back, besides which the whole business of the Argentine Republic, political and commercial, is transacted in it.

Spanish is the only language spoken. Wool sales are held here every day of the week throughout the season, the chief buyers being Germans, who send their purchases home to Germany. I am told very little of the wool reaches the London market. It is also surprising what an enormous quantity of skins come into the market daily by railway, including sheepskins, horse's and horned cattle. All appear to meet with ready sale at good prices, considering that most (except the horses) come from animals which have died from starvation.

In speaking of land here I may say that for quantity and quality I don't think it can be beat in any part of the world. But unfortunately— (or, rather, fortunately for New Zealand and Australasia) — it is in the hands of people who do nothing to improve it, or even try to make it produce anything like what it could do were it only treated like the New Zealand lands. If it were under English rule, and settled by Englishmen, it would soon send Home so much good beef and mutton that New Zealand and Australia would have no show. I have been out in the country a distance of 200 miles by railway, and in the whole journey I have not yet seen anything like a field.

All along the line the country is as level as the Hastings plains, and having from one to two feet of black soil on top, with a clay and sandy-looking subsoil. Not a stone is to be seen anywhere in this distance, nor for a long distance beyond. I am told that in some places it is very wet in winter time, but I saw nowhere any attempt at systematic drainage. Along the road for sixty miles out of the city there are to be seen growing beautiful crops of all kinds, English flax included, and harvesting is just commencing.

After this all the country is stocked with cattle, sheep, and horses. Cattle are noticed in thousands all along the line, and I might say all through the country, living on a natural grass resembling our goose-grass very much, only the longer it is stocked the finer it gets and becomes more suitable for sheep, which I am told do not thrive on new country, owing to the coarseness of the feed. Neither clover nor rye-grass is to be seen, nor do the people seem to know anything about sowing new grasses.

When they get crops off' the land they just leave it until the native grass grows up. The thistles, too, are noticeable in vast quantities where the country has been stocked for any length of time. They are not like the New Zealand thistle, but grow very much higher. I have seen some ten feet high. This thistle is soft, and they say makes good feed for cattle, besides affording shelter, which is badly wanted, as it is only here and there any attempt is made at tree-planting, willows and poplars being then chiefly grown.

About sheep-farming. You will be surprised to learn how things are managed here, for example, on the estate where I am staying, they have a league and a half of land with a ring fence round it, just to keep the stock from

mixing with the neighbors and all the run is open to everything, with the exception of four small enclosures round the house, which are used as a garden and for growing a little lucerne for the animals which are stabled. They have about 30,000 sheep, 800 head of cattle, and 300 horses. The sheep are all running in flocks of 1600 to 2000, each with a man doing nothing but looking after them. Consequently, there are eighteen men to 30,000 sheep. Each man owns a third of his stock, and gets a third of all the profits, after paying thirds of the expenses of shearing, dipping, foot-rotting, &c. (They have to buy the sheep when taking a flock). At various points round the fence I have mentioned there are huts with a few trees planted round them and a large yard enclosed where the sheep are shut in every night about sundown, and kept there until the dew goes off the grass in the morning. Sometimes the small flocks get mixed, and then there is some work, for they have nothing in the way of drafting yards, and all the earmarks ever seen are on them. It is a common thing for these camping yards to be in use for perhaps twenty years, and it is only when the manure gets so high that the sheep can walk over the yards that they are removed to a new piece of ground. They say this is a splendid preventive of foot-rot, and a nice warm place for the sheep to lie on instead of the wet ground at night, which would be very dangerous to them. All sexes and conditions run together—ewes, lambs, rams, and wethers. There are two lambings annually—in August and March—but when I asked them what was their increase they told me that owing to the bad seasons lately it had taken them all their time to hold their own, and when I asked how much they expected to make off their flocks annually the reply was that if they got a good season they might make from £60 to £80, but if the reverse they were satisfied to clear expenses, and I quite believe it, as I think on the whole this is the most rotten system of sheep-farming ever invented. Then, again, they have not got the class of sheep that would answer the country, as they are all merinos with few exceptions, and the most noticeable features in them are scab and foot-rot. This is not to be wondered at when you see their way of treating sheep, as they never think of treating for foot-rot until it gets so bad that it takes them all their time to get out of the yard in the mornings. Dipping is also carried out in a most amusing fashion. They have a yard in front of the dip that will hold about 250 sheep, and when this is filled I have seen as many as five men catching the sheep by the legs and throwing them into the dip just as if they were cats, and it is a usual thing to see about twenty men employed about the dip, where six or seven would be employed in New Zealand and do as much work. But labor is very cheap here—but is about the only thing that is cheap, most things, especially in the drapery line, being about twice as dear as in New Zealand.

Shearing is also very different. The sheep are tied for the shearers, and all the wool is tied in fleeces and very seldom pressed before going to market. As to the class of sheep, that would answer here, I believe the Lincoln twice crossed with the merino would do best. I am told a few people have got Lincolns, and are breeding in this way successfully, but out of all the sheep I have seen there are only about 1600, Lincolns and crossbreeds together in one flock, and they looked very well indeed for carcass, but I can't say anything about the wool. They are, however, quite free from foot-rot, and compared most favorably with 50,000 miserable merinos in the same place.

It is only within the last few years that they have been paying any attention to breeding, and as long as they got an animal at all they were satisfied; they cared only about quantity, not quality. Still, I must confess that I have seen a few animals here as good as ever I saw in New Zealand.

On this station they have one of the grandest Shorthorn bulls I have ever seen of his age, but he arrived from England only four months ago. There can be no doubt about this being the country in the future for good stock, and the people are just beginning to go in for improvement. I saw a sale of thoroughbred horses numbering 23 colts and fillies, all two-year-olds, sold at an average of £345 each. They were by the celebrated horse Phoenix, and I must say a very grand lot indeed.



Imported stock are arriving here in large numbers, and all appear to sell at good prices considering the class of animals, for some, especially Lincoln sheep, are very inferior. They are well-grown and larger than the few Zealand sheep of their age, but for wool there is neither quality nor quantity, but the people don't seem to care about that. I have seen a great many sold, but I have never yet seen a buyer turn any one of them up to look at what they are like underneath. They generally fetch from £12 to £40. The same sheep would not be looked at for stud purposes in Hawke's Bay, and I believe there is a grand opening for a good class of Lincolns here.

Land here is very cheap, although the people say it has gone up to a wonderfully high price lately. But I was at a sale a few days ago when there were about 5000 acres sold for 15s an acre in English money. I may say that land is all sold here by the league or square. I know of five leagues of very good land, but about 300 miles from Buenos Ayres, to be sold for 5,000 dollars, the dollar being worth about 3s 2d in English money. I met Hayward (of Messrs Tomlinson and Hayward) here the day after I landed. He is doing a grand business with his dip. He also one of the largest importers of Lincoln sheep. He had 40 ewes landed last week, and I think he had most of them placed before they arrived."

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### **In 1893 the H.B. Herald told of Harry's pioneering of the live sheep trade from Argentina to England.**

#### **NEW ZEALAND'S RIVAL.**

A paragraph went the rounds recently to the effect that a shipment of live fat sheep from the River Plate had been landed in Liverpool in prime condition, and had grossed £2 3s per head. It will interest people in Hawke's Bay (says the local H B Herald) to know that the pioneer in this trade was Mr. Thompson (formerly manager of Mr. Tanner's Riverslea estate.) He is manager of a large run in Argentina, which he is conducting on the most advanced New Zealand model. He has had the whole property fenced and sub-divided, a rarity there, and ploughs several thousand acres every year, growing immense quantities of lucerne — or alfaalfa, as it is called in South America. With the aid of this he manages to carry above five sheep to the acre. The flock is now practically a longwool one, and the best frozen mutton from the Argentine has been shipped from the estate. There is also a fine herd of cattle on the property.

Writing to his brother [Tom] in Napier, Mr. Thompson expresses the opinion that the live sheep trade from the Argentine will prove a formidable competitor with the New Zealand frozen meat trade. He was so satisfied with the result of his first shipment that just before he dispatched his last letter he sent another consignment to Liverpool, consisting of 50 fat bullocks and 602 wethers, or "capones," as the Spaniards call them. He mentions that there were six men in charge of the shipment, and the fodder taken consisted of 60 tons lucerne hay, 10 tons maize, and 10 tons bran. He says — "The passage generally takes from 28 to 30 days, and if the stock are well attended to on board they generally improve in condition. I intend sending another consignment next month by the same steamer I took stock on last year. She will carry 146 bullocks and 800 and 1000 sheep. Horses I may send a few, but they are not so sure a business as the fat stock."

These shipments, we should state, were on Mr. Thompson's private account. He bought the sheep, and after paying all expenses they cost him 25s per head, so he netted a profit of 18s per head on the first consignment. He thinks of taking up 5000 or 6000 acres of laud there.

Fig. 32: "In affectionate memory of Hugh Thompson born 1817 died 14th June 1901. Erected by his son H J Thompson of Estancia, La Libertad, Echeverria"

It can, he says, be bought for 10s to £1 an acre, fine fertile country ready for the plough, and water obtainable everywhere at from four to 20ft from the surface, though on low lying land it is somewhat salt.

The picture drawn by Mr. Thompson is an enticing one. But he says nothing about revolutions, taxation, and other matters which may mar the prospect



Fig. 33: "In the Castledawson Presbyterian church Harry arranged for the church's first stained glass window that may have been installed when the church was restored in 1903.

"IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY OF HUGH THOMPSON BORN 1817 DIED 14th JUNE 1901. Erected by his son H J Thompson of Estancia, La Libertad, Echeverria"



**ELIZABETH AITKEN DEMPSTER**

Figure 34 *It's not their wedding photo but it is the happy couple. Tom & Lizzie Thompson's*

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Aitken Dempster and her sister Margaret - arrived in Napier from Belfast, in May 1883 to their aunt and uncle's – Mary & Robert Black. Mary - née Reid - was their mother's sister

Lizzie born in Ireland to John Dempster and Jane Reid on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1863. John Dempster married Jane Reid on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1860 in Ballymena Presbyterian Church, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

She was one of four sisters and one brother – all born in Ballymena.

Her sister, Margaret (Maggie) Dempster married Robert Sowersby and their eventual home was a 2-acre section in Hastings on the railway side corner of Caroline Road and Frederick Street – the original home moved a little to square it to Frederick Street - with a remnant of the extensive tree planting still there.



Their siblings were Minnie McIlvean of Ireland; Rebecca who went to the USA; and brother John.

Elizabeth and Margaret arrived in Auckland aboard the “Rangitiki” on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1883 down on the passenger list as Lizzie and Maggie. They disembarked and continued the journey aboard the “Manapouri” – a ship that appears to have a regular round route, Melbourne – Auckland – Gisborne - Napier –Wellington - South Island ports - Melbourne

They arrived in Napier on 28<sup>th</sup> May. And were met by their aunt Mary Black (née Reid), whose parents were James Reid and Eliza McDowell.

The “Rangitiki” formally “Scimitar” was a New Zealand Shipping Company “fast sailor” of 1225 tons as depicted in the 1975 23c stamp.

She sailed from Plymouth, England on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1883 and an account is in “White Wings” Vol 1 pages 255-256. Depart 31<sup>st</sup> January - arrive 18<sup>th</sup> May – that's a long time at sea without a stop.

*Elizabeth's diary of her eventful voyage follows...[Courtesy of Clare Gulliver]*

## IMMIGRANTS FOR HAWKE'S BAY

The following are the immigrants per ship Rangitiki for Hawke's Bay:—

Married Couples.—Jonathan and Margaret Begg and three children, William and Marian Compton and three children, and Lawrence and Mary Kenny and one child.

Single Men.—George Aldridge, John Begley, William H. and George A. Compton, James Curran, Thomas Daly, Thomas H. Dawe, Matthew Dinan, Charles R. Dine, Daniel Guerin, Thomas Hall, Robert Hanna, Bernard Heeney, Frances Heeney, Thomas Hickie, Jens K. Jensen, Francis Juge Michael Lyons, James McCarthy, William McGowen, John McKnight, John McNamara, Timothy O'Connor, **Hugh Reid**, Maurice Roche, Jeremiah Ryan, Jabez Taylor.

Single Women.—Amelia Bell, Isabella Boswell, Edith A., and Ellen V. Cole, Caroline E. Compton, Mary, Bridget, and Johanna Conway, Elizabeth Davies, **Lizzie and Maggie Dempster**, Bridget Dinan, Annie S. Dine, Mary, Martha, Maggie, Betta, and Emily Dixon, Sarah A. Farrer, Margaret Foran, Elizabeth and Johanna Forde, Fanny Goddard, Hannah Guerin, Mary and Annie Hall, Kate Hambury, Bridget and Mary Hartmeady, Rose Heeney, Margaret Herst, Ellen, Kate, Elizabeth Teresa, Kenny, Margaret and Mary McCarthy, Bridget Monahan, Mary A. Murphy, Julia Conden, Mary Peart, Catherine Phair, Helena Philson, Eliza Roche, Bridget and Ellen Ryan, Ellen and Mary Ryan, Ellen Sullivan, Henrietta Taylor, Elizabeth Tyne, Alice Walsh, Bridget Walsh, Laura Jensen, Mary Carey, Ellen and Sarah Harvey, Nora O'Donnell, Kate McMahon.

Most of the Rangitiki's single passengers were intended for service.

The following clippings were all published in the Bay of Plenty Times - each in a column headed NAPIER

There is now sufficient evidence of the fact that single girls are in great demand, and out of 129 brought by the Westmeath, the whole of the Auckland passengers have already found engagements. Many of the single girls who came out by the ship Rangitiki, were also engaged while that vessel was lying in the stream.

Figure 35 Bay of Plenty Times, Napier 19 May 1883, Page 2

There is a scarcity of domestic servants. Immigrants by the Rangitiki and Westmeath will all find immediate employment.

**Bay of Plenty Times, 19 May 1883, Page 2**

All the immigrants by the Westmeath and Rangitiki found employment within 10 hours. Domestic servants got from 10s to 15s a week.

Figure 37 Bay of Plenty Times, Napier 31 May 1883, Page 2.

Despite the list of immigrants for Hawke's Bay being so extensive, there was considerable attrition while in Auckland and jobs were obviously found there for a number of those intended for Napier, as the number arriving at Napier on the 'Manapouri' was less than on the list original passenger list.

Lizzie and Maggie were fortunate upon their arrival in Auckland as the girls destined for Hawke's Bay had to remain aboard the 'Rangitiki' out in the stream until the arrival of the 'Manapouri' from Melbourne. But, they had a fellow passenger destined for Auckland in their mess and in the company of her and her brother, Mr. Hamilton, they were able to come ashore and spend a couple of days seeing the town and staying with them at his home.

The single men and women were separated throughout the voyage for obvious reasons, which meant in Maggie's diary we only learn of their uncle, Hugh Reid, upon their arrival at the Black's in Napier.



[ELIZABETH'S DIARY IS FROM CLARE GULLIVER]

**Diary of Elizabeth Aitkin Dempster**

On board the "Rangitiki" 25<sup>th</sup> January 1883

"We left Plymouth this morning at 9.00am by a small steamer that brought us to the ship that was anchored about 3 miles from Plymouth Harbour. We (*over 200 immigrants*) were all in good health and were to sail the day following. Was prevented by the weather until Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup>. Bad weather and wind against us. While in Bay of Biscay had a storm. All very sick. I never felt the love of Jesus as sweet. When we thought we were going to the bottom on Thursday night I was able to sing – "*safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on his gentle breast. There by his love overshadowed, sweetly my soul shall rest*". Vowed if spared to live entirely for the Lord.

**FEBRUARY**

3<sup>rd</sup> February. Passed through a lot of wreckage which proved one hour later on sighting a raft, with 2 men on it. They proved to be Chinamen – the only survivors from the steamer "*Kinmure Castle*" bound from London to China. One of them speaks English. Says the steamer foundered at 10 o'clock the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. She had on board 30 sailors all Chinamen, 10 passengers, the Capt. Officers only being Englishmen. When these men were rescued they were on the poop deck which had been torn away from the steamer by the sea. The night was very cold with heavy squalls.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> rescued the Capt. and crew of the schooner "*Maria Agathe of Carnarvon*", bound for Laguyara, laden with donumite (*dolomite perhaps*). She had lost her masts, sails, also her boats. She was half full of water and the crew could not stand to work her pumps. The captain thought the best thing to do was leave her. We accordingly took them off. No doubt she sank that night as it blew hard and rained a heavy sea – resolved by God's help to do all the good I can – as long as ever I can. At all the times I can. In all the ways I can. As long as ever I can.

4<sup>th</sup> February. We are nearly all better. Service was held on deck, conducted by the Doctor. The manner of worship is strange to us. The prayers are all read. The usual Episcopal Church Service gone through.

Sick from the 8<sup>th</sup> until 12<sup>th</sup>. Such a stormy night as we had last night. One of the sails was torn to threads. The ship flew about everywhere. Some of the girls got up and dressed themselves. Today is very rough, was only on deck for an hour when on came waves, dashing over the deck and down the stairs.

14<sup>th</sup> February. Yesterday was delightful – so warm and calm.

15<sup>th</sup>. Rough again but dry. Wind still against us. We were very much disappointed. We all wrote letters home and expected to get them posted by a steamer, which was passing and would not stop. Our captain put up the flag of distress and they answered him by these words "no accommodation for passengers". Today we are only going 4 miles an hour. Towards evening the wind changed in our favour and we are going 8 knots. The ship did not rock today. The sea was as calm as a lake.

20<sup>th</sup>. Today and yesterday's weather all that could be desired. We opened the school and had about 60 scholars yesterday. Went 10 miles an hour today. 260 miles in 24 hours. Passed Cape St Vincent yesterday and Madeira between 7 and 8 this morning between 50 or 60 miles off.

**MARCH**

2<sup>nd</sup> March. Weather very fine and warm. Wind in our favour. We had a fine concert on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>. All enjoyed it very much. Saw a mackerel fish caught by a young man on board. I am reading Sir H Havelock's life. Enjoying it very much.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>. Met a ship – the “*James Nesbett*” – from London for San Francisco. Spoke to her. She asked for a doctor. Dr Erson/Earson/Carson went out in a life boat and found one of her crew suffering from a broken arm. It happened when in the Bay of Biscay. The J.N. started 5 days before us. The Dr. cut off his arm from the shoulder. The young man was never heard to complain. He murmured “Thank God” when he lost his arm. Thy will be done.

5<sup>th</sup>. Weather very hot. So warm that we could go naked. I wear nothing today but my dress and boots. We are still in the North Atlantic. We have school one hour and half on the poop deck in the morning and one hour downstairs in the afternoon. Time passes very quickly. Have pretty fair health. During service yesterday saw a large shark going about the vessel. Today we saw two small ones. The sailors cast out a line to catch them. They took off the bait and managed to escape.

6<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday weather very warm. Wind a little in our favour. Very sick after taking a bath

7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. Forenoon showers. Evening fine – singing on deck until 9 o'clock. Very bad headache.

9<sup>th</sup>. Very warm and fine. A great many of the girls fainting. Maggie in good health. A deal stronger myself today. Watched the fishes yesterday. Saw about 1,000 all after each other. Watched the small fish pass by the vessel, when it gets dark they seem like stars in the sky. The scenery is grand. Reading Billie Bride's life which is very good and instructive. My earnest prayer is that I may be as earnest as he in my Master's work. “*Put thou thy trust in God, in duty's path go on. Fix on His word thy steadfast eye shall thy work be done*”.

? Weather getting cooler. It was so warm and I was so busy I have wrote none since 9<sup>th</sup>. Passed the line about half past 11 o'clock pm Saturday. Very warm – a great many fainting cases. Maggie and I have kept up very well. The water is quite smooth and the ship moves along very nicely, very little wind.

14<sup>th</sup>. - very warm, especially at night. I had to get up and sit on the stairs for air last night. Were 120 miles of the Brazillo coast going 5 knots an hour.

14<sup>th</sup> (??). - very warm. Had a splendid concert tonight.

17<sup>th</sup>. St Patrick's Day, which was observed by us all. The Irish all wore green, the English red, white and blue, Germans black, white and blue and the Scotch their colours. We have some Danish. I wore no colour but wished for a shamrock.

18<sup>th</sup>. Saw a steamer. Weather very hot and some good showers.

19<sup>th</sup>. Captain caught a shark. How he did jerk and struggle and what fun we had. 3 suckers came up with it. The girls screamed and made such a noise while the fish was being caught. During the fuss one girl went into hysterics and is seriously ill since. I have spent some very happy hours alone (and not alone) in the Matron's closet. God has said “I will never leave thee, not forsake you”.

23<sup>rd</sup> (*March Good Friday*). Today we had service. This afternoon brothers and sisters are allowed to meet for a few hours and I embrace the opportunity of writing those few lines downstairs. Oh, how I long for a letter from home. How it would cheer me on my way. I may say that I don't think nor feel so lonely as I did. I am up at six these mornings and if I have washing to do I get it done. If not, I get up on deck. We get a gallon of



drinking water at 7.00am. After that our bread for the day and the boiling water for tea and porridge, and on account of me being captain, I have to attend for all these and then we have breakfast. After that comes the cleaning up. The girls take it in turn – two each day. The floor is to be scraped and brushed. Then it is rubbed with sand by a great flat stone which makes it quite dry. We get the scholars gathered and by then it is school-time. School is over at twelve o'clock. I have an hour on deck during which I crochet or sew or read etc. then comes dinner, which I have to go for and divide and see that the place is cleaned. School starts again for one hour on deck until 5 o'clock. Then get the water for tea, make the tea etc. and spend the remainder of the daylight by reading and prayer, so you see how my days are spent. I have just finished reading "Numbers" last night, besides all the religious books I can get. We have moonlight from about seven o'clock. I would feel inclined to be reading or busy in some way; but the Captain said we would destroy our eye-sight and therefore we enjoy ourselves by playing like little children, some dance, others skip and swing and some gather themselves into little knots and sing songs and others hymns. We are all in very good health and trying to be happy. *"Though absent in body I'm with you in prayer. I'll meet you in Heaven. There'll be no parting there"*.

24<sup>th</sup>. Weather moderate, sea very calm. The beauties of the sea words of mine could not half describe, especially in the evening. The sky is lovely. We were told by the Captain that in no part of the world is the sky so beautiful. Looking on every side of us we can see 25 miles across the water. One would fancy that the sky and water met. The clouds in some places seem like beautiful masses of snow, pure white, while all about them is pale blue. The moon is full and clear and the stars are twinkling. We saw a comet, Orion's Band and the Seven sisters that are mentioned in Scripture, also the Evening Star. The Captain explained them to us. Mag and I stand and watch them for hours.

25<sup>th</sup>. Weather is changed. No rain, going ten knots an hour. A few Christian friends and I held a meeting of our own in the bathroom for quietness. God has promised *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name there I am in their midst"*. We felt so much happier after. Friends are allowed to meet after dinner. Uncle Hugh has not come up to see us yet.

26<sup>th</sup>. What a dull Easter Monday. The memories of the past are so pleasant. Just to think we were all together then. Well, I do hope we shall all spend another Easter Monday on earth together. *If not may we all meet in heaven. We know that all things work together for good to those that love God. Oh, I feel what he has done for me more and more. How he suffered on the Tree. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not his mouth. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed.*

27<sup>th</sup>. Bitterly cold. Sea very high. Very stormy. No school today. Last night was very stormy. We never slept a bit. The tins and forms kept falling and some of the girls screaming, others laughing. There was lightening and hail showers. The hailstones were about ten times the size of the largest Irish ones and they fell so fast. The ship rocks greatly sometime – you would think it would never rise off its side. There are a great many of the girls sea-sick. Mag is sick. I am pretty well – thank God – able to see after the food.

31<sup>st</sup>. Very rough and cold. Ship rocking very much – odd showers. The sea is like mountains all around. I am very sick today. School on Friday in the afternoon. Good wind, going ten and half knots an hour.

## APRIL

1<sup>st</sup> April. We had some April Fools. Weather very nice, fair wind and not too cold. Rough towards the evening. We are still in the South Atlantic. Agnes Hamilton, Annie Graham and I had a lovely little prayer meeting in the bathroom by ourselves. We truly felt the power of prayer and could say it was good for us to be there. Doctor

Erson played some tunes on the harmonium. We all joined in singing and spent a very pleasant evening. Friends are not allowed to meet on account of some quarrelling. I enjoyed myself reading "The Pilgrim's Progress". When we lost light Mary Anne Murphy and I promenaded the deck for exercise.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Favourable wind 10 knots an hour. Sea calm, a heavy rain shower about one o'clock. Boat rocks a little. School today twice.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Calm. Weather fine. Wind against us. Tuesday night be-calmed.

4<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday. Weather colder, wind a little in our favour going 6 to 8 knots an hour.

5<sup>th</sup>. Very cold. Very heavy sea towards evening. Wind very favourable. Going 12 knots an hour, continued all night.

6<sup>th</sup>. Friday – bitterly cold, favourable wind 10 knots an hour. Rain showers during night.

7<sup>th</sup>. Saturday. Ship rocking greatly – forms, tins and water cans falling and spilling all about the floor. It is beautiful to sit and watch the large waves one dashing over another and to see the ship cutting her way through them. I have said nothing about the colour of the water. It changes often; sometimes it is almost black, at other a beautiful bright blue. In the bright sun shine it looks peacock blue and in rough weather as the one large wave dashes into and over the other forming masses of white froth, you would think the water was bottle green. One would never get tired watching it. While we were watching it, the ship bounds over a wave just like a mountain and you are thrown from one side of the ship to the other. We were afraid at first but now it is amusement for us. Mag and I sleep together and on rough nights we roll over each other and are rocked as if in a cradle.

Sunday – weather fine but cold. Ship rocking greatly, going along nicely. Service on deck. Not able to attend. Bedfast yesterday and today. There is a little porthole (window) opposite my bed and I can sit and watch the waves playing as it were with each other.

From 4<sup>th</sup> April to the 14<sup>th</sup>. Bedfast this week – not very sick but suffering from a sea-boil on my knee – such pain I never suffered. My leg was all inflamed with it. The Doctor said I had a touch of erysipelas – thank God it is quite better now. The weather was very rough and there was no school. Mag was seasick one day. I never thought more about those I left behind. Felt quite homesick, but tried to say "Thy will be done". *"My God my Father, while I stray far from my home, on life's rough way, Oh teach me from my heart to say "Thy will be done, Thy will be done"*.

15<sup>th</sup> April. Sunday very cold. Good wind. Muster on deck. Service downstairs, in the single women's compartments. No single men allowed to attend service today. Weather pretty rough. This week school every day – morning and evening. Good wind – went eighteen hundred miles in 7 days. Friday night dreadfully rough, very high sea. Mary Anne Murphy and I watched the waves dashing against the porthole and over the poop deck and it got stormier after we went to bed. The young men were locked down and three tanks of water spilt in the store and came oozing in by the side of the ship. The young men were very much frightened. They thought we were all going to the bottom and the married people were quite as bad – some of them crying. We did not feel it so much. No doubt we were frightened as the tins, dinner cans and gallons of water spilled over the floor and the noise of the forms falling. The waves fell on the middle deck like a ton weight. We are all looking forward to reaching New Zealand in two more weeks. There is plenty of seaweed and birds to be seen. The birds are very large, at least some of them. In the Indian Ocean we saw Muttonbirds, Albatross, Cape Pigeons, Cape Hens, Stormy Petrels or Mother Carey's Chickens. It is very pleasant to watch the birds flying



over the face of the sea. The Matron gives each table a dress, one pair of stockings, one chemise and one apron supplied by the company. To be given as presents to the best conducted girls at the end of the journey.

22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> –cold. Going along fairly nicely. School every day. No service on Sunday. Dr Erson is on the sick list, himself, by taking so much care of his patients he has overworked himself, leaving us very lonely. He has all our prayers for his health. There are a few cases in the hospital. Mrs. Barnes – typhoid fever. Annie Smyth – hysteria. Teresa Kenny – accident on back. Isey Boswell – internal inflammation. Annie Sanderson – sea sickness. James Chapman – scarlet fever. Mary Robinson – anaemia. There have been two births – one boy and girl. Mothers – one married and one unmarried woman. The unmarried girl is only 17 years old. She was taken into hospital before her confinement and she is kept in the married people’ quarters. Her mother and three sisters are there. They are going to their brothers in Auckland.

There are on board 336 left England, 2 Chinamen, six off the schooner – making 344. Single women 140, single men 60, crew 40, married people and children 104.

25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Weather very wet, not so cold and good wind. Doctor better and tells us we shall be off Australian coast tomorrow. In very good health. Mag is very well. She keeps up on deck very much and says she never had better health which is a great comfort to me as well as herself. There are only five of us from the North of Ireland. We are very great friends – namely Catherine Mulvenna (Belfast), Aggie Hamilton (Larne), Rose Henea (Belfast), Mag and I. Miss Mulvenna is principal teacher and I am assistant.

28<sup>th</sup>. Weather very rough. Doctor is much worse. His illness has turned to typhoid fever. We miss him very much. He was so pleasant coming down amongst us. Mag is seasick for the past three days. The ship rocks so that there is a great many of the girls ill. One never knows the minute they will be thrown from the one side of the ship to the other. One girl was sitting with her back against the side of the ship. The ship heaved and she was thrown across the floor getting her arm almost broken, her back hurt and she is in a faint. Another girl today was coming off the poop deck when a wave came over and knocked her down, cutting her face badly. When getting my stores, I often get knocks and falls which gives the girls a good laugh to see me getting up again. I am quite well. Was washing today, baking and getting the stores. The days seem very long of passing and the nights are so long. The boat always rocks more at night. Last night we never got one bit of sleep. Some of the girls got up and dressed themselves, thinking we would be called to prepare for the lifeboats. I often wonder to myself if ever I shall forget these days. Just to go up to the hatchway and look around at the raging sea. Nothing but God’s sparing mercy keeps us safe.

*“Come let us to the Lord our God, with contrite hearts return.  
Our God is gracious nor will leave the desolate to mourn.  
His voice commands the tempest forth and stills the stormy wave.  
And though His arm be strong to smite, ‘tis also strong to save.”*

29<sup>th</sup>. Sunday Very cold. Sea high and rough. Going along fairly. No service. Doctor much worse. His heart is affected, also his lungs and chest. He was greatly troubled about his soul. Had lost all hope of getting better. Bid goodbye to all around him and made his will. He has left his wife at home in the Asylum and his three children and widow mother in Dublin. His mother is a true Christian woman, praying for her son, who is now 28 years of age. He has given himself to the Lord and is quite resigned to die. He is in a fair way of getting better. Supposed to be out of danger and is able to say it is good for me I was afflicted.

**MAY**

2 May. Weather just like a summer's day at home on the water. We have a very bad wind going about 4 knots an hour. We are all very well. Doctor continuing to keep better. He will not be able to leave his berth for two weeks. We miss him very much. He was so gentle and kind and in our sickness he encouraged us to keep up. We have a little meeting for prayer every evening for the Doctor's recovery. *"God has his mysteries of grace. Ways that we cannot tell and He hides them deep like the secret sleep of Him He loved so well."*

Scale of dietary for each passenger per week

Preserved meat	1 ¼ lb
Salt beef	1lb
Biscuits	14ozs
Flour	5 ¾ lbs
Rice	14ozs
Oatmeal	14ozs
Peas	½ pint
Sugar –raw	1lb
Tea	1lb ½ oz
Coffee –roasted	2ozs
Butter	9ozs
Molasses (West Indian)	½ lb
Water	3 quarts
(and an additional 1 quart going through tropics exclusive of what is necessary for cooking)	
Raisins	8ozs
Suet	6ozs
Pickles	¼ pint
Mustard	½ oz
Pepper	½ oz
Salt	2ozs
Potatoes - fresh	3lbs
or preserved	¾ lb
Water	21 quarts
Lime juice (while in Tropics)	6ozs
Carrots	8oz
Onions	3ozs

7<sup>th</sup> May. Head wind still against us sending us South instead of North. Weather is very stormy and some rain showers. Mag is seasick. We have no school and we are busy sewing. We got at our boxes to get what we required for landing. Our boxes are put together in a store and the sailors bring them up by pulleys and carry them to the poop deck and when we have done, they are taken down again. We have got them three times. I need not tell you the commotion as it causes. I will try to give you a picture. All are very sad, some crying. Some of them are crying over their young friend's photos. Some crying over their kind parents that they have left behind, never to see again. Others of the pleasures of the past. All are more or less imprest. The first time we got our boxes our clothes seemed half rotten. The Captain said it was because we got rain at Plymouth. We hung them out to dry and this time they are lovely and dry. There are no fishes to be seen now and very few



birds. Time seems very long passing. Days short, nights long and no twilight. Doctor very ill – no hope for him. I shall copy one of his letters.

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“My dear Bell.

I have heard that Miss Jackson and you prayed for me aloud. I write while strength is left to thank you all from my heart. I am now, thank God, resigned to His will for assuredly it is not better to be safe in the arms of Jesus away from corroding care, should it be God’s will to take me to Himself. Oh, let this be a warning to you of the uncertainty of life, ever to have your lamps ready, for no man knoweth the hour He cometh. Ever devote the best years of your life, the years of your strength to His service. Then when God calls you hence, you will answer “Speak Lord for thy servant heareth” - and He will say – “Well done good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord”. My only regret is that I did not serve him more faithfully and should my illness be unto death, I shall not count my life lost in vain should some soul be brought to the feet of Jesus. God bless you all. Ever prays your Doctor. Capt Bill.”

You will rejoice to know that the Doctor’s letter roused this young lady Amelia Bell to think of her soul. I talked to her privately about her eternal welfare. Prayed with and for her. Picked out suitable texts for her to meditate upon and she is now, thank God, rejoicing in her newly found and loving Saviour. She has to stand a great deal of abuse from the girls. Of course the Devil is at work and they call her “converted Jane” etc. She says this is part of her education and rejoices in having something to bear for The Master. Oh such a time. The Holy Spirit seems to be working with a great many.

11<sup>th</sup> May. Head wind still against us. Weather very rough. Some are getting impatient. We are going back instead of forward.

12<sup>th</sup>. Wind very much in our favour going at a rate of 12 knots an hour. Everyone seems brighter and happier and healthier.

13<sup>th</sup>. Wind continuing in our favour. Doctor much better. No service. I was ill. The girls sang for the Doctor. We gather on the poop deck over the Doctor’s room and sing his favourite hymns every evening.

14<sup>th</sup>. Wind in our favour and we are so busy cleaning and scrubbing for landing. I must quit for it is getting dark. We have glass lamps all strapped with tin to keep them from breaking when they fall. There is a man attends to them and lights them. We burn candles, they last for 5 hours. They are made to order. Very short and thick and in the long evenings we have smaller ones that burn for 3 hours. The lamps are hung up so that all have light. We hope to soon land and have the pleasure of reading your expected letters. Another letter from the Dr. to our Matron.

“Dear Miss Mantle. When the girls and yourself have been so constant in your enquiries and have given me the greatest of all earthly gifts, namely your prayers, I rejoice to take this opportunity to tell you that your prayers have been heard and that God in His infinite goodness has prolonged my life. With kind regards. Yours faithfully. E J Earson”

“When I pencilled the few lines yesterday to Bell, I almost, as it were, tasted death. Right lung completely blocked up, of the left lung only the upper half admitted air. Whilst the heart was so enlarged that it pained across to the right side of the body. I was quickly passing away when at mid-day air once more broke though the barrier in the right lung and I felt at once that God had heard the prayers offered on my behalf that I should

live and not die. Of course, I suffer a good deal and will endure more but I am unspeakably grateful for this illness. The lesson it has taught me and the comfort it has given my soul, were all have been so kind. I dare not offer individual thanks but pray accept, one and all, my gratitude. E. J. Earson”.

18<sup>th</sup> May. The long looked for time has arrived at last. Our good ship “*Rangitiki*” is safe in Auckland harbour. The weather is lovely and the scenery is very picturesque.

This week has seemed like a month.

On Sunday evening we saw a lighthouse at some distance. The joy that the one spark of light brought to our faint hearts words could not describe.

Monday. Weather fine. We were looking very anxiously for land. Towards evening we saw a very large rock. The land first appeared like mountains all around. The captain looking through a telescope could see it.

On Tuesday we passed some islands and some huge rocks such as we never imagined in this world. There is no mountain in Ireland half so high as some of them.

Wednesday – land about seven miles off. Oh, the joy that was as towards evening we got quite close to it. There are some splendid buildings to be seen for miles all around. Later on we anchored. Most of the girls danced the night through.

On Thursday we were tugged close to the harbour. We cannot get into the harbour for the Westmeath Steamer that just arrived before us.

23<sup>rd</sup> May. We have been through the city of Auckland and consider it a beautiful place. There are some very large buildings but a great many of the houses are wooden. They do not look old. They are painted drab. The people are more homely looking than the ones in Plymouth. The natives are like blacks with their faces painted. All the girls have gone off the ship but the Napier ones. We are kept here until Thursday. This waiting makes our journey very tedious as we have to wait and see friends coming for friends. There are some young men coming for their intended wives. To watch them meeting, two hearts beating as one is very amusing. We should have thought the time much longer and it not been for Mr Hamilton – brother to one of the girls in my mess who took us to some beautiful meetings and we spent two days at his house with his sister. Weather very warm. Today rain very heavy.

28<sup>th</sup>. We have got to our journey’s end. Left Auckland on Friday by the ‘*Manapouri*’ steamer bound for Napier. We arrived Napier on Sunday morning by eight o’clock. Uncle and Aunt (*Mary Black*) met us. We took a cab and drove to Hastings Street – found our [two cousins Elizabeth and Jeanie] in good health and all very happy to meet us. I was very ill yesterday and had to remain in bed. Better today. Uncle has kept me going today about old times. Maggie and Hugh are quite well and we all feel quite at home. I believe I have told you all.

You will think me babyish when I tell you that the sight of Aunt’s face made me give way to a flood of tears. She is so like Mother and met us in the same way as Mother would have done. All the past seemed to stare me in the face and I felt properly homesick.”

Arrived Napier 28<sup>th</sup> May 1883.

Started work 5<sup>th</sup> June

Left Napier for Hastings 13<sup>th</sup> July



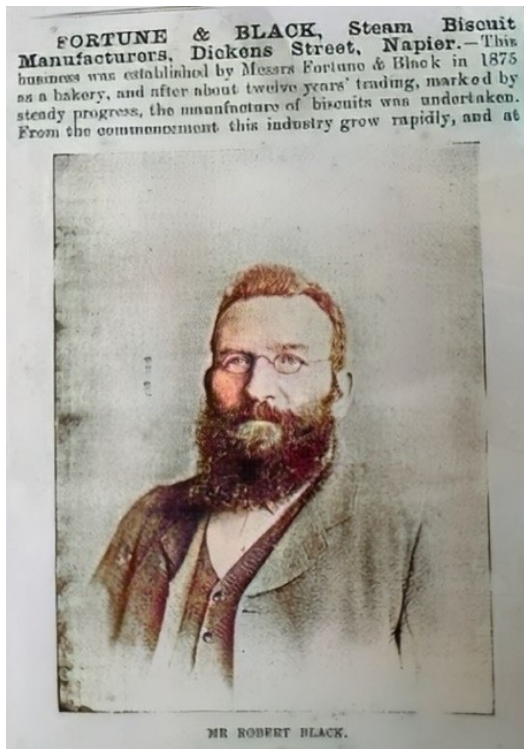
Started work 15<sup>th</sup> July with Mrs. Fitzroy.

