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MARTINBOROUGH
EST HOTEL 1862

Richard Barton 1790 - 1866



Richard Barton arrived in Wellington in 1840 on the "Oriental", the second of four early settler ships, and in 1841 purchased 100-acres for a farm in the Upper Hutt Valley. He named his estate Trentham in honour of the Duke of Sutherland as he had been Superintendent for the Duke at Trentham Hall. Much of his former estate is now Trentham Memorial Park, which includes the native bush remnant known as Barton's Bush.

The surrounding suburb of Trentham also takes its name from his estate. Exactly when Barton and his family began living on the Trentham estate is unclear from various historical sources. Although he appears to have built a slab hut on his purchase around 1841, the Trentham Parish histories indicate that he and his third wife, Hannah, whom he married about 1843, only settled on the estate in 1846.

During the intervening 5 years it seems Barton may have assisted, perhaps supervised, the surveying of the surrounding country for the Wellington Company. The Barton homestead was located near the corner of the Main Road (now Fergusson Drive) and Camp Road (now Camp Street) and overlooked what is now Trentham Memorial Park. Barton appears to have acquired more land, as his estate is described as lying to the west of the Main Road from Quinn's Post to Silverstream on both sides of the river. In 1847 he established a sheep and cattle run at White Rock just south of Martinborough and by 27 December 1861, Barton is described as the chief landowner and magistrate of the district. This being, when arrangements were being made to establish an Anglican Church mission at Trentham early in 1862, it appears that Barton extended his own house to accommodate the church missionaries as well as donating land for the establishment of a church.

Richard Barton died on 20 August 1866 and was buried in Upper Hutt at St John's Anglican Church cemetery.

William Beetham 1837 - 1925



William Henry Beetham, J.P., was born in 1837 in Yorkshire, England. For many years he was the chairman of the Wairarapa North County Council.

Arriving in Wellington in 1855, William Beetham was one of the early settlers in the Wairarapa district. He was a member of the firm of Williams and Beetham—his partners being his brother, Mr. H. H. Beetham, and Mr. T. C. Williams—who owned the well-known estates named Brancepeth and Annedale, near Masterton, as well as other properties.

William Beetham always took a keen interest in local governing bodies. Besides his long service in the Wairarapa North County Council, he was for some years chairman of the Masterton Road Board. In relation to agricultural and pastoral associations, William Beetham was a member of the committee of the Wairarapa Society, and filled the important office of president of the Masterton Association. In 1880 his education and interest in France led to his marriage to a French lady—the daughter of M. Frere, of Piccardie and then to the establishment of one of the first Vineyards in Lansdowne.

Charles Robert Bidwill 1820- 1884



Charles Bidwill was born in Exeter, England and moved to Australia in 1841 on the advice of his brother, to learn the skills he would need for colonial farming. He saw the opportunities there were in New Zealand and came to Wellington in 1843 with 1600 sheep and some horses. In April 1844 he came over to the Wairarapa as shortage of farming land in Wellington was driving people across the hill. He brought with him some 350 merino sheep and established the Pihautea Station which eventually grew to encompass 10,000 acres. Charles Bidwill also had a keen interest in horse racing and it was in horse breeding which held his ultimate success and the country's first thoroughbred horse 'Figaro' is in fact buried on Pihautea Estate.

Donald Cameron 1832 - 1900

Donald Cameron arrived in Wellington with his family on the 'Blenheim' in 1840. His sons Donald John and Duncan worked as shepherds on a number of properties including Weld and Vavasour's Wharekaka. They then established their Pahaua Station in 1846 and even bought the freehold of the land in 1866. Many of the descendants of Donald Cameron still farm land in the Wairarapa today.

Stan Chifney 1920 - 1996

One of Martinborough's most colourful early winemakers was the snowy-bearded late Stan Chifney. He and his wife Rosemary arrived in 1980 after a career making vaccines in the Middle East and Nigeria.

