

The Old Schoolmaster's House, Belfast



Dennis & Helen Hills

**THE OLD SCHOOLMASTER'S
HOUSE, BELFAST**

Dennis & Helen Hills

Published by DA & HJ Hills

INTRODUCTION

This book came about as a result of the 2006 Open Day at the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve. As "tour guides" for the Belfast District Museum Trust, we were both asked questions about the house that we could not answer, despite having some notes that had previously been prepared. We felt that the history of the house needed to be recorded, and the result is this booklet. The research was shared, and Dennis undertook the actual writing, map and plan drawing.

Unless otherwise stated, photographs used in this publication were obtained from the Belfast District Museum.

This publication was made possible through a grant from the Christchurch City Council, which is gratefully acknowledged.

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THE OLD SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE, BELFAST

Schools located in what is now the Belfast area have occupied three sites, (1) the Darroch Street area, (2) 665 Main North Road, and (3) the present site on the east side of Main North Road, adjacent to Sheldon Park. This book relates, in the main, to the schoolmaster's house on the second site, on the west side of the Main North Road at number 665, which today forms a major part of the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve.

History of the Area

Schools at this site and that further north near Darroch Street predate the establishment of the township, which became known as "Belfast" in 1882. Another town proposed at the same time was Heslington, in the block between Lagan Street (then Fleming Street) and Johns Road, just north of today's Kapuatohe Historic Reserve. The two developers made some interesting claims! "Belfast is destined to become the leading suburban retreat for the gentry and future nobility of Canterbury" and 'Belfast soil cannot be excelled in New Zealand for quality', yet Heslington 'is better land than that of Belfast, and nearer Christchurch'. On education, 'Belfast is situate within a few chains of the district school, thus satisfying the desideratum of education', while Heslington could truly claim to be 'adjoining the Government Schools'.

There was for many years a Heslington General Store on the Johns/Main North Road corner. The store sign shows it to have been a telegraph office. The Belfast Post Office opened on 10 October 1882, but there was a separate telegraph office from 21 August 1891 to 21 October 1908, which then merged with the Post Office. This must have been at the Heslington General Store. Electoral roll entries sighted purely by chance (for example, 'Richard BLACKBURN, Fleming Street, Heslington, fireman' in 1902 and 'Richard BROWN, Englefield road, Heslington, farmer' in 1905 and 1908) showed that the name was still in use at those times.

Prior to the 1880s, before the establishment of any township, the area was known by a variety of names, such as "Styx", "Purarekanui" (the 19th

century Maori name for the Styx River) and "North Road district". The description "Styx" covered a very wide area prior to the 1880s [Hills (2002); Hills (2006)]. The "Lyttelton Times" of 13 October 1874 tells us that "The annual meeting of householders of the North Road district was held in the schoolroom last night. Mr P. Tisch occupied the chair". The name "Belfast" was then in use, but only as the name of the "Belfast Meat Factory". A lengthy article in the "Lyttelton Times" of 20 March 1874 describes the operation of the Belfast Meat Factory, and an evening of entertainment there 'in aid of the library fund'.

MAY 17, 1882

H. S. Harley.

BELFAST.

BELFAST ESTATE.

43 FARMS,

FROM

2 ACRES TO 19 ACRES EACH.

BELFAST TOWN.

120 ALLOTMENTS,

Containing

1/4 ACRE AND UPWARDS.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION,

BY

NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY (LIMITED.)

THIS DAY,

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MAY,

At 2 o'clock.

AT

MESSRS J. T. FORD & CO.'S LAUND SALE-ROOMS,

Kindly granted for the purpose.

BELFAST soil cannot be excelled in New Zealand for quality.

BELFAST is admirably adapted for the growth of grain, roots, grass, vegetables, and fruit.

BELFAST is par excellence the finest garden and orchard land in New Zealand.

BELFAST.—The more searching the inspection and investigation into the quality and capabilities of the land, the greater the chance of a complete clearance of every square foot.

BELFAST is the place above all others for the establishment of a dairy factory.

BELFAST.—Strangers and new arrivals who have not been sufficiently long in Christchurch to become acquainted with the character and position of the Belfast Estate, ought either to inspect it personally or seek the opinion of the early settlers.

BELFAST.—The land is all in English grass, and will return good interest on the purchase money from the day of occupation.

BELFAST has a reputation not confined to Canterbury.

BELFAST cannot be over-estimated.

BELFAST.—Every purchaser will be his own landlord, so that rack rents, land leagues, occupation Acts, &c., need not be feared.

BELFAST is already the seat of several manufacturing industries.

BELFAST is well adapted to become the seat of the flax and linen manufacturing trade of the Colony, as Kaiapoi is of the woollen.

BELFAST TOWN is placed before the public in response to a generally expressed wish, not because the land is unfit for agriculture, and therefore only adapted for building sites.

BELFAST is the only real site for a flourishing township between the City and Kaiapoi.

BELFAST should commend itself to merchants, bankers, speculators, artisans, nurserymen, dairy-men, market gardeners, &c.

BELFAST enjoys a climate pure, bracing, and healthy.

BELFAST is destined to become the leading suburban retreat for the gentry and future nobility of Canterbury.