August – joined Sabbath School Hastings.

2<sup>nd</sup> October – joined Good Templars today

14<sup>th</sup> October – became member of Havelock Church” – end of diary.

## Lizzie and Maggie’s arrival in Napier to their Aunt Mary’s



There wasn't just those two related aboard the Rangitiki – there were three.

For obvious reasons the single men and women were kept strictly separated throughout the voyage and in the single men's section was a Hugh Reid. Lizzie mentions at the end of her diary how both “Maggie and Hugh are quite well...”

Lizzie wrote on 25<sup>th</sup> March “Uncle Hugh hasn't come up to see us yet.” It's only on his death we learn death Hugh had worked as a baker for their Uncle Robert of 'Fortune & Black' and later for James Alexander – James was husband to Jeanie, the oldest of Mary & Robert Black's two daughters who survived to adulthood. The sister's Uncle Hugh was just a year older than Lizzie.

Robert Black was a partner in Fortune & Black – Steam Biscuit manufacturers of Hastings St, Napier. He'd been in Napier since 1875. He was married to Lizzie & Maggie's aunty, Mary (née Reid) – their mother's sister. They had four daughters but only two survived one died in 1865 before they left Antrim - and the last born in 1880 in Napier had died at just on 9-months old.

Maggie's cousin Jeanie married James Alexander in 1885, a baker who worked for her father and took over the bakery after Robert's death – their home was in Carlyle Street

Cousin Elizabeth married Fred Adams in 1892, a carpenter – and their home was Neave's Road, Taradale.

Lizzie was 2-years older than Elizabeth and after her 1884 marriage to Tom and their move to Napier – it meant she had the support and encouragement of her aunt and Jeanie as she set about raising her family.

There'd have to be little doubt that her and Maggie's Napier destination would have been influenced by having established close family here already.

By the time Tom & Lizzie and family left Napier for Havelock, Jeanie had had seven of her nine, and Elizabeth two of her eventual seven.

To fill the vacancy in the Borough Council caused by the resignation of Mr T. Sidey, Mr Robert Black was the only candidate nominated, and was consequently declared duly elected. For the seat in the North Ward a contest will take place for a successor to Mr J. Younghusband, Messrs R. G. Graham and H. C. Robjohns, junior, being nominated. The election will be held on Thursday, 11th inst.

*Daily Telegraph (Napier), 3 May 1893, Page 3.*

Messrs R. Black and H. C. Robjohns, the newly elected members of the Corporation, took their seats last night, when His Worship the Mayor welcomed back Councillor Robjohns to the Council, and congratulated Councillor Black on having a walk-over for the vacancy in his ward.

*Daily Telegraph (Napier), 18 May 1893, Page 2.*

**NOTICES**

**NAPIER and District Master Bakers' Association.**—The funeral of the late **MR R. BLACK** will take place at 3 o'clock **THIS AFTERNOON.** All members of above Association are invited to attend.—A. M. ROBERTSON, Hon. Sec. 963

### Death of 'Uncle Hugh Reid'

An old Napier resident in the person of Mr. Hugh Reid, who was for many years in the employ of Messrs Fortune and Black, bakers, and afterwards of Mr. James Alexander, baker, died in Wellington on Tuesday. Some years ago the deceased removed to Wellington, where he had for a number of years carried on business as a general carrier. He was held in the highest respect and esteem by all who knew him. He leaves a widow and small family, who will have the sympathy of a large number of friends with them in their bereavement.

*Hawke's Bay Tribune, 26 July 1923 p.4*

## NAPIER STEAM BISCUIT FACTORY

TO STOREKEEPERS AND THE  
PUBLIC.

**O**WING to the increase in our Biscuit Trade, the undersigned have erected one of the Bailey Bakers' Patent Continuous Heating Ovens. This gives us a great advantage, as we can turn our Goods out more expeditiously and of a superior quality. The public will find it to their own advantage to patronise local industry, as our Patent Oven and Biscuit Machine are the only ones in Napier or Hawke's Bay. In these days, when Protection is the rage, we should do a thriving business, as our Goods are always sent out fresh, and they run no chance of being broken by transhipment. For price or quality we can compete with any Biscuit Manufacturer in the colony.

As for our Bread and Confectionary Trade, it requires no puff from us, for we think the public are the best judges. We are the oldest established firm of Bakers in Napier, and if our Bread and Small Goods had not given satisfaction, we must have gone ere this "with the majority."

All kinds of Biscuits, fresh, can be had at the Shops at Wholesale and Retail Prices.

**CABIN BREAD A SPECIALTY.**

All Orders Sent Away With Despatch.

## FORTUNE & BLACK STEAM

BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS  
HASTINGS AND DICKENS-STREET,  
NAPIER. 501



James Reid  
1820-



Eliza McDowell  
1820-



Sarah JANE Reid  
1840-1899



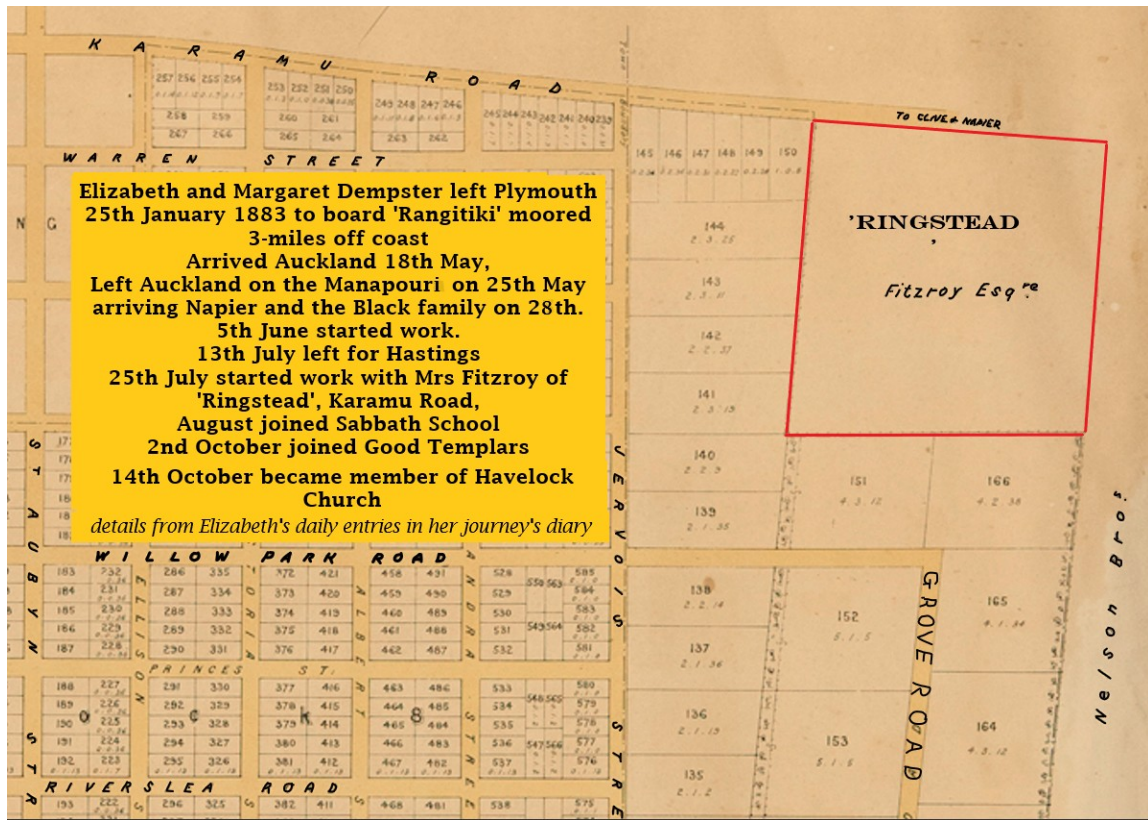
Mary Reid  
1845-1901



Hugh Reid  
1862-



## LIZZIE MOVES TO HASTINGS



Within a few weeks Lizzie was employed in Hastings for Mrs FitzRoy, wife of Cecil Augustus FitzRoy – of 'Ringstead' on Karamu Road - a 20-acre (approx.) property either side of where Grove Road meets Karamu Road today. 'Ringstead' was cut into 27 properties in 1910

*When the FitzRois retired from Hastings, they built on Duart Estate section - at the top left of FitzRoy Road (Busby Hill) also naming their new home 'Ringstead' – and still there today.*

She'd moved to Hastings but an intriguing entry in Lizzie's diary of her journey to NZ - the very last entry - is of her joining a church in Havelock in October 1883.

Lizzie's adherence was Presbyterian so it was the Havelock Presbyterian church in Middle Road – the Presbyterians in Havelock didn't use the name St Columba's until the new church of 1894 was built between Te Mata and Napier Roads on the site of the Havelock hotel. The Hastings Presbyterian church was opened that year but she likely had made a contact who attended at Havelock.



[The following is from Val Swailes' notes.]

"Lizzie was about 5 feet tall with brown eyes, black hair and well-built. In later years her long hair was plaited and placed over her ears (like ear-warmers). At her wedding she had an 18ins waist. Her hair, even when she died, was very dark with a small sprinkling of gray. She was a prolific letter-writer and kept in touch with her family and read the newspapers from cover to cover. Her favourite colours were violet and in later years gold too. She was an original member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Hastings, the Sunday School Superintendent, collector of funds, visitor and office bearer in every ladies' organisation. She played croquet.

Summer holidays were spent at the cottage at Clive Grange, Haumoana. She loved having the sea wash over her and had great faith in the curative value of sea-water. She was to go to the United States of America with daughter Ivy to see her sister but sadly the earthquake of 1931 killed Ivy.

The family presented to old St Andrews Hastings a dedicated memorial to William Phillips Thompson, a vase to Ivy Thompson and a foyer to Mrs H .J. Thompson. That church was demolished for the new one in 1979."

Hastings had only just got its own Presbyterian church – St Andrew's – in February 1883 - and Tom and Willie were among the founders. As to why Lizzie joined out in Havelock and not in Hastings perhaps there was an established connection with a ride to get there associated with her employment at Mrs. FitzRoy's Lizzie met Tom, likely in a venue associated with one of these two

Presbyterian Church and they married in St Paul's, Napier February - 1884 – with family - the Blacks there and Lizzie's two cousins – their honeymoon was in Petane (Bay View)

## MARRIAGE.

**THOMPSON—DEMPSTER.**—On the 11th February, at St. Paul's, Napier, by the Rev. J. G. Paterson, Thomas J. Thompson to Elizabeth A. Dempster, both of Hastings.

### T. J. THOMPSON, FAMILY BUTCHER, EMERSON-STREET, NAPIER.

NOTHING KEPT BUT THE PRIMEST MEAT  
PROCURABLE.

Delivered to all parts of the town.

#### CASH PRICES—

BEEF.		per lb.	
Rump Steak	.. 6d	Shoulders	.. 2½d
Steak	.. 4d and 5d	Chops	.. 4d
Sirloin	.. 4½d	Necks	.. 2d
Best Ribs, boned and rolled	.. 4d	Neck and Breast	1½d
Ribs	.. 3½d	Kidneys, 1d each	
Corned	.. 2d to 3½d	Tongues, 1½d each	
Gravy Beef	.. 3d	VEAL.	
Other parts 1d to	2d	Fillet	.. 5d
Ox Kidneys	.. 6d	Other parts	3d & 4d
Ox Hearts	.. 9d	PORK.	
Ox Tongues, 2s 6d		Chops	.. 6d
MUTTON.		All other parts	5d
Hind Quarters	.. 3d	Sausages	.. 8d
Fore Quarters	.. 2d	Beef or Mutton Sau- sages, 3lbs for 1s.	
Sides	.. 2d	German Sausages, 8d per lb	
Legs	.. 3d	Brawn, 8d per lb.	
Loins (trimmed)	3d		
Loins	.. 3d		

LAMB AND ALL KINDS OF GAME  
IN SEASON,  
And at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Poultry Dressed and Undressed at the  
Shortest Notice.

Small Goods of every description made on  
premises daily.

N.B.—We will supply approved cus-  
tomers, who prefer to run monthly accounts,  
at above prices, providing accounts are paid  
before the 10th of the month following that  
in which the goods are supplied, after which  
an additional ten per cent. will be charged.

**MOVE FROM HASTINGS TO NAPIER** Shortly after Frank Higgins' death Tom closed the Hastings shop and continued the Hastings Street, Napier business. He and Lizzie moved to a house in White Road – the limestone extension of Hastings Street. Here Lizzie had the support of her aunt and cousin Jeanie, and Tom that of Robert Black. However, Tom met with financial difficulty and the estate was wound up in 1886 - selling the business and the two cottages in Queen Street Hastings. There was no mention in the papers of a bankruptcy which was usual and regular to read of in the papers at the time so his may have been a voluntary insolvency

There were other Higgins brothers in Napier, at least two had their own butchers' shops and perhaps Tom got employment there – otherwise in Robert Black's biscuit factory.

But - he established again as a Napier butcher in early 1888 –in Hastings Street - and in May of the same year he relocated to the 'shady side of Emerson Street' – three shops up from the Dalton Street corner – continuing successfully until 1894 when the first inklings of the family's move to Havelock and Hastings came about – his purchase the lease of the Havelock section. By this time his brother Willie was manager for Thomas Foreman of the Hastings Meat market

Figure 38 Hawke's Bay Herald-Tribune 15 November 1937



## The T J Thompson family

Tom & Lizzie and their eldest seven - 1893 - home was White Road, Napier - before the move to Havelock



Tom & Lizzie nine years later and already with seven children.

Through those Napier years, they lived in White Road - the southern end of Hastings Street, so called from it's being surfaced in limestone.


The Napier family grew from May, the eldest, born October 1884 down to Lily, born in December 1894 - after this photo was taken but before the shift to the Village.


During the 1880s - two more of Tom's brothers had arrived in NZ to stay local, Willie in the mid 80s, and Joe in 1886.


Brother David came also - in the 1890s - probably via the Australian goldfields - and stayed for several years working in the butcher shop until 1905 when he left to join oldest brother Harry in Argentina


**Mr David Thompson, for many years connected with the firm of Thompson Bros, butchers, Hastings, left this morning by mail train for Wellington, whence he leaves tomorrow for the Argentine by the Ruapehu, to take up an important position in the management of a large cattle ranch in that country. His many friends wish him every success in his new sphere of operations.**


Figure 39 HASTINGS STANDARD, 16 JANUARY 1905, PAGE 3


 **Thomas John (Tom) Thompson**  
1855-1938

 **Elizabeth Aitken (Lizzie) Dempster**  
1863-1950

 **Mary (May) Thompson**  
1884-1963


 **Hugh Anderson Thompson**  
1885-1973


 **John Dempster Thompson**  
1887-1930


 **Bertha Houston Thompson**  
1888-1997

 **Julia Carr (Ivy) Thompson**  
1889-1931


 **William (Bill) Phillipps Thompson**  
1891-1917

 **Henry James (Harry) Thompson**  
1892-1988

 **Lily Aikin Thompson**  
1894-1976

 **Esther Daisy Thompson**  
1898-1982

 **Myrtle Sowersby Thompson**  
1900-1995

 **Victor Roberts Thompson**  
1901-1967



**THE MOVE TO HAVELOCK**

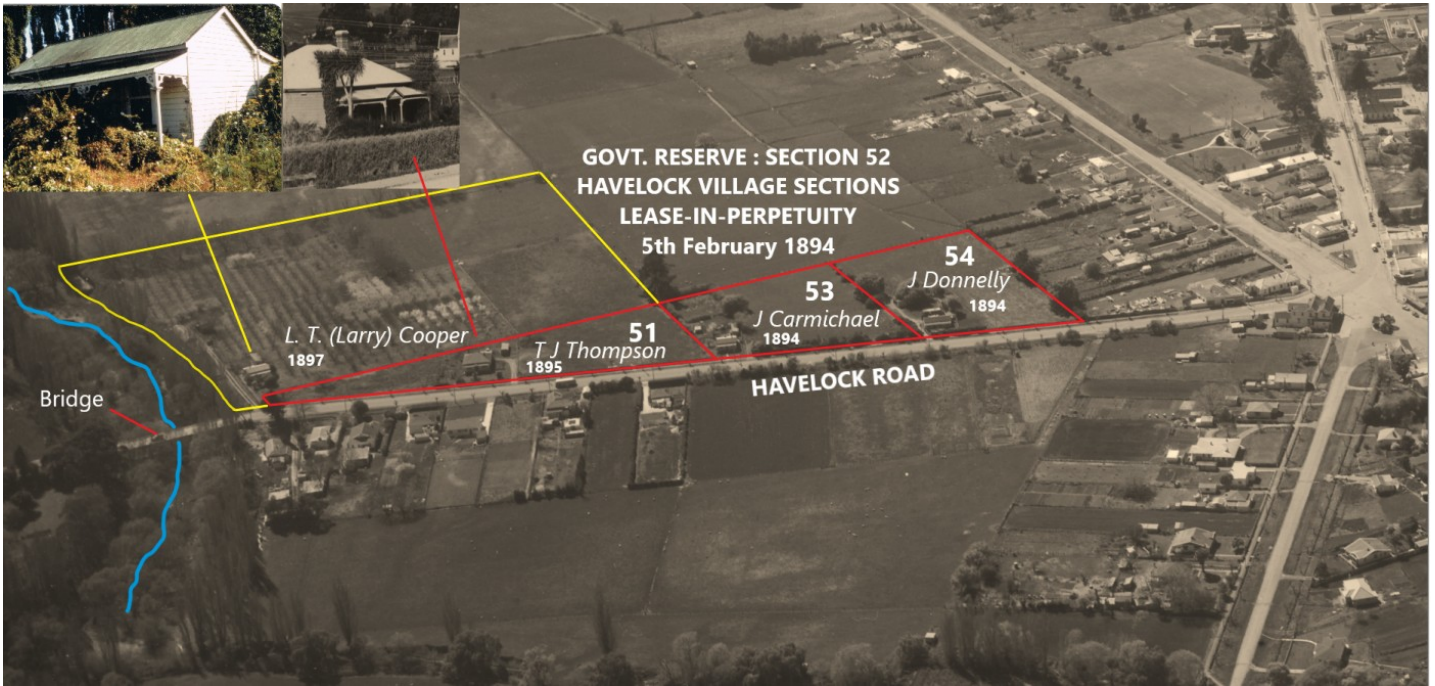


Figure 40 Jan 1894 the Govt advertised three lease-in-perpetuity sections in Havelock - Tom got one - and built a home and moved in late 1895.

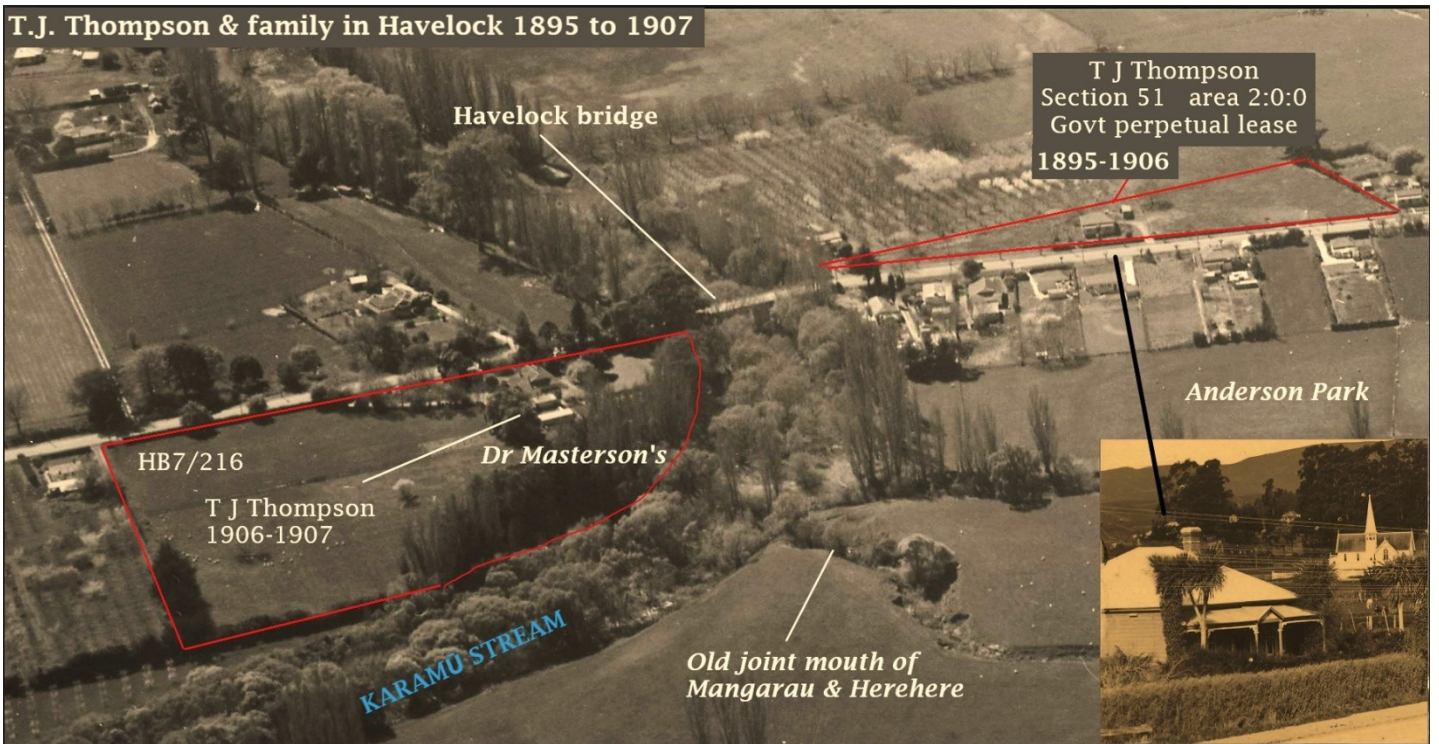


Figure 41 The family left the 1895 home in 1906 to move across the bridge into a larger home - what's now the Masterson family's.





Lands and Survey Office,  
Napier, 18th January, 1894.

### HAVELOCK VILLAGE SECTIONS.

**NOTICE** is hereby given that three 2-acre Sections in the Village of Havelock, situated on the main road from Hastings, will be opened for selection under Lease in Perpetuity on the

5th FEBRUARY, 1894.

Plans of Land and Application Forms will be sent to the Post-offices at Hastings and Havelock as soon as issued. For further particulars apply to this office.

THOS. HUMPHRIES,  
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

421  
Figure 42 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, 26  
JANUARY 1894

**TENDERS**, to Close at 6 p.m. on SATURDAY, the 23rd inst., are invited for the Erection of a Dwelling House at Havelock.

Plans and Specifications may be seen at Napier until the 17th inst. on application to T. J. THOMPSON, Butcher, Emerson street, and at Hastings from the 17th until the 23rd on application to W. P. THOMPSON, Butcher.

Figure 43 Daily Telegraph 8 March  
1895 p.3

Mr Thompson has commenced to build an eight-roomed house on his lease in perpetuity section next the bridge. The contractors are Messrs Chissell and Slade, of Napier. Mr Thompson is determined that it shall be a good job, for the timber has been stacked for months.

In 1894 the Government advertised in Havelock three **lease-in-perpetuity** sections of about 2-acres each.

T J Thompson, James Carmichael and James Donnelly were the successful ballot winners.

They were each on a part of the 6-acre triangular Government reserve - Section 52 - which stretched from the telephone exchange on Porter Drive corner down to its apex beside the bridge.

Tom selected timber and had it stacked on site to season - to build an 8-room house - the contractors Chissell & Slade of Napier.

In 1896 the family moved from Napier to their first own home. The last three of the family were born while in Havelock - Daisy, Myrtle and Victor.

Soon after arriving in Havelock - Tom and brothers Willie and Joe bought 300-acres of Te Mata from Bernard Chambers - hence Thompson Bros.

In 1899 'T. J. Thompson' was elected to the Hastings Borough Council - his qualification to do so being a freehold 20-acre section between Frederick St and Boundary Road - the Williams Street of today

During his Havelock sojourn, Tom was on the Householder's Association, Chairman of Havelock School Committee. Once in Hastings he was one of the founders of Hastings Bowling Club (where the NIMU building is on Lyndon/Railway Road corner) and a club champion, was a member of Hawkes Bay Hospital Board, a prominent member of the Masonic Lodge of Freemasons, Heretaunga Lodge and along with Willie of the Hastings Presbyterian Church.

In 1899 - as T J Thompson- Tom was elected to Hastings Borough Council and served seven years as a Councillor. Then in 1906 Tom was elected mayor of Hastings 'town' It was being elected mayor that seemingly prompted the family to make the move towards Hastings.

As the Mayor of Hastings, New Zealand, he sent greetings of a Union Jack to be forwarded to the Mayor of Hastings, England, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1908. The mayoral position involved him taking a magisterial role in Court, judging and handing down sentences for local crimes.

He unsuccessfully stood for Parliament.

In the list of nominators, Laurence Cooper was his Havelock neighbour, Robert Sowersby his brother-in-law and Harry Wright had been a fellow Riverslea Station employee.

#### NOMINATIONS.

Yesterday morning the Returning Officer received nominations completing his list, as follows:—

Alfred Dillon, nominated by Messrs James Rebecca Donovan, Violet Helen Horne, Mary Jane Humphries, Messrs F. Pimley, J. E. Hall, S. G. Poppelwell, C. G. Cunnold (Hastings), Henry McPherson (West Clive), Charles Edward Green (Kaikora North), William Mahoney (Waipawa), and George G. Merritt (Tomoana).

T. J. Thompson, nominated by Messrs Laurence T. Cooper (Havelock), Robert Sowersby, Hugh McLellan, D. Whyte, jun. (Hastings), James B. Baxter (Mangateretere), Thomas Talbot (Ngatarawa) and H. E. Wright (Riverslea).

## THE HAVELOCK ROAD LANDSCAPE UP THEIR ARRIVAL WAS OPEN PADDOCKS - HORSES

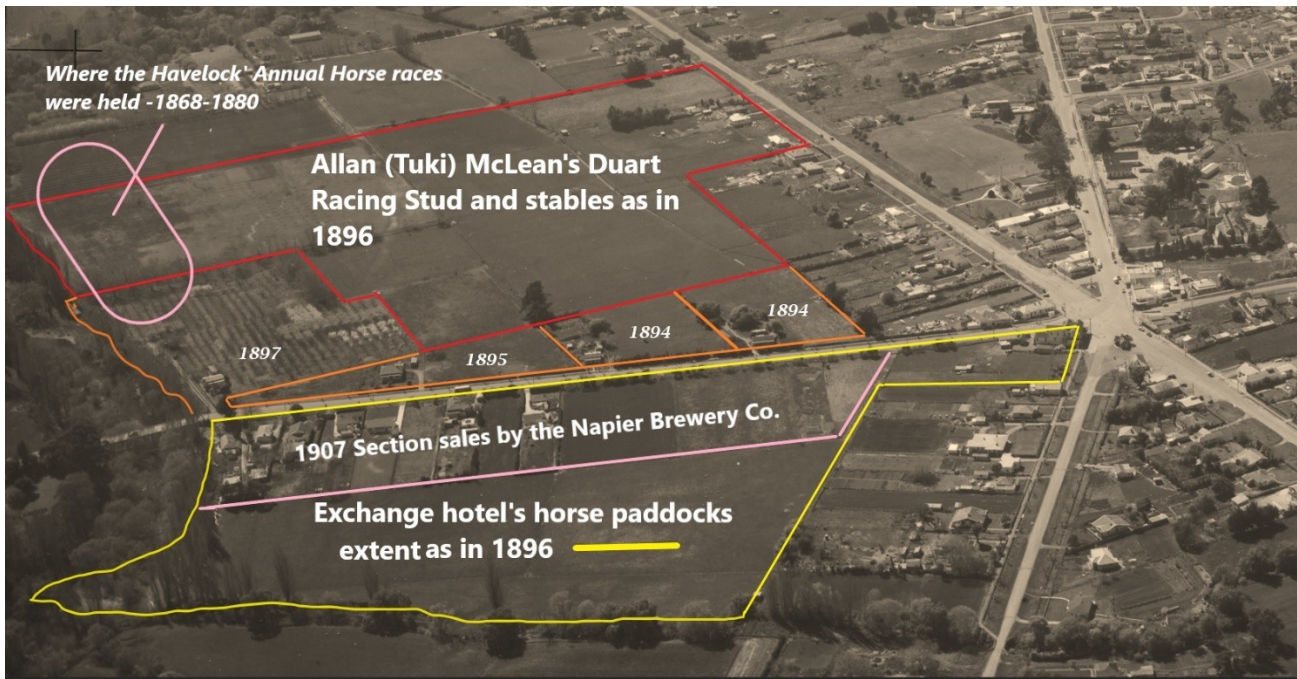


Figure 44 The lay of the land when the Thompson's arrived in 1896- horses both sides

When Tom built there were just the Carmichael & Donnelly homes on Havelock Road between the hotel and the bridge. Either side of him were paddocks – behind was Allan McLean's 'Duart 'Racing stud and across the road the Exchange hotel's extensive area to house the horses required for rent out to hotel guests, either to ride or with buggy or trap. Larry Cooper didn't build until a year later – he was dairying for some time after that.

## THE MOVE OVER THE BRIDGE



Figure 45 after 10-years on the Village side of the bridge, -in 1905 the Thompsons moved just over the bridge - on the left - the home we know as Dr Mastersons'



## THE PREVIOUS NEIGHBOURS ACROSS THE BRIDGE

On the right after crossing the bridge is 'Dinglebank' – another long-standing home and still there – from 1896, at the same time as the Thompson's arrived and built for **Jospeh and Virtue Emily Greenwood**. Its architect was D.B. Frame, and the builder J. McKenzie. It's noted in the description as having a 14ft stud. Joseph soon after established an orchard.

Among the recent accessions to our residents is Mr Greenwood, a gentleman who has decided to settle here. He has just had completed a handsome and commodious building on the property formerly belonging to Mr Ernest Tanner. The contractor was Mr Mackenzie, of Hastings. The building has been constructed with every modern comfort and convenience, including McDougall's patent window sashes, by means of which the outsides of window panes can be cleaned from the inside. The ceilings are very handsome specimens of polished native woods. A noticeable feature of the building is the height of the passages and rooms, which have all of them 14ft studs. We at Havelock hope that Mr Greenwood's example will be followed by many of a similar class of residents, who will be most welcome here.



Figure 46 Daily Telegraph (Napier),  
27 July 1896, Page 3

On the left after crossing the bridge, today hidden behind a thick shrubby hedge is 'Te Moe'.

Although Frank Bee's name is on the 1893 title for 'Te Moe' he didn't live in Havelock after his marriage in 1886 – home was in Napier where he was employed at the time as a clerk.

Frank's father, George Bee, was a noted Havelock builder – being the builder of the first St Luke's in 1874 -and Frank may have had 'Te Moe' built for his parents.

Finding where George and Mary lived in Havelock is quite impossible without some anecdotal evidence - electoral rolls and Post Office directories simply say 'Havelock' and the Bee Family book 'From Nottingham to New Zealand'

[copy in Knowledge Bank] doesn't give any details.

George and Mary lost their home to a fire in 1888. It's possible he built the house for his parents.

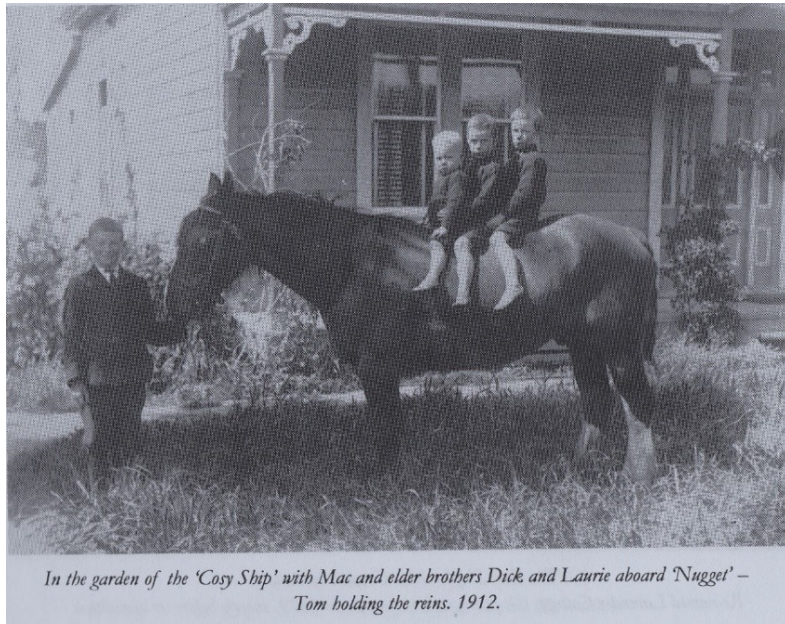
Frank lived in Napier and, in 1899, he was one of the founders of Richardson & Co Ltd, the well-recognised coastal shipping company based in Napier and was managing-director from the inception until 1907

In 1906 he sold 'Te Moe' to Tom – though the Thompsons were only there for 8-months while 'Rangimarie' was being built or readied on the section that had belonged to Thomas Foreman.

The subsequent ownership history of 'Te Moe' is given on the photo, showing the Mastersons have been in occupation for the last 100-years – as long a period as our H.Nth local Hortop's joinery has been around.

Figure 47 George & Mary Bee -  
PHOTO – BOYLE FAMILY ALBUM  
courtesy of Russell & Pauline Bovle





*In the garden of the 'Cosy Ship' with Mac and elder brothers Dick and Laurie aboard 'Nugget' – Tom holding the reins. 1912.*

For a brief time, the Thompson's 1896 house was home to Constable Heffernan, the Village policeman and by 1910 Tom sold to their previous neighbour - Laurence (Larry) Cooper of 'Riverside' – the DB Te Mata site - whose own home was too small for his growing family. F

For any born at Sister Cooper's on St Aubyn Street, she – known as Madge - was Larry's daughter Margaretta – who was five when the family moved to the home they called lovingly called it the 'Cosy Ship'.

It remained in the Cooper family until the mid-1930s. Her youngest brother, Mac Cooper, was a Havelock School dux and Havelock's first Rhodes Scholar.



Dempster

May

Hugh

Bertha

Bill

Victor

Ivy

Lily

Daisy

Myrtle

1904

Tom & Lizzie and the family in at Havelock – taken 1904 PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER



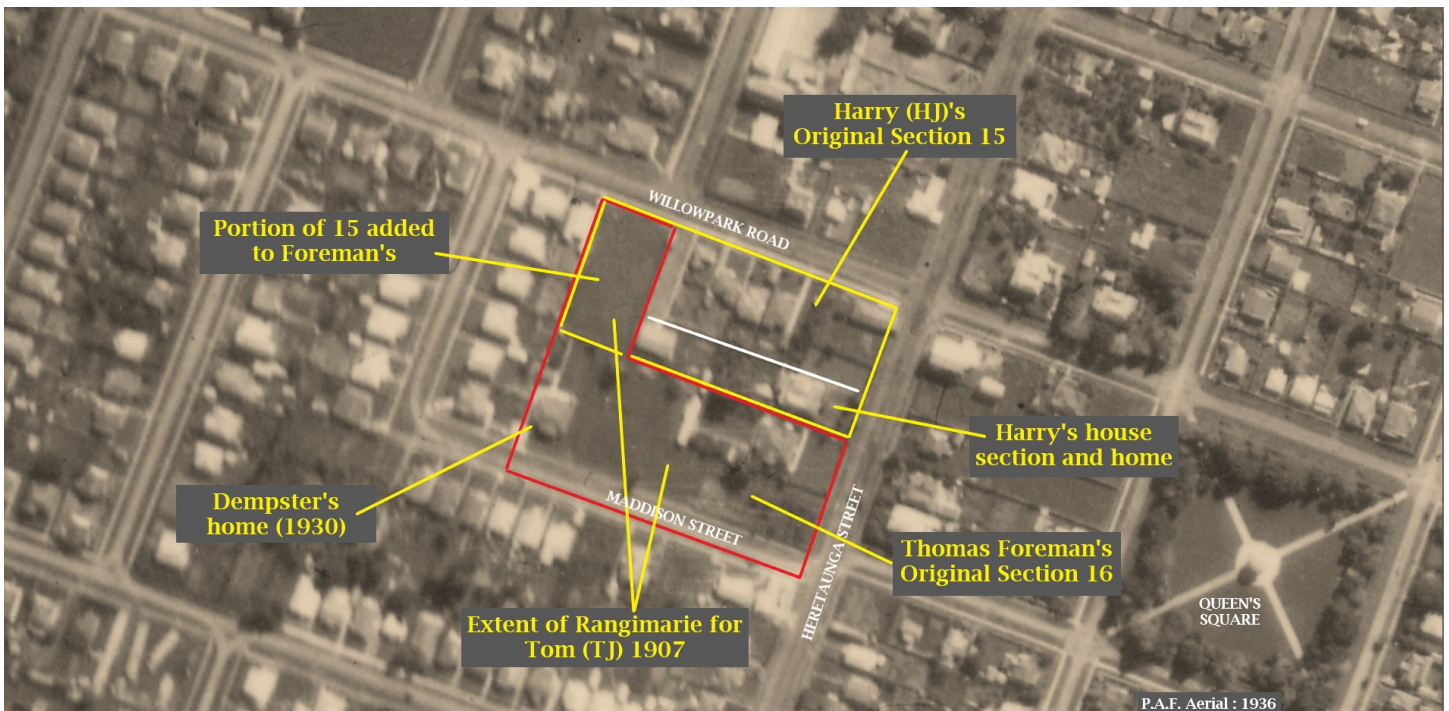


1906 - A last family photo - in Havelock - before they moved over the bridge. PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

Eight-months later they moved to 'Rangimarie' - a Thompson home from 1907 until 1976 –a Villa on a large scale - the basic square villa in the centre with two large gabled wings either side. Although previously saying that Tom had this built, there's been no evidence found of tenders called – the build is an assumption accounting for the eight months spent in limbo in Frank Bee's place. Thomas Foreman and Harry Thompson had both been reported to have built impressive homes on adjacent sections, 'Rangimarie' may have been Foreman's







It is possible that 'Rangimarie' was the house built by Thomas Foreman of the July '85 clipping below, so we may be looking at a fine example of a 1885 villa instead of a 1907 one. All the land records held at the Napier Lands & Survey Dept were lost to fire in the 1931 earthquake. Nowadays it's home to the Community Church. Next door - where 'Crestwood' is today, on Section 12 of the original Section 15 was the house that his brother Harry was leasing in 1885. It might have been the one advertised as a tender from Thompson & Higgins in May 1885. Sorting these details out might remain impossible.