Described as mildly eccentric and enthusiastic he was known as a 'father figure to the Martinborough Wine Industry. He was among the first to plant vines here after soil tests revealed that together with the area's microclimate the Martinborough terraces were exceptionally suited for vines.

Their first vintage was in 1984, and their red wines helped establish Martinborough as a premium wine growing district. In the beginning it was Stan Chifney who had the only winery in town, and the other three producers, Martinborough Vineyard, Ata Rangi and Dry River shared his facility for the first couple of years. The Chifney Vineyard was sold on and is now part of what is known as Margrain Vineyard.

An accomplished musician and shameless romantic, Stan often played the violin to his grapes.

Didsbury

The Didsbury name is associated with Pirinoa Station, which is 27 kilometres south of Martinborough on the Martinborough Lake Ferry road.

The property, which now comprises 1600 hectares (or 4000 acres), was originally purchased in 1877 by Duncan and Ellen McDougall from Richard Barton, who also owned White Rock Station on the coast east of Martinborough. Pirinoa was farmed by Duncan, until his unfortunate drowning in Lake Onoke in 1891, and then by his various sons until 1940. A manager looked after the property between 1940 and 1946.

Duncan and Ellen had a family of six sons and three daughters and it is through the eldest daughter Euphemia, that the family had a name change from McDougall to Didsbury. Euphemia married Guy Didsbury from Wellington and their eldest son, Duncan and his wife Helen farmed Pirinoa from 1946 to 1972. After 1972 Duncan and Helen's son Tony and his wife Gaye farmed the property and then handed over the reins in 2005 to their son Guy and his wife Andrea.

The name Pirinoa, which means to cling or to hold fast, is derived from a fighting pa on the property. The Pirinoa village consists of a general store, established by Pain and Kershaw from Martinborough in 1882, and now dependently owned, a community all, a two teacher school established in 1887, public tennis courts and Burnside Church, established in 1875.

In 2006 Pirinoa Station was awarded the New Zealand Century Farm and Station award to mark over 100 years of continuous ownership by one family.

Henry Bunny 1823 - 1891



Henry Bunny was an English trained solicitor from Newbury, England. He fled to New Zealand in 1853 and was declared a bankrupt after the scandalous collapse of a property development scheme at Donnington Square in Newbury and was struck off by the Law Society in 1859.

Upon arrival in New Zealand Henry Bunny applied to the New Zealand Bar, was admitted in 1858, but became the first member to be disbarred when it was discovered his sponsor, Rev. Arthur Baker, was his brother-in-law. He then went on to buy land in Rangitikei and later land near Featherston.

Henry Bunny is best known for his political activities, these included a long term on the Wellington Provincial Government and 16 years in the General Assembly. An astute Liberal politician his time as whip suited his tactical skills. He was elected to represent the Wairarapa electorate in the New Zealand General Assembly from an 1865 by-election to 1881,

when he was defeated for the new electorate of Wairarapa South by Walter Clarke Buchanan. Henry Bunny committed suicide on 15 February 1891. He went to the Road Board office in his home town Featherston, asked for the key to the office and once he arrived there, shot himself through the heart with a revolver. He was buried at Featherston Cemetery. The village of Bunnythorpe in the Manawatu is named in his honour.

John William Kershaw



MR. J. W. KERSHAW

John William Kershaw was an early settler in Martinborough who heard of a share going in the local grocery store, From hawking clothes from a wheelbarrow Mr Pain had now grown to be the Harrods of South Wairarapa. He had picked up a couple of business partners along the way. A Mr Haycock was first involved and they were joined by Mr Kershaw. Whilst Mr Haycock went back to farming and Mr Pain went on to bigger and brighter things he eventually allowed Mr Kershaw to buy his share. Part of the deal was that the Pain remained in the name. Mr Kershaw was only too happy to do this as a sign of respect to the true pioneer who built the business from a wheelbarrow.

