

Ex Family reunion 2/1/93

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Barbara Williams

"Hikurangi"

O Kato.

N.P.

Salvation Army evangelists (1887.) and the Brethren assembly were active in early Cardiff. Cardiff people met Rev Clover on his visits to Central Taranaki in 1889 and invited him to begin services in the Cardiff schoolhouse. His Primitive Methodist preaching plan for the new Stratford -Cardiff Mission. April 1890 advises an 11am service twice in April and in June. and once in May. There would be one 3pm service with Rev Clover and two 7pm services a month with either Rev Clover, F. Bell, or J.U. Murray (Eltham). Later, George Collingwood of Albert Rd also preached. The Society Steward for Cardiff Road was J. Richards,

The Wesleyans, however were the ones who built the local church.

Mr William Williams, previously a Patea Methodist, gave a site, and the little wooden church big enough for 80 was built in 1891, while Cardiff was still included in the Hawera Wesleyan circuit area and before Stratford had a Methodist church. Early photos show all round the little church the blackened stumps of burnt trees still standing after 1886 bush fire. Cardiff Anglicans also claimed this district church but the Methodists provided the building loan, which was quickly paid off and by 1900 it had been painted and lined. Those keen to promote the Cardiff Wesleyan church are remembered as G.A. Marchant, Daniel J. Williams, his father, William Williams, C.H. Smith, D. Watson, C. McGeachie, W. Richards, H. Johnson, R. Dingle, J.J. Wills? A.C.? Hills. see cardiff book.

#### WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

You may have noticed how often the name William Williams crops up everywhere in Methodist and in Taranaki histories. There were <sup>two</sup> three generations by that name. They are ancestors of Betty Ogle now of Regan St.

William Williams, (no 1) born 1809, landed at New Plymouth in October 1841 with his wife Mary and family, and died about a fortnight later. His widow, Mary had lost a young son just before they left, and another son was born and died on the ship.

She took her children, 12 year old William, (the second) born 1829), Tom, Daniel, Amy and Mary Ann, to live in the Rangitikei. Grand-daughter Rebecca who taught at Hawera, said William later walked to Wanganui, to meet his New Plymouth friend, Mr Bayly and the pair walked to Wellington. Griff Williams, of Meremere said the boys later went to the Australian goldrush, and Tom and Dan died. Mary remarried, and as Mrs Rose went to Australia where she lived into her 90s.

William (No 2) appears in the Lower Hutt Methodist history as a blacksmith who served on the first Methodist Church Trust in 1856, and on the Taita Sunday school committee in 1864 with J. A'Court, Snr and Junior. Then he

moved with his sons William ( no 3 born 1855 ) and Daniel (1858 ) and daughters, Amy, Rebecca and Catherine ( who married early Taranaki personality J.J. Paterson.)

The Patea history has William 2 taking over from the military blacksmith in 1869, later setting up as a coach builder with many apprentices and staff including an A'Court and J.J.Paterson. He was on the Wanganui Education Board in 1878 and was an Office Bearer in the Patea Methodist Church. His sons took over the business in 1878, but after 3 years they sold out and went farming.

### THE CARDIFF YEARS

William no 2 and son Dan show up in the Cardiff history where Daniel was the first teacher in 1886 and both were Directors of the local Dairy Company. William served from 1890 - 93 and was Secretary from 1891 - 92. William gave the site for the Cardiff Church, but moved away before Cardiff came into the Stratford circuit, so he never appeared on our role. He left Patea with a son Griff and four daughters and after Cardiff moved on to Meremere at Hawera, where Harry (1893) and Alf (1898) were born. Alf was Betty Ogle's father and her Uncle Dan built the Church at Meremere.

William carted the first house into the Meremere district on a Bullock wagon. Morley's " History of Methodism" describes William's wife Rebecca, as " a woman of hospitable instincts and considerable mental powers ". In the Hutt, Rangitikei, Wanganui, Cardiff and Patea districts, she was noted for "her kindness of heart and consistency and for the thorough training of her children".

Rebecca died in 1895 and William no 2 lived at Manaia ( as did Dan ). William no 2 died in Manaia at my grandparents house. He had lived there for 7 years my Mother told me.

William no 3 ( born 1855 at Lower Hutt ) was a Hawera Blacksmith in 1875 and I understand A'Courts took over from him. Both families were Hawera Methodists and are linked in marriage.

William Williams no 4 was born to Alfred and Margaret Williams - Meremere on the 4th of November 1924. He farmed at Meremere, then Okato. He died on the 5th of July 1976.

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