TO BUILDERS.

**T**ENDERS are invited for the erection of an eight-roomed Dwelling-house at Hastings.

Plans, Specifications, and conditions may be seen at Thompson and Higgins, Hastings, where Tenders are to be delivered not later than FRIDAY, May the 22nd.

THOMPSON & HIGGINS.

Figure 1 HASTINGS Daily Telegraph (Napier), 20 May 1885, Page 4

**F**OR LEASE for a term of years, with or without a purchasing clause—One Eight-roomed House, just new, with bathroom and every convenience; water laid on. Together with about three-quarters of an acre of land planted with fruit trees, and situated within five minutes' walk of the Hastings Railway Station on the Havelock-road. For particulars apply to H. J. Thompson, Hastings.

Figure 2 DAILY TELEGRAPH, 10 FEBRUARY 1886, PAGE 3

Mr Thompson's new hotel has just been roofed with galvanised iron. A handsome balustrade will prevent promenaders on the roof from falling into the street below. The blocks for the rival establishment are already on the opposite section. In the direction of Havelock the town has made rapid strides. In Miller-street some commodious two-storied houses dominate the surrounding plains. Quite a small town has sprung up between the railway and Willow Park-road, and a new butcher's shop has also sprung up to supply it. Turning up Willow Park-road I come upon a section which seems to have been patriotically cut up after the pattern of the "Union Jee-hack of Old Enguland." Here a colony of East Angles have erected dwellings. "Non Angli sed Angli" as St. Augustine might have said but didn't. Near this, on the Havelock-road, are two handsome houses built by Mr Foreman and Mr Thompson respectively.

Figure 48 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD., 27 JULY 1885, PAGE 3



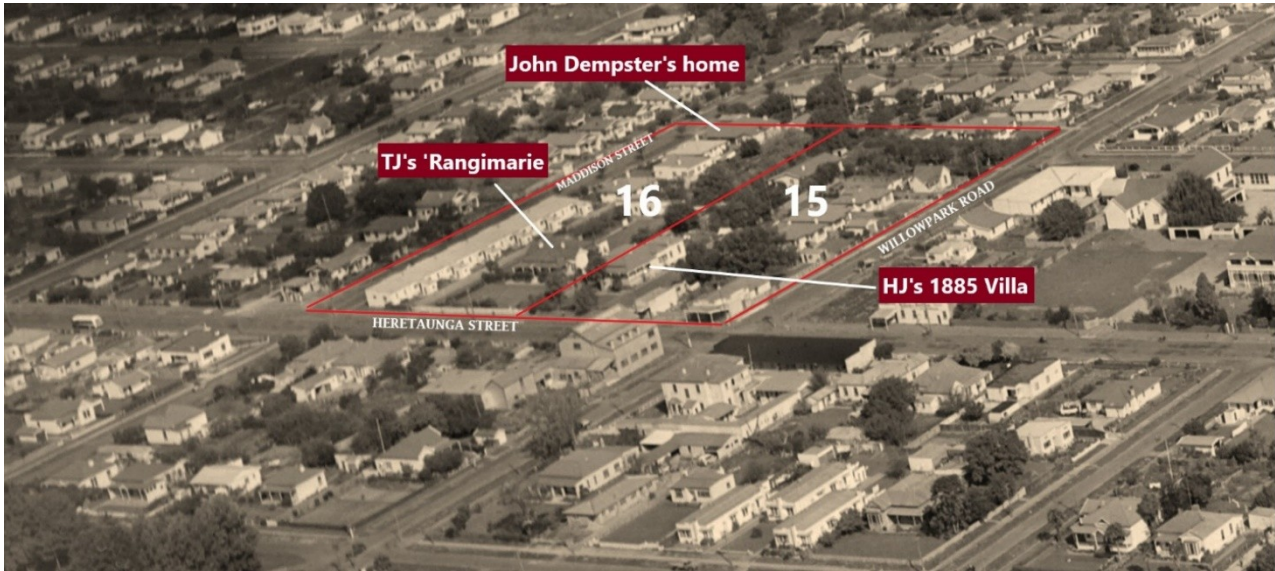
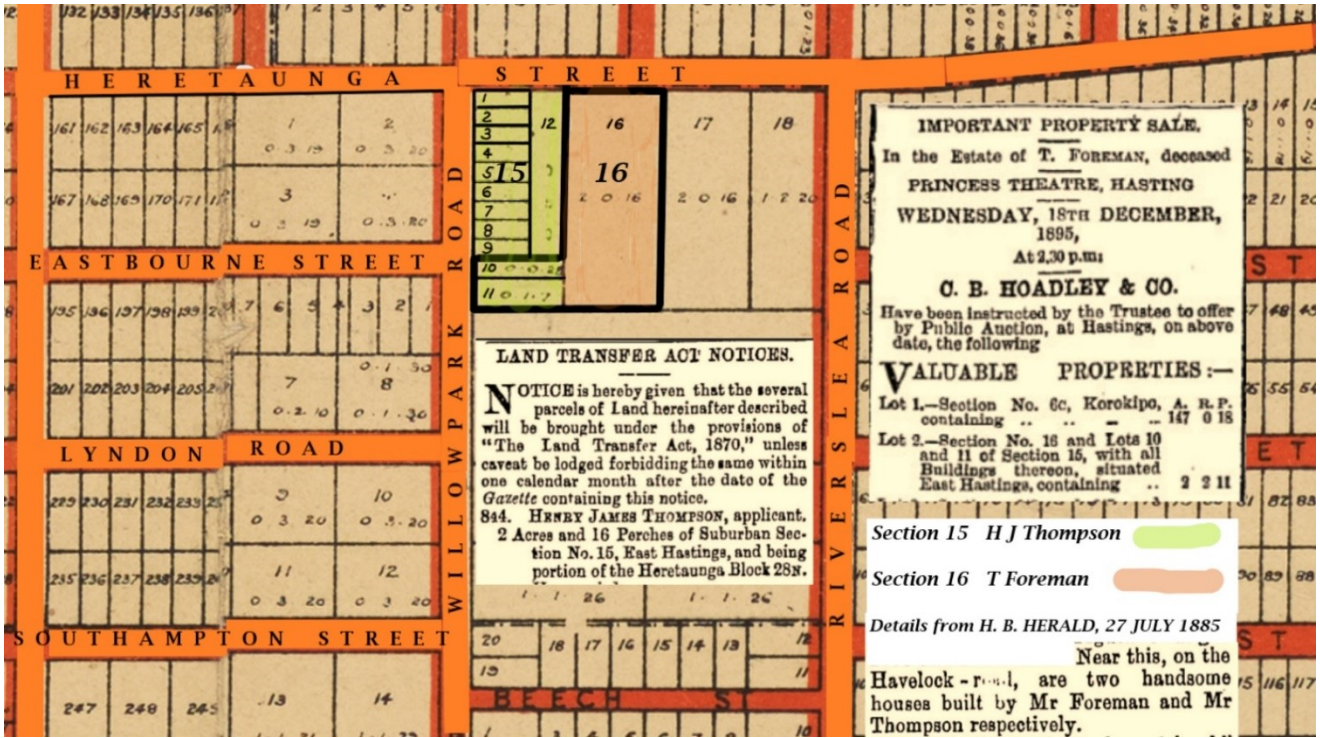


Figure 49 The Thompson & Foreman sections as in 1947

By 1907 Tom (T.J.) Thompson had acquired Section 16 which had been Thomas Foreman's and it on that is 'Rangimarie' – a fitting home for a Mayor of Hastings.

The section was a full 2-acres – an area needed at the time for a stable and a horse paddock. Harry's Section 15 was the same 2-acre size. But, before he built he cut 15 up and built on his Lot 12. It had very little room each side of the house but a extensive back yard. Foreman had also acquired Lots 10 & 11 of Harry's which were part of Tom's 'Rangimarie' when he moved in.



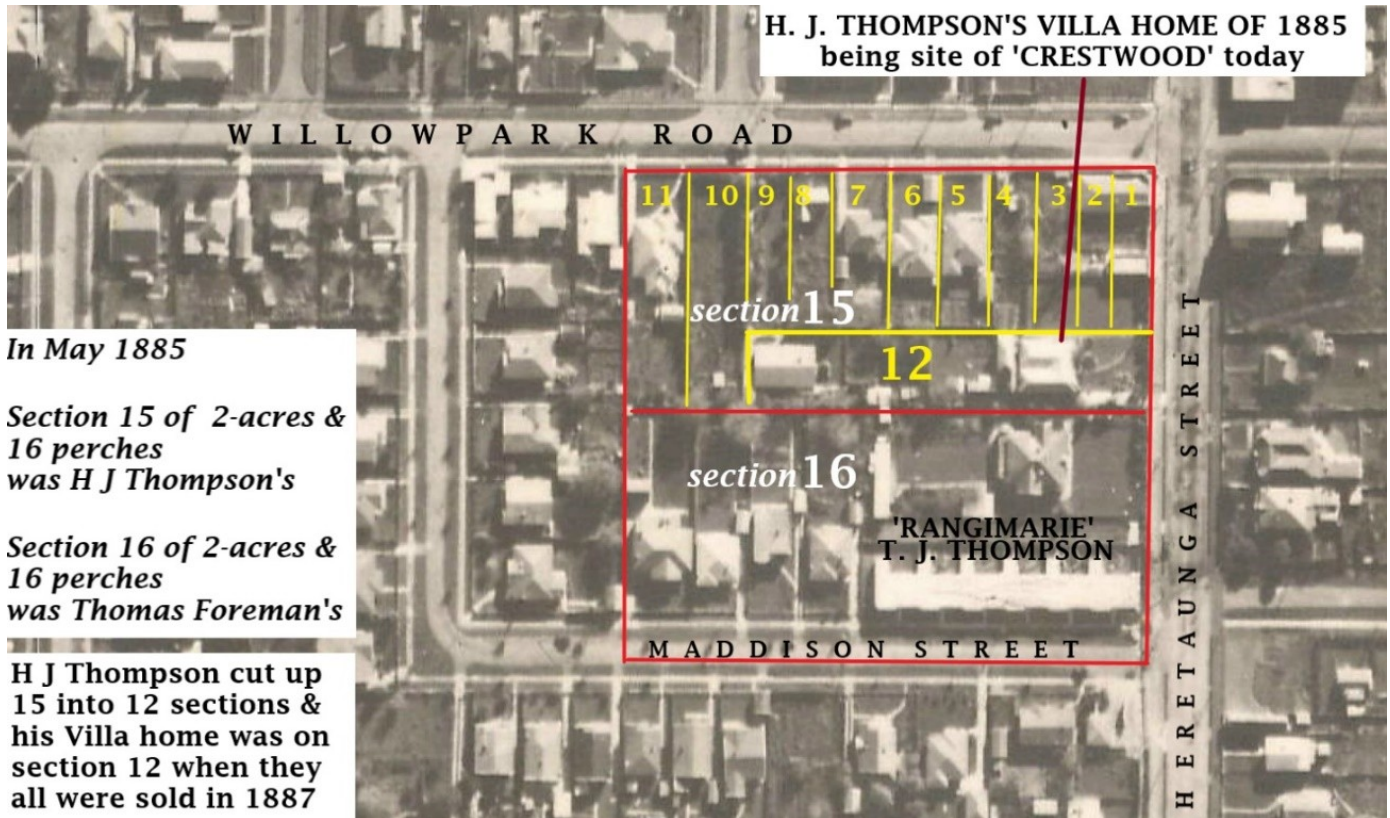


Figure 50 1910 the last family group photo sent back to the Leitrim family CLARE GULLIVER



Until the late 1920s John Dempster Thompson had been living in Ellison Road, when he built a large new home at 111 Maddison Street at the back corner of his parent's 'Rangimarie' property. Maddison Street had been sliced off Section 16 and three other sections sold, including the lengthy one for the Dulwich Flats development. Dempster wasn't living here for long when he was killed in a tragic road accident near to Ormondville in 1930.





A view of the subsequent cutting up of the Thompson (15) and Foreman (16) original 2-acre blocks.

## Sorting out the last days of Tom and his Napier butcher shop.

We can't be precise- there's a scarcity of details.

Tom wasn't advertising and the last mention of him in the 1896/97 Post Office Directory only shows he was there in September 1895 which is when submissions for inclusion for the following year closed. Many didn't update which leads to mistakes for the historian of today

Already established Napier butchers 'Conroy & Co.' moved into his Emerson Street shop – they already had three in town but they didn't change their adverts - continuing to list just the three already established ones long after the move.

We can only conclude that Tom shut up in Napier and moved to Hastings to be with brother Willie in the new opportunity Willie had gained on their behalf with the purchase of the goodwill of Foreman's 'Hastings Meat Market'.



**Figure 51** *Tom's younger brother Willie came to H.B. by 1884 - by the 1890s he was manager for Thomas Foreman in the same butcher's shop that Tom, as 'Thompson & Higgins' had used - in the 1880s - built and owned by brother Harry.*

His move to Havelock followed shortly after the July 1895 death of Thomas Foreman who was a Napier butcher when he opened a Hastings branch in a newly built shop in February 1877 in the 100W Heretaunga Street block – close to Market Street corner – adjacent to 'Spark' who are on the corner.

Tom's younger brother - William Phillips Thompson and known as Willie – had arrived sometime between 1883 to '85 – so far the shipping records of his journey are elusive.

His early employment history is unknown but he was with Tom as a butcher in Napier in 1888 and - by 1890 - Willie was manager for Thomas Foreman in the same Hastings butchers' shop that had been 'Thompson & Higgins' in Hastings.

At the December 1895 dispersal sale of Foreman's properties, Willie purchased the goodwill of the butcher's shop and had by doing so had the right to acquire Foreman's Norton Road slaughterhouse property and every butcher then had to have access to a slaughterhouse – there was no Hastings municipal abattoirs



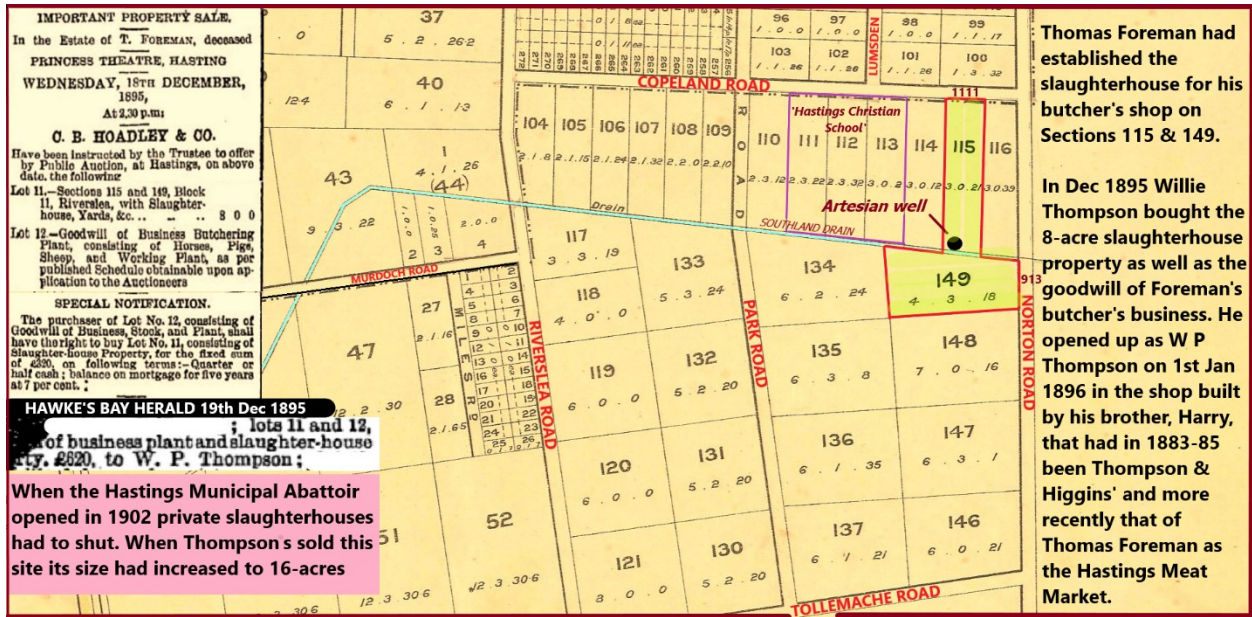


Figure 52 Until 1903 every butcher shop had to kill their own meat – Thompsons had the slaughterhouse established by Thomas Foreman on sections he owned since 1885 on Copeland/Norton roads corner

**THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE PROIPERTY ON NORTON/COPELAND ROADS' CORNER**

Thomas Foreman's 8-acre slaughterhouse property on the Norton Road / Copeland Road corner was already with an artesian well that Foreman likely had installed and the Southland Drain. Thompson Bros enlarged the property it to 16-acres before it was sold when Hastings established it's own abattoir

**W. P. THOMPSON,**  
BUTCHER,  
HASTINGS,  
**B**EGBS to announce that having purchased the well-known Business of the **HASTINGS MEAT MART** From the Executors of the late **THOMAS FOREMAN,** He will commence Business on **NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1896.**  
W.P.T. has arrangements with the Growers of the **PAIHEST STOOK** in the Province for the regular supply of the Best Meat of all kinds.  
Customers waited on daily, and Orders delivered to any part of District.  
**DRESSED POULTRY A SPECIALITY.**  
**W. P. THOMPSON,**  
HASTINGS.

Figure 53 1896 and Willie Thompson has bought the goodwill of Thomas Foreman's Hastings Meat Market. Soon after Tom left Napier to live in Havelock the two brothers - and seemingly also brother Joseph - all joined to be Thompson Bros -farmers and butchers

Willie traded alone until joined by Tom once he'd closed up Napier. Whether Tom continued running Napier from Havelock for a time we cannot tell – the newspaper records are presently unavailable.

## THE T. J. THOMPSON BOYS



Figure 54 The five T J Thompson boys PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

### Two TJ Thompson boys in Argentina

From 1907 until 1911 both Hugh and Dempster worked on their Uncle Harry's Argentinian estancia, in Escheverria. There were both Harry and his younger brother Hugh Anderson Thompson who jointly ran the properties.

On their return to Hastings they both worked in the butcher shop.

There's a family memory that neither of them ever got paid for their work for their uncles in Argentina.



*At the time Hugh wrote back to the family...*

**Hastings Standard, Volume XII, Issue 5877, 16 June 1908, Page 4**

**'New Zealanders Abroad'**

**LIFE IN THE ARGENTINE**

Writing to his father Mr. T. J. Thompson; from Escheverria, under date March 24th, 1908, Mr. Hugh Thompson says :-

"We left Buenos Ayres on March 22th for **Escheverria, which is 150 miles from the city**. The country around here is one vast plain, there being millions of acres of flat farming country covered with soil as good as the best in Hawke's Bay. During the journey we did not cross one river or hill, and the country is of the same nature in most directions.

The **Estancia** (*cattle ranch*) rather surprised us, as on it there are two comfortable buildings, with tiled roofs. The station is, I think, a typical one. It is chiefly used for grazing cattle, which are freely fed on lucerne, as it grows here better than grass, the long roots being able to go down deep enough to reach the water, of which a good supply can be obtained by sinking shallow wells. A large area of the ranch is under cultivation, which is worked by enterprising native farmers each having about 400 acres. They allow the owner of the land about 26 per cent of all crops as a rent for the land, an arrangement which is apparently satisfactory to all parties.

Large quantities of grain are grown here, maize being the principal as it gives the least trouble to cultivate. Wheat, oats, linseed and birdseed are also largely grown. A crop of the latter ought to pay well in New Zealand, as it is threshed like ordinary grass seed. One of the small farmers on the ranch owns a modern threshing mill, only straw being burnt in the engine to keep up steam. Adjustable elevators feed the drums, which are lowered as the stack is decreased in height. The straw and dust are blown through a large funnel by means of fans, so no "chaffy" is needed, and the men are not troubled with dust. One of these mills ought to work well for threshing grass seed, as the seed would not be shaken out by lifting on to a drum.

Tell D. Gigg that this county would suit a coursing man, as there are as many hares as live stock. Quail are plentiful, and there are armadillos of various sorts. I have not seen a New Zealand bird since arriving, not even a sparrow. Of all the birds here, there is not a songster amongst them. No whips are used after stock, the natives do not understand them. We purchased two of the best whips possible in Buenos Ayres, but they were the greatest frauds imaginable. They were made principally of rope, a fact we observed after about half an hour's use. We would like you to send us a couple, but not long ones, as they would be useless, owing to the thistles in the paddocks growing to a height of six feet. The language spoken here is Spanish but in the towns or on the trains plenty of Englishmen are to be met. We (*Hugh Anderson T. and his brother John Dempster T were there from 1907-1911*) have no occasion to work very hard as the natives do all the solid toil. We help with the stock and the grain, but Uncle Harry (*Mr. H. J. Thomson, formerly manager for Mr. Tanner, of Hawke's Bay*) says that as soon as we can speak the language he will get us on with the stock, which he is always buying and selling. He has two other estancias. The size of this one is one league, the second one is one and a half leagues and the third is half a league. [N.B. The Argentine league (*legua*) is 5.572 km (3.462mi)]

We find this life a bit quiet, but we both like it and are fit and well. When we get back to New Zealand, I am sure that the experience will prove very useful to us."

## Hugh

**Hugh Anderson Thompson (1885-1973)** He was named for Tom's younger brother, Hugh Anderson back in Derry, as well as an acknowledgment to Lizzie's Uncle Hugh who came out as a single man on the same 1883 'Rangitiki' voyage.

After his return in 1911 from working on Uncle Harry's estancia in Argentina, Hugh worked in the family butchers. Then served in the First World War as a private in the Otago Infantry Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> reinforcements, no. 57163 and was wounded. His name was included on the Roll of Honour at St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

Returning to work again in the butchers – and leaving that work after his 1919 marriage to Elizabeth Bullen to live at 'Te Awa' out at the end of Ngatarawa Road.

In June 1920 Hugh sold a farm in Hill Road, Fernhill (*see below*)

In 1921 he moved out to 'Tarui' farm beside Kahuranaki to run that – returning to Hastings in 1930, to Tomoana Road, firstly at 805 adjacent to Cornwall Park, and then at 112 on the Queen Street corner.,

He came back to work in the family's butcher's shop –taking over the business after the tragic road accident death of brother Dempster in 1930 and ran the Thompson & Sons' butchers for the next 35-years.

He cycled to work daily, and retired in 1964 to live in 'Rangimarie'.

In his younger days Hugh was a boxer, wrestler and swimmer, he was an active member of the Hastings Swimming and Lifesaving Club and later the Heretaunga Swimming Club.



PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.  
UNRESERVED CLEARING SALE.  
LIVE AND DEAD STOCK, Etc.  
On the Premises:  
HILL ROAD, NEAR FERNHILL  
FRIDAY, JUNE 26th, 1920  
At 12.30 sharp.  
MESSRS. GILL BROS. will sell on  
account MR. H. A. THOMPSON,  
who has sold his farm, 8 COWS  
(Aug and Sept. calvers), other stock  
and all FARM IMPLEMENTS.  
Full Details Later.  
GILL BROS.,  
Auctioneers.

Figure 55 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 14  
June 1920, Page 8

UNRESERVED CLEARING SALE.  
LIVE AND DEAD STOCK, Etc.  
On the Premises:  
HILL ROAD, NEAR FERNHILL  
**TO-MORROW**  
At 12.30 sharp.  
MESSRS. GILL BROS. will sell on  
account MR. H. A. THOMPSON,  
who has sold his farm, as follows:—  
12 Jersey and Jersey cross Cows  
(Aug. and Sept.) calvers), 1 Heifer  
(due in Aug.), 1 Pedigree Holstein  
Bull (3yrs), 1 Yearling Pedigree Hol-  
stein Bull, 1 Empty Cow, 1 half-  
draught Mare, 6 yrs., 1 half-draught  
Mare, aged, used to all farm work,  
Horse, Gig and Harness (good turn  
out), 1 Set M.H. Discs, 1 S.F. Plough,  
1 M.H. Mower, Hay Rake, 3-leaf Tyne  
Harrows, 1 Set 3-horse Swingletrees  
and Chains, 1 Spring Tip Dray, 2 Col-  
lars, Haymes Lines, Cart Saddle, 1  
Scarifier, 1 Tarpaulin 24 x 30, 1 6 h.p.  
Engine, Saw and Bench, Grit Mill and  
Belting complete, lot Timber, 45-gallon  
Alfa Laval Separator, 2 Seamless  
Buckets, 1 do. Cream Can, 20 Sacks  
Cob Maize, and lots of Sundries.  
NOTE.—This sale affords a rare  
chance for anyone wanting quiet, re-  
liable cows, as these are all young,  
guaranteed, and a tip-top line.  
GILL BROS.,  
Auctioneers.

Figure 56 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 24  
June 1920, Page 8



## Dempster

### John Dempster Thompson (1887-1930)

Dempster was educated at Napier Boy's High School. He went to Argentina with brother Hugh to work on uncle Harry's ranch from 1907-1911.



He returned to run the butcher's shop and was a fat-stock buyer. Unfortunately, about 1912 there was a falling out with his (by then) blind uncle Joseph (Joe) Barr Thompson, who had his 1899 farm on Evenden Road, in what was called Mahora North. Joe believed that Dempster had cheated him by replacing his good stock with bad ones. It caused a rift in the family and Joe had no more to do with his brothers Tom and Willie. Their brother George stopped visiting any of them for some time so as not to appear to take sides but resumed visits to Joe and family in later years. Joe's granddaughter, Mary, wasn't even aware that she had cousins nearby in Hawke's Bay and Willie's granddaughter Pam never heard anything of her Uncle Joe and her cousin from her own family.

Dempster was a member of Hastings Oddfellows Lodge, an amateur middleweight champion boxer and wrestler, a champion bowls player, weight lifter and he had played rugby.

In the late 1920s Dempster who'd been living in Ellison Road, built a substantial new home at 111 Maddison Street - at the back corner of the 'Rangimarie' property. Maddison Street had been sliced off Section 16 and four sections beyond the Dulwich Flats development. Dempster took the last one along, a full quarter-acre.

He died in a tragic car accident, on Holden's hill near Makotuku - returning from the final test match between New Zealand and Great Britain on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 1930. His brothers Hugh and Victor were injured along with brother-in-law Robert Northe.

**OBITUARY****MR. JOHN DEMPSTER THOMPSON.**

*The many friends of Mr. John Dempster Thompson, of Hastings, will regret to learn that he died at the Waipukurau Hospital last evening as the result of injuries suffered in an accident last Saturday night. It will be remembered that Mr. Thompson was the driver of a car returning from the Test Rugby match at Wellington, and when on the Ormondville road at Makotuku, the car fell over a bank and Sir. Thompson together with his brother-in-law Mr R. P. Northe. and another passenger. Mr. J. Donaldson, were all injured and removed to the Waipukurau Hospital. Two other brothers Hugh and Victor, escaped with minor cuts. Mr. Thompson's condition was serious yesterday and last evening he passed away.*

*Mr. Thompson was born at Napier in 1887 and was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, well known residents of Hastings. He was educated at Havelock North school and later at Napier Boys High School.*

*In 1907 he went to Argentina, where he later was manager of his uncle's cattle ranch, returning to Hastings in 1911 to join with his brother, Hugh, and his father in business as butchers and farmers.*

*He continued to reside in Hastings and took a keen and active interest in sport. After playing for the old Havelock North Harriers Rugby juniors, he played for several senior teams in Hastings. He took up wrestling and boxing and in one year he held the amateur middleweight title of Hawke's Bay in both of these sports.*

*Upon giving up active participation he took to coaching, and a notable protege of his is Artie Hay, holder of three open New Zealand championship titles.*

*He also took a keen interest in bowling and as a member of the Hastings Bowling Club was successful in winning the singles championship, and sharing in the honours for the pairs and fours.*

*Mr. Thompson also interested himself in the activities of the Parkvale School, the committee of which he was at one time a member. He was also an officer of the Hastings Oddfellows' Lodge*

*He leaves a widow and four children, the three eldest of whom are of school age. to whom much sympathy will be extended. Condolences will also go forth to his parents. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson. of Havelock Road. Hastings, his six sisters—Mesdames M. Millar (Wellington) B. H. Cole (Gisborne), R. P. Northe (Napier), and Misses J. C. and E. D. Thompson (Hastings). and Miss M. S. Thompson (Christchurch).—and also three brothers—Hugh and Victor, of Hastings. and Harry, of Wellington. The funeral will leave his late residence, 111 Maddison street, tomorrow afternoon at 2.50 for the Hastings cemetery.*

Known as Dempster he was educated at Napier Boy's High School.

He went to Argentina with his brother Hugh to work on uncle Henry James Thompson's ranch in Argentina from 1907-1911 – see above.

He returned to run the butcher's shop and was a fat-stock buyer.

Dempster was a member of Hastings Oddfellows Lodge, an amateur middleweight champion boxer and wrestler, a champion bowls player, weight lifter and he played rugby. He died in a car accident, returning from a rugby test match in 1930. His brothers Hugh and Victor were injured.



**MR. JOHN DEMPSTER  
THOMPSON.**

The many friends of Mr. John Dempster Thompson, of Hastings, will regret to learn that he died at the Waipukurau Hospital last evening as the result of injuries suffered in an accident last Saturday night.

It will be remembered that Mr. Thompson was the driver of a car returning from the Test Rugby match at Wellington and when on the Ormondville road at Makotuku, the car fell over a bank and Mr. Thompson together with his brother-in-law Mr R. P. Northe, and another passenger, Mr. J. Donaldson, were all injured and removed to the Waipukurau Hospital. Two other brothers Hugh and Victor, escaped with minor cuts. Mr. Thompson's condition was serious yesterday and last evening he passed away.

Mr. Thompson was born at Napier in 1887 and was the second son of Mr and Mrs T. J. Thompson, well-known residents of Hastings. He was educated at Napier and later at Havelock North. In 1907 he went to Argentina, where he later was manager of his uncle's cattle ranch, returning to Hastings in 1911 to join with his brother, Hugh, and his father in business as butchers and farmers. He continued to reside in Hastings and took a keen and active interest in sport. After playing for the old Havelock North Harriers Rugby juniors he played for several senior teams in Hastings. He took up wrestling and boxing and in one year he held the amateur middle-weight title of Hawke's Bay in both of these sports. Upon giving up active participation he took to coaching, and a notable protegee of his is Artie Hay, holder of three open New Zealand championship titles. He also took a keen interest in bowling and as a member of the Hastings Bowling Club was successful in winning the singles championship, and sharing in the honours for the pairs and fours. Mr. Thompson also interested himself in the activities of the Parkvale School, the committee of which he was at one time a member. He was also an officer of the Hastings Odd-fellows' Lodge.

He leaves a widow and four children, the three eldest of whom are of school age, to whom much sympathy will be extended. Condolences will also go forth to his parents, Mr and Mrs T. J. Thompson, of Havelock road, Hastings, his six sisters—Mesdames M. Miller (Wellington) B. H. Cole (Gisborne), R. P. Northe (Napier), and Misses J. C. and E. D. Thompson (Hastings), and Miss M. S. Thompson (Christchurch),—and also three brothers—Hugh and Victor, of Hastings, and Harry, of Wellington.

The funeral will leave his late residence, Maddison street, tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 for the Hastings cemetery.

**SADLY MISSED**

THE LATE MR DEMPSTER  
THOMPSON.

WELL-KNOWN IDENTITY AT  
SALEYARDS.

One of the most capable judges of fat stock in Hawke's Bay and recognised by the buying and selling community as an exceptionally honourable and clever business man, the late Mr Dempster Thompson, victim of the accident on the Ormondville road early in the week, will be sadly missed at the Stortford Lodge yards, to which he was a regular weekly visitor.

During the years in which he had been in business as a butcher in Hastings, "Dempster," as he was known to all his friends in the stock-dealing world—and he had a host of them—had always been one of the most popular figures at the yards, not only on account of his upright character but also on account of a personality that radiated good cheer.

Always ready to help the lame dog over the stile, no matter to what trouble he put himself in doing so, it will be a long time before the memory of such a sterling character is effaced. In the doing of good to his fellow men, his life was an example to those who come after him. Auctioneers and buyers alike will miss his cheerful and ready wit, which was apparent in his every remark during the course of the sale, and they will miss further his many commendable characteristics as a business man. A man of his stamp can ill be spared in any community.

**A GREAT LOSS**

DEATH OF MR D. THOMPSON.

BOXING ASSOCIATION'S CON-  
DOLENCE.

A meeting of the executive of the Hawke's Bay Boxing Association was held in Hastings last night, presided over by Mr A. M. Brodie.

The balance-sheets of the recent professional and amateur contests held in Hastings were received, but the main business of the meeting was the passing of a vote of condolence to the relatives of the late Mr Dempster Thompson.

The chairman, Mr Brodie, made very feeling reference to the loss of Mr Thompson, not only to the sporting community, but also as a citizen, and his remarks were fully endorsed by all those present.

Some idea of the length of the late Mr Thompson's funeral yesterday afternoon may be gathered from the fact that there were 171 cars in the procession and when the hearse had reached the cemetery onto the end of the cortege had only just passed Roach's corner. It was the longest funeral procession seen in Hastings for very many years.

## OBSEQUIES

**LATE MR. DEMPSTER THOMPSON**

## LARGE PROCESSION

That the late Mr. J. **Dempster Thompson**, who died on Monday night as the result of a motor accident, was held in esteem by all sections of the community was fully exemplified yesterday afternoon at Hastings by the number of cars that formed the funeral procession. The hearse left the residence, Maddison Street, at 2.30 p.m. and when it arrived at the Hastings cemetery there were close on 200 cars following behind it. Before it left the residence all the side-streets in the south end of the town were full of motorcars, and as the procession came up Heretaunga street cars joined it from all parts of the town. When the hearse arrived at the cemetery there was a stream of cars stretching from Stortford Lodge to the town.

The gathering of mourners was representative of all sections of the community. Mr. Thompson had taken a keen interest in sport and business and by the qualities of geniality and goodwill endeared himself to very many.

The pall-bearers were Messrs. Ralf Douglas (representing the M.U.O.F.), D. Gigg (Thompson Bros.' shop staff), Artie Hay (boxing profession), and the late Mr. Thompson's three cousins, Messrs. Harold Sowersby and Alexander and Leslie Thompson. A very touching service was read at the graveside by the Rev. D. J. A. Shaw, Presbyterian Minister, who had previously given a short service at the residence. A service was also read by Brother C. Cunnold, of the M.U.O.F.

## INQUEST

**LATE MR J. D. THOMPSON**

Death follows Accident

## CORONER'S INQUEST HELD. ROAD CONSIDERED DANGEROUS.

At the Courthouse, Waipukurau, yesterday morning the inquest, which had been opened and adjourned on August 12th last, was resumed before Dr. H. W. M. Kendall, District Coroner, to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. John Dempster Thompson of Hastings.

It will be remembered that deceased, with his two brothers, and Messrs. R. P. Northe, a brother-in-law, and J. Donaldson, an employee, were returning to Hastings after having witnessed the final Rugby test match at Wellington on August 9th last.

The accident occurred near the top of Holden's Hill, between Makotuku and Matamau. The road on which the party was travelling was not a main highway, but a detour was necessary owing to the principal road being closed for repairs.

Evidence of a brother.

Victor Robert Thompson, farmer, residing at Te Awa, Roy's Hill, Hastings, said that he was a brother of deceased and had been a passenger in the car on the night of the accident. Deceased was driving the car and there were four other passengers. The car was a 5-seater Buick in first-class order. The party left Wellington about 6 p.m., and stopped about ten minutes at Levin, which was the only stop. The party was a "teetotal



crowd,” and lemonade was purchased at Levin. The average speed travelled was estimated at from 35 to 40 miles an hour. The night was dark and it was raining heavily and visibility was poor. The accident occurred about midnight. Just prior to going over the bank the deceased stopped the car and put an oil sheet over his arm to keep out the rain. The stop was made before crossing the bridge and ascending Holden’s Hill, between Makotuku and Matamau, on top gear at a speed of about ten to fifteen miles an hour. On a plan, produced, witness detailed the camber and surface of the road and said that owing to conditions, witness kept well over to the right-hand side of the road when taking the bend near the top of the hill, and the lights of the car were focussed off the road into space. The road was about fifteen feet wide at the point of the accident and was not recognised as a main highway. As the car went over deceased said “We are over.” Witness was the only one left in the car when it reached the bottom after turning over several times. Witness’ brother, Hugh, was pinned under the car and deceased and the other two passengers were lying further up the hill. Witness could not find the car jack but deceased called out that it was under the front seat. Witness then scrambled back on to the road and secured assistance from passing motorists. Deceased had a look at the damaged car and expressed the opinion that if they could get the vehicle up on to the road it would be able to proceed under its own power. The Norsewood service bus was the next vehicle to appear on the scene, and the driver and passengers, together with a Mr. Bain, who lived nearby, assisted to get the injured men up on to the roadside. The passengers on the bus were put down at Norsewood and then the driver took the bus with the injured men to the Waipukurau hospital after examination by the Norsewood doctor. At the hospital deceased, Northe and Donaldson were admitted as patients.

To the Police, witness said that there was no railing or anything to indicate that the corner was such a dangerous one.

Corroborative evidence was given by Hugh Anderson Thompson, farmer, Tarui, Havelock North, and a brother of deceased and also the previous witness. This witness stated that he had been pinned under the car by the front axle and detailed the steps taken in connection with the rescue work. It was very apparent that the deceased was badly hurt although he could walk with assistance. Witness did not require hospital attention as their injuries comprised mainly bruises and slight abrasions.

#### A Tribute to Deceased.

Robt. Percy Northe, assistant secretary, Hawke’s Bay Hospital Board, Napier, a brother-in-law of deceased, also tendered corroborative evidence. Witness said that he desired to draw attention to the manner of deceased, who whilst at the car after the accident and during the journey to Waipukurau, was solicitous for the welfare of the others. Their condition was of more concern to deceased than his own injuries.

#### Deceased Severely Injured.

Evidence was tendered by Cuthbert Raymond, registered medical practitioner, Waipukurau, touching on the admission of deceased and other men to the hospital. Deceased was suffering considerably from shock, fractured ribs and laceration of the lung, but was quite conscious. Witness did not question deceased concerning the accident as he was not in a fit state to give an account of it. Witness later handed the case over to Dr. Fisher, whom he was relieving.

William B. Fisher, medical practitioner, Waipukurau, and acting medical superintendent at the Waipukurau Public Hospital, said that at 1.30 o’clock on the morning of August 10th last deceased was admitted to the hospital. He was suffering with a fracture of the ribs on the right side of the chest and contusion of the right

lung. Deceased developed broncho-pneumonia in both lungs and died from heart failure on August 11th, at 7.50 p.m. Deceased was not conscious when witness first saw him, but he later regained consciousness.