The store has suffered its fair share of ups and downs over the years, surviving a major fire in 1908, the depression in the 1920s Kershaw saw fit to extend credit far and wide to enable the locals to see through the tough times and when the tables turned and the golden years of wool returned, this extended credit paid dividends. Then in 1942 a huge 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the town and caused most of the façade to to be thrown to the ground and for 6 long years the windows remained boarded up as due to the war there was a global shortage of glass.

In the share market crash in the 1980s, Martinborough and the store were featured on a TV1 news item about the decaying state of rural New Zealand. Then the tables turned again with the discovery of the fantastic wine growing available in the area.

The store has survived as a testament to its battling owners and is now one of the oldest retailing businesses in the country.

Sir John Martin 1822 - 1892



John Martin was an Irish immigrant who had arrived in Wellington with his siblings after the death of his parents in 1841.

Johnny Martin, as he was known, began work as a pick-and-shovel hand and eventually purchased a horse and cart. In 1869 he purchased the 12,698-acre Otaraia station in Wairarapa, and in partnership with Thomas Henderson bought out the New Zealand Steam Navigation Company. In 1871 he cheekily bought at auction 24,787 acres in the centre of Daniel Riddiford's Te Awaiti station in Wairarapa. A year later Riddiford was forced to buy the land; Martin made £500 and an implacable enemy.

John Martin could be a generous host. At the Otaraia station woolshed in 1873 he held a ball to celebrate the opening of the Waihenga Bridge. Festivities continued until daybreak: 'it was a great shivoo.' In early 1875, when he had a drinking fountain erected on Lambton Quay, the water at the opening ceremony was liberally mixed with whisky.

In January 1879 John Martin caused a sensation when he purchased G. M. Waterhouse's 33,346-acre Huangarua estate in Wairarapa. Newspapers reported that Martin paid £85,000 in gold for the land and stock. He immediately split the run into 334 small farms; the township of Waihenga was renamed Martinborough and divided into 593 sections to be sold. But Martin's speculation coincided with the onset of the agricultural depression, and the auction was a flop. Martinborough's sluggish beginnings failed to match the grand vision of its founder: the town was designed in the shape of a Union Jack, with streets radiating from a central square and named after famous places Martin had visited during his overseas tour.

Hugh Palliser 1723 - 1796



Hugh Palliser was an officer of the British Royal Navy during the Seven Years' War and the American Revolutionary War. During the American Revolutionary War he came into a famous dispute with Augustus Keppel over the Battle of Ushant which led to Palliser being court-martialled, although he was subsequently acquitted. After his acquittal Palliser hoped to be reinstated in Lt-General of Marines, instead, in 1780 he was appointed Governor of Greenwich Hospital by Lord Sandwich, and was again elected to Parliament for Huntingdon (1780-1784). In 1787 he was promoted to the rank of Admiral