To the Police, witness said that deceased had been too ill to give any account of the accident. In the opinion of witness the injuries were consistent with a motor car leaving the road and falling over a bank for a distance. Witness did not see deceased until about twenty hours after his admission to hospital.

#### The Verdict.

The Coroner returned a verdict to the effect that deceased, John Dempster Thompson, died in the Waipukurau Public Hospital on August 11th, 1930, as the result of injuries received in a motor accident on Holden's Hill, between Makotuku and Matamau, on August 9th, 1930, the accident being due to error of judgment caused by the general conditions of weather, light and road. The evidence also showed that the road where the accident took place was a dangerous one, to which notice was drawn accordingly.

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## Bill

**William Phillips Thompson (1891-1917)** was named for his uncle and he was the only son who had the same striking blue eyes as his father.

Bill worked as a butcher in Foreman's Hastings butcher shop under Uncle Willie, Thomas Foreman's manager.

His early schooling was at Havelock School, where he won a scholarship entitling him to attend the Napier Boys' High School. In football he played there in the firsts, afterwards playing for N.H.S.O.B. while he was in Napier, from which team he was chosen to represent Napier. He won many trophies for running at school and at outside sports. Bill went onto Otago University where he won his football blazer playing for 'Varisty Firsts'. He left Otago to enter the services of surveyors Rochford & Son – and after finishing his articles he went to Knox College, Dunedin. He also attended lectures at Otago University at the same time, and in 1915 he was appointed to be the student demonstrator in Surveying.

From Otago he enlisted, and after gaining a commission with the 10th Reinforcements he left for the front with the 15ths and was killed in action -of gunshot wounds on the 7th June 1917 at Messines.

Bill is buried at Messines Ridge Cemetery named on the NZ Memorial.

### HAVELOCK PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The prizes gained by the pupils of Havelock School were presented yesterday forenoon. The Rev. Messrs Whyte and Gardiner addressed the children, and made the presentations. Miss MacLellan, who has completed her apprenticeship, and is leaving the school, received presents from the teachers and the scholars. Her skill and devotion had endeared her to all.

The following is the prize list:—

- Dux of the school.—Helen Whyte.  
 Standard VII.—Helen Whyte, 1;  
 Florrie Rich, 2; Flossie Douglass, 3;  
 C. Chambers, 4; J. Thompson, 5.  
 Standard VI.—Alaister Whyte, 1;  
 Wm. Thompson, 2.  
 Standard V. — Arthur Rich, 1;  
 Daisy Kemp, 2; Mary Donald, 3; Olive  
 Miller, 4; Ela Chambers, 5.  
 Standard IV. — May Whyte, 1;  
 Maggie Cooper, 2; Francis Brien, 3.  
 Standard III. — Eric Rich, 1; On-  
 slow Abbott, 2; Oswald Carr, 3.  
 Standard II. — Boys: A. Alderman,  
 1; H. Pomeroy, 2; R. Gibson, 3. Girls:  
 J. McDonald, 1; M. Howie, 2; L.

Figure 59 Hawke's Bay Herald, 17 December 1903, Page 4

Two of the prizes of the Napier High School swimming matches came to Hastings. The winner was W. Thompson, son of Mr T. J. Thompson, of Hastings, who is one of the candidates for the Mayoralty of Hastings. The youngster won the second prize in both the 100 yards and 50 yards race.

Figure 57 Hastings Standard, 18 March 1905, Page 3

The Chairman of the Professorial Board recommended that Mr W. P. Thompson be appointed student demonstrator in surveying, and that a letter be sent to the Senate stating that Drs Benham, Champ-taloup, Inglis, Pickerill, and Mr G. E. Thompson have been appointed representatives of the University on the Board of Studies.

Figure 58 Evening Star, 16 June 1915, Page 3

**The late Lieutenant W. P. Thompson, third son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson. Hastings**

**THE UNCONQUERABLE SPIRIT.**

**A HASTINGS SOLDIER'S LAST LETTER.**

The following are extract- from letters received by the parents of the late **W. Thompson**. Nothing could better illustrate the keenness of New Zealand soldiers to do their bit for the Empire :—

“Have just received a note saying that I'm to go to a school to-morrow. The blamed thing lasts a month and that means I'll miss the stunt which commences in a few days. I've never been so disappointed in my life for I had set my heart on going over with the battalion. I did my best to get out of going to the school but I can't dodge it.” “The next morning I went down to see the colonel and he told me it was only a six days' course and that I would be back in time to go over the top. This school isn't bad but I'll be pleased to get back with the company. Only hope I'm back in time to “go over the top.”

“Just lately the Y.M.C.A. have opened a buckshee (free) tea and cocoa hut half way home. It takes us about half an hour to get out of the trenches where we work and then another hour to get to our billets, so you may guess we appreciate a cup of tea or cocoa and a small packet (about a dozen) biscuits about half-past three in the morning. The cash for expenses comes from New Zealand but any labour outside the supervision is supplied by the battalion in the immediate vicinity. It's a fine institution.”



This last letter is most interesting seeing that it was written but a few hours before Lieut. Thompson was killed

“ France, June 6, 1917. “Dear Mum, —Just a line to let you know I'm in good form. I've just come back from school to the company and in half an hour we leave for the trenches and then over the top. I'm feeling very confident of getting through alright but if the worst should happen don't worry. I've no regrets. The only thing I'm sorry for is that I did not join up sooner. I haven't time to say any more. I hope the war will soon be over and that you will see me home safe and sound. Good-bye and cheerio.”



## THE LATE LIEUTENANT W. THOMPSON.

A BRAVE SOLDIER. The following letters, received by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, Hastings, bear testimony to the fine qualities and bravery of their son, the late Lieut. W. Thompson, who was killed in action while leading his men in the great Messines battle :—

**Brigadier General Braithwaite**, at Headquarters, France writes: “I, knew your son well, and he is a great loss, not only to his own battalion, but to the New Zealand Division. I can only hope and trust that as time goes on the memory of his life and glorious death at the head of his men, may be an abiding comfort to you and yours.”

**Captain M. J. Morrison** writes: “Your son has been with me in the company for some time and was a very popular, efficient and jovial officer. His continual cheerfulness made him a great assistance in strenuous times. He was shot by machine-gun fire at the battle of Messines, on the morning of 7th June and died on the field very shortly afterwards. He was buried where he fell near the town of Messines. We all mourn the loss of a brave man endowed with courage and a great deal of common sense. He was bravely leading his men when he fell, and thus died while fulfilling his duty. I cannot express in words my sympathy with you in your loss, Colonel Stewart, our C. O. always spoke very highly of your son’s worth Truly he was a man of whom you can, be proud.”

Very general regret was expressed in Hastings yesterday, when Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, of Here-taunga street, received a telegram, correcting the previous report that their third son Lieut. W. P. Thompson had been wounded, and stating that he had been killed in action. The late soldier, who was 26 years of age, left with the 15th Reinforcements. He was a most popular young man of an unassuming and kindly disposition. Before enlisting he was articled to Messrs Rochfort and Sons, surveyors, and was making rapid strides in his profession. He was educated partly at Havelock and the High School, Napier. The sincerest sympathy is expressed with the parents in the great loss that has overtaken them. Another son Lieut. Harry J. Thompson, B.A., is also at the front with the same Reinforcement.

*Figure 60 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 18 June 1917, Page 6*

*Note: Captain M. J. Morrison has since made the supreme sacrifice. His death was announced in the Tribune last Friday.*

**Sister G. Meddins** N.Z.A.N.S. writes from Brokenhurst, England: Billy was one of my friends, and feel his death keenly I had a letter from him written on May 29th, saying he was very much disappointed over being sent down to the school of instruction for a month, as he would probably miss the great “stunt.” I got a fearful shock on seeing his name on the casualty lists. Since then I’ve had a talk with one of the officers in his company, who told me the particulars. When the attack commenced, he was told off to take his men over a certain part, they ran into a machine gun, Billy and a number of his men were hit. Billy was wounded in the abdomen. He lived for nearly an hour. His men were successful in attaining their objective and captured the gun and its crew. Father McMenamain was killed while burying Billy. Billy’s O.C. mentioned his conduct in his dispatches. The officer here (Mr Rowlings) read me a copy of the dispatch praising Billy for his coolness and manner of leading his men. Nothing can make up for his loss, but it affords some satisfaction to know that his conduct was so highly spoken of by his O.C. He was so popular with his men and with the officers of his mess.

**Captain Ephlain Lusk**, of Havelock North in a letter written to his wife says: “Lieut. Thompson was killed in the battle a real hero. The men wanted to carry him out but he would not let them. He said ‘Carry on men I am all right.’ He was soon dead. I knew him quite well and had many a chat about Hastings. A fine type of a New Zealander.

**The Hon. Sir Thomas Mackenzie**, High Commissioner for New Zealand, has also sent a letter of sympathy.

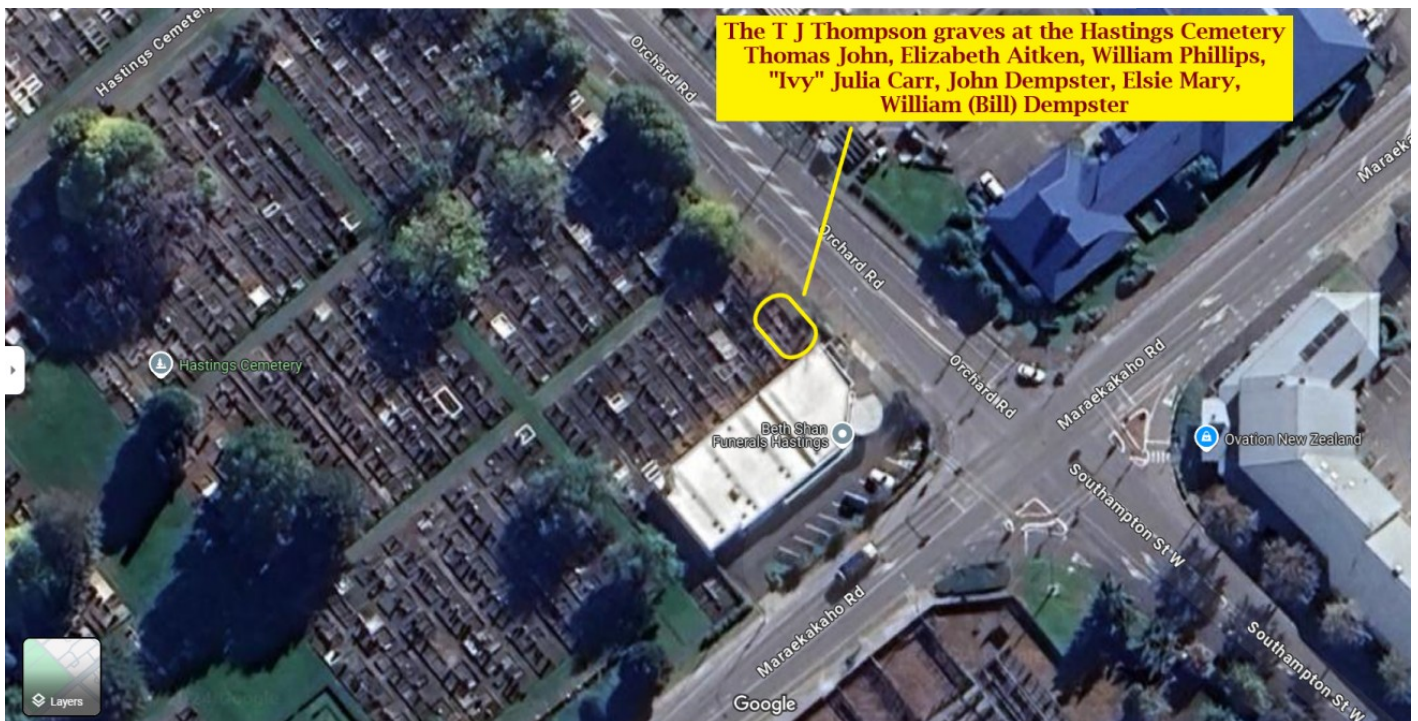
**Bill is memorialized on the New Zealand Memorial to the missing in the Messines Ridge Cemetery and next to his parents in the Hastings Cemetery, Orchard Road**



Figure 61 Messines Ridge Cemetery-France NZ Memorial to the missing.



Figure 62 Hastings Cemetery - Thompson family graves Row Z



**The location of the Thompson family's graves at Hastings Cemetery, Orchard Road**



## Harry

### Henry James Thompson (1892-1988)



Figure 63 Harry with sisters Lily and Bertha PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

time when Lily was in Standard V, Daisy Standard I, Myrtle Preparatory III and Victor Preparatory I. He had also featured in previous years for the Bible Class prizes. –

In December 1907 - two years after Havelock School - Junior Civil Service H.B. Passes results, there are two from Havelock mentioned – Margaret (Maggie) Letitia Cooper and Henry (Harry) James Thompson. Maggie's uncle Larry. lived between the Thompsons and the bridge and would buy and shift his family into their home by 1910.

#### **Examination Results.** **JUNIOR CIVIL SERVICE.** **HAWKE'S BAY PASSES.**

The following is a list of the Hawke's Bay candidates who have passed the Civil Service Junior examination held on December 11th, 1908, and succeeding days:

##### **PASSED WITH CREDIT.**

Albert Eric Lawry, Ivy Bertha Langley, Harry Lawrence Exell, Percy Valentine Storkey, David O'Donoghue, Lionel William Baird Hall, Margaret Letitia Cooper, Thomas Smaill Grant, Harold Herbert Taylor, Henry Gordon Carlson, Henry James Thompson.

Figure 65 Hastings Standard, 26 January 1909, Page 5

Harry attended Havelock School; Napier Boys High School up on the hill; was a high school teacher at Palmerston North, he attended Otago University; served in WWI - awarded the Military Cross and Victory Medal – from being a Captain, a Major he rose to Lieut-Colonel during WW2 –

He was a partner in the Wellington legal firm Foden & Thompson and secretary of the Law Society.

In the 1905 Havelock School Prize Giving Results - Harry topped the Standard VIII class in Bible Studies at the

Daily Bible Class—Standard VIII., Harry Thompson : Standard VII., Arthur Rich 1, Henry Miller 2 : Standard VI., Eric Rich 1, Mary Donald 2, S. Wright 3 : Standard V., Bessie Macdonald 1, Reginald Gibson 2 : Standard IV., Raymond Gibson 1, Joe Nimon 2, Gerty Bundy 3, Charles Henty, Jessie McDonald, Lily Tucker : Standard III., David Wright 1, Percy Honeybun 2 : Standard II., Eric Burnet 1, Mary McDonald 2 : Standard I., Eric Philips, 2 and 3 equal, Minnie Anderson, Allister McLean; infants, Myrtle Thompson, Myrtle Neilsen, Dick Matero, Jack Rich, Aileen Mackey.

Figure 64 Hastings Standard, 21 December 1905, Page 3

In her diary of 1908 Maggie writes of her daily journey to and from Havelock to the Napier Girls' High School. At the time the Boys and Girls High Schools were adjacent on the hill where Girls' High is today. They would have both been there - catching Nimon's omnibus in the Village, a slow trot but on schedule along the Havelock Road but, as Maggie wrote, Mr. Nimon would speed up to a brisk trot to round the corner to the railway station – to Maggie this last bit was all about Mr. Nimon putting on a show to impress. Then aboard the train to Napier and a walk up the hill to school

At the 1912 Easter inter-university College tennis tournament, Harry was one of the eight representative tennis players from Otago University.

Mr Harry Thompson, fourth son of Mr T. J. Thompson, of Hastings, who is pursuing his studies for the Ministry at the Otago University, is at present spending a fortnight's holiday in Hastings.

Figure 66 Hastings Standard, 18 July 1910, Page 4

**Harry's intended to enter the ministry and entered the Theological Faculty at Otago – staying at Knox College - a Presbyterian –**

## OTAGO UNIVERSITY.

J. A. Asher, passed second year's terms in senior French (1st class), French phonetics (top of second class), junior mental science (top of second class), senior Latin (2nd class).

H. J. Thompson, passed third year's terms in junior mental science (2nd class), education (2nd class), constitutional history (2nd class), and jurisprudence.

Figure 67 Figure 66 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 7 November 1912, Page 2

## HARRY IS FIRST ON THE LEFT IN THE SECOND ROW



—Esquiant, photo.

### THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS OF OTAGO UNIVERSITY, SESSION 1910.

The letter following the name refers to the denomination to which each student belongs,—i.e., (A) Anglican, (B) Baptist, (M) Methodist, (P) Presbyterian.

Back Row: J. P. Boyle (P), W. T. Drake (A), F. B. Barton, B.A. (P), D. C. Heron, B.A. (P), Adam Hamilton (P), F. H. Wilkinson (P), R. Parata (A), R. Miller (P), H. B. Patrick (P).

Third Row: C. J. Bush-King (A), W. Wright (B), W. H. P. McKenna (P), M. Maclean (P), G. Stubbs (A), T. Atken (P), C. R. Allen (A), T. M. Abernethy (M), C. B. McGuire (P), A. J. H. Dow (P).

Second Row: H. J. Thompson (P), D. N. Macdiarmid (P), T. M. Hazlett, B.A. (P), L. H. Hunt (P), Andrew Hamilton (P), C. L. Wilson (A), H. G. Gilbert (P), A. C. Hampton (P).

Front Row: A. M. Begg (P), C. Button (A), G. W. Hunt (P), D. Murdoch (P), J. Hannan (P), E. Andrews (P), A. Peirie (A), E. W. Halford (P).

Figure 68 Otago Witness 24 August 1910

Mr H. J. Thompson, of Knox College, Dunedin, who has been assisting the Rev. L. Thompson, of the Carterton Presbyterian Church for the last two months, left Carterton for Hastings yesterday.

Figure 69 Wairarapa Daily Times, 19 March 1912, Page 5





LEFT Harry in the Knox College Tennis Team 1913

Back row - Rev. Henry George Gilbert; **Henry James Thompson**; William Patterson Pollock Gordon; Rev. Henry George Gilbert.

Front row: Very Rev. Joseph Lawson Robinson; Philip John Jory; Edward Ernest Andrews; Frederick Fisher Miles

Source : Presbyterian Research Centre

Ref P-A128.13-33

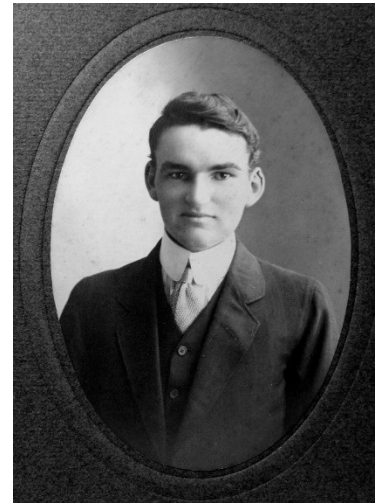


Figure 70 Known in the family as 'Hawkeye Harry' - PHOTO - CLARE GULLIVER

Figure 71 Harry in the Knox College Tennis Team 1913

BELOW - Knox college Football team -, played at Opoho Wednesday 25th Nov 1913."

From left to right: Standing - Cecil Bertram McClure; Ronald Alexander Cuthbert; ? Miller; John Donald Munro; George David Wilson; Arthur John Gilmour; ? Miller; Robert Lanktree

Middle row - ? Withers; John Hallam Don; Phillip John Jory; Rev. George Wright Lochore; **Henry James Thompson**; Lindsay Merrit Inglis; George Brownlee Isdale; Duncan Rae; Rev. Alexander Whyte; Frederick Montgomery Spencer.



Mr. H. J. Thompson, teacher at the High School, Palmerston North, who is the fourth son of Mr. and Mrs T. J. Thompson, of Hastings, has passed his examination for his LL.B. degree.

Figure 72 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 19 May 1922,

#### MAN OF DEGREES

**H**ENRY JAMES THOMPSON, who practises law, in Wellington in partnership with Norman Foden, has had an academic career of which he might well be proud, for few graduates can claim to be the holders of three Master degrees.

Harry Thompson is a Master of Arts, a Master of Laws and a Master of Commerce. Born in sunny Hastings he received his early education at the Napier Boys' High School and was later for some time a student at Knox College, Dunedin.

He is an ardent swimmer (he holds the Royal Life Saving Society's medal for a rescue from the treacherous surf at Napier), and is also a good all-round athlete.

Figure 73 NZ Truth 4 April 1929 p.6

Hawke's Bay Tribune, Volume XXII, Issue 260, 17 October 1932, Page 10

#### LAW SOCIETY POSTS

**Mr. H J Thompson**

**CHOSEN. NEW ZEALAND SECRETARY.**

From more than 50 applicants, a Wellington barrister, Mr. H J Thompson ALA., LL.M., M.Com., has been selected for the offices of secretary to the New Zealand Law Society and to the Wellington District Law Society. Mr. Thompson will enter on his new duties early on January, when Mr. A. Hawkins will retire. A man of high scholastic ability and considerable experience in law and accountancy, Mr. Thompson was educated at the Havelock North District School, the Napier High School, Otago University, and the University of London. In 1911 he gained his M.A. degree with honours, and took the first section of the LL.B. course.

For some months in 1915 he was on the teaching staff of the Stratford District High School, and he then left on active service with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. While in England in 1917 he was on the musketry instructional staff at Sling Camp, and when later the Rifle Brigade Reserve Battalion was transferred to Brocton, he was put in charge of Lewis gun instruction. Mr. Thompson was on active service for four years. He rose from the rank of corporal to captain and company commander, and was awarded the Military Cross. At the present time he holds the rank of major in the Territorial Forces, and is attached to the Wellington Regiment.

On his return to New Zealand Mr. Thompson completed the LL.B. course while a member of the teaching staff of the Palmerston North High School, and he also gained the degree of Master of Commerce with first-class honours. He also passed the professional accountants' examination and became a member of the New Zealand Accountants' Society. He has been a coach in accountancy subject at the Palmerston North Technical College in mercantile law and allied law classes.

Mr. Thompson went to Wellington at the end of 1927, and since then he has been practicing as a barrister and solicitor in partnership with Mr. A. N. Foden, M.A., LL.M. He has also the distinction of being a Fellow of the Royal Economic Society, of which institution he is a life member.

Mr. Thompson has distinguished himself in sport. While at the Napier High School he was in the school's first fifteen and in the tennis and shooting teams, and he gained a place in the Otago University tennis, hockey and



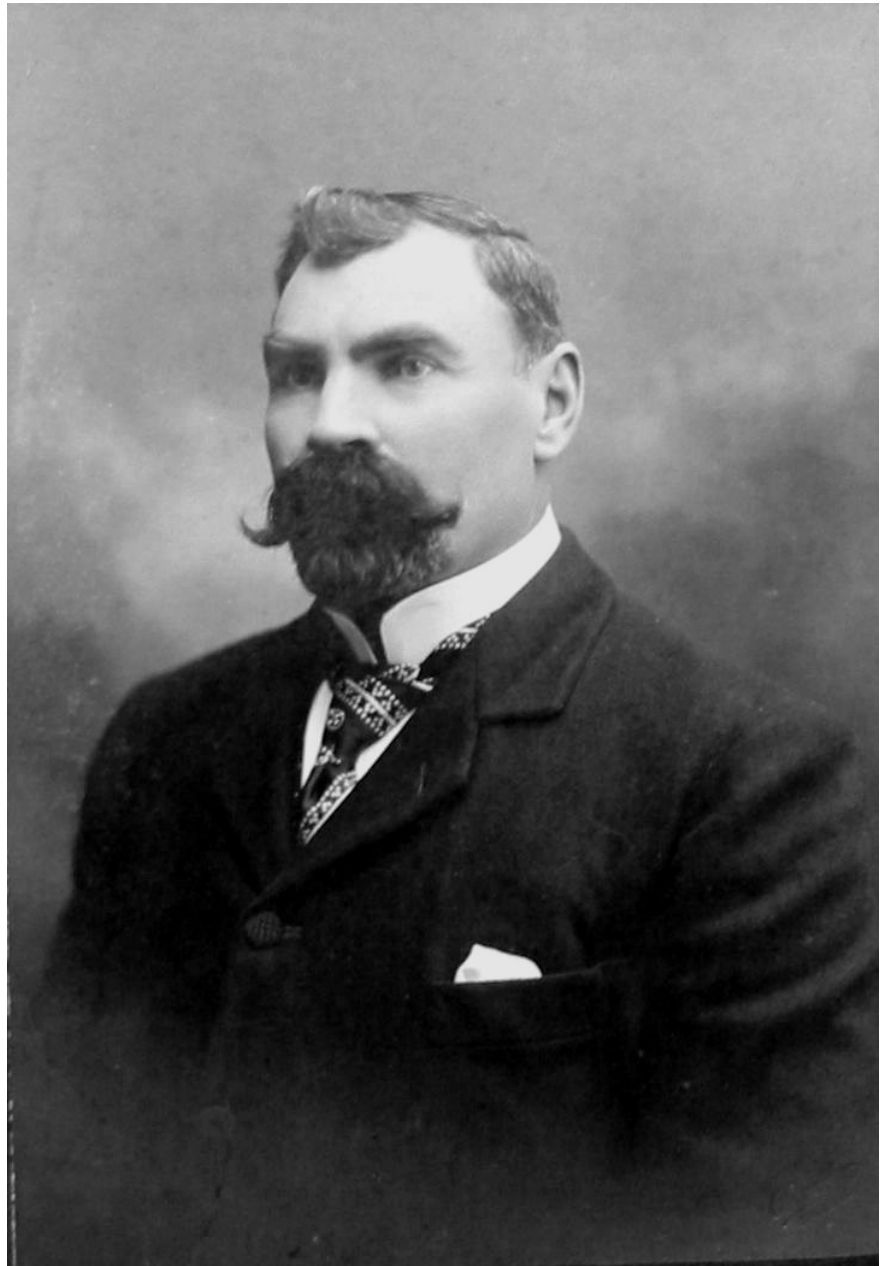
athletic teams. He played first-grade Rugby in Dunedin for the Pirates Club, and won Otago representative hockey honours. Mr. Thompson is well known in tennis circles, having been the Manawatu delegate to the New Zealand tennis council since 1927.

He played in the Manawatu representative tennis team for four or five years, and on one occasion won the Hawke's Bay mixed doubles championship with Mrs. Gardiner. Another award Mr. Thompson holds is the bronze medal of the Royal Humane Society, which was presented to him for saving the life of a young man who was carried out to sea near Napier.

=====

Harry's namesake - Uncle Harry

Henry James Thompson -



<u>Napier Boys' High School Cadets:</u>		
In ranks from	26.11.09	}
to	31. 1.10	
<u>Otago University O.T.C. :</u>		
In ranks from	1. 2.10	}
to	17. 3.11	
<u>Otago University Territorial Company:</u>		
In ranks from	18. 3.11	} = 3 yrs. 120 days.
to	10.10.15	
<u>N.Z.E.F.:</u>		
<u>Rank service -</u>		
Attested	11.10.15	}
In ranks to	21. 7.16	
<u>Commissioned service -</u>		
Appointed 2nd Lieutenant	22. 7.16	}
Date of Embarkation	26. 7.16	
Returned to New Zealand	21. 9.19	
Struck off strength N.Z.E.F. and absorbed into strength of N.Z.R.B. (Terr. Force)	19.10.19	
<u>N.Z.R.B. (Territorial Force):</u>		
Lieutenant from	20.10.19	}
to	29. 2.20	
<u>Wellington Regiment:</u>		
Lieutenant from	1. 3.20	} = 16 yrs. 315 days.
to	6. 8.22	
Captain from	7. 8.22	
to	31. 5.23	
<u>Wellington West Coast Regiment:</u>		
Captain from	1. 6.23	}
to	18. 8.25	
Major from	19. 8.25	}
to	11.11.28	
<u>Wellington Regiment:</u>		
Major from	12.11.28	}
to	26. 5.33	
<u>Reserve of Officers:</u>		
Major from	27. 5.33	} Inadmissible
to	22. 9.40	
<u>2nd N.Z.E.F.:</u>		
Major from	23. 9.40	} = 2 yrs. 237 days
to	14.10.40	
Major (Temp Lt.Col) from	15.10.40	
to	27.10.40	
Lieutenant-Colonel	28.10.40	}
12648 of 13140		22 yrs. 305 days

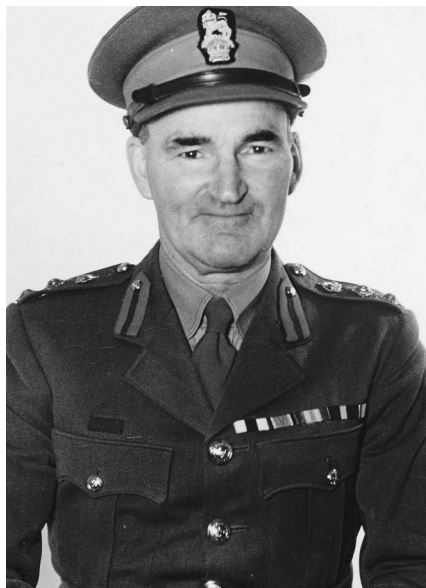


Figure 74 National Library Ref " PAColl-5547-018

## Mr Henry Thompson

PA Wellington  
A retired stipendiary magistrate and former Law Society secretary, Mr Henry James Thompson, has died in New Plymouth. He was 96.

Mr Thompson has numerous qualifications and at one time was believed to be New Zealand's most highly qualified person.

He was a student at Otago University, Victoria University and London University and gained three master's degrees.

Mr Thompson was a veteran of both world wars. He rose to the rank of colonel in World War II.

He spent most of his working life in Wellington and Nelson as a partner in the law firm, Foden and Thompson. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1966 for his services to law.

He served on the Bench in Wellington and Nelson and on retirement became patron of the Nelson, Marlborough and Westland Justices of the Peace Association.

He was also chairman of the Magistrates' Executive Committee and the Chiropractic Board.

Mr Thompson in his younger days was a keen sportsman and represented Otago at hockey and Manawatu at tennis.

**LEGAL NOTICE.**  
**MR. HENRY JAMES THOMPSON,** M.A., LL.M., M.Com., Barrister and Solicitor, has joined Mr. N. A. Foden in Legal Partnership. The partnership practice will be carried on under the firm name of Messieurs Foden and Thompson, at the rooms hitherto occupied by Mr. Foden in King's Chambers, Willeston-st., Wellington. Telephones: Mr. Foden, 23-400; Mr. Thompson, 23-500.

Figure 75 Evening Post, 10 January 1928, Page 6

**THOMPSON, Henry James,** CBE ('66), SM. B Napier 26.11.1892, s of T. J. Thompson; m '20 Kate S., d of H. B. Smith; 1 s. Ed Napier BHS, OU, VUW; MA, LL.M., MCom; Lond Univ; FRÉS, ACA; hockey rep Otago; M'tu rep tennis. 1 NZEF '15-19; MC, ED; Royal Humane Socy's Medal '16; teacher Palm N BHS; partner legal firm Foden & Thompson; sec NZ Law Socy; NZ Army '40-45 (col); SM Wgtn and Nel ('45), ret; cl NZLTA; patron Nel, Marl, W'land JP Assn; chm Magistrate's Exec Com; chm Licensing & Land Valuation Coms, Nel, Marl & Buller; chm conscientious objectors com; patron Birtright Nel; examnr Univ NZ & moderator acty law subjects; sole member Shops & Offices Exemptions Tribunal; chm NZ Chiropractic Bd; chm Post Office Appeal Bd, '60—. Rec: tennis, golf. Pte ad: Dorchester Apartments, 144 Oriental Parade, Wgtn.

New Plymouth Press,  
12 December 1988,  
p4



## Victor

**Victor Roberts Thompson (1901-1967)** Vic was born in Havelock at the time of the Boer War and Tom, we are told, was very patriotic and named his last born after Lord Roberts. Schooling was at Havelock School then Napier Boys High School where he matriculated after the 1919 school year.

Vic gained his University matriculation in 1919 but chose farm life - working his early years at 'Te Awa' under manager J Donaldson as a farmhand and by his mid-20s he was himself farming Te Awa which was his home until his death. Victor ran the Te Awa part of the Thompson & Sons Southdown Stud and also Te Awa Clydesdale draught horse and Shetland pony stud. His recreation was tennis and indoor bowls. While at Napier Boys High School, in 1915 he gained a 2<sup>nd</sup> for his dive and in 1919 won the medal as the school's best rugby player.



Hawke's Bay Tribune, 2  
December 1911, Page 4

**FOR SALE:** Self-working, all round Sheep Dog (slut). Great forcer; no bite and not whip shy. Any guarantee and trial—£8. Victor Thompson, 'phone 63, Hastings.

Figure 1 Hawke's Bay 25 September 1923, Page 1

**FOR SALE:** Latest P. & M. Panther, complete with Tools, Lamp, Generator, Horn, Speedometer and Terry Saddle. This machine has only done 2000 miles, and is guaranteed for 12 months. Victor Thompson, 'phone 63, Hastings.

Figure 2 Hawke's Bay Tribune 24 October 1925, Page 1



### EXCITING STREET INCIDENT

#### THREE RUNAWAYS IN HERETAUNGA STREET.

A series of bolts caused no little excitement in Heretaunga street, Hastings, shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Paul Murphy, of Mahora, was driving a buggy and pair of ponies in the direction of Havelock North, and when opposite the Bank of New South Wales, the ponies got out of control, breaking into a gallop. Mr. Murphy held on to the reins, but in steering between two vehicles opposite the New Zealand Clothing Factory, caught the rim of the wheel of a bradley owned by Mr. A. Brooke-Taylor, swinging it broadway across the road. Mr. Brooke-Taylor's youngest son, Pat, aged about 10 years, was thrown on the pavement. The little fellow appeared to fall on his head, and although slightly stunned, he quickly recovered himself and immediately gave chase to his horse, which had belted with the bradley along Heretaunga street. This runaway in turn collided with a gig owned by Mr. L. P. Millar, standing opposite Messrs. Millar and Giorgi's shop, and in which was seated Victor Thompson, aged 10 years, a son of Mr. T. J. Thompson. The horse in the shafts of the gig then set off in pursuit of the leaders, and by-standers were treated to the unusual spectacle of three runaways making in the same direction. Mr. Millar's turnout collided with a telegraph post in the vicinity of the Catholic Church. Taking advantage of this momentary halt the lad jumped out, and the horse continued on its career, being eventually brought to a standstill without incurring more damage than a broken spoke in one of the wheels. Mr. Brooke-Taylor's vehicle suffered damage to the extent of two broken shafts, and the harness was also broken in places. Mr. Murphy gained control of his horses some distance up the Havelock road. One wheel of his buggy lost three spokes.

### NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY. MATRICULATION EXAMINATION

Dunedin, Jan. 20.

Further New Zealand University examination results are available:—

Results are indicated as follows:—M. means passed Matriculation; S. means passed Solicitor's General Knowledge; P. means passed Medical Preliminary; E. means passed Engineering Preliminary; ; P.P. means gained a Partial Pass; Comp. means completed a Partial Pass.

#### Napier Centre.

D. W. Ashcroft, M., S., P.  
S. H. Bennet, M.  
C. T. Brown, Comp.  
J. Clark, M., S.  
Ann W. Emslie, M., S., P.  
Muriel C. Gifford, M., S., P.  
A. G. Harris, M.  
Jessie E. Harris, M., S., P.  
F. G. Holt, Comp.  
H. R. Holt, Comp.  
R. Kennedy, Comp.  
R. R. McLeod, M., S.  
T. J. Nelson, M., S.  
E. W. Norman, M.  
A. H. Richards, Comp.  
Jessie H. Ringland, M., S., P.  
A. H. Robinson, P.P.  
W. E. Rose, Comp.  
Hazel R. Sinclair, M., S., P.  
A. W. Skilton, P.P.  
Kathleen M. Stacey, P.P.  
K. T. M. Starkey, M., S., P.  
D. R. L. Stevenson, M., S., P.  
Eileen Sullivan, M.  
V. R. Thompson, M., S., P.  
F. D. Tonkin, Comp.  
J. E. Williamson, M.  
Pauline C. Witherow, M., S., P.  
N. C. Wylie, Comp.

Figure 76 Victor (V.R.) 4th  
from end of list



## TRENCH SILOS

### Advantages of Ensilage Over Hay

#### PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

On Messrs. Thompson Bros. Farm

By

"Sundowner"

(Written for the Tribune. All Rights Reserved.)



**Te Awa Homestead, yards, woolshed - earlier a Longlands outstation**

### ADVANTAGES OF TRENCH OVER STACK. *Article from the Hawke's Bay Tribune - 16<sup>th</sup> July 1927*

In view of the uncertainty of weather conditions in New Zealand at harvest time in this, as in other districts, we have several times advocated the more extensive adoption of the making of ensilage in preference to, or in addition to, hay.

In this connection we have advocated the making of a pit or trench silo in preference to stalk ensilage, owing to the amount of damage to, and waste of, material around the sides of the stack, the difficulty, unless mechanical hoists are used of lifting the green material to the top of the stack, and the uneven curing which takes place in a stack which is exposed to every wind that blows.

It has been claimed by some that quite as much waste takes place in pit or trench silos owing to the material becoming mixed with earth from the sides, bottom and covering of the trench, and that the trench had the further disadvantage of retaining any moisture from soakage or rainfall, thus spoiling the quality of the ensilage.

#### TRENCH SILO AT THOMPSON BROS.

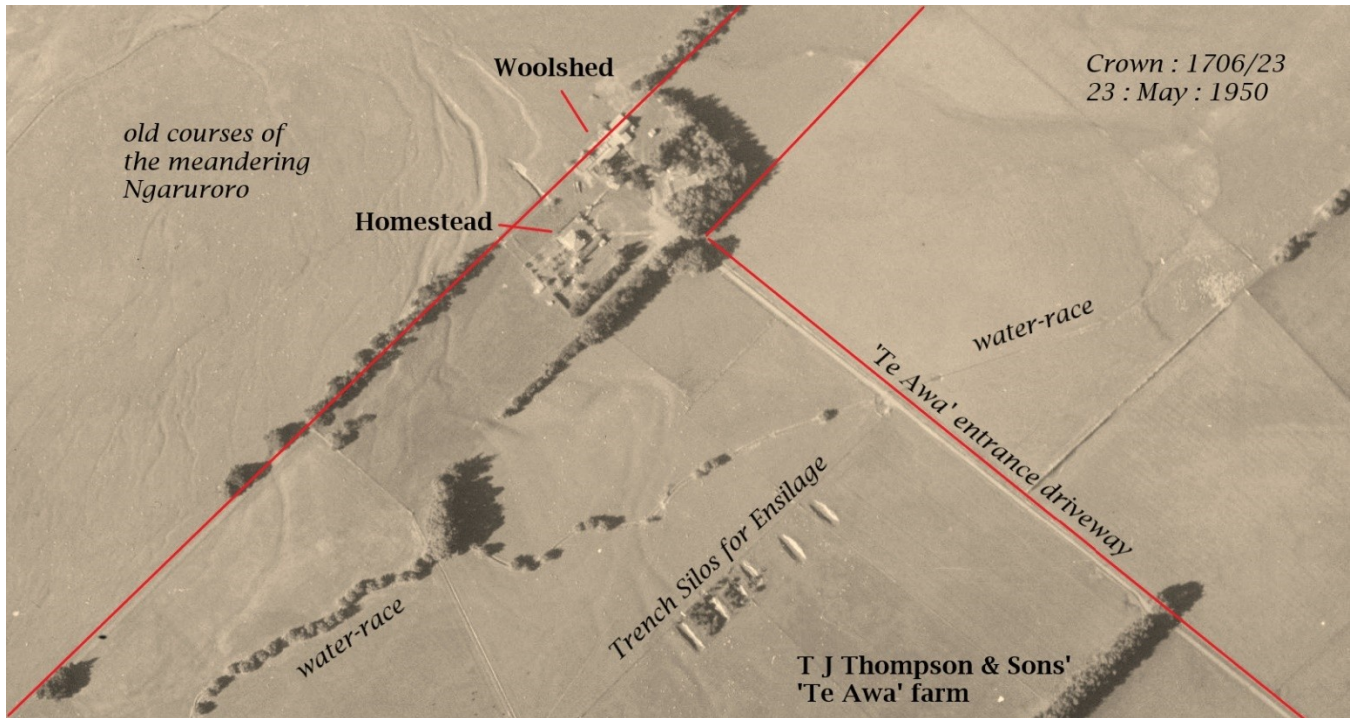
Early this week the writer had an opportunity of inspecting a trench silo from which the ensilage is at present being used on Messrs. Thompson Bros' farm at Ngatarawa, and it will no doubt be of interest to our readers to give a brief survey of the result of this enterprising firm's experiment.

On arrival at the farm, we went straight to the site of the pits, and were fortunate in finding the farm manager, **Mr. V. R. Thompson**, at the opened pit, where they were busy getting out a load of ensilage to provide the ewes with their daily ration.

The pits or trenches have been dug drawn from is approximately twelve feet deep and eighteen wide, while it appeared to be from thirty to forty feet long. This has been drawn on for feeding to 600 in-lamb ewes since February last at the rate is approximately one and a half tons of ensilage per day. and there still remains at least a quarter of the pit untouched.

The pits or trenches have been dug in the highest land in the centre of a fifty-acre lucerne paddock, the lucerne being a good stand and very clean from weeds. One cut from this area was sufficient to fill each pit, the balance of the season's growths being lightly grazed during the dry weather which we experienced during last summer.





#### WET WEATHER DOES NOT STOP HARVESTING.

During the whole time that ensilage making was in hand Mr. Thompson advises me that they experienced wet weather, in spite of which the work was carried on, with apparently no detriment to the ensilage. Sledges, with wide wooden wheels resembling immature rollers, were used to bring the newly-mown lucerne to the pit. The wide wooden wheels had the advantage of lightening the draught, making the negotiation of windrows possible without scattering the lucerne, did no damage to the crowns of the plants as would be done by ordinary sledge runners, and made the handling of me sledge and load in the pit easier.

#### UNLOADING THE SLEDGES.

As each sledge came to the trench with its load it was driven through from one end to the other, the load being dragged off and distributed by a rope during the process. This meant that the material in the bottom of the trench received much more compacting and pressure than that nearer the top, hence less heating took place during curing, and two qualities of ensilage, sour at the bottom, and sweet near the top, were produced in the one pit. The stock, however, appear to show no particular preference, eating both sour and sweet greedily, hence this is apparently no detriment.

#### ADVANTAGES OF ENSILAGE OVER HAY.

As a result of his experiment, Mr. Thompson asserts that the advantages of ensilage over hay are so great that he- would never consider reverting to haymaking again. In the first place, the ever-present worry of the hay-maker, the weather can be entirely disregarded: then there is less trouble with the lucerne in the field as no curing has to be undertaken with its continual anxiety as to whether the curing has been underdone or overdone. The crop is merely raked directly behind the mowers, into windrows and thence at once to the trench. No leaf, the most valuable part of the lucerne, is lost in the field through over-curing, and the unloading by means of a rope placed across in front of the load in the pit is infinitely quicker and easier than hoisting hay to the top of a stack. Work can be carried on however severely the wind is blowing, as the wind merely helps in the process of

forking on to the sledges, and does not scatter the material far and wide over the field as it does with hay. In the pit, the high temperature which is generated in curing the ensilage effectively destroys the vitality of any noxious weed seeds, such as dodder, and consequently when it is later fed out to the stock, there is no risk of distributing such weeds and parasites broadcast through the established pastures. In all well made ensilage the natural succulence of the green plant is maintained, and inferior grasses, which in hay the discriminating animals will reject, apparently acquire an attractive flavour and are eaten as readily as the better grasses and legumes.

The risk of fire from spontaneous combustion and consequently the cost of insurance is eliminated with ensilage, and provided the pits are dug on a suitable elevation and are properly covered with earth, there is no risk from wet weather as there is with faultily thatched or covered hay stacks.

#### FURTHER ADVANTAGES.

From thorough investigation at Messrs. Thompson Bros.' farm, I am convinced that the amount of ensilage spoiled through contact with the earth on the bottom, sides or earth covering of the pit, is negligible, and is far less than is spoiled through damp and mould at the base of an average hay stack.

In carting out to the stock, the ensilage can be readily cut with a sharp spade or hay knife, and as the trench is emptied the dray can be backed in to the face being worked on, without fouling or damaging any of the fodder.

Once the expense of constructing the pit has been covered, there it remains for all time, ready to receive the next crop immediately its contents have been carted out to the stock, and though concreting of the sides might be an improvement to prevent erosion when empty, this expense is by no means necessary. An advantage which should not be overlooked which the pit has over the stack is that no experienced stack-builder is required to do a good job. The ordinary unexperienced farm hands can satisfactorily do all that is required to make first-class ensilage.

#### SALT THE SILAGE.

Mr. Thompson took the wise course of salting each layer of the silage as it was put into the pit, and this may in some measure explain the keen appetite of his stock for this fodder and the appearance of health and general well-being which they all display.

That the sheep are extremely fond of ensilage was demonstrated by the way they flocked to the gate when the loaded dray was seen coming in their direction. As it was forked off, the animals ate it greedily, cleaning up every bit from the ground, and then contentedly lying about chewing the cud in the warm sunshine. From its moist and succulent condition every bit of the lucerne ensilage, even the stalks, is appetising, and it has an added advantage over hay that it does not mix with and deteriorate the value of the fleece as is always the case with hay-fed sheep.

#### HIGHER MOISTURE CONTENT.

The suitability of any ration for stock is largely dependent on its water content. This bulks the ration up, making it easily digestible, and has an advantageous loosening effect on the bowels. Any man who has fed hay to sheep will have noticed how frequently his charges resort to the water trough and then return with renewed appetite to



the hay. With ensilage, the water content appears to be quite sufficient, and though carefully watching the stock during and after eating the ensilage, I did not see one go to the trough.

Mr. Thompson's sheep were in particularly fine lambing condition, not over-fat. and yet showing a bloom in the wool which spoke of perfect health. He stated that in other years when the same sheep had been fed on hay, there was a distinct tendency to pink and wasty tip on a great deal of the wool, and he assigned the improvement this year solely to the use of ensilage.

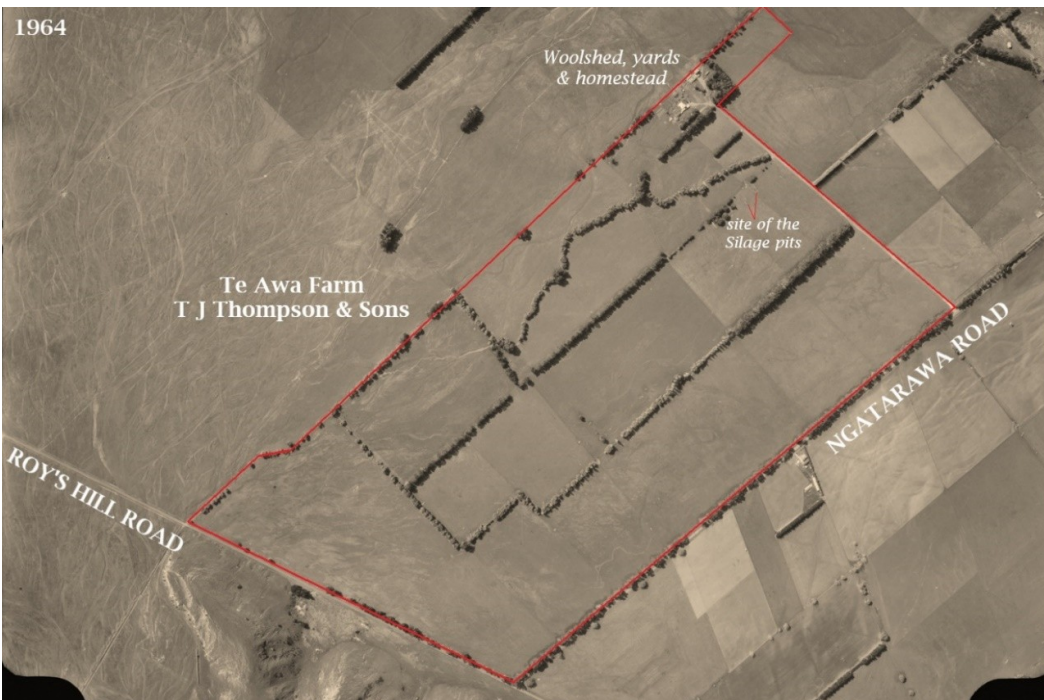
#### THE DAILY RATION.

Approximately three-quarters of a ton of ensilage proved to be a sufficient daily ration for 300 sheep, and Mr. Thompson estimates that twice this quantity, as represented by dry hay, would be ordinarily necessary, hence ensilage went twice as far in feeding as did hay.

Those farmers in the neighbourhood who have already seen this practical demonstration of the many advantages of ensilage have expressed their intention of adopting it in future, and there is little doubt that in the future the trench silo, where it is possible of construction, will be the most popular- form for both cheapness of construction and ease of filling and emptying.

#### THE "SWEET" CURE.

In filling their second trench Mr. Thompson used an elevator instead of taking the horses and sledges through the trench, and thus compacting the material. Though no temperatures were taken during filling operations, he believes this will ensure a "sweet" cure right to the bottom of the trench, and from the chemical changes which take place in the forage under this system, he thinks the ensilage may prove to have greater nutritive value than with the sour cure.



As those who have made ensilage in the past know, considerable heat is generated in the green material when it is in the stack, silo, or pit. When this heat is allowed to rise to 160 to 170 degrees Fahrenheit, it converts the starches in the plants into sugar. In this state it is partially pre-digested and is more valuable to the animals eating it than when it is cured at a lower temperature and remains as starch, as in "sour" ensilage. When it is realised that

almost every variety of growth on the farm, including weeds, can be converted to good fodder by this process, we feel that there should be many more pit silos in this country than can be come across to-day.

## Various Adverts from Te Awa from 1929 until 1936



TO STAND THE  
SEASON  
AT  
TE AWA,  
NGATARAWA

### THE CLYDESDALE STALLION JUBILEE

(now running with his mares)  
Fee, 3 guineas.

—Also—

### THE SHETLAND STALLION

#### THE BEETLE

Nine and a Half Hands.  
Fee, 3 guineas.

GRAZING, Etc., EXTRA.

V. R. THOMPSON

TE AWA - - - NGATARAWA

Phone 6083, Hastings.  
P.O. Box 201.



To Stand  
the Season at  
T. J. THOMPSON &  
SONS'  
Te Awa Property

The Imported Clydesdale Stallion

### ARCHAIC No. 20695

Direct Son of the World's Wonder Sire,  
Denure Footprint No. 15203.

FEE: 6 GNS. Nett Cash.

No terms to include guarantees will  
be entertained. All care taken, but  
not responsibility accepted.

For further particulars apply—

V. R. THOMPSON,

Phone 6083, Box 281, HASTINGS.

## Tarui and Te Awa Studs of Southdown Sheep

Reared under natural conditions on light to medium lands,  
therefore

SUITABLE FOR ANY CLASS OF COUNTRY.

Founded on Gimblett's and Knight's Southdowns, the  
TARUI STUD are bred on the slopes of Kahuranaki  
and are big-boned, active sheep—perfect for use  
with Longwool ewes on hill country.

THE TE AWA STUD grazes light to medium plains  
country at Ngatarawa and their constitutions are  
right.

The progeny of these rams when sent Home in the  
Fat Lamb Classes have repeatedly won awards at  
Smithfield against Dominion-wide entries.

TWO-TOOTH FLOCK RAMS AVAILABLE.

INSPECTION INVITED.

T. J. Thompson & Sons, Ltd.

P.O. BOX 281. HASTINGS.

### TE AWA SOUTHDOWNS.

Some of the most outstanding South-  
down blood to be found in the breed  
was contained in the foundation stock  
of the "Te Awa" Stud of Messrs T.  
J. Thompson and Sons, domiciled at  
Ngatarawa. The stud was founded  
upon a number of notable purchases  
from the studs of Messrs W. J. Gimblett,  
Knight, Ellis and Viles, and the  
present flock are strongly infused with  
the blood of an outstanding ram bred  
by Mr W. J. Gimblett, which doubled  
the price of any other ram sold at the  
Hawke's Bay Ram Fair in 1930.

"Te Awa" Southdowns have been  
bred up to an ideal and this is represented  
by the present type of sheep  
found in the stud, of a long, thick,  
deep, low set carcass, calculated to  
throw a lamb admirably suited for  
export market requirements.



TO  
STAND  
THE  
SEASON

—at—

T. J. THOMPSON & SONS'  
TE AWA PROPERTY, HASTINGS.  
THE BAY CLYDESDALE STALLION  
"JUBILEE"

Foaled 1932. Bred by R. E. Jefferson,  
Esq., Wairoa.  
Sire: The Doctor. Dam: Alton Rose.

FEE: £3 3/- CASH.

Apply—

VICTOR THOMPSON.

BOX 281.

HASTINGS.



TO STAND THE  
SEASON  
—at—  
T. J. Thompson  
and Sons, Ltd.,  
TE AWA FARM,  
HASTINGS

### FERNHILL DESIGN

Height 17 hands lin. Foaled 1931.

Sire, Desire (imp.); sire, Carron Daic;  
sire, Danure Footprint; sire, Baron of  
Buchlyvie (sold for £9500).

Dam, Glen Florence; sire, Danure  
Fabric (imp.); sire, Danure Footprint;  
sire, Baron of Buchlyvie (sold for  
£9500).

Dam, Glen Florence; dam, Lauder's  
Pride; dam, Maggie Lauder by Blair  
Gowrie; dam, Queen of the Bankers by  
Young Banker (imp.); dam, Princess  
Royal by Prince Royal; dam, Highland  
Mary by Baronet; dam, Violet by Sir  
Colin Campbell.

The pedigree of Fernhill Design ex-  
tends back 124 years.

FEE: Single Mare 5gns. cash, £5 10/-  
booked.

VICTOR THOMPSON

Phone 6083, Box 281. HASTINGS.



## The T.J .Thompson girls



Figure 77 The six T J Thompson daughters PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER )

### May

**Mary (May) Thompson** (1884-1963) and the Millar & Giorgi connection

She was May and not Mary from early on.

DEAN HOVELL'S BIBLE CLASSES. (November 1893) Yesterday afternoon the annual distribution of prizes to the children attending Dean Hovell's bible classes, in the Napier district schools, took place upon the Deanery lawn.

The following are the names of the successful scholars :

Standard II. — James Taylor, Lizzie Elliott, Nellie Taylor, **May Thompson**;

and again in 1894

Standard IV. — James Taylor, Maggie Mackenzie, Harold Cobb, Charlie Tufnell, **May Thompson**.

In August 1895 May gave a recitation at the St Paul's (Napier) quarterly Band of Hope entertainment evening (soon after leaving for Havelock)

At St Andrew's (Hastings) in 1908 she was appointed treasurer of the newly formed Literary & Debating Society,

In her first year at the Napier Technical College in 1914 she passed her shorthand & typing.

In February 1917 at a meeting of the HB Education Board it was reported "Miss **Mary Thompson** has been appointed temporary instructress in Domestic Science at the Gisborne centre."

A meeting was held last night in St. Andrew's Hall to discuss the advisability of forming a Literary and Debating Society. The Rev. P. Ramsay occupied the chair, and there were about twenty others present. After some discussion it was decided to form a society to be called "St. Andrew's Literary and Debating Society." The following officers were elected:—President, Rev. P. C. Ramsay; vice-president, Mr W. Smith; secretary, Mr E. R. D'Anvers; treasurer, Miss May Thompson; and a committee consisting of Misses Ramsay, Hawthorne and Ivy Thompson, and Messrs W. G. Turner and F. E. Nottage. A syllabus was drawn up. One particularly novel idea will be "A Mock Borough Council Meeting." The first meeting will take place on Thursday next, 11th inst., in St. Andrew's Hall, at 7.45 p.m., when all intending members are requested to be present.

In 1906 Millar & Giorgi bought the Hastings business of 'Astley & Co' who occupied what had been William Guthrie's shop between the Carlton hotel and the building that houses Thompson Bros butchers. With the family butcher shop adjacent for another year or so, there was opportunity to 'meet' May Thompson.

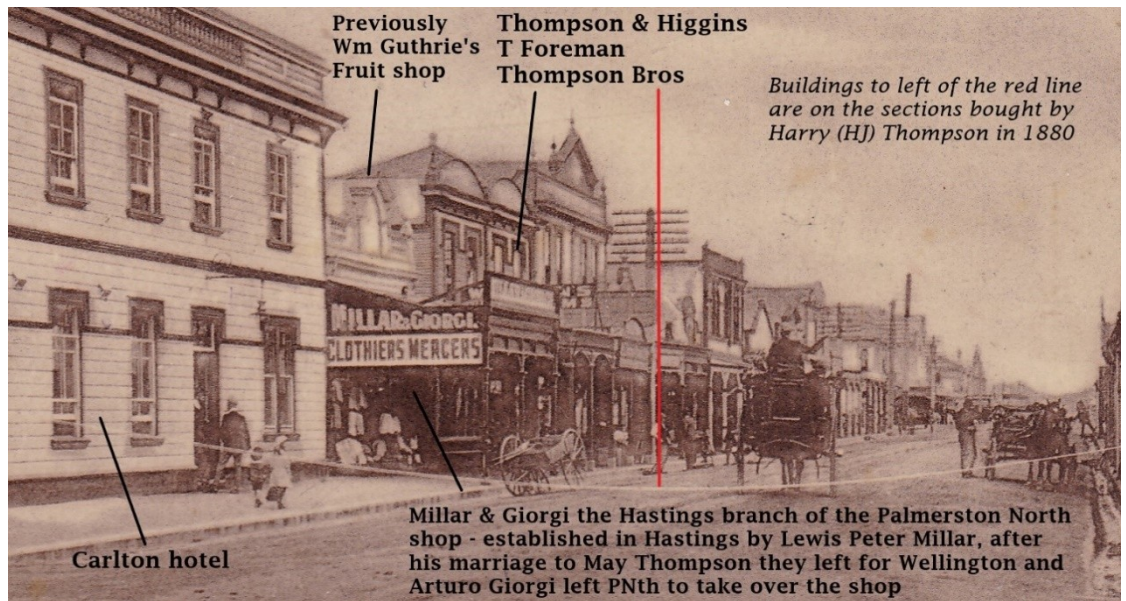


Figure 78 Lewis Millar was running Millar & Giorgi for 4-years before his marriage to May

Lewis Millar was from Palmerston North and from 1906 until 1910 and his marriage to May he managed the Hastings branch of the Palmerston North clothier, Millar & Giorgi and thereafter until 1918 when they moved to Wellington. The firm had been founded in Palmerston North in 1902 by Lewis's father, Maurice Millar and Arturo (Arthur) Giorgi.

In the 'About Victor...' when he was 10 and in Lewis's wagon waiting and he got caught up in three runaway horses, here is where it happened from.\

They were married in at St Andrew's on September 1910 – home was 407E Eastbourne Street - March 1918 they moved to Wellington.

Arturio (Arthur) Giorgi of Millar & Giorgi in Palmerston North came to run the Hastings shop - Lewis's father, Maurice Lewis, running the original store – Arturo didn't return – and Hastings became home. His son, Ron Giorgi, went on to become the face of the Millar & Giorgi menswear shop and the face of Hastings as its mayor from 1959 until 1974.

In May 1912 in Hastings when a Ladies Auxilliary to the Y.W.C.A. was formed, May (as Mrs L P Millar) was a joint secretary treasurer until March 1918 when they moved to Wellington where their first home was 32 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, followed by 72 Waipapa Road, Hataitai. In 1923 she was the Wellington secretary and by the 1940s a vice president. Upon their move to Wellington, Lewis left the retail trade and took up as a traveller/ Indent agent/ representative for MK Millinery etc .

A pleasing function took place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Sunday School, Hastings, yesterday, when Miss Eileen Murfitt, on behalf of the third class of St. Andrew's Sunday School, presented the teacher, Miss May Thompson, with a handsome silver cruet and toast rack, on the occasion of her approaching marriage. In making the presentation Miss Murfitt expressed regret at the loss of the service of Miss Thompson who had become endeared to all during her three years of active interest in the Sunday School, and wished her every success and happiness in the future. Miss Thompson suitably responded.

The Hastings Presbyterian Church was the scene of a most interesting and exceedingly popular wedding on Friday afternoon, when the Rev. F. Ramsay solemnised marriage between Miss Mary (May) Thompson, eldest daughter of Mr T. J. Thompson, ex-Mayor of Hastings, and Mr Louis Peter Millar, third son of Mr James Millar, of Palmerston N. The girls of the choir, of which the bride was a member, tastefully decorated the church for the occasion. The bride was elegantly attired in ivory white satin, silk insertion, and sprays of Oriental trimming. She carried a shower bou-

quet, a gift from the bridegroom. Misses Bertha and Ivy Thompson (sisters of the bride) and Miss Sowersby (cousin of the bride) attended as bridesmaids. At the conclusion of the service the wedding party repaired to "Rangimari," the residence of the bride's parents, where they were most hospitably entertained, and viewed the presents, which, besides numerous cheques, included a marble clock from the firm of Millar and Giorgi, a silver afternoon tea-set from the employees of Messrs Thompson Bros., kitchen utensils from the bride's girl friends, an English piano from the bridegroom to his bride, pictures, silver tea set and jewel box from the employees of Millar and Giorgi's Hastings branch, twelve volumes of the best poets from the bridegroom's fellow boarders, and a splendid bride cake presented by Mr and Mrs Alexander, of Napier. Subsequently Mr and Mrs L. P. Millar left by motor car for Napier, and thence for Auckland, on their honeymoon trip. The bride's going-away dress consisted of a navy tailor-made costume, with large white and green hat.



Millar & Giorgi retained ownership of a double shop ferro-concrete building in Heretaunga Street, Lewis managed it but not the one we knew as Millar & Giorgi's but next to Westerman's corner building that in 1934 had been occupied by J.R. McKenzie's – (look under Westerman's veranda arch to see the name) they returned to the vicinity by the 1960s.



Figure 80 Palmerston North's Millar & Giorgi

TO LEASE, IN HASTINGS,  
**U**PTO-DATE FERRO - CONCRETE  
 SHOP, best business position; lately  
 occupied by Messrs. J. R. McKenzie;  
 suitable for draper, boot store, or grocer.  
 Apply  
**LEWIS MILLAR,**  
 72 Waipapa Road, Hataitai, Wellington.

Figure 81 Evening Post, 18 April 1934, Page 3

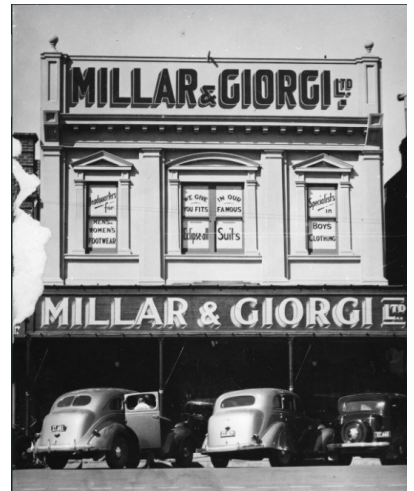


Figure 82 Hastings Standard, 8 December 1906, Page 2



Figure 83 May Thompson [Mrs. Lewis Millar]  
 PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

WHY PURCHASE YOUR  
**CLOTHING & MERCERY**  
 Out of Hastings, when  
**MILLAR & GIORGI** are now opening **£2,000**  
 worth of Sterling Value in  
**MEN'S & BOYS' CLOTHING AND MERCERY**  
 In Premises lately occupied by Messrs ASTLEY & CO. We have also  
 bought the latter's Stock which we intend to throw away at HALF COST  
 Price at our **Big Purchase Sale**  
 COMMENCING SATURDAY, DEC. 8th  
**MILLAR & GIORGI,** CASH CLOTHIERS,  
 HATTERS & MERCERS,  
 NEXT TO CARLTON CLUB, HASTINGS.

## Bertha

### Bertha Houston Thompson (1881-1997)



Figure 84 Bertha Thompson [Mrs. Robert Cole]

Bertha was appointed a pupil teacher in 1905 at Havelock North school and an registered teacher at the school in 1907, and later in the Hastings District School

In 1909 she was infant mistress at Makauri near Gisborne through to 1911 where she was a one of those who established netball – then being called basketball. For the year 1912 she was at Maraekakaho.

As infant mistress she then taught at Mangapapa – 345 pupils 9 teachers - followed by Gisborne North - 411 pupils and 9 teachers - Robert (Dick) Cole was headmaster for both schools in turn and in 1922 she married him which appears to be the last year of her teaching.



Figure 85 Bertha and Ivy with friend Irene Tipping between



Figure 87 Bertha and Dick in Gisborne – 1925 PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER



Figure 86 Caption on back of the photo of Bertha aboard the boat - "Do you recognise this? Thought you might like to have a good looking NZ niece to gaze upon. Much love to Alex and the lovely copper-topped family (Hugh, Maureen and Esther all had red hair) and thine self. From Ivy and ME." PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER



## MRS. R. COLE FAREWELL PRESENTATION

### WORK FOR BASKETBALL

The popularity and esteem in which Mrs. R. Cole is held by basketball players in Poverty Bay was much in evidence on Saturday afternoon, when at the conclusion of the Robson Cup match, advantage was taken of the occasion to bid Mrs. Cole farewell and to make her a small presentation, prior to her departure for Petone.

Mrs. Beale, treasurer of the association, spoke in eulogistic terms of Mrs. Cole's work during the time she had been connected with basketball in Gisborne. Her departure from the district was very much regretted and would cause a gap which would be very difficult to fill. In asking Mrs. Cole to accept the gift of a bronze statuette hall lamp, Mrs. Beale extended to Mrs. Cole and family, the very best wishes for happiness and prosperity in their new home.

As life member of the association, and one who had been actively interested for many years, Mrs. G. H. Sceats then asked Mrs. Cole to accept a gold president's badge, which it was the privilege of the association's presidents to possess. She also joined in wishing her every happiness.

Other speakers who endorsed Mrs. Beale's remarks were Miss C. Miller, on behalf of the players, and Mr. F. G. Murphy, as vice-president of the association.

In reply, Mrs. Cole thanked the association for the delightful gifts, which she would always treasure, expressing the hope that the executive and basketball in Gisborne would continue to prosper, and that the Poverty Bay team would meet with much success in the New Zealand tournament.

Cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Cole were then given by the local and visiting teams, after which a delicious afternoon tea was partaken of.

## Ivy

**Julia Carr Thompson (1893-1931)** but known as **Ivy**, she spent two years at the School of Art in London, specialising in oils, sculpture and jewellery. Ivy and Bertha made a trip to Leitrim and toured England on a motorcycle and side car for 6-months in 1920 – the photo is them getting used to the idea at home in Hastings.

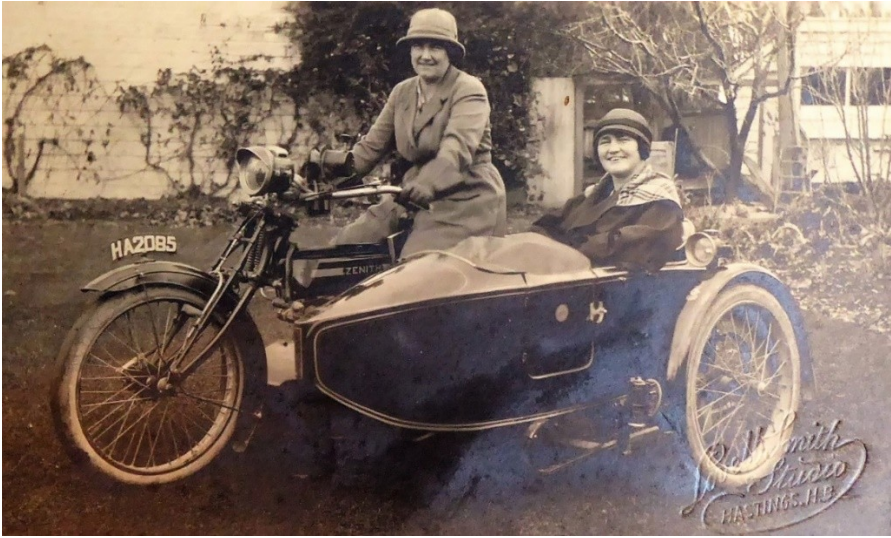


Figure 89 Ivy and Bertha in Hastings readying for their 1920 UK & Ireland trip. A postcard sent to Eileen of Leitrim Farm  
PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

Ebbett. The Napier Gas Company showrooms were just around the corner on King Street. He immediately ran 15 yards passing the grocer's shop to the corner of Heretaunga Street and King Street, then the force of the shockwaves threw him off his feet and headfirst across the intersection into a large telephone pole outside the Cosy Theatre. Bricks rained down one by one, but none directly hit him, but slowly they buried both his legs and crept up his torso. Luckily the Cosy Theatre had been poorly built and the bricks separated and didn't fall in large lumps.

Exactly where he had been standing, 38-year-old clerk **Julia 'Ivy' Thompson** had rushed out of her father's shop and had been crushed by falling masonry [as was the delivery van]. Across the road seventeen people perished as the façade of Roach's Department Store crashed into the centre of the road before the whole building caved inwards. Dad extradited himself from the bricks, grabbed his bike from outside the gas company and rushed home to comfort us."



The front of the shop collapsed on top of Ivy as she exited  
Photo from MTG Ref : 16959

She studied accountancy and was clerk for the family butcher shop and was tragically killed in the '31 quake when she came out from the shop just as the front wall and the weighty parapet collapsed onto the street.

### Gordon Vogtherr wrote in his "I Too Have No Regrets" on page 12

"When the world started to move, my father had been standing outside Thompson's Butchery in Heretaunga Street West, just marking time until his appointment to demonstrate a new model fridge to Mrs.



## Lily

**Lily Aikin Thompson** (1894-1976) was appointed a pupil teacher at Hastings District High School in 1912 in the primary division (around 20 teachers for both primary & secondary) - and taught there through to 1917. From 1918



Figure 90 Lily - between 1915-1920 - PHOTO FROM SHANE PARAMORE

through 1920 she taught in South Wellington school (17-19 teachers). In 1921 Lily she was at Paki Paki school a two teacher school of 52 pupils.

She was teaching at Pakipaki in 1922 at the time of her marriage and was presented with a travelling rug by the pupils for her wedding to Robert Percy Northe - Percy was the assistant secretary to the H. B. Hospital Board.

Their home was Delhi Road and then Havelock Road in Napier



Figure 91 Lily in 1934 - PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

At the meeting of the Education Board, on Thursday, the following appointments were made:—Dannevirke, male assistant, Mr Bruce M. Kibblewhite; Napier, female assistant, Miss Laura Martyn; Maharara West, sole teacher, Miss Norah Tuohy; Marsakaho, sole teacher, Miss Daisy McNaughton; Hastings, female assistant, Miss Annie Gorman; Woodlands, female assistant, Miss Elsie Brewer; Westshore, headmaster, Mr Duncan McLennan, Twyford, held over until grade of school is ascertained; Hastings, pupil teacher, Miss Lily Thompson.

Figure 94 Waipawa Mail, 26 October 1912, Page 2. Lily at the Hastings District High School.



Figure 92 Robert Percy Northe PHOTO FROM SHANE PARAMORE

### WEDDING.

#### NORTHE--THOMPSON.

A quiet, but extremely pretty, and popular little wedding was celebrated yesterday afternoon at "Rangimarie," Havelock road, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, of Hastings, whose fourth daughter, Miss Lily A. Thompson, was united in matrimony by Rev. P. Ramsay, to Mr. R. Percy Northe, sixth son of Mrs. R. Northe, of Napier. The bride, who was given away by her father, was charmingly attired in palest blue taffeta, with the usual veil and orange blossoms, and carrying a beautiful bouquet of lilies, heather, and freizias. She was attended as bridesmaid by her sister, Miss Myrtle Thompson, looking exceedingly pretty in heliotrope crepe-de-chine, trimmed with padded gold grapes, wearing a black hat and bearing a handsome bouquet of violets and primroses.

Mr. Gordon Northe, brother of the bridegroom, discharged the duties of best man, and at the conclusion of the service the guests, who consisted only of the immediate relatives and friends of the parties, were most hospitably entertained by the bride's parents.

The young couple received the hearty congratulations of their many friends, and subsequently they left by motor car for the north on their honeymoon, amid renewed good wishes for their future health, happiness, and prosperity, the bride wearing as a going-away dress a navy costume with black and gold hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Northe received many handsome and valuable wedding presents, including a beautiful travelling rug, presented by the children of the Paki Paki School to the bride, who was their teacher, and a silver tea service, presented to the bridegroom by the staff of the Napier hospital.

Figure 93 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 31 August 1922, Page 5

## Daisy

### Esther Daisy Thompson (1898-1982)

Daisy started her schooling in Havelock, she attended Napier Technical College and gained Senior Free Place and became Secretary in the family butcher's shop after the death of Julia Ivy in 1931.

She was an excellent cook - she got a first place at the College, swimmer - she swam 3-miles with the next girl completing her effort at 2-miles - a champion golfer and played hockey, tennis and bowls.



She married later in life, at 42-years old in 1940.

Her husband was Frank Cole, a widower who had the tragic horror of losing his wife Ethel and two young sons - 5½ and 4¼-yrs in the 1931 earthquake in Hastings.

*Presently this little amount is all that has been found.*

## Myrtle

### Myrtle Sowersby Thompson (1900-1995)



**Myrtle** was alone among the girls to do her secondary schooling at Iona College Her nursing training was in Napier and Christchurch hospitals.

It was in Christchurch where she met Martin Thyne, a police constable and her future husband.

A family anecdote is that she'd been a maternity sister in Hastings.

Martin was moved widely around the country with his last move to Hastings as a Sergeant and to retirement

*Presently this little amount is all that has been found.*





## Thompson properties in central Hastings



Figure 95

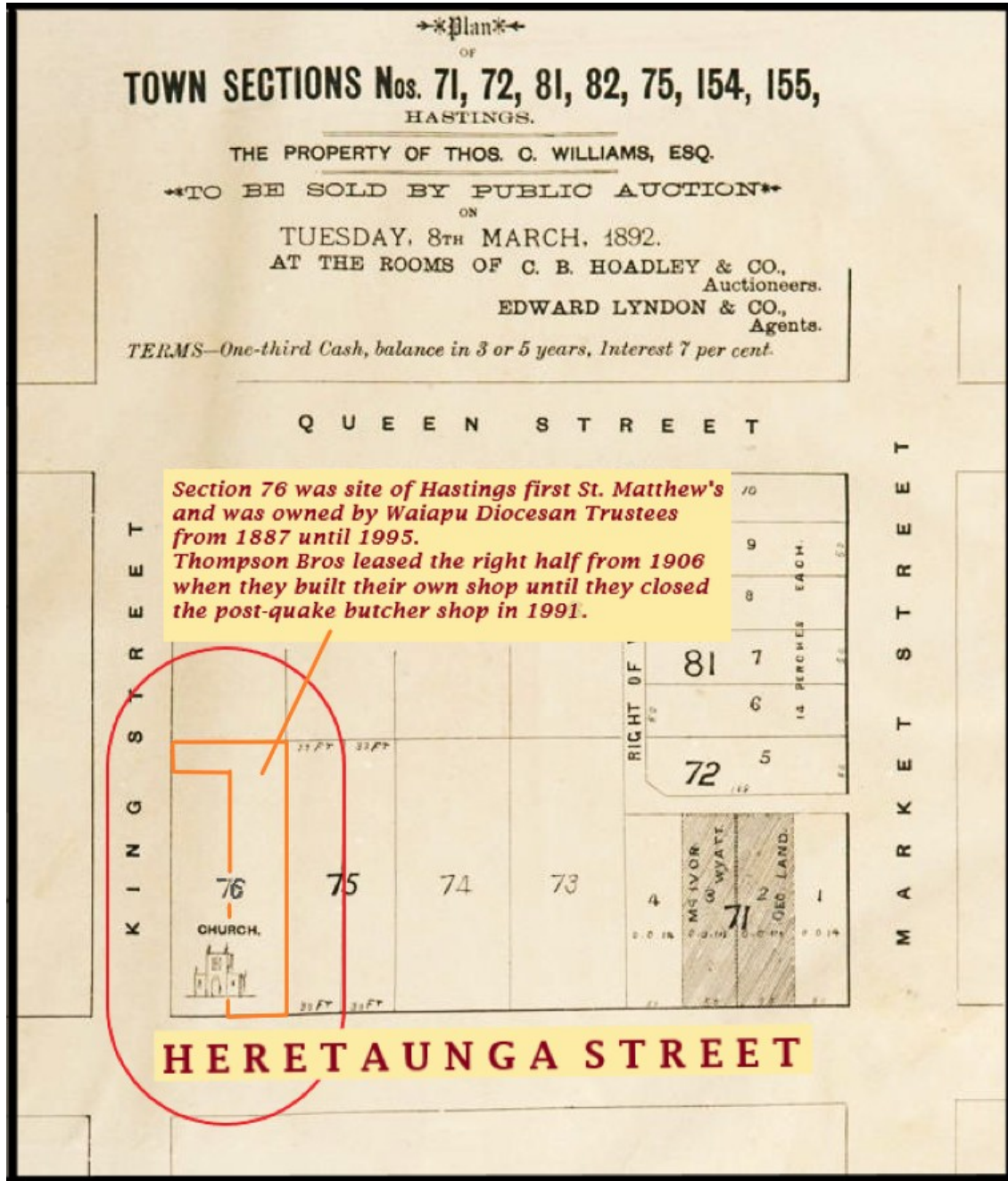
**Thompson's in Central Hastings** Tom & Lizzie's home on Heretaunga Street. Willie and Clara's on King and then Nelson Street. The original butcher shop by the Carlton, and the second by King Street corner

The homes of Tom & Lizzie and Dempster's homes were both on the original 2-acre section of 'Rangimarie'. The Heretaunga Street end of Maddison Street was cut off 'Rangimarie' and Dempster built at the back corner of his parent's section.