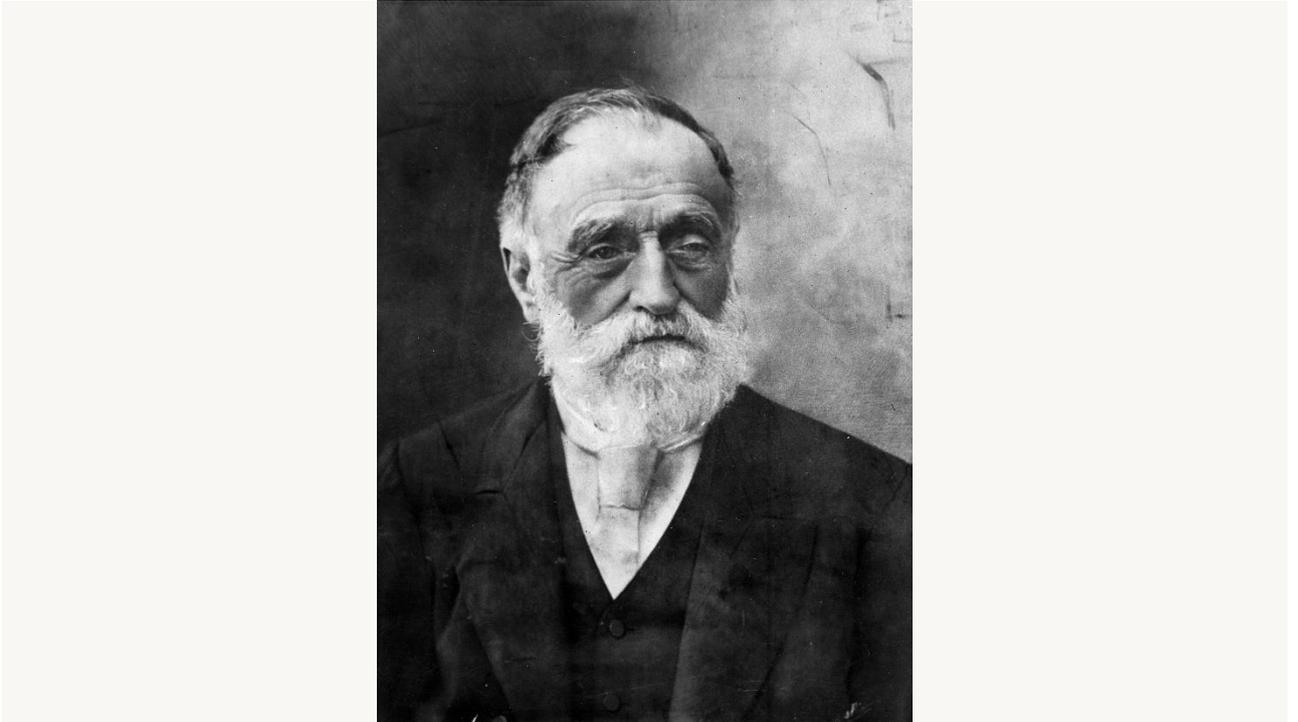
Captain James Cook, a fellow Yorkshireman, first served under Palliser as Master's Mate of HMS Eagle from 1755 to 1758. Palliser supported Cook's elevation to Master in 1757. Both were present at the siege of Quebec where Cook charted the approach to the city and the landing area. Following the Treaty of Paris, Cook was charged with surveying Newfoundland.

As Governor, Palliser actively supported Cook's work and assisted in the publication of his acclaimed map of

Newfoundland. During his term as Comptroller, Palliser supported Cook's first command of exploration in 1768, and his subsequent voyages. Cook named Cape Palliser, Palliser Bay (to be found approx. 1 hour south of Martinborough) and Palliser Isles (in French Polynesia) stating "I have named Cape Palliser in honour of my worthy friend Capt Palliser".

On Cook's death, Palliser erected a memorial to Cook on his estate The Vache in Buckinghamshire England. Admiral Palliser died on 19 March 1796 in at his estate in Chalfont St Giles and was buried at St Giles.

Charles Pharazyn 1802 - 1896



Charles Pharazyn was born in London in 1802 and came to New Zealand in 1842 and quickly established himself as a storekeeper in Wellington. His experiences which included being robbed by Maori and Settlers alike led him to try his hand as a farmer. He leased Whatarangi Station a 5,000 acre sheep run on the shores of Palliser Bay in conjunction with William Fitzherbert. The joint venture was so successful that several years later when he closed the partnership he had enough money to visit England.

He later settled at Longwood, near Featherston and followed his political and business interests. In 1871 he retired from business in order to give his full attention to his political career.

Daniel Riddiford 1814 - 1875



Riddiford arrived in Wellington in March 1840 on the Adelaide with his stepfather and Captain Daniell, bringing his own prefabricated house with him and immediately took up his official duties which were undertaken through the first phase of Company activity as the New Zealand Company Agent for a few years.