Willie's first and second homes are where the Hastings Medical Centre is.

The first butcher shop – built 1882 -was next to the Carlton – the second - the purpose-built replacement of 1907 was on the site of Hastings' own 'Westminster Abbey' - the first Anglican church.

**The second Thompson Bros butcher’s shop**



**Figure 96 Thompson Bros, Tom and Willie, from 1906 until 1991 they leased from the Waiapu Diocesan Trustees part of the original St Matthew’s site on King Street corner**

Thompson Bros (Tom & Willie) were in business beside the Carlton - and about this time with three of Tom’s sons coming into the business - Willie withdrew from being active the butcher’s trade to go farming. He may well retained an intest in the business and still provided meat fot the shop.

The original name continued for some while so as Thompson Bros a lease was obtained of a part of the corner section at King Street – a piece of ground that had already had quite a colourful past.



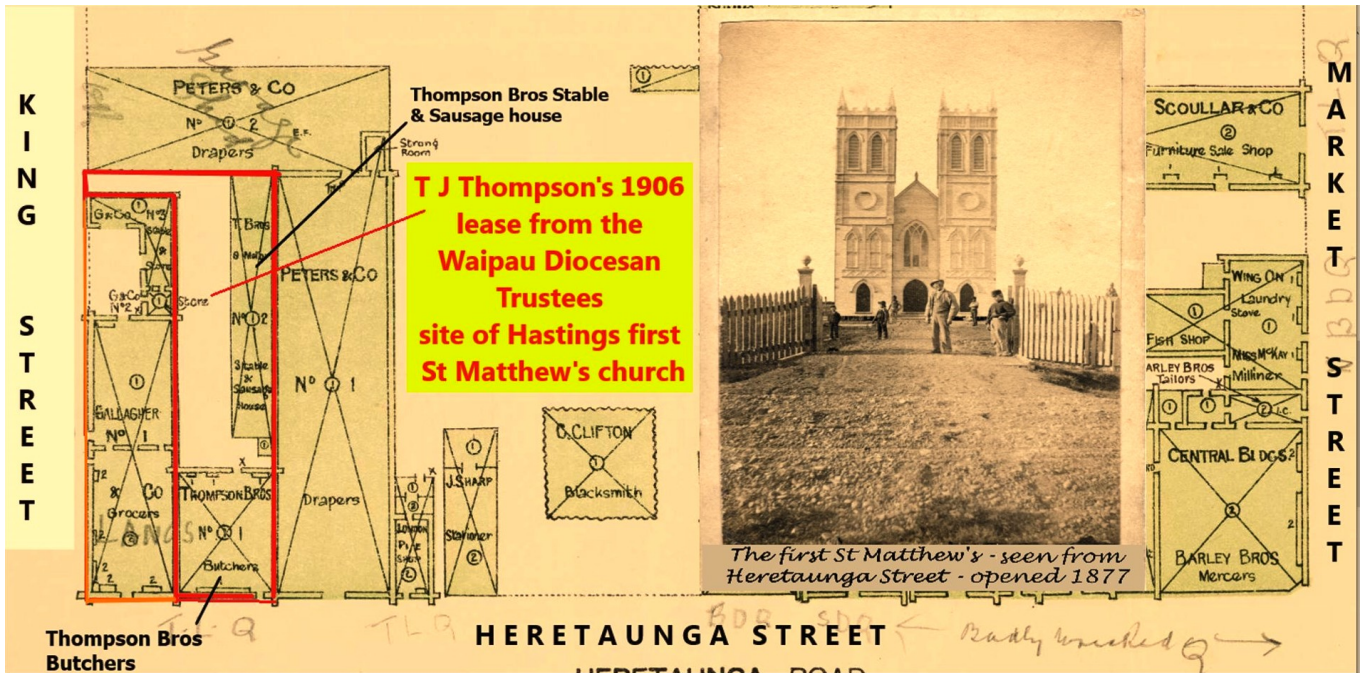


Figure 97 Room for a shop, stables and sausage making plant

It was where Hastings first Anglican Church had been built by the Rev Marshall – he was also responsible for the building of St Luke’s in the Havelock Village and St Mark’s in Clive – which is now on Willowpark Road corner in Hastings.

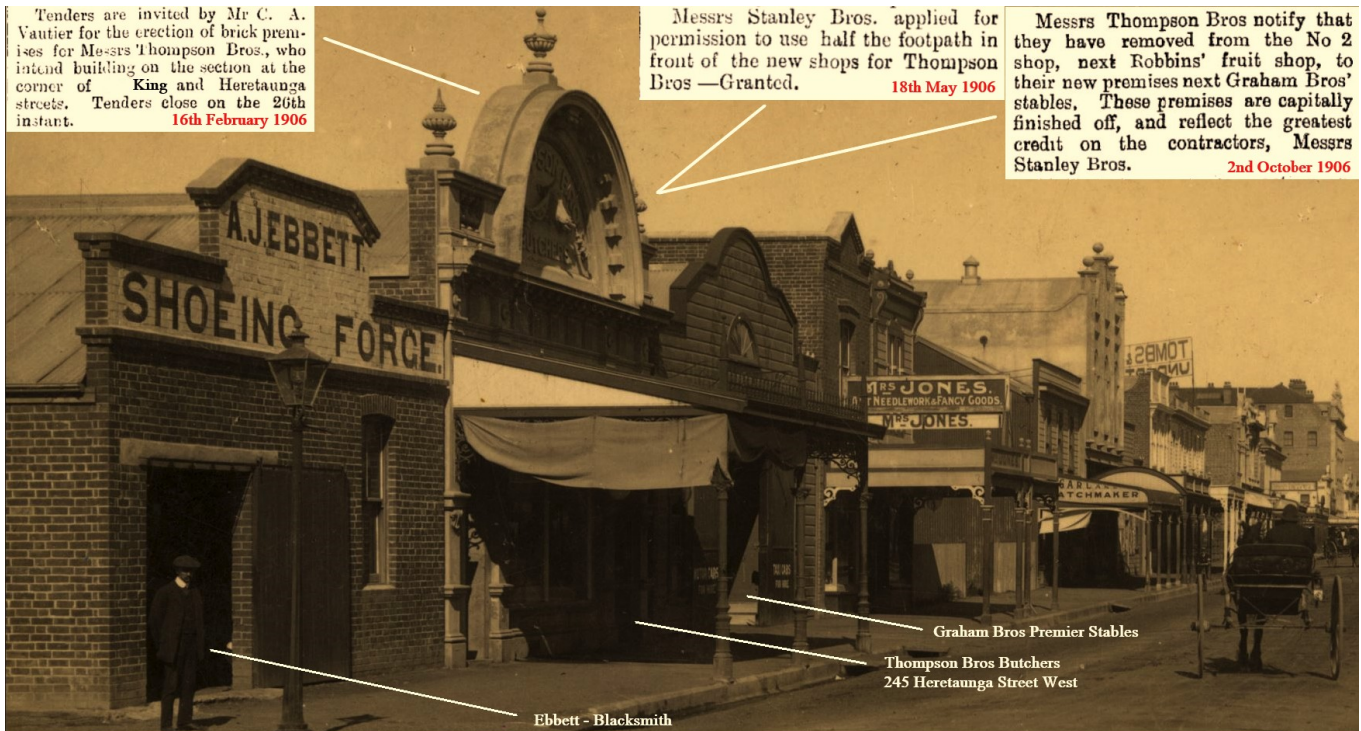


Figure 98 Thompson & Bros new shop by King Street corner

That extravagance of the shop frontage – THOMPSON BROS BUTCHERS as permanent letters raised in cement render on the parapet along with an unidentifiable raised design in the centre was heavy and free standing. A fatal flaw that resulted in daughter Ivy’s death in 1931.



It was not the only one of its kind – another similar was opposite Thompson’s previous shop and perhaps is where they got their inspiration. Once they were established in the new shop - in May 1907 the old building was leased to Bookseller & Stationers M. J. Hall & Son who were in business in Hastings 1904 to 1920)



*Figure Complete destruction by the 1931 earthquake - the frontage of Thompson's butcher shop to the right of Land's for Bags Photo from MTG - Ref : 83018*

Built of brick, as was required by council ordinance, it didn't anticipate an earthquake. Most of the rubble here was from Roach's across the road. Thompson's delivery van in the midst of the bricks.

An earlier view of the King Street side of the Napier Gas Building before the Napier Gas and Anderson & Hansen extension.

Thompson's yard entrance is the near side of the brick wall at extreme left.

*Figure 99 King Street well before the quake Photo from MTG Ref : 99566*





The council insisted that all builds be made of brick as was Willie Douglas's 'Cosy Theatre' across the road from Napier Gas and Lands for Bags. This was a response to some severe fires that had earlier wiped out whole town blocks.



Figure 100 Thompson's site cleared Photo from MTG Ref : 77486

Above - Thompson's site has been cleared, the ruined building completely removed

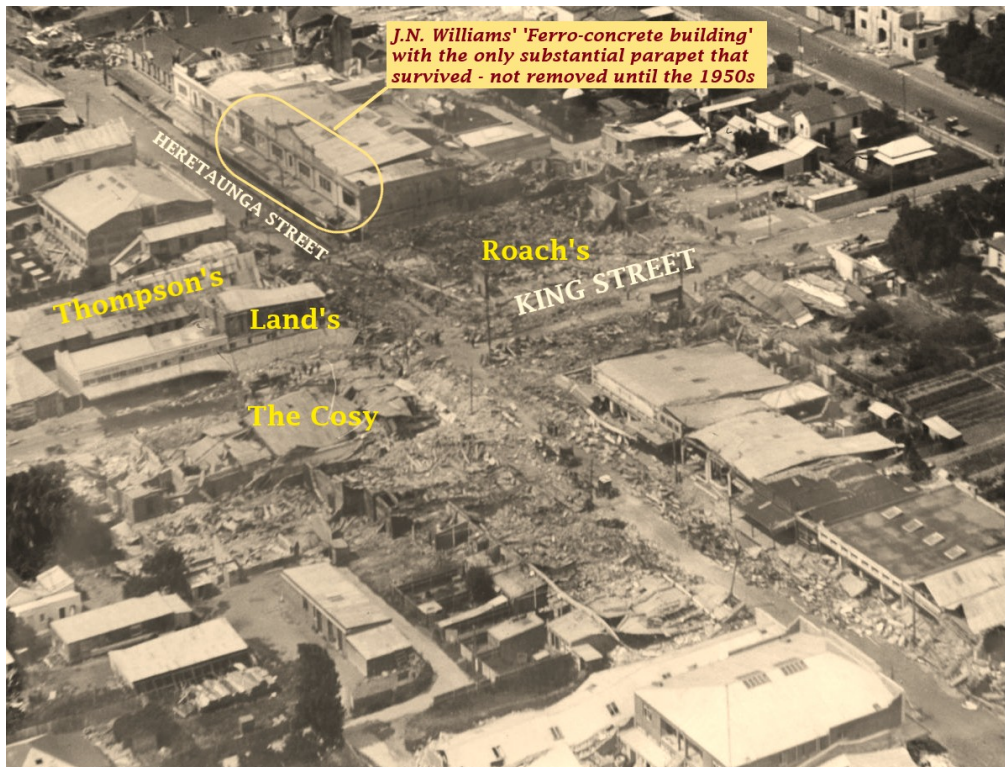


Figure 101 The street frontage of the butcher's shop was brick and shaken to bits, the back part was wood and corrugated iron and survived - although a wobbly mess. Photo from MTG Ref : 80655

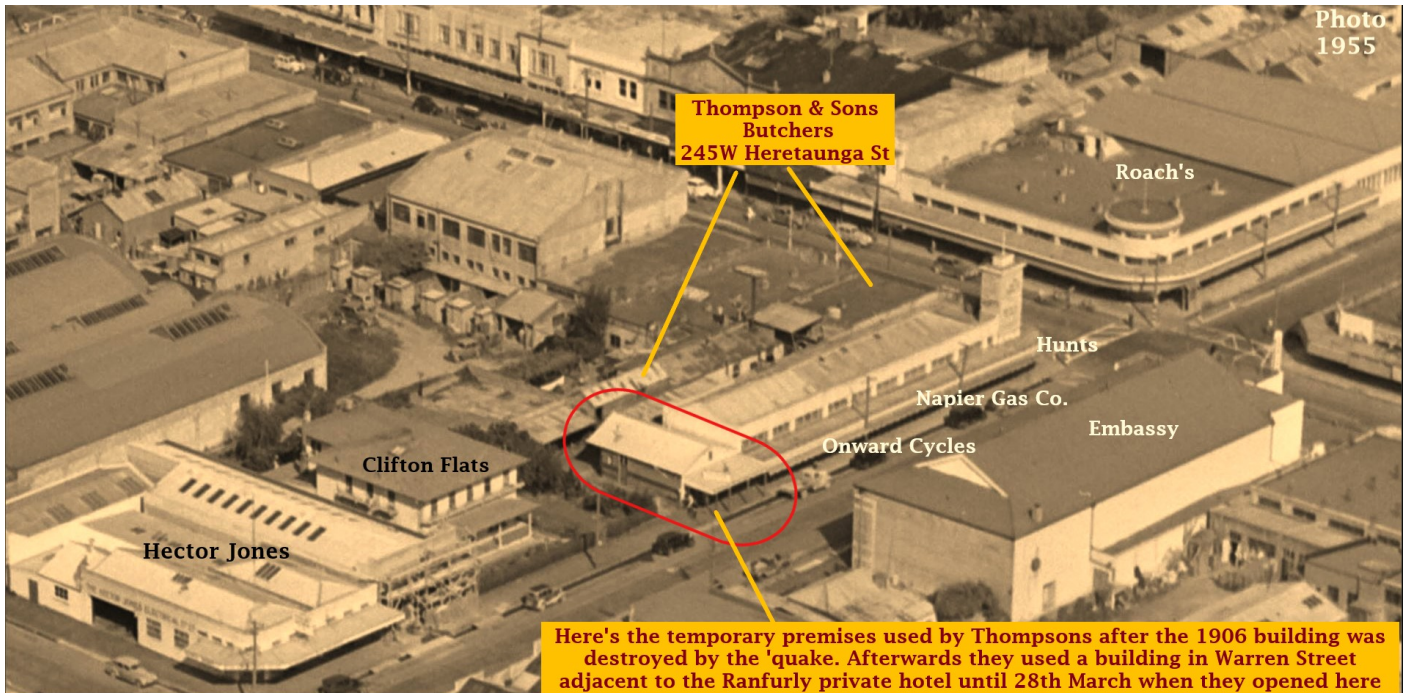


Figure 102 A 'temporary' building served until the new shop was built PHOTO WHITE'S AVIATION NATIONAL LIBRARY



AND BETWEEN THE QUAKE AND THE NEW BUILDING...A TEMPORARY SHOP IN WARREN STREET

**WANTED KNOWN.**

**THOMPSON BROS.**  
**BUTCHERS, HASTINGS.**  
Temporary Premises:  
**WARREN STREET (next Ranfurly).**  
**Free Delivery.**

Figure 103 HAWKE'S BAY TRIBUNE, 17 FEBRUARY 1931, PAGE 1

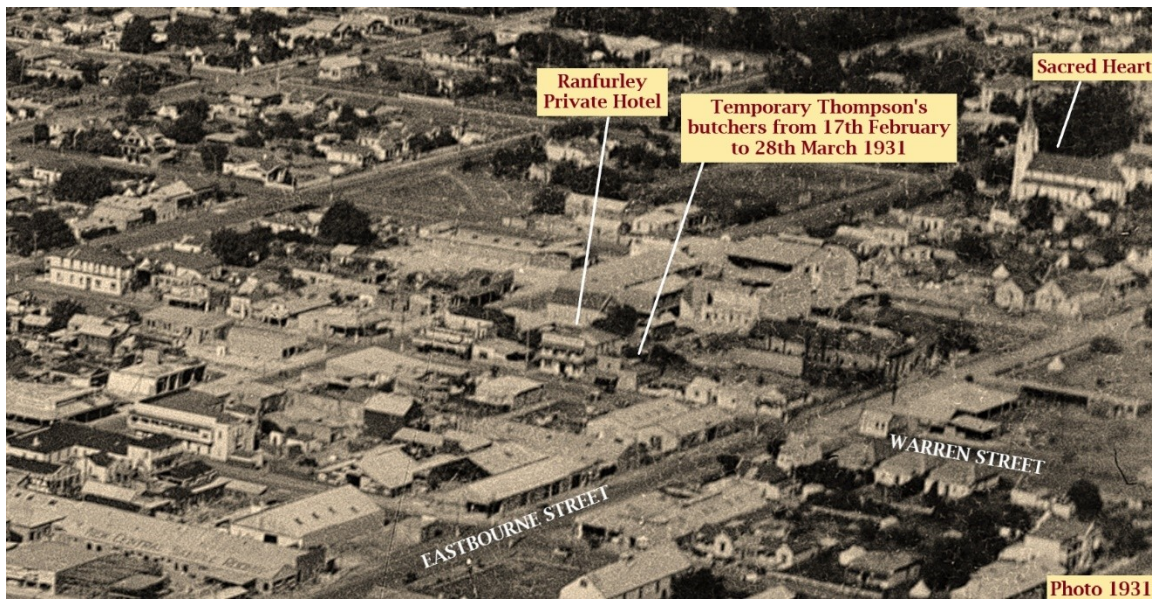


Figure 104 Taken in late March 1931, showing Thompson's temporary butcher's shop in Warren Street South

In the interim a temporary shop was built behind the Napier Gas Company's office and Thompson Bros opened there on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, it was later used by Hector Jones while their premise was being rebuilt –

**PUBLIC NOTICES.**

**THOMPSON BROS.,  
BUTCHERS**

Beg to inform their numerous customers that they will be removing from Warren Street on SATURDAY, March 14, where they have lately been carrying on business under extremely difficult conditions.

Our new and hygienic premises will be found in King Street at back of old shop, where we will have proper facilities for carrying on business under up-to-date sanitary conditions.

While thanking our numerous customers for the liberal support accorded us during the past forty-years, we will endeavour, by giving service and supplying the best meat procurable, to deserve a continuance of same.

**THOMPSON BROS.**

Figure 106 HAWKE'S BAY TRIBUNE, 12 MARCH 1931, PAGE 4

**THOMPSON BROS.  
BUTCHERS.**

Well-known Firm for  
**QUALITY MEAT.**

Opposite Old Cozy Site.

Free Delivery, Phone 3631.

Figure 105 HAWKE'S BAY TRIBUNE, 28 MARCH 1931, PAGE 4

And as to temporary - it was temporary butcher's shop that was built behind the Napier Gas Company's office and they opened there on the 31<sup>st</sup> March,

It was later used by Hector Jones while their premise was being rebuilt - till there in 1976. I

t's where the King Street carpark is and was probably demolished for that.

Corrugated iron clad, not brick, its temporary status was well over 40-years.

Apart from Thompson's, and then Hector Jones - who else used it over the following 40-years...?





Figure 107 Thompson's temporary premises hastily erected and open by 12th March  
 BOTH PHOTOS from Michael Fowler



LAMB LAMB LAMB  
 LAMB LAMB LAMB

DIRECT FROM FARM  
 DIRECT FROM FARM

NOT FREEZING WORKS REJECTS.

FORES ..... 6d  
 HINDS ..... 2d

THOMPSON BROS.

Figure 109 HAWKE'S BAY  
 TRIBUNE, 11 DECEMBER  
 1931, PAGE 4

TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS.

TENDERS close 10 a.m., SATURDAY,  
 10th October, 1931, for the erection  
 in reinforced concrete of shop in Here-  
 taunga Street, Hastings, for Messrs.  
 Thompson Bros., Butchers.

Drawings, specifications and quanti-  
 ties from—

C. TILLEARD, NATUSCH & SON,  
 F.F.N.Z.I.A. R.I.B.A., M.I.S.E.,  
 Dip. Arch. (London),  
 Registered Architects and Structural  
 Engineers.

Offices: Russell Street (Aard premises),  
 Hastings; Dickens Street, Napier.

Figure 108: HAWKE'S BAY  
 TRIBUNE 1 October 1931 p.6

## THE NEW SHOP - AND STILL GOING AT 92 YEARS OLD NOW...

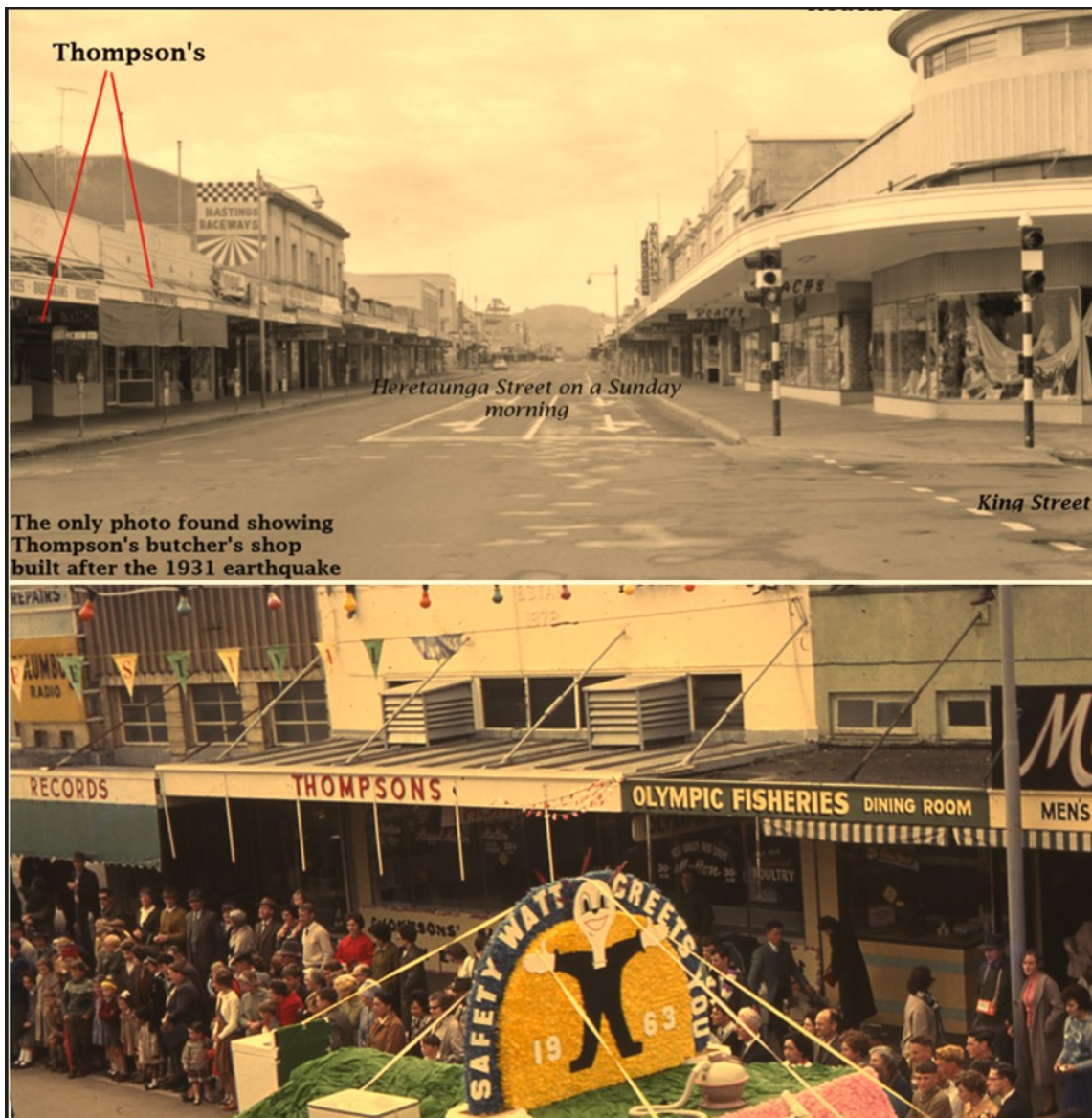


Figure 110 *Its still standing but as Craft & Hearn sports shop today. PHOTOS - from KNOWLEDGE BANK*

Try and find a photo of the present shop in Thompson's time – 1932 to 1991 and you'll be somewhat frustrated. These are the best of the three found. It's Craft & Hearn's Sport Shop today. There's a date on the front - ESTAB 1878 - not a date appropriate to Thompsons as butchers. Tom was working for Thomas Tanner at the time and Willie was still back in Leitrim – it refers to the establishment of Thomas Foreman's Hastings butcher shop the goodwill of which was bought 1895 by Thompsons so they claim the continuity. It's in Christmas descriptions of what's going on in the Hastings shops that we learn it signifies when Thomas Foreman began his butcher shop of which Willie. As Tom was still very involved in 1931, he'd have been party to selecting that date and he'd known EXCEPT – he was out by a year – Thomas Foreman established in 1877 near Market Street corner – where Hunt's Drapers used to be in the 60s – next to Spark of today.





Figure 111  
**Thompson & Sons' staff - the name Downey features amongst the loyal long serving staff PHOTO KNOWLEDGE BAN**

Note - the full length carcasses - meat was cut to the customer's order as meat was bought more frequently – deepfreezes at home weren't around then. As the sons moved off to farming, they employed staff, and a couple of generations of Downeys served them loyally. Victor's son Russell later came in from Te Awa and ran the shop – around the 60s and 70s – and his brother Thomas ran the Te Awa farm - both shared ownership of the Tomoana holding paddock on Richmond Road corner until it was sold in 2013.



The building on the corner of Heretaunga and Park had been a butchers from 1927 when Fred Pipe set up business there.

Bill Thompson (John Dempster Snr's son) worked in the town shop until he started up his own butcher's shop on the corner of Park Road and Heretaunga Street

Figure 112 **Thompson's Parkvale Butchery - from 1927 this building had a long history as a butcher's shop under several proprietors**

Another Thompson's butchery, in Parkvale but as to exactly when Dempster's son Bill ran his butchery from here... we don't have the dates but perhaps the 60s



## The Thompson Properties on the plains

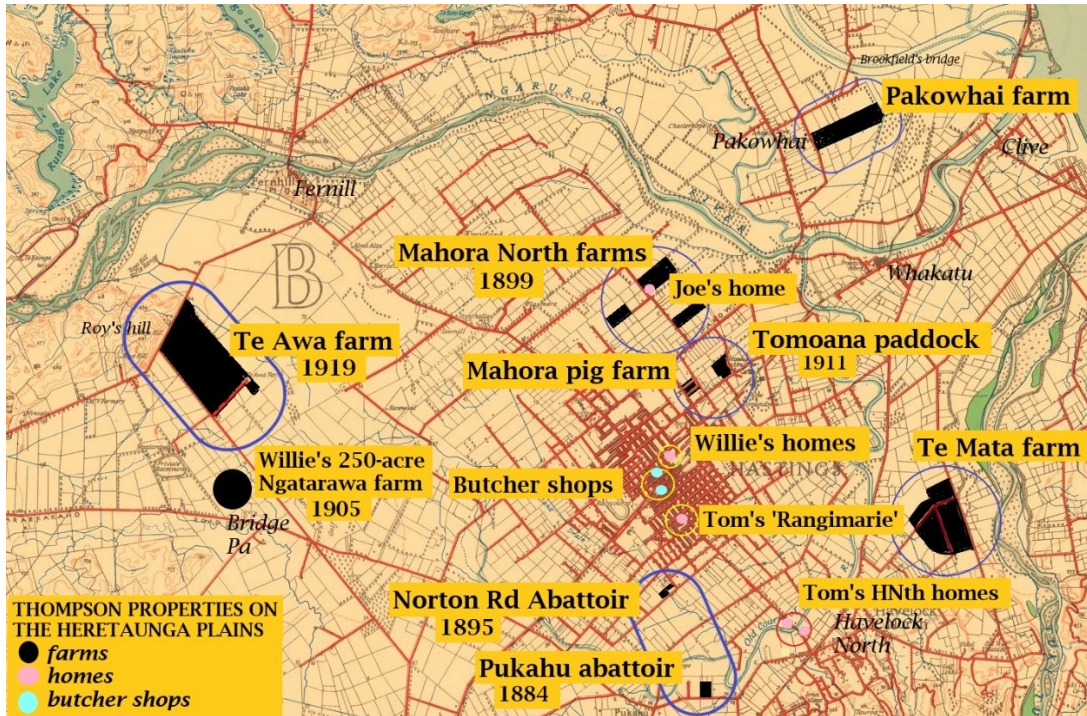


Figure 113 **Thompson Bros. properties about Hastings**

The principal lands involved with TJ Thompson & Sons as butchers were Te Mata (abt. 1896) - the Tomoana Holding paddock (1911) - Te Awa (1921) - and the Pakowhai farm whose history presently eludes us. From 1896 until 1912 the three brothers 1899 Mahora North farms were worked as Thompson Bros with produce going towards the butcher's shop.—

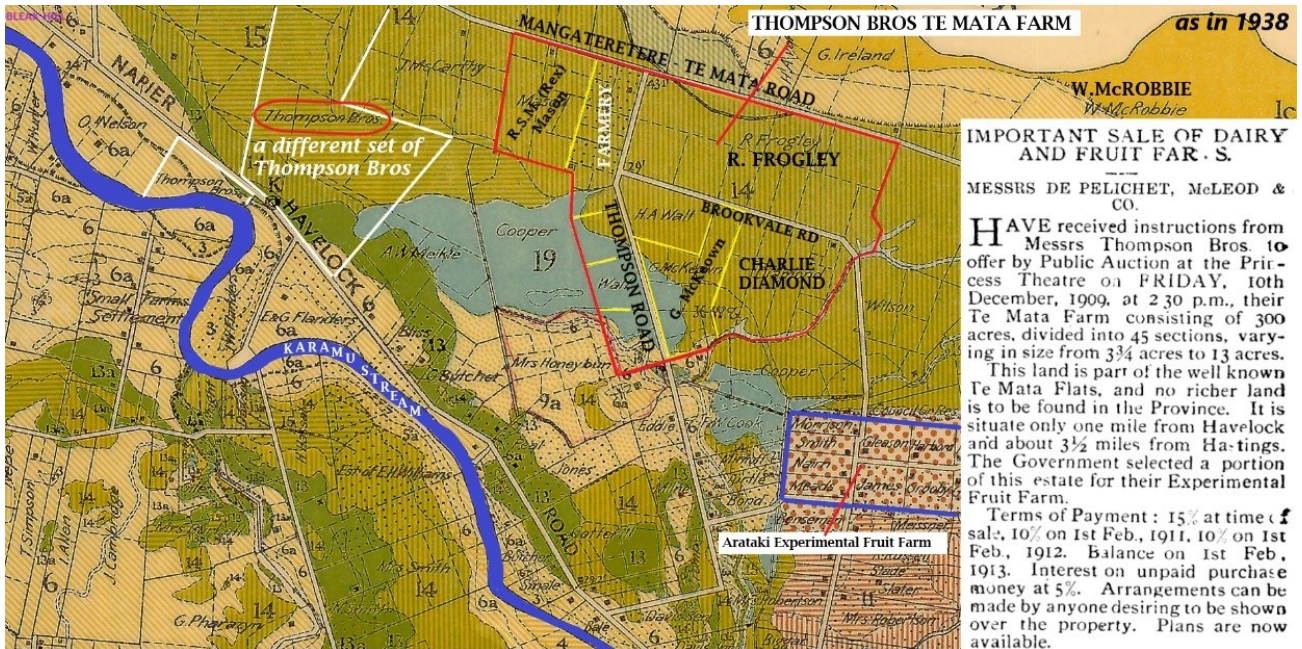


Figure 114 **When Tom came to Havelock - abt. 1898 - the brothers bought 300-acres of Te Mata land off Bernard Chambers - letting them supply some of their own meat** HERETAUNGA PLAINS SOILS MAP 1938



With the acquisition of Thomas Foreman's Hastings butcher shop in 1895 and Tom moving back from Napier, the purchase of the land on Te Mata marked a new direction with Tom, Willie and Joe growing and finishing their own meat with an emphasis on quality. They bred Lincoln-Romney lambs for their own shop; and also grew cereal grain - barley and rye.

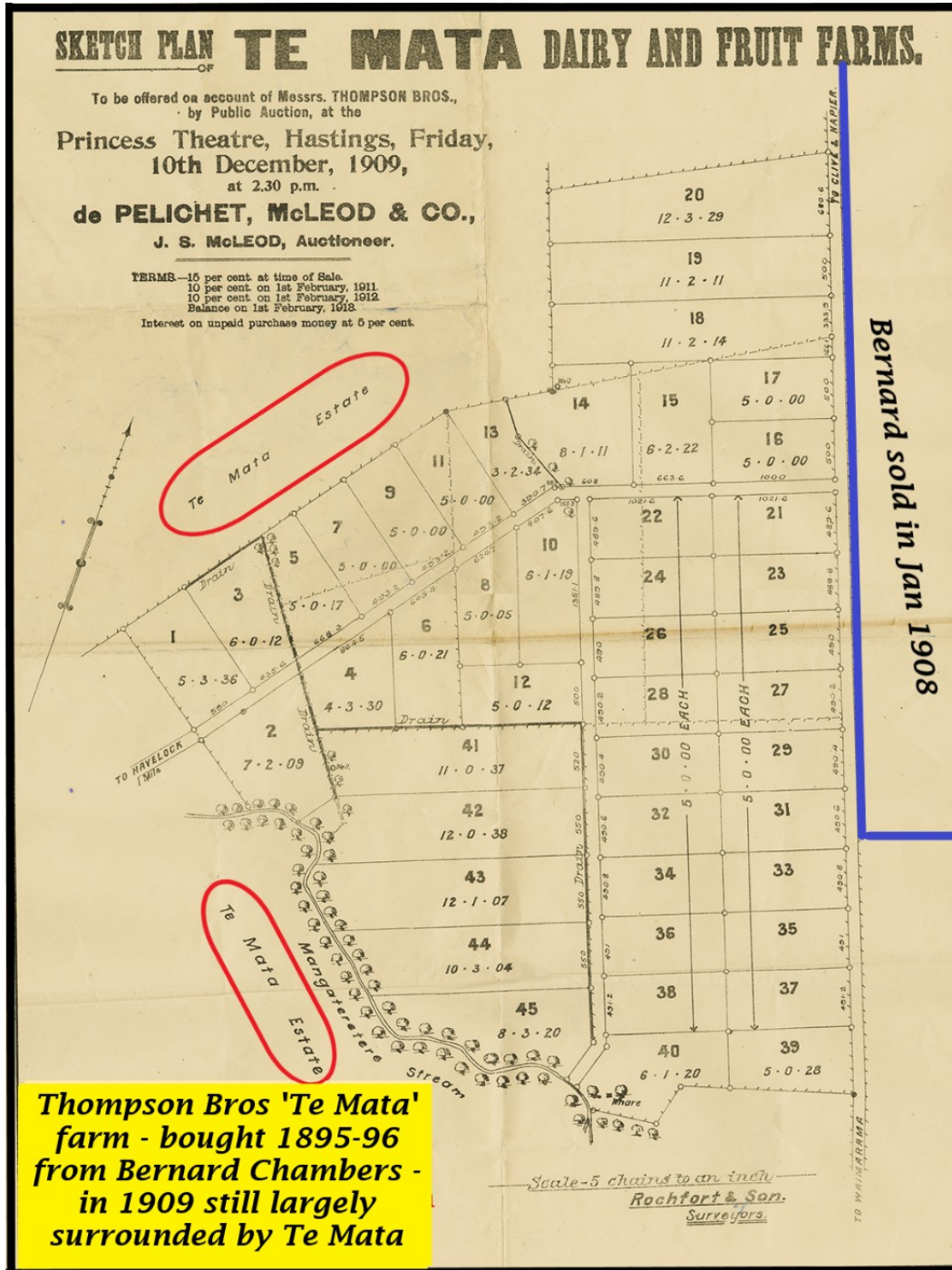


Figure 115 When purchased in 1895-96, Thompson's Te Mata farm was a private 'island' fully surrounded by Bernard Chambers' Te Mata MTG





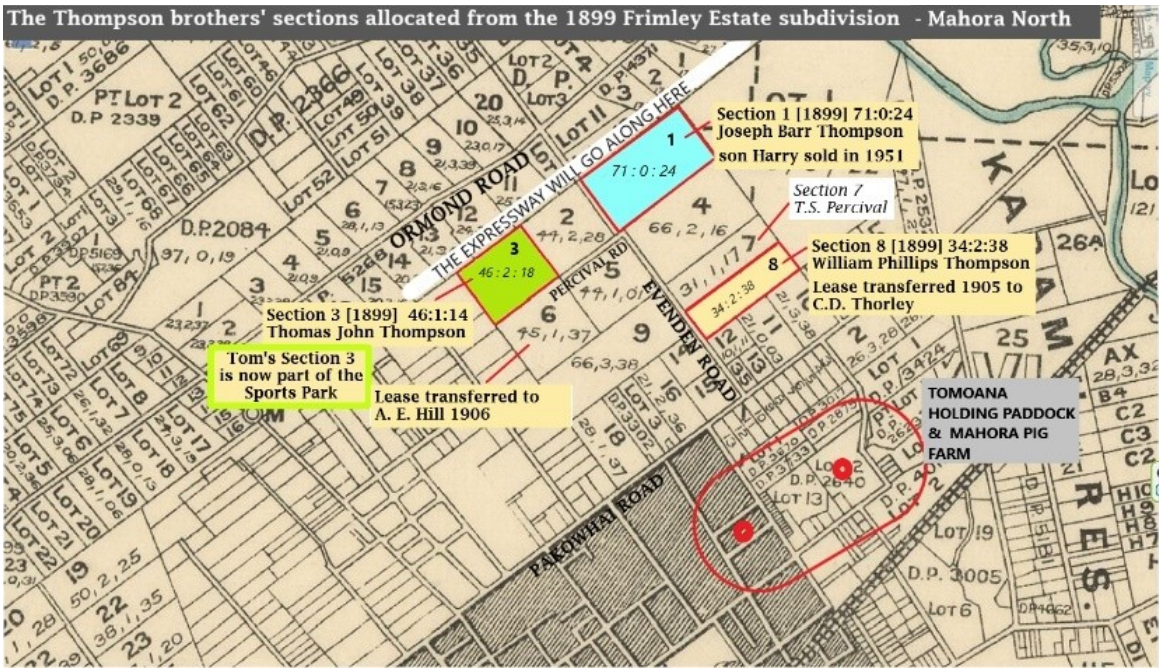


Figure 117 **The three brothers' ballots - Joseph, Mary & son Harry occupied from 1899 until 1951**

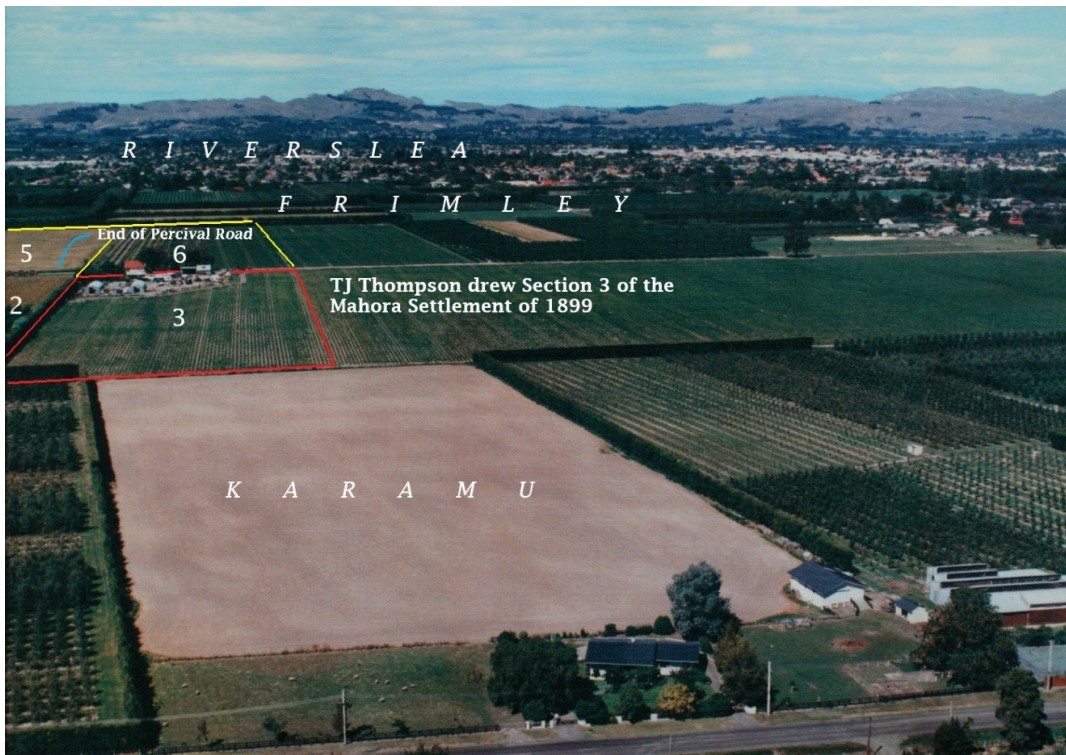
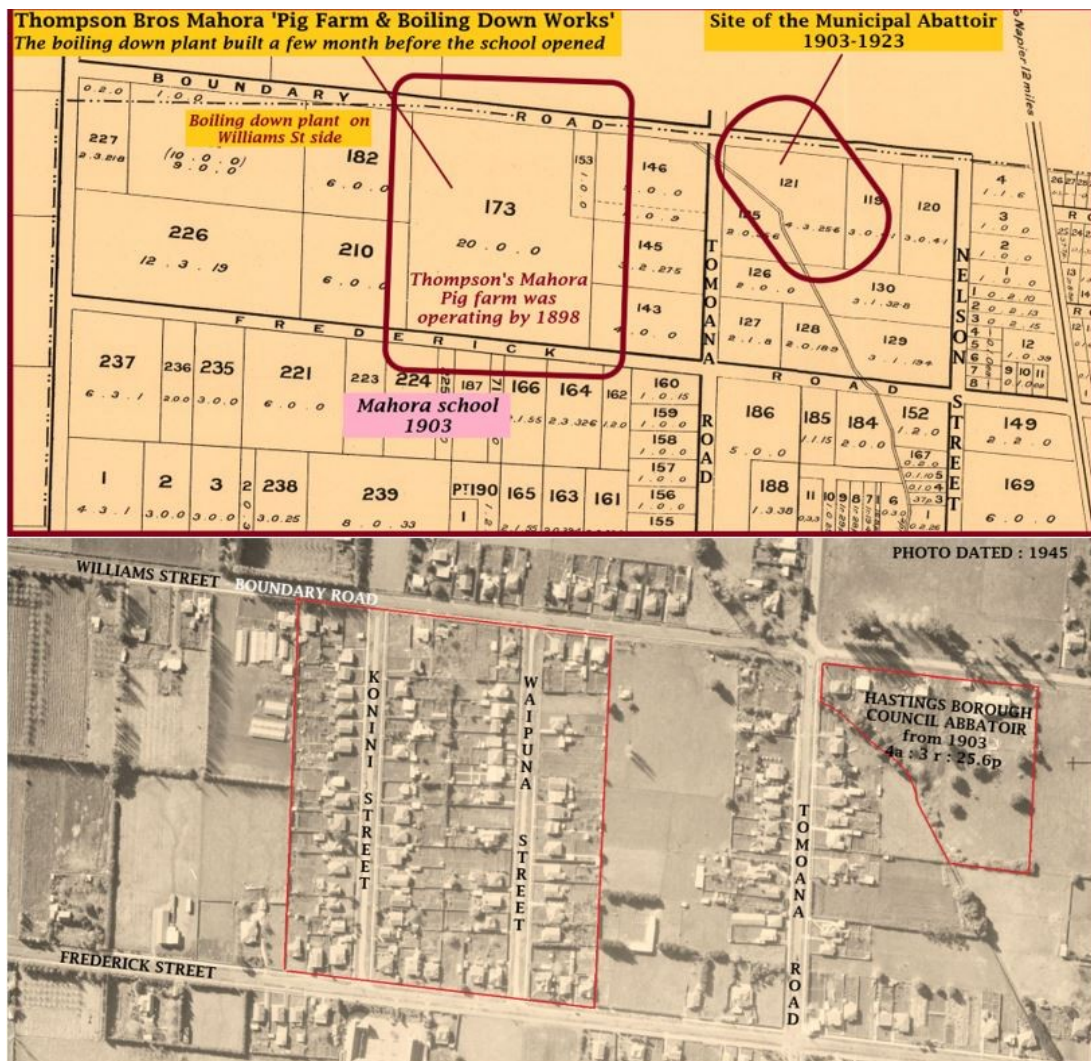


Figure 118 Ormond Road in the foreground, beyond the Oak Avenue - the expressway runs along the far side of the ploughed paddock. PHOTO from Hastings Libraries Recollect.

Both Willie and Tom yielded their leases to the Lands Board within 7-years. Joe farmed until his death in 1937. He'd become blind about 30-years beforehand through cataract and when a hawthorn spike pierced his eye. Both Joe and Willie's sections are still in agricultural use. Tom's is under the Sport Park.





**Figure 119 Little is known of the operation of Thompson Bros' Mahora farm except that there were pigs (1898) and a boiling down works on the Williams Street side - the smells from which raised the ire of children & teachers of Mahora School - it closed in 1906**

All that can be found of the day-to-day activities of this 20-acre farm is when a truck load of pigs arrived from Petane in August 1898 and the operation of a boiling down plant from 1903 on the Boundary road side – Williams Street.

The plans for both the school and the boiling down plant came earlier, and there was a doggedness on both sides to press ahead. It had to be awkward with Tom on the Council at the same time as the Health Officer was calling for their closing down. The council were obviously reluctant to force the issue.

The school objected vehemently for the smell resulting from the rendering to gain the tallow, and from the pigs that were kept on the site. It was the fire of 1906 that burnt it down which finally sorted things out.

It was not a slaughterhouse, the Municipal abattoirs were virtually adjacent having been established in 1903.

Even 25 years later the 1912 Thompson Bros' Konini and Waipuna sub-division stood out amongst the dairy paddocks, fruit farms and orchards of Mahora.



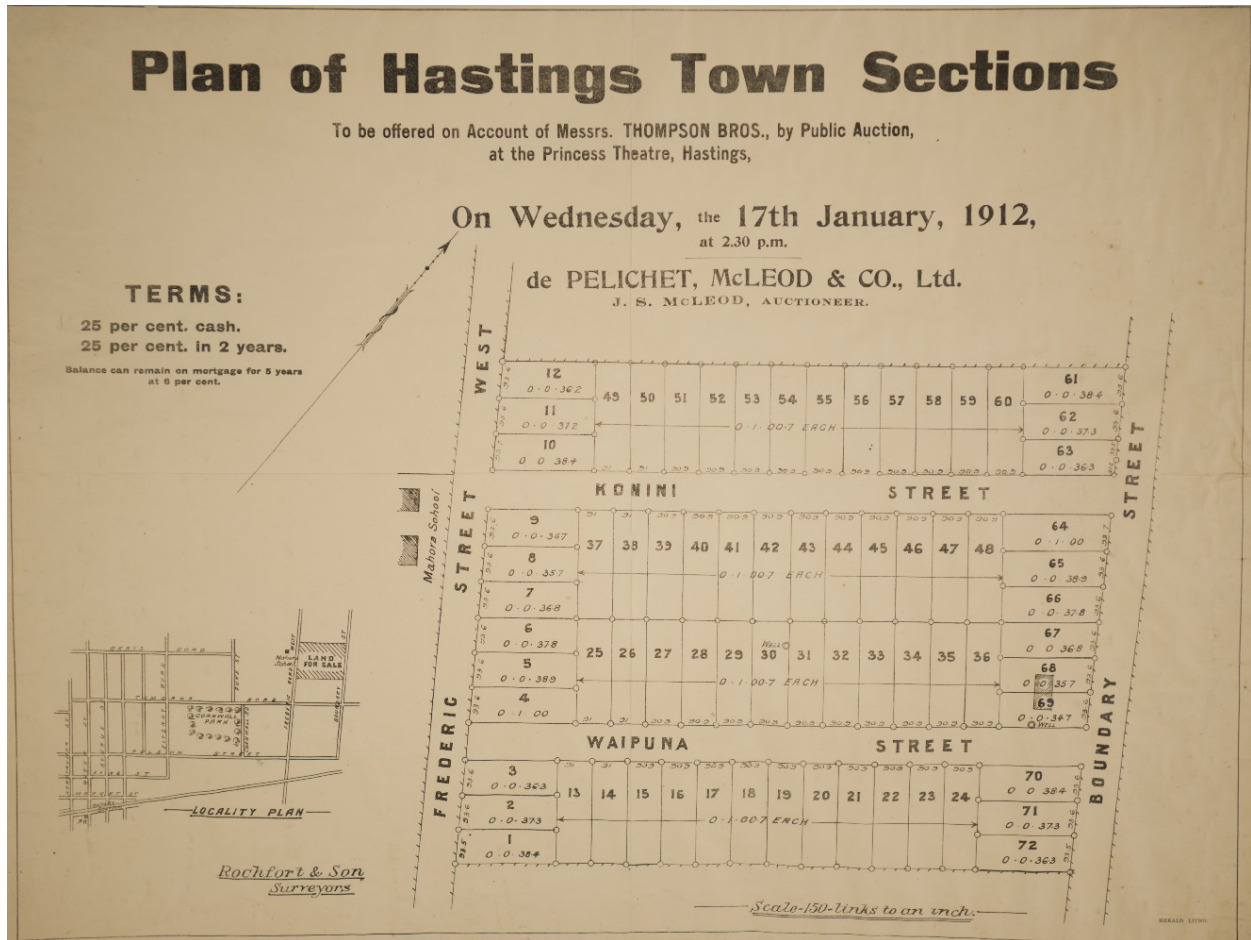


Figure 120 Thompson Bros 1912 settlement Plan from MTG Ref : 75196

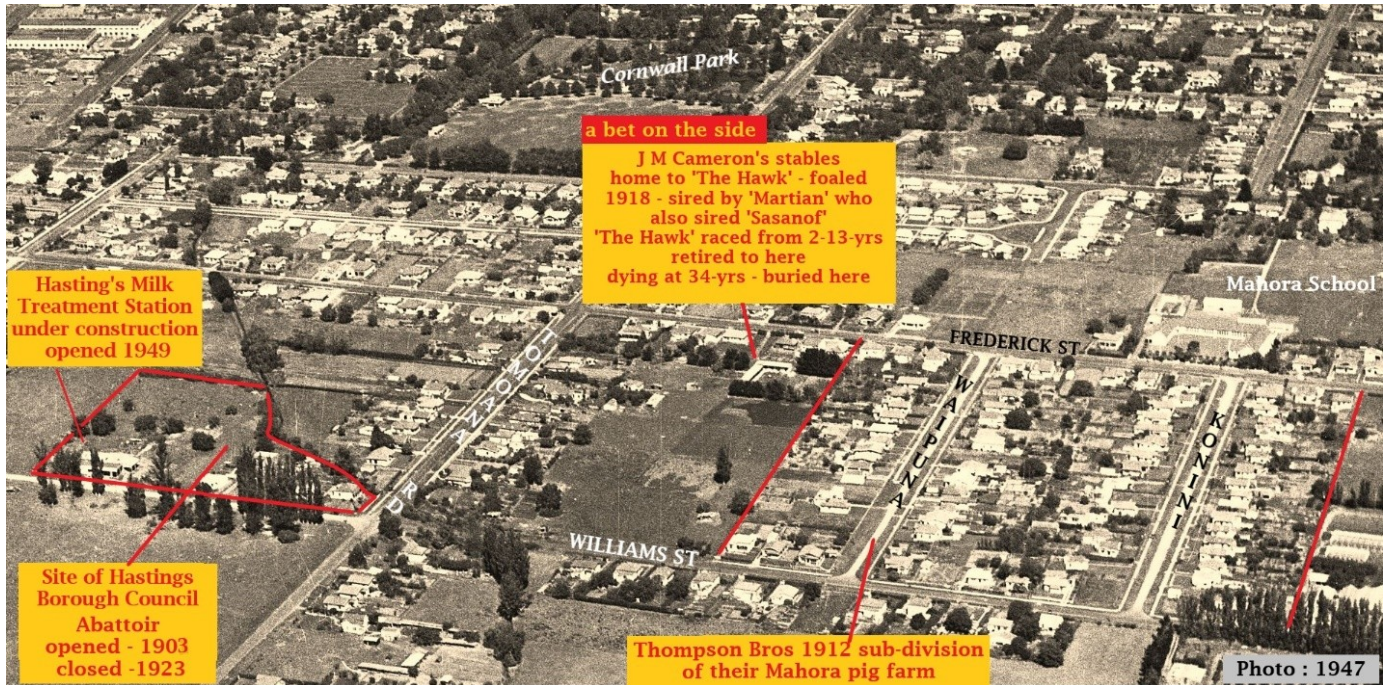


Figure 121 Thompson's sub-division was the first close-settlement in Mahora PHOTO V.C.BROWNE [CHCH] 1947



There were so many complaints about the smell from the boiling down works – Thompson Bros took the opportunity to sell by sub-dividing. There'd have been a better return if they sold well to put into buying a larger farming property elsewhere or perhaps the return would be divided between the three brothers since the breakup of the partnership. That breakup wasn't public – it was a private family matter.

**At the bottom left** in the photo is the site of the Hastings Municipal abattoir - opened in January 1903 – on the Tomoana / Williams Street corner. See Appendix 1 for details of the ending of the Municipal Abattoir.

Govt had passed an Act in April 1901 giving a year to open one and close all butcher slaughterhouses. The council set up a committee to establish it and T J Thompson was a member.

**Now to an extra historical detail marked on the aerial photo**– Out to the left of the old pig-farm in the photo is marked John Cameron's stables. John was a trainer for Willie Douglas of Te Mahanga where there was a renown horse stud. After Willie's early death John had the opportunity to buy the notable racehorse of the day, and he obtained 'The Hawk' for a bargain price £750 as against the going rate of 5,000 gns - the price touted at the time. 'The Hawk' was sired by Martian as was 'Sasanof'. Both were local and outstanding winners. Sasanof came from the Gatony Stead stable at Flaxmere, and there will be a future Stead-Thompson connection ahead of this time with Tom's grandson, Hugh Victor, marrying Jane Gatony Stead as his second wife in 1959.

'The Hawk' raced from 3-yrs until he was 13 and then lived out his retirement years on the paddocks seen here dying at the age of 34 and buried at the stables.

### The Thompson & Sons' Tarui' farm's location in relation to Hastings

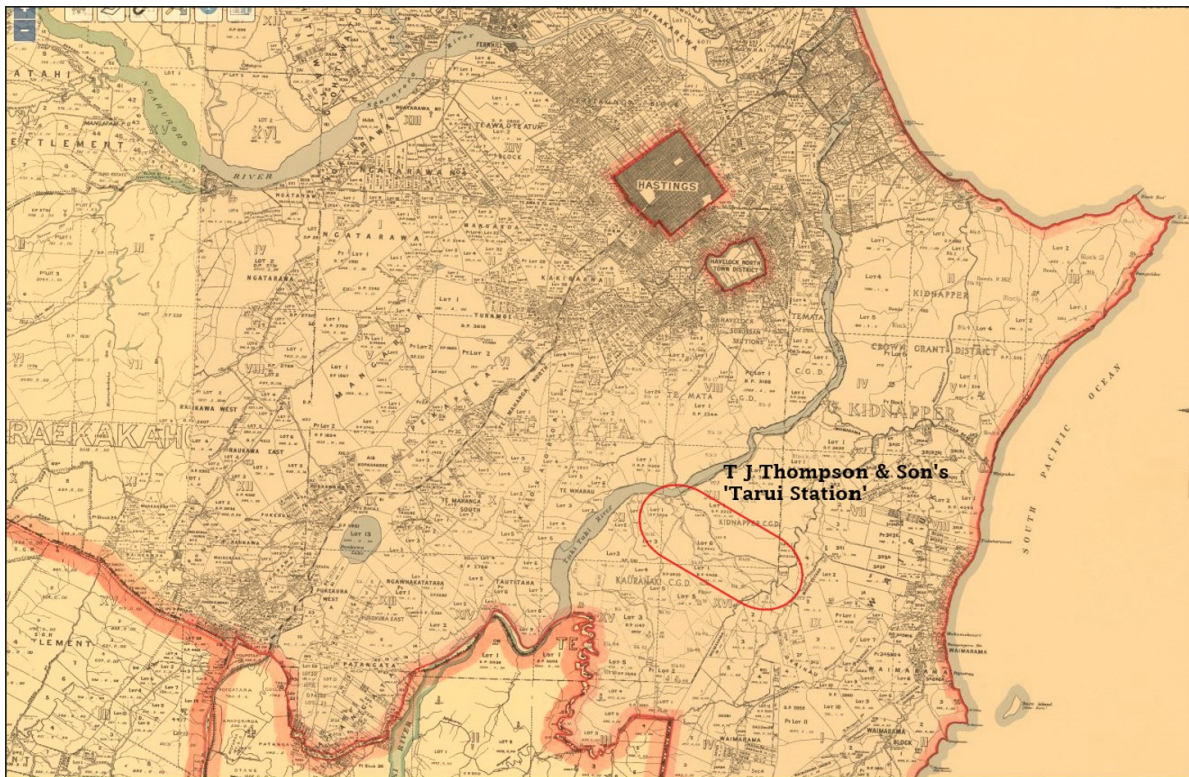


Figure 122 **Thompson & Sons in 1921 bought 'Tarui Station' of 1,400-acres - across the Tuki Tuki to the north of Kahuranaki -cattle & Romney / Southdown sheep studs -exporting & meat to their own butcher's shop**



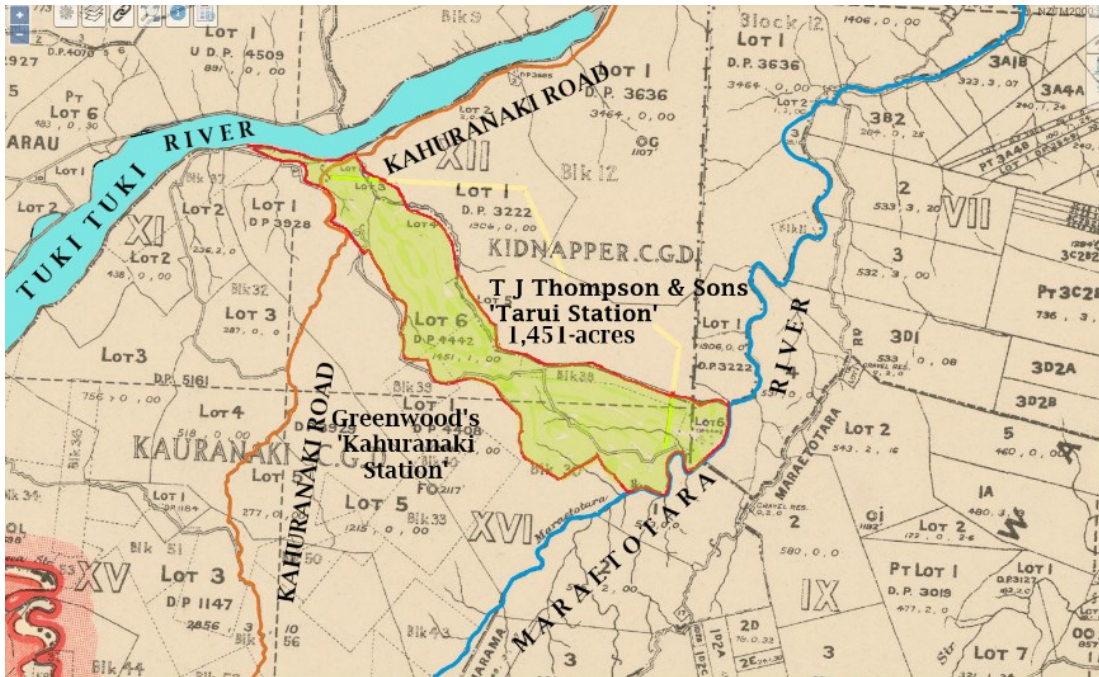


Figure 123 'Tarui' extended from the Tuki Tuki to the Maraetotara River on the northern side of Kahuranaki LANDS & SURVEY 1939

The address was Rochford Road – the homestead close to the Kahuranaki road. Hugh ran the farm, he'd been a butcher in the family shop and previously was on the Te Awa farm. With the purchase of 'Tarui', he moved here in 1922 to run it. There was an initial flock of 2,259 sheep in the 1921 Annual Sheep returns in Parliamentary Papers and were at 3,129 when those reports ceased in 1930. In all that has been found about the Thompson butcher and farm activities, there's be nothing found that mentions cattle until Phillip was talking of the stock to Te Awa or the works.

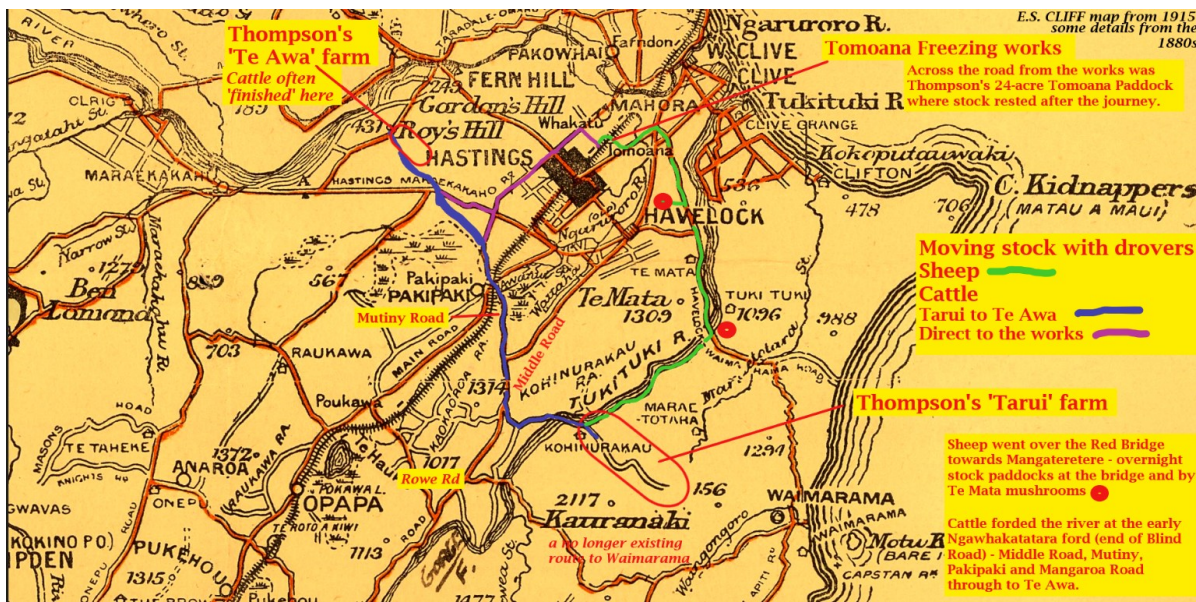


Figure 124 From 'Tarui' stock driven to the works from roads - to 'Te Awa' farm or the Tomoana holding paddock CLIFF PRESS - 191



At the time stock trucks were not the regular way to move large numbers the sheep and cattle Phillip told of stock drives along the road from 'Tarui' to either the 'Te Awa' farm or direct to the works.

Finding a map to show the journey from 'Tarui to 'Te Awa' wasn't straight forward –this 1911 Cliff Press one did – and, it also showed interesting details from pre-1900 - some old roads - horse track and bullock team roads - from Middle Road to Waimarama on the south side of Kahuranaki and on the west side, the river side of Roy's Hill. There's also a crossing over the Ngaruroro upstream from Maraekakaho from Matapiro to Mangatahi. You could go places with a horse than you cannot in a standard motor vehicle. There's also a parallel road from Paki Paki to the top of the Te Hauke straight

For the Thompsons – the cattle drive used an old bullock and horse crossing from Rochford Road to Middle Road. Sheep went across the Red Bridge

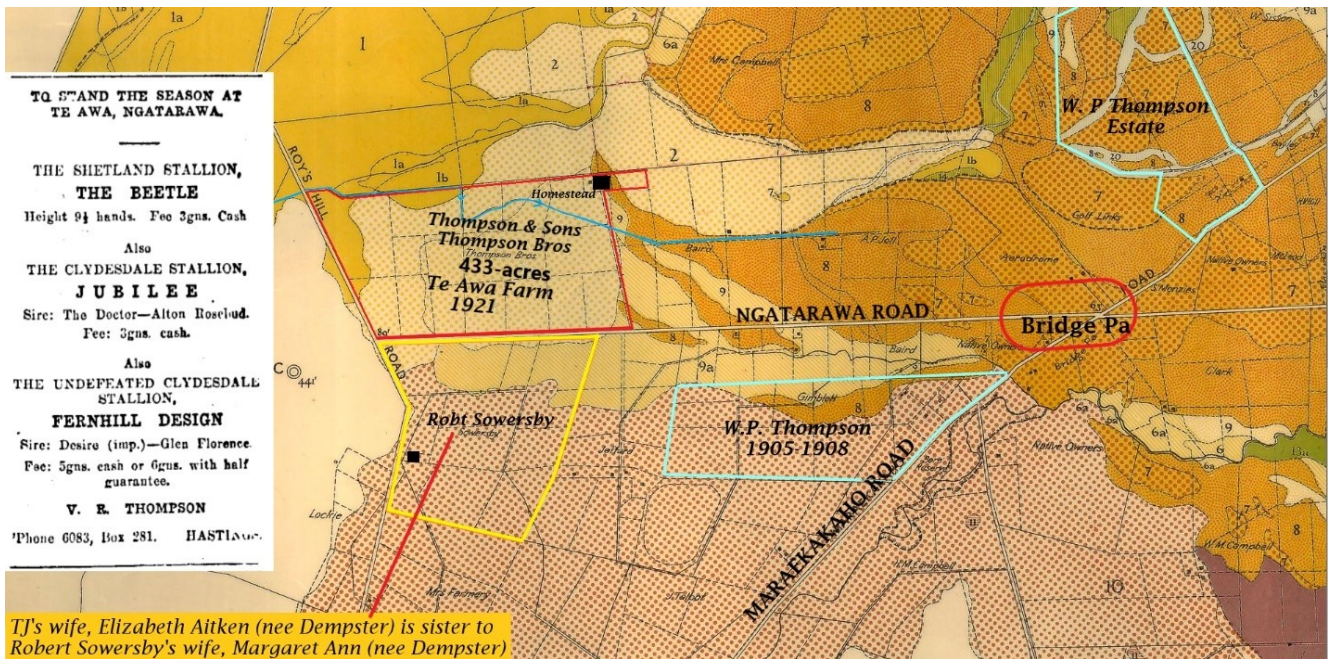


Figure 125 'Te Awa' farm - Southdown and Romney Studs - Clydesdale & Shetland stallions - managed by Victor Thompson 1938 HERETAUNGA PLAINS SOILS MAP

'Te Awa' is at the end of Ngatarawa Road, across the road from Roy's Hill, and purchased about 1921 when the Annual Sheep Returns in the Parliamentary Papers show they had a flock of 1,139 and were running 2,522 when those annual reports ceased in 1930.

'Te Awa' was the western end of the E J Watt's 'Longlands Estate' – part of the 'Te Awa-o-te-Atua' block, and Longlands stretched from 'Te Awa' to Te Aute road and the outskirts of Pakipaki. When it was purchased, it had a house and stables at the top right – in 1930 home to ploughman James & Margaret Donaldson which became the Thompson's homestead and yards etc for the farm. From the mid-1930s until his death in 1967, 'Te Awa' was home to Victor Thompson. He was the family's fat-stock buyer as well as a breeder of draught horses.

The Southdown stud shared between Te Awa and Tarui was based on the well respected Gimblett and Knights flock



## The Tomoana Richmond Road corner Holding Paddock

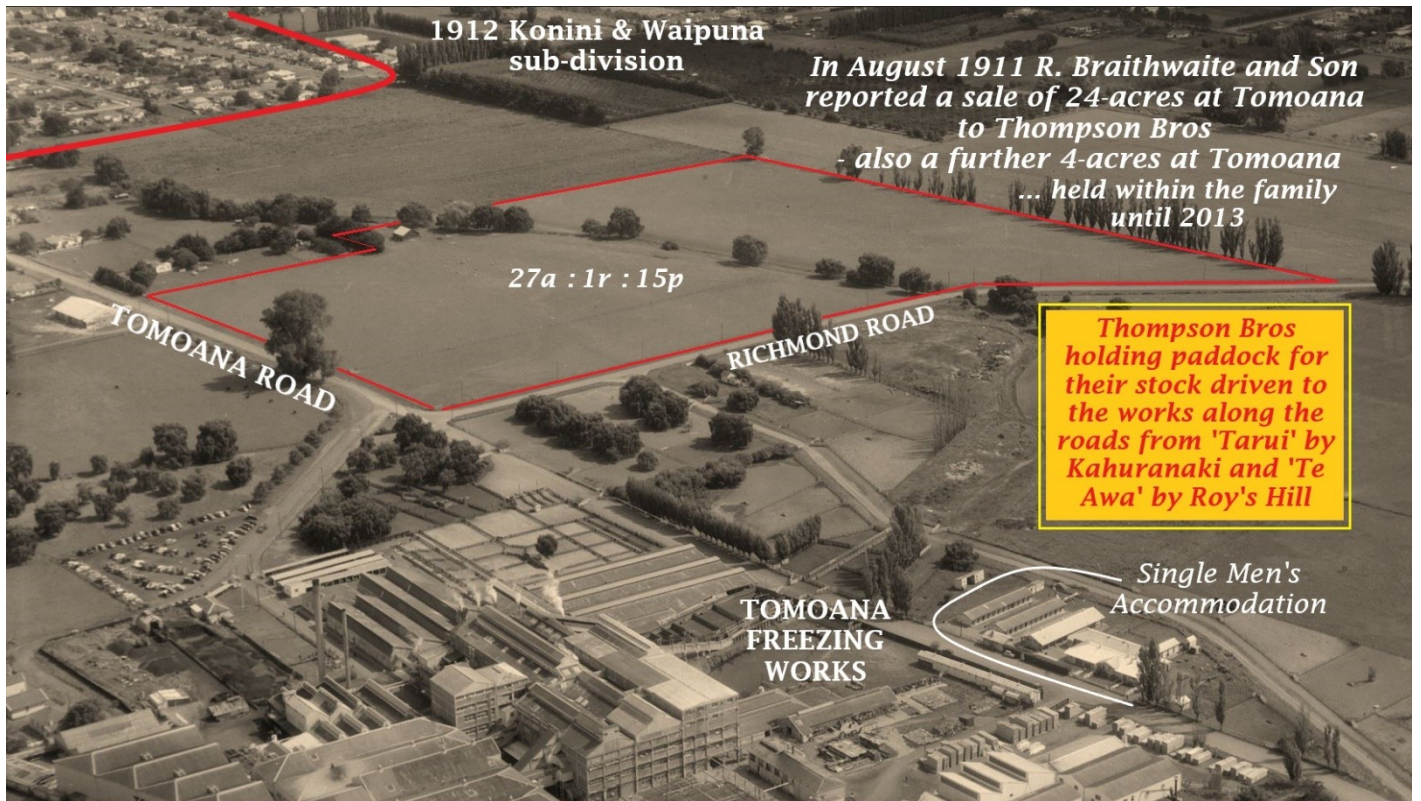


Figure 126 **Thompson's Tomoana holding paddock - resting stock before...** PHOTO - WHITE'S AVIATION - NATIONAL LIBRARY

Thinking ahead, in 1911, they bought a 28-acre holding paddock immediately adjacent to Tomoana freezing works and 500m from the Hastings Municipal Abattoir.

It was only in 2013 that it was sold - 102-years later.

It was a place for stock to rest after being driven along the roads - before heading to the works. This ensured a relaxed and not stressed meat -something Thompson's prided themselves on providing to their customers.

In addition to its use as a holding paddock, it's where they re-established their boiling down works previously on Williams Street and burnt down in 1906.

When the Municipal Abattoir closed in 1923, all Hastings butcher's meat was killed on behalf of the council at 'Nelson's' or more correctly 'Vesty's' - except Thompson's - theirs was done at HB Farmers' Whakatu during the extensive legal action Thompsons took against both the borough council and Nelsons - several cases over three years - finally to the High Court when they won. (See Appendix 1)

As a result of Thompson & Sons' legal action all Hastings butchers won - getting paid for the offal that Nelsons had been claiming as their own.







## Tom and Lizzie into retirement



Figure 128 *Three generations of T. J. Thompson's clan 1884 to 1934 Tom is 79-yrs Lizzie is 71-yrs*  
PHOTO - CLARE GULLIVER

### 1934 Golden Wedding party

Back row left to right. **Jean Dempster** Thompson, Una (Victor's Thompson's wife), (Esther) **Daisy** nee Thompson, **Beth** nee Thompson (Merle Elizabeth), **Bill Dempster** Thompson, Percy Northe (husband of Lilly)

2<sup>nd</sup> row from back, standing – Lewis Millar (husband of May), **Harry** Thompson (Henry James, Hawkeye Harry), **Myrtle** nee Thompson, Elizabeth (wife of Hugh A Thompson), Elsie (wife of (John) Dempster de'd), **Lilly** nee Thompson, Kate/Kitty (wife of Harry), **Isobel Dempster** Thompson (Dempster's child).

3<sup>rd</sup> from back, sitting – **May** nee Thompson, **Victor** Thompson, **Thomas John** and Elizabeth, **Hugh Anderson** Thompson, **Tommy** Thompson (Victor's child on knee), **Marjorie** Thompson (Bertha's child), (Phillips) **Stratton** Thompson (Harry's child), **Bertha** nee Thompson.

Front row – **Shirley** Thompson (Bertha's child), **Ngairé** Thompson (Hugh A Thompson's child), **Hugh Victor** Thompson (Hugh A Thompson's child), **Claire** Thompson (Hugh A Thompson's child), **Valarie** Thompson (Lilly's child), **Russell** Thompson (Victor's child), **Ruth Dempster** Thompson (Dempster's child).

## GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson

Yesterday two greatly esteemed residents of Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, celebrated their golden wedding. Mrs. Thompson, who was before her marriage Miss Elizabeth Aitken Dempster, of Napier, was married at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Napier, on February 11, 1881, to Mr. Thomas John Thompson, of Hastings, the Rev. James Patterson officiating. The original ceremony took place at 11 a.m. and 50 years afterwards on Sunday, February 11, 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson walked up the aisle at St. Andrew's, Hastings, and with the sons and grandchildren attended divine service. The church had been decorated specially for the occasion with beautiful (lowers given by Mrs. McCorkindale and golden cannas given by Mrs. Baird.

Later the relatives met quietly for lunch at Mr. and Mrs Thompson's home. Mrs Thompson was presented with a lovely bouquet by Mrs. Dempster Thompson, and a most artistically decorated basket of golden flowers from Mrs. McCorkindale; and a buttonhole was given to Mr. Thompson. Mrs. Norton sent beautiful gladioli and Mrs. Paynter a bouquet of golden rowan berries.

Many old friends sent telegrams of congratulation, and these were read. The Thompson family presented Mr. Thompson with a handsome gold watch as a token of their love and affection with good wishes for the years ahead

The two-tiered cake, adorned with 50 candles, had been made by Mrs. Cole (Gisborne), and this was cut and handed round, and the candles blown out by the grandchildren.

Mr. Miller proposed Mr. and Mrs. Thompson's health and several brief speeches in honour of the occasion were made, while all sang "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" after the chief toast.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson had eleven children and eight were present at their golden wedding, three having passed away. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. L. T. Miller (the latter the eldest daughter); Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Thompson and four children; Mrs. Dempster Thompson and four children; Mrs. R. Cole (Gisborne) and two children; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Thompson and one son (Wellington); Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Northe (Napier) and daughter; Misses D. Thompson and Myrtle Thompson; and the youngest son, Mr. Victor Thompson, with Mrs. Thompson and two sons.

Members of the family who had passed away were Mr. William Thompson, killed June 7, 1917, at Messines; Mr. John Dempster Thompson, killed in a motor accident; and Miss "Ivy" Thompson, who was a victim of the 1931 earthquake.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Thompson came from North Ireland, Mr. Thompson from County Derry, and Mrs. Thompson from Belfast. Mr. Thompson landed in New Zealand on November 20, 1874, sailing out on the 'Bebington', a small ship of 969 tons, with 313 souls as passengers. The voyage lasted 120 days and there were four deaths and four births on board. The voyage seemed very long, for the passengers did not sight land after leaving the English coast till they reached New Zealand. Mr. Thompson landed at Napier and since then has been a resident of Hawke's Bay, where he and his sons have been successful both as farmers and in the butchering business. Mr. Thompson was Mayor of Hastings for three periods, 1905 -1909 and for seven years was a councillor.

He spent one year in Australia, and in 1913 with Mrs. Thompson went to England Buenos Aires, and the Argentine, and saw something of South Africa.



Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are greatly respected residents of this district, and it will interest many people to hear of their Golden Wedding.

Published in the **Hawke's Bay Tribune, 12 February 1934, Page 7**

Mrs Cole and her children, who have been staying with Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson in Hastings for their golden wedding, left for Gisborne today. They had an unfortunate experience yesterday owing to being cut off by floods and so were unable to reach Napier.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Thompson, of Hastings, who are camping at Rotorua, motored to Hastings for the day on Sunday to be present at Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson's golden wedding and then returned north.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Thompson have returned to Wellington from Hastings.