Following the taking up of sheep runs in the Wairarapa by Clifford, Weld, and others, Riddiford, about 1846-47, occupied the Orongorongo station in the south Rimutaka Ranges, with an effective lease from 1 April 1848, over some 7,000 acres between the Wainuiomata and Mukamuka Rivers. Until 1910, however, it had restricted flat grazing and Riddiford soon sought elsewhere for a better property.

In 1848-49 he arranged the Maori lease of the Te Awaiti Block on the East Coast, south east of Martinborough, estimated, at the time of issue of the formal Crown licence six years later, to include about 30,000 acres. Riddiford, his wife and family lived at the Orongorongo station until 1855, when he moved into his Woburn property in the Hutt Valley. Although in this time he established himself on the Te Awaiti Block.

William Vavasour 1822 - 1860



William Vavasour was a cousin of Frederick Weld (who also has a room named after him) and Charles Clifford and was a financial partner in the country's first sheep station, Wharekaka, south of Martinborough and also spent some time working on the station. His enthusiasm for the colonial lifestyle did not match that of his cousins and he returned to England in due course.

Aloysius Weld 1823 – 1891

Sir Frederick



Sir Frederick Weld was a member of one of England's Catholic aristocracy who came to New Zealand to join up with his cousins William Vavasour (who also has a room here named after him) and Charles Clifford and their friend Henry Petre. Together they established the first sheep station at Wharekaka south of Martinborough.

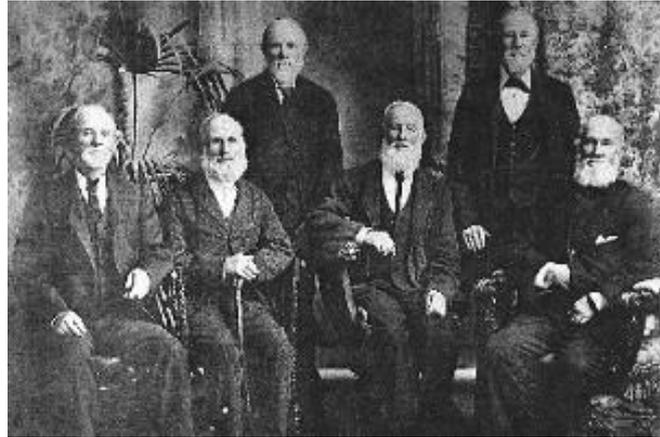
Frederick Weld later established a large station at Flaxbourne in Marlborough on the South Island.

His political interests led him to serve in the First New Zealand Parliament and he also served a term as New Zealand's Prime Minister between Nov 1864 and Oct 1865. He was in fact the Premier responsible for moving the capital of New Zealand down to Wellington and even more controversially moved for the withdrawal of British Troops from New Zealand. These decisions caused some

hostility from various camps including the Governor and with the Government's finances in a precarious positions as well, his parliament resigned a little less than a year after taking office.

Suffering poor health Weld resigned from politics and returned to England but after a recovery time returned to work in 1869 and later that year in March became Governor for Western Australia and in 1885 moved on to become the Governor of Tasmania.

The Wilton Family



The Wilton Family were early settlers in Wellington and their name is preserved in the Otari Wilton Reserve just north of Wellington. Maori used the forest for hunting and the name Otari means 'Place of Snares'.

Following European colonisation, some of the large trees were removed for timber and others were burnt off for farmland. One of the early landowners, Wilton, preserved seven hectares (17 acres) of the original forest and fenced it off. This became known as Wilton's Bush.

The Wilton family was a large one as you can see from the photo above depicting seated left to right, Thomas, William, Charles and Nun and standing left to right Henry and Job.

At least 5 of the Wilton children moved to the Wairarapa. The boys, William, Henry, Thomas and Charles all being involved in farming or allied occupations. Their sister Frances and her husband ran a hotel on the banks of the Waingawa River near Masterton for many years.