Mrs. Miller, of Wellington, is spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Thompson, and Mr. Miller, who was also here, has returned home.

*Figure 129 Hawke's Bay Tribune, 14 February 1934, Page 10*



In his retirement Tom continued his long association with lawn bowls at the Hastings Bowling Club here being the Hastings Veterans Bowling Team – from left - Rees Davies, T. J. Thompson, Frederick Tonkin and Isaac Crichton, 4 April 1938



*Figure 130 Former  
Mayors of Hastings*  
PHOTO - KNOWLEDGE BANK

Standing left to right – George Ebbett, 1919-1921, J. A. Miller, 1909-1911

Sitting left to right – T. J. Thompson, 1906-1909, William Hart, 1913-1917 and 1921-1922, George A. Maddison, 1922-1929 and 1933-1941 (the then current mayor), H. Ian Simpson, 1917-1919



**WILLIE**

**William Phillips Thompson (1857-1922)**

Willie married Clara Winduss in 1896. She was Napier born- her father George Winduss (1840-1923) from Yorkshire and her mother Elizabeth Watt (1849-1927) from Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Willie and Clara had a family of seven, four girls followed by four boys.

Willie didn't enter public life unlike brother Tom, but he was one of the founders, and was an ongoing strength in St Andrew's Presbyterian church - a noted benefactor in both the church and community.



Figure 131 The first Hastings Presbyterian Church, Market Street

He initially worked for Tom in Tom's butcher shop until 1895 when together they purchased the late Thomas Foreman's Hastings Meat Market (where Willie had been manager) and with brother Joe they formed Thompson Bros.

Tom moved from Napier to Havelock in 1895, and about 1896 was the purchase of the Te Mata farm from Bernard Chambers, plus the allocation of a section each in the 1899 Mahora sub-division of part of the Frimley block they took up farming to supply some of their own meat requirements for the shop. Brother Joe didn't become involved in the butchery trade. Willie began building up a property portfolio with speculative investments in land, and in 1903 he won at auction two sections of T. C. Williams' sub-division and the same year he yielded his Evenden Road section of the 1899 Mahora block.








- 
**Maud Muriel Thompson**  
 1897-1987
- 
**Elsie Mabel Thompson**  
 1898-1985
- 
**Doris Isobel Thompson**  
 1900-1990
- 
**Clara Thompson**  
 1901-1984
- 
**Albert Alexander Thompson**  
 1904-1975
- 
**Leslie Phillips Thompson**  
 1905-1976
- 
**Gordon Ramsay Thompson**  
 1906-1955



Figure 132 Willie & Clara Thompson at their 400N King Street home, on the St Aubyn Street corner PHOTO - CLARE GULLIVER

# THE MAHORA SETTLEMENT.

## RESULT OF THE BALLOT.

The ballot for sections in block XV, Here-taunga Survey district formerly part of the Frimley estate but now known as the Mahora Settlement, took place at the Napier Land Office to-day. The result was as follows, sections 9, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, and 33 not having been applied for:—

No. of Section	Name of Applicant	Residence	No. of Applications
1	Joseph Barr Thompson	Hastings	5
2	James Wickett Bridgman	Hastings	6
3	Thomas John Thompson	Havelock	5
4	John Sweeney	Hastings	6
5	John Beston	Porangahau	5
6	Mrs Elizabeth Mary Percival	Petane	2
7	Thomas Stephen Percival	Petane	5
8	William Philip Thomson	Hastings	4
10	Daniel Tobin	Hastings	13
11	Samuel Skews and James Murphy	Napier	13
12	Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Wells	Fernhill	23
13	John Carter Baird	Hastings	17
14	Delia Geddes	Hastings	16
16	Frederick Evans	Edenham	13
16	Edward O'Donnoghue	Marakakaho	5
17	Francis Lowe	Waipawa	2
18	Andrew Breen	Hastings	1
19	Robert Ambrose Wellwood	Hastings	1
25	William Geddes	Hastings	1
27	William Lisson	Hastings	1
29	Henry Gaulton	Carterton	5
30	Ernest Schmidt	Rauroka	5
31	Patrick Donnelly	Pukahu	
32	Michael O'Donoghue	Hastings	
34	Michael Moynihan	Hastings	

### MAHORA SETTLEMENT.

The following settlers on Mahora settlement were given notice at the February meeting of the board that the conditions of the leases must be complied with:—

W. P. Thompson, section 8, 34a 2r 38p, non residence; according to ranger's report is still in default.—Declared forfeited.

Figure 1 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD 2 APRIL 1903, PAGE 4

The Crown Lands Ranger reported that W. P. Thompson, lessee of section 8, block XV., Mahora Settlement, is still not complying with the residential conditions of his lease nor the board's resolution of 6th May last.—Must reside at once.

Figure 3 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, 8 OCTOBER 1903, PAGE 2

The results of the ballot,

Joe won section 1

Thomas won section 3

Willie won section 8

Joe was the only one to 'get serious' and built a home for himself and Mary and farm. The 1903 flood did considerable damage ruining stored mangolds and there were stock losses

Willie failed to comply with the Land Board's requirements for Lease-in-Perpetuity and didn't reside on the block and had to forfeit it in 1905

## HAWKE'S BAY LAND BOARD.

The Land Board met yesterday morning. Present—Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr E. C. Gold Smith (chairman), Messrs T. Hyde, and R. Groom.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

G. Merrit, J. B. Thompson, and W. P. Thompson, applied for remission of half-year's rent on their sections at Tomoana and Mahora, on account of losses sustained during the recent floods.—Left to Commissioner.

Figure 133 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, 19 JULY 1902, PAGE 4

The Crown Lands Ranger reported that W. P. Thompson, lessee of section 8, block XV., Mahora Settlement, is still not complying with the residential conditions of his lease nor the board's resolution of 6th May last.—Must reside at once.

Figure 2 HAWKE'S BAY HERALD, 8 OCTOBER 1903, PAGE 2

At the Land Board meeting it was decided to grant the transfer of section 8, block 15, Mahora, from W. P. Thompson to C. D. Thorley.

Figure 4 HASTINGS STANDARD, 13 NOVEMBER 1905, PAGE 2.







Willie & Clara’s first home was on the King Street corner with St Aubyn. It was not long before his death when they had moved to 405N Nelson Street, and after Willie’s death Clara moved to the smaller dwelling next-door at 407N where she remained until her own death in 1958. The red boundary marks the extent of their properties at the time. 405 is a home they likely built, 407 being an existing home. Both 405 & 407 are the Nelson Street exit from the combined carparks of Hastings Medical Centre and Totara Health.

*There’re some other details to be seen in the photo...* Miss Hodge established Woodford House in the collection of buildings at the upper left. Market Street crossed St Aubyn then into a dead end where there are the three houses – all part of the school. It became ‘Trinton’ after the move to Havelock and even later Jean Ballantyne’s School of Dancing the school being her home and the hall to the right the dance studio.

Queenswood school and their kindergarten are marked,

To the left of the kindergarten is Sister Cooper’s Maternity home – the Thompson connection there is that Margaretta (Madge) spent her early days - from 9-yrs old - in the original T J Thompson home in Havelock after her parents bought it to cope with their own burgeoning family, it remained in the Cooper family’s ownership until the mid-1930s.

### Willie Thompson’s land holdings about Hastings.

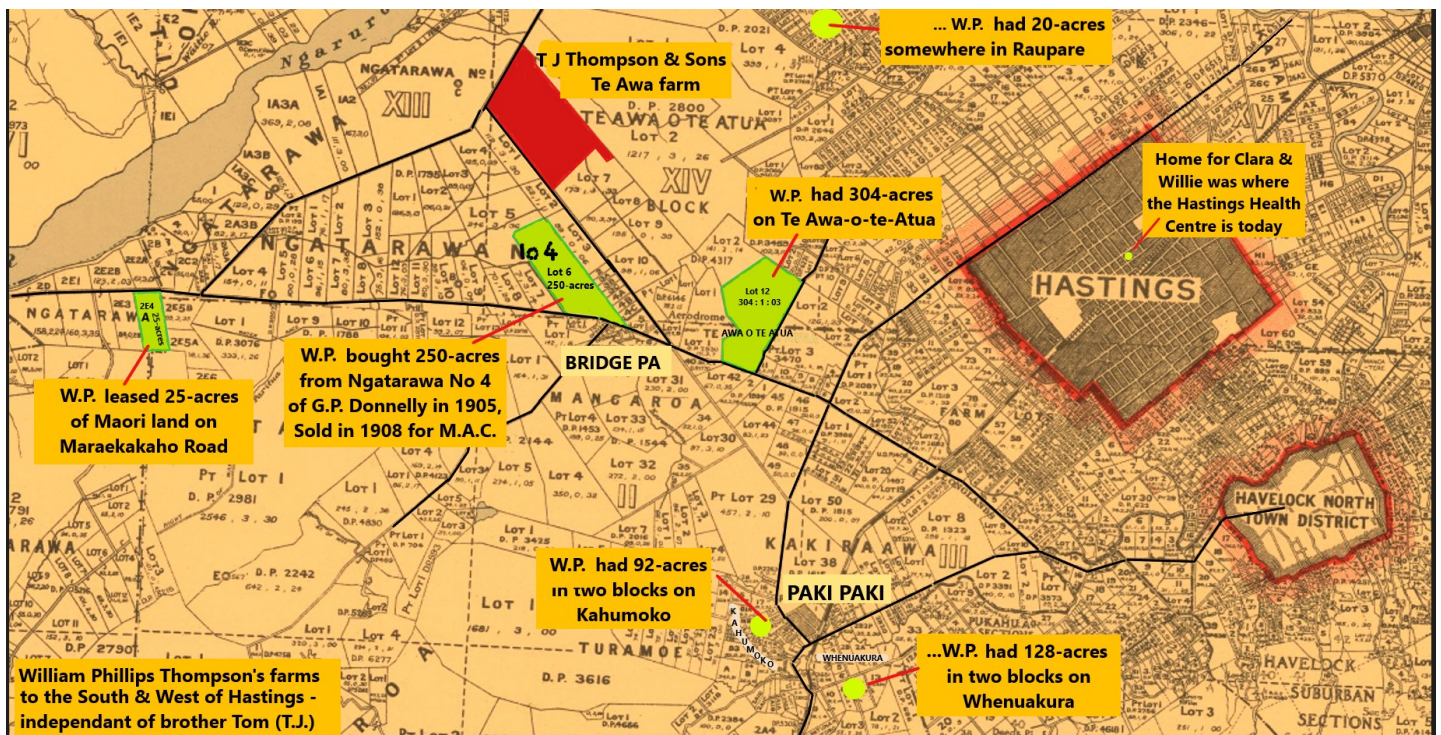
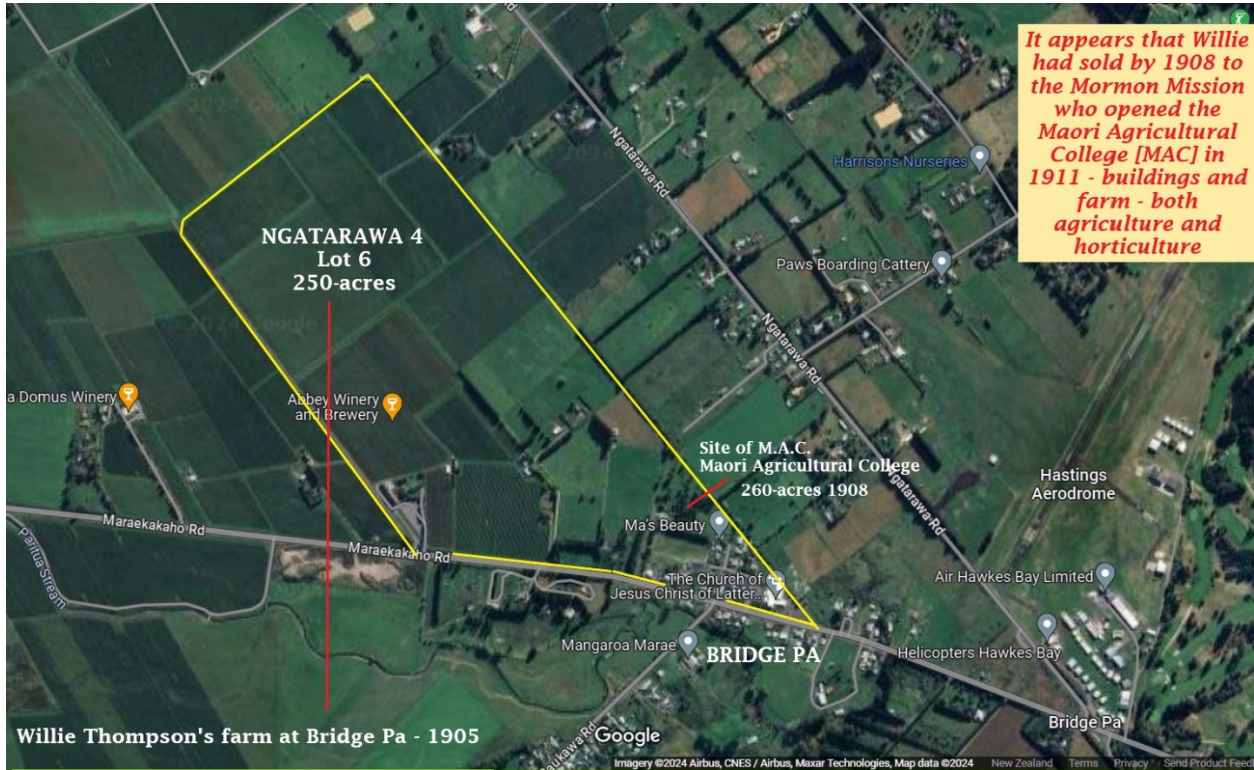


Figure 135 Willie’s land holdings about Hastings

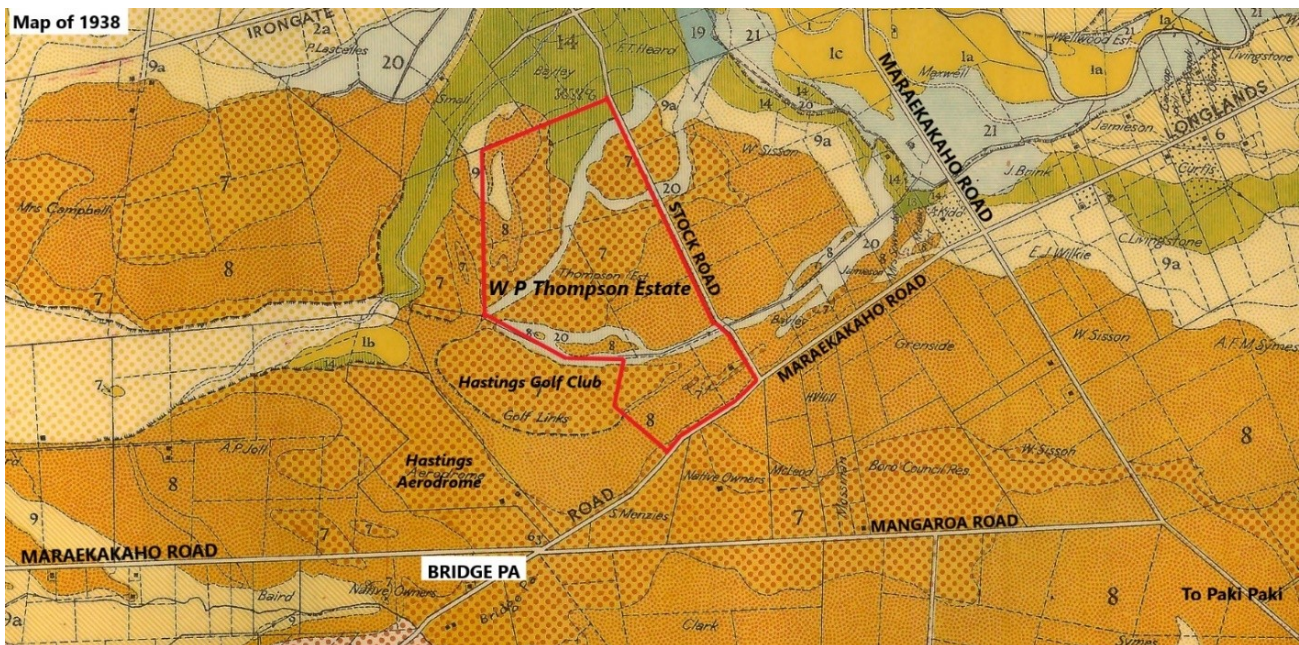


## THE NGATARAWA FARM

In 1905 Willie bought 250-acres from the G P Donnelly's 'Ngatarawa' Station break-up - he only held it for 3 years before it was sold to the Latter Day Saints to become the farm of the Maori Agricultural College, the college buildings sited behind the present Bridge Pa school - known as M.A.C. - the origin of the rugby team that still carries its name.



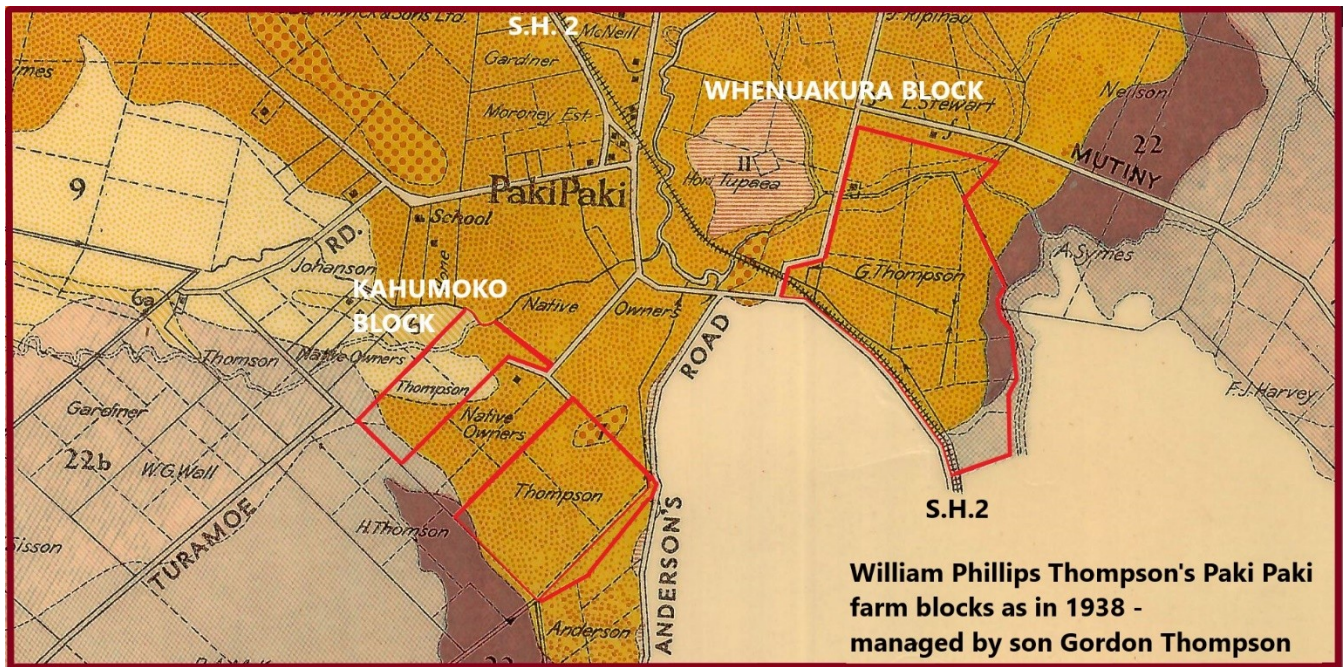
Willie then bought 304-acres adjacent to the Hastings Golf course – part of the original Longlands





## THE PAKI PAKI FARMS

He had four blocks at Paki Paki – only three of which are located – sons Gordon and Albert farmed them after Willie’s death.



Willie had a strong positive relationship with tangata whenua of Paki Paki through his fair dealings with them in relation to his four farm blocks – this was demonstrated when he was honoured on his death with two woven mats being given by Makarena Te Piri Hone, sister of Waimarama Puhara and laid upon him in his casket.

Figure 136 The WP

**OBITUARY.**

**WILLIAM PHILLIPS THOMPSON**



Died 22 November 1922  
Age : 65-yrs

Many memories will be awakened at the news of the death of Mr. W. P. Thompson, who passed away on Wednesday morning, as he had been for some forty years identified with Hastings and district and was a prominent man in its business. As far back as 1895 he, with his brother Mr. T. J. Thompson, bought the business of the late Mr. T. Foreman, from which, after a successful career, he retired to take up farming and dealing, in which with his remarkable energy, he was also a success. By all who were engaged in stock and farming he was held in the highest esteem.

He never sought any public position, giving his time and help rather to his church. His name stands amongst the first of those who formed St. Andrew's Church, Hastings, and it has never had a more devoted and a more generous friend. Though he would never accept, even at the wish of the congregation, the highest office, his time, ability, and money were always at their disposal. The minister and congregation have lost a good friend. He was interested in and liberal to every good cause.

**Willie was afforded a traditional Māori honour for his kindnesses while lying in repose when his Mihiroa, Pakipaki friend, Jack Hone, learned of his death and came to lay on his body two feather korowai sent from his mother, Makarena Te Piri Hone, Makarena being daughter of Urupene Puhara and Marata Herea Te Heuheu. She was an older sister of Waimarama Horomona Hawaikirangi Puhara and the wife of Tame Hone Rautahi**

The deceased gentleman helped many in time of trouble. In this connection a touching and beautiful incident may be related. Jack Hone pleaded to see the good friend who was so sick, to thank him for his kindness, and when later he learned of his death he brought from his mother, Makarena Te Piri Hone, daughter of Urupene Puhara two beautiful Maori mats, and first kissing the body of his friend, and praying for him, he spread them over the body as a present from his mother for past kindnesses. Mr. Thompson leaves, besides his wife and family of seven, his aged mother, in the North of Ireland, with four sisters and eight brothers in various parts of the world





*The W.P. Thompson family - the adult family taken not long before Willie's death in 1922* PHOTO FROM CLARE GULLIVER

## APPENDIX 1

## THE ABATTOIR CASE - THOMPSON &amp; SONS VS NELSONS LTD &amp; HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

*he Hastings Borough Council closed the 1903 Municipal Abattoir on Williams Street, where butchers were able to slaughter their own stock under the supervision of the council appointed manager. The council appointed Nelson Bros (Vesty) Tomoana works to kill on the council's behalf. Thompson & Sons objected. They had arrangements with other butchers for their remains for boiling down purposes as well as an ongoing arrangement for small goods such as kidneys, livers. Thompson Bros, were retail butchers, proprietors of a boiling down works, manufacturers of fertilisers, makers of neetsfoot oil, tallow, etc*

*Nelson's only returned the meat. The other town butchers complied as there was no longer a working abattoir in Hastings so it was only Thompson's who took legal action. In the interim H.B. Farmers meatworks at Whakatu specially looked after Thompson's slaughtering requirements. After a year of court cases, Thompsons won and in doing so the remaining Hastings butchers won also as Nelsons were required to pay them for what they kept.*

**Hawke's Bay Tribune, Volume XIII, Issue 311, 18 December 1923, Page 6**

## HASTINGS ABATTOIRS.

SLAUGHTERING AT TOMOANA. NEW ARRANGEMENT IN OPERATION. Slaughtering operations for the Hastings municipality commenced at Nelson's Ltd. freezing works at Tomoana yesterday morning, when 96 sheep and 26 cattle were dealt with and placed in the cooling chambers for twelve hours previous to delivery to the butchers for sale to the consumers. For the present. the borough slaughtering is done in a section of the general slaughtering department, which is laid off for the purpose, but when the new building now in progress is completed, about next March, the **Hastings abattoir** will be quite separate from the operations carried on by the company. Yesterday afternoon when a "Tribune" representative was shown through, the borough work for the day had been completed and everything had been washed down, leaving the surroundings fresh, clean, cool and orderly, a delightful contrast with rat-infested, fly-pested and inadequate premises just vacated. Killing will be done twice a week, after which the carcasses will be stored in the cooling chambers free, for the first 24 hours, which will be a considerable convenience to the butchers and will save them appreciably in droving fees alone. The situation is practically the same distance from the centre of the town as the premises just discarded, and which the Council had been obliged to close up, owing to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing. If the Council had gone in for a new municipal abattoir, it would have to purchase a site three or more miles out from the town, with corresponding inconvenience to the butchers, whilst Tomoana is within a reasonable distance, with ample concreted yards for penning the stock preparatory to their being handled, instead of dealing with them hot off the roads. Everything passed off satisfactorily yesterday and when things get into their stride, there seems to be every reason to believe that the work will proceed with the utmost smoothness and to the satisfaction of everyone concerned



**Hawke's Bay Tribune, Volume XIII, Issue 314, 21 December 1923, Page 4**

**HASTINGS ABATTOIR.**

THE NEW ARRANGEMENT. BUTCHERS AND COUNCIL. '

The abattoir question and the agreement between the Borough Council and Messrs. Nelson Bros. Ltd., per slaughtering at Tomoana were again before the Council at last night's meeting.

Messrs. Nelson Bros, advised that they had received notice by some of the intending butchers to deliver all the offal and other parts including runners, bungs, etc., from the animals killed for them at the Tomoana abattoir, to Messrs. Thompson and Sons. And they had replied in terms of a copy of letter enclosed.

Five firms of butchers wrote giving notice that they would hold the Council liable (as a party in conjunction with the Minister of Agriculture in an agreement made with Messrs. Nelsons Ltd.) for any losses or damage they may sustain should Messrs. Nelson's Ltd. retain any portion of the animals slaughtered for them, which they claim was their property.

In reference to these two letters, the Mayor said the position as stated to Mr. Nosworthy, the previous night in Napier, was not quite correct. The Council would remember that it was agreed by all the butchers that there should be no further killing at the present abattoir. The only butchers objecting were Thompson Bros. Mr. Young, of the Stock Department, told the Council distinctly that the abattoir was the most unsatisfactory and insanitary of any in New Zealand. The Council had acted absolutely in the interests of public health and if the people had known the conditions under which animals were slaughtered they would not have eaten any more meat. It was possible to erect a new abattoir, and the Council was forced to make the present arrangement with Nelson's Ltd., who would only enter into it if they received certain parts of the offal. Under the new arrangement the meat remained in the works for the first day free of charge, and that an advantage which the butchers had gained. He did not blame Messrs. Thompson Bros for their action from a business point view, as they had been very favourably situated for years, and undoubtedly the new arrangement was a serious matter for them. It was said the new arrangement would mean a loss of £200 a year to each butcher. All these things were passed on, and if the Council had been forced into providing a new' abattoir the extra cost to the butchers would be very much greater than the cost under the present arrangement. He had read Mr Nosworthy's reply to the deputation, and was surprised at it because they had the agreement which bore Mr. Nosworthy's signature. The Minister was now going to consult the Crown Law officers, and the borough was also making further inquiries. The Mayor said he felt the position very keenly,

Cr. Garry said the Council had been placed on the horns of a dilemma in this matter. No doubt what the Mayor had said was correct, for it was absolutely imperative that they should get out of the abattoir, and although the present conditions were so much better that the public were going to reap a great benefit he had never been satisfied that they could do it legally The law so far as he could understand it was that the butchers had the right to the whole carcass, and the Minister anybody else could not alter the law. That was where he was afraid the Council's difficulty would

arise. He had voted for the signing of the agreement because they were assured that they were absolved from any responsibility. He felt certain that they had been placed in a very awkward position.

Cr. Cahr said that they were sure of the support of the ratepayers. They are all with u and will back us up except seven or eight."

The remaining councillors expressed themselves as being quite satisfied that the Council had done the right thing.

The Mayor, said the whole position was before the borough solicitor, and they were assured everything was in order.

### **Hawke's Bay Tribune, 29 May 1924, Page 6**

MR. E. H. Williams, borough solicitor, left Hastings this morning for Wellington. where he will represent the Borough Council in an action, in which application is being made to join the Council with Messrs. Vesty, in the action brought by Messrs. Thompson Bros, against Vesty. for damages in connection with the **Hastings abattoir** agreement.

### **Evening Post, Volume CVIII, Issue 8, 9 July 1924, Page 3**

#### ABATTOIR CHARGES

#### COMPANY'S RIGHT QUESTIONED.

A company's right to make certain abattoir charges was questioned before his Honour, Mr. Justice Salmond, at the Supreme Court, when Thomas John Thompson, **Hugh Anderson Thompson**, and John Dempster Thompson, butchers, of Hastings, proceeded against Nelsons (N.Z.), Ltd., the proprietors of an abattoir near Hastings. The hearing of the case was commenced yesterday and continued to-day. Mr. C. P. Skerrett, K.C., with him Mr. H. F. Johnston appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. M. Myers, with him Mr. IT .B. Lusk (Namer) represented the defendants. The Hastings Borough Council was represented by Mr. A. Gray. X.O., with whom was associated Mr. E. H. Williams • ' . The statement of claim set .out that, on 1st December, 1923, the Hastings Borough Council entered into a deed with the defendant company by which the abattoir for the borough was established at Tomoana, near Hastings, where all butchers carrying on business in the borough, including the plaintiffs', were compelled to have 'their slaughtering done. For live stock slaughtered for the plaintiffs certain stipulated charges were made, and it was alleged that these charges had never been fixed by the law, pursuant to the Slaughtering and Inspection Act, of 1908. Since the-abattoir was opened the defendant company, it was stated, had made against the plaintiffs the charges for particular kinds of offal, and it was alleged had wrongfully declined



to give to the plaintiffs I possession of the other, portions of the offal of their slaughtered animals.

It was admitted in the statement, of defence that the charges prescribed by the deed had never been fixed by bylaw, mid that no bylaw had been approved by the Governor in regard to the charges. It was stated, however, that it was an essential condition of the delegation that the defendant company • should be entitled to make the prescribed charges. It was contended that, in pursuance of the deed all offal it had been required to deliver had been handed over, and the remainder retained. Various other allegations were denied. (Proceeding.)

### **New Zealand Times, Volume LI, Issue 12007, 9 December 1924, Page 3**

#### ABATTOIR CHARGES

A LITIGATION CLAIM FOLLOWS CLOSING OF MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR.

A HASTINGS DISPUTE.

The Chief Justice, Sir Robert Stout', yesterday afternoon heard a case, the plaintiffs in which were Thomas John Thompson, **Hugh Anderson Thompson**, and Joseph Dempster Thompson, Hastings, butchers, and the defendants in which were Nelsons (N.Z.), Ltd. The plaintiffs were represented by Messrs. C. I. Skerrett, K.C., and H. F. Johnston, and the defendants by Messrs M. Myers, K.C., and H. B. Lusk. Messrs. A. Gray, K.C., and C. H. Williams represented the third party, 'the Hastings Borough Council. The abattoir at which slaughtering for the Hastings Borough. is done is Nelsons\* abattoir. Plaintiffs are butchers who used the abattoir. Plaintiffs asked the court to declare that the charges demanded by the defendants for slaughtering at the abattoir were illegal and ought to be repaid, and they made a similar request in respect to parts of the offal; that the retention of some of the offal was illegal and that the value of the offal .ought to be paid; that the defendants might be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs whatever was improperly demanded and the value of the offal improperly retained. In addition, £450 damages was sought.

'Defendants replied that if the deed of delegation under . which Nelsons did the slaughtering was effective the defendants were entitled to make the charges which had been made, but if it was held that the charges were not chargeable under the delegation then the work done for plaintiffs was done by defendants as proprietors of a meat export slaughterhouse and that defendants were entitled to suck charges, both as being known to plaintiffs beforehand and as being fair ana reasonable remuneration for services. The defendants said they had delivered all offal they were required by the deed of. delegation to deliver, and, in pursuance of the deed, had retained all other offal. J

JUDGE

BEFORE JUDGMENT DELIVERED.

His Honour: I suppose you are aware that the late Sir John Salmond prepared a judgment, but did not deliver it. Will you let it be read now?

Mr. Skerrett: The difficulty is that Sir John Salmond raised a point that had not been dealt with.

His Honour: Would that point affect the judgment?

Mr. Skerrett: Yes, in one respect.

His Honour: Then we must go on.

Mr. Skerrett: I am afraid there is no other, course.

Mr. Skerrett then moved for judgment on the evidence given before. Sir John Salmond.

His Honour asked if the question had arisen that defendants had done work for which they should be paid.

Mr. Skerrett said the answer to that was that plaintiffs were. forced by law to employ the defendants to do the work.

When Mr. Skerrett was mentioning the claim respecting the offal...

His Honour remarked: "I suppose the facts are not in dispute. The main thing will be what does the law authorise."

Mr. Skerrett: Exactly. Then there is the future situation, which is important.

Mr. Skerrett said Thompson Bros, were retail butchers, proprietors of a boiling down works, manufacturers of fertilisers, makers of neetsfoot oil, tallow, etc. Originally. there was a borough abattoir, but unfortunately it closed down, and a deed of delegation was made in favour of Nelsons, a deed which was approved by the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. W. Nosworthy.

His Honour : There is power of delegation?

Mr. Skerrett: Yes; there is no question about that. Mr. Skerrett contended that the charges were not filed in accordance with the statute.

#### A TOWN WITHOUT AN ABATTOIR?

Mr Myers said the questions involved were more important than might appear at first sight. It had been assumed that Nelsons would be entitled to the inedible offal and that was one of the conditions of the deed. A decision-" adverse to the company would mean that Hastings would be without an abattoir until the Borough Council could erect one.

His Honour: That would make the people vegetarians by compulsion.

Mr. Myers: Nelsons only took up the work for the benefit of the Hastings people at the request Of the Borough Council. In consequence of doing this work Nelsons works were remaining open for several months of the winter season during which, otherwise, they would -be closed. Nelsons had taken up the work because the Hastings people were in a serious difficulty, as the old abattoir, in effect, had been condemned. Mr. Myers contended there was a right of the defendants to charge whether this was or was not given by by-law.

Decision was reserved.



**Hawke's Bay Tribune, Volume XIV, Issue 309, 10 December 1924, Page 3**

HASTINGS ABATTOIRS.

THE RECENT LITIGATION

CASE RE-ARGUED.

The fact that an uncompleted reserved judgment of the late Sir John Salmond failed to deal with a point he had raised in his statement of the case—a point which the Bar deemed essential—was the reason why legal argument in the case was reheard in the Supreme Court at Wellington before the Chief Justice on Monday. The parties were Thomas John Thompson, **Hugh Anderson Thompson**, and Joseph Dempster Thompson, in partnership as butchers in Hastings, the plaintiffs, and Nelsons (N.Z.) Ltd., an incorporated company engaged in meat export. of Hastings, the defendants. The Hastings borough was joined as a third party. Messrs. C. P. Skerrett, K.C. and Mr. H.F. Johnston appeared for plaintiffs. Messrs. M. Myers, K.C., and Lusk for defendants, and Messrs. A. Gray, K.C. and E. H. Williams for the third party.

The statement of claim set forth that by deed of delegation dated December 1, 1923, the Mayor and councillors of Hastings delegated to defendants the powers conferred on the borough by the Slaughtering and Inspection Act and its amendments. For the slaughtering of livestock, it was claimed, defendants compelled plaintiffs to pay charges never fixed by the by-laws under the Act. Plaintiffs claimed that these charges should be repaid by defendants; that the charges made for certain other offal should be repaid; that the value of certain portions of offal retained by the defendant company should be paid to plaintiffs. In addition, £480 damages was claimed.

The defence was that from time-to-time plaintiffs had paid the charges voluntarily. It was admitted that the charges were not fixed by by-law, but it was stated that it was an essential condition of the delegation deed, as approved by the Minister of Agriculture, that the defendant company should be entitled to make the charges prescribed in the deed. It was further claimed that if the delegation were entitled to those charges as an essential condition of the delegation; if such charges were not lawfully justifiable then the delegation was inoperative, and any work done by defendants for plaintiffs was as the proprietors of a meat export slaughterhouse, and that defendants were lawfully entitled to make such charges, both as being known to plaintiffs beforehand and as being fair and reasonable. Defendants denied that plaintiffs were entitled to any relief.

The last hearing of the case was in 1 July.

The position, said Mr. Skerrett, was that there had originally been municipal abattoirs in Hastings. If these had been continued, none of the difficulties in the present case could have arisen. Until the abattoirs were taken over by Nelsons under the deed of delegation each butcher did his own slaughtering at the abattoirs, either taking away his own offal, or arranging for another butcher to do so. Some of the offal was allowed to be taken away free by Nelsons, and some of it was charged for. There was no other abattoir in the district at which butchers could slaughter.

After hearing argument. His Honour reserved decision.

**Hawke's Bay Tribune, Volume XV, Issue 2, 13 December 1924, Page 4****HASTINGS ABATTOIR CASE.**

THOMPSON BROS. v. NELSON'S LTD.

**JUDGMENT FOR\*PLAINTIFFS**

The Chief Justice (Sir Robert Stout) gave his reserved judgment yesterday in the case Thompson Bros. v. Nelsons (N.Z.) Ltd. The Hastings Borough was joined as a third party.

The fact that an uncompleted (reserved judgment of the late Sir John Salmond failed to deal with a point he had raised in his statement of the case —a point which the Bar deemed essential - was the reason why legal argument in the case was reheard in the Supreme Court at Wellington before the Chief Justice on Monday.

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A fuller account of the proceedings was published in the "Tribune" on Wednesday last.



APPENDIX 2

Photos of Leitrim Villa inside and out [*Photos from Clare Gulliver*]



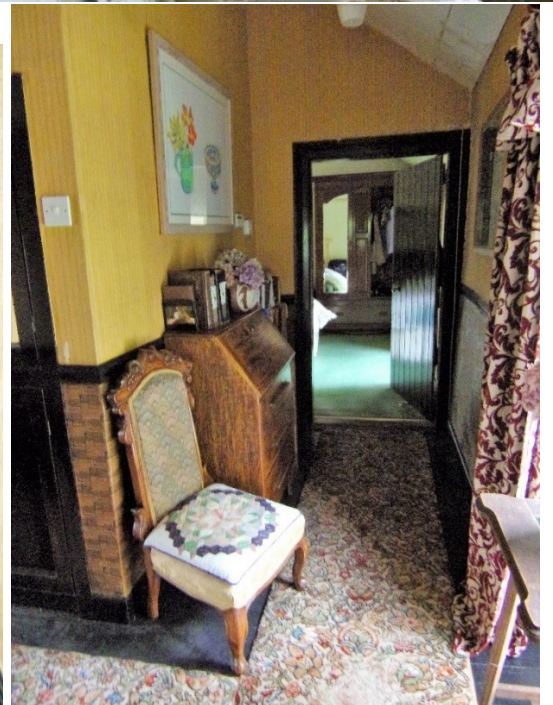
























Clare making repairs to a wall











Clare Gulliver's father - Hugh Thompson



The old Leitrim Villa 'privy'

One of the traditional gateways - leading out from the yard