BELFAST can be tapped anywhere, and a magnificent supply of artesian water obtained.

BELFAST is destitute of shingle, but gravel for road purposes, garden walks, &c., can be procured within easy distance.

BELFAST.—The land is quite level, so that every allotment has equal advantages in this respect, and no expense is necessary to prepare them for the reception of villa or farm residences.

BELFAST.—The town sections are rather over a quarter of an acre, and are not mere strips barely large enough to accommodate a moderate-sized dwelling-house.

BELFAST is well served by wide roads and streets.

BELFAST.—Five perches in garden will produce as much as one rood of ordinary soil.

BELFAST.—Every person who has a spare hour should obtain lithographed plans, and visit the Estate before the day of sale. Trains leave 7.35, 11.55 a.m., and 5 p.m.

BELFAST will bear inspection, as unlike many new towns, the reality is an improvement on the plans.

BELFAST is served by the Great Northern Railway, every train stopping at the station in the centre of the estate.

BELFAST, although being within easy distance of the city, possesses all the advantages pertaining to the country.

BELFAST is only six miles from the Future Metropolis of New Zealand.

BELFAST residents may step into the train at 9.25 a.m. and be in their offices in the city before ten o'clock.

BELFAST annual tickets between the town and city cost—Adults, first class, \$11 10s; second class, \$9 15s. School children, first class, not exceeding 16 years, 80s per quarter; over 16 and not exceeding 19 years, 40s per quarter. Second class, not exceeding 16 years, 10s per quarter; over 16 and not exceeding 19 years, 20s per quarter.

BELFAST is situate within a few chains of the district school, thus satisfying the desideratum of education.

BELFAST Sale offers opportunities for bond & investments not often met with.

BELFAST.—Instead of investing savings in the Post Office Savings Bank at 4 per cent per annum, purchase a section in Belfast, and realise 100 per cent within a few months.

BELFAST.—The terms have been made very easy, the proprietors being satisfied that every purchase will be duly completed.

BELFAST will not be burdened by fictitious reserves far beyond its value.

BELFAST. TERMS—

- 10 per cent cash deposit on day of sale.
- 10 per cent cash, 17th Nov., 1882.
- 10 per cent cash, 17th May, 1883.

A title then to be given to purchasers, and a mortgage to be taken for the remaining 90 per cent for 3 years (subject to further payment of 10 per cent at 17th May, 1884).

Interest on unpaid balances 8 per cent per annum, payable half-yearly.

BELFAST.—Plans and further particulars can be obtained at the offices of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited.

JOHN COOKE,
Manager.

H. S. HARLEY,
Auctioneer.

THE VILLAGE

HESLINGTON! HESLINGTON!!

NEAR THE STYX.

MESSES H. MATSON & CO. have received instructions from the Proprietors to **SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION,**

At the Land and Estate Sale-rooms, Cashel street, or

SATURDAY, JULY 5TH, 1882,

At 2 o'clock,

43 ACRES OF LAND,

Having a Large Frontage on the

NORTH ROAD, TISCH'S ROAD, LAWRENCE STREET, FLEMING STREET, SEPTON STREET

Subdivided into sections varying from 1/4 of an acre to 4-acre blocks,

With Northern and Eastern aspects.

The Land is bounded by the property of Messrs G. Coleman, Moorhouse, James Johns, Baker, Orchard, and others, and near to the

STYX RAILWAY STATION,

and adjoining the

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

The Land is of excellent quality and lays high, with a splendid view of the Sea, and in a position to receive its invigorating and health-giving breezes.

HESLINGTON IS BETTER LAND THAN

THAT OF BELFAST, AND NEARER

CHRISTCHURCH.

The Tramway undoubtedly will shortly run past the township. For building sites it cannot be beaten, and for Market Gardenses or Dairyman is a first class speculation, being within easy distance of the City, with every facility of easy and cheap transit by Rail or Tram

HESLINGTON FOR HEALTH.

HESLINGTON FOR WEALTH.

HESLINGTON FOR BEAUTY.

No better locality near Christchurch for investment, as Heslington per force must, in a short period, become a thriving and populous town.

Purchasers are invited to inspect the property, and will be at once self-convinced of the value and fertility of its resources.

Plans in a few days.

Terms to suit everybody:

- 10 per cent deposit
- 15 per cent in 6 months
- Balance in 3 years at 7 per cent.

H. MATSON & CO.,
Auctioneers.

The first school in the area, north of today's Darroch Street (originally known as Wilson's Road) was associated with the Church of England. Now St David's, the church in 1873 was known as "North Road Church", although records show that "Purarekanui" was another name used to describe the church. 'Services at first were organised from Papanui, a church room being built at Purarekanui probably as early as 1855, a building which was not finally removed until 1947, when the Parish Hall was built on the site' (Parr, 1951). It is believed that the school opened there in 1859. An 1863 report included reference to "Purarekanui or North Road Church of England Mixed School": 'There are two buildings in connection with this school, one a chapel-school 26 by 16 feet [7.9 m by 4.9 metres], the other a master's house, built in the year 1859' (quoted by Roberts, 1978).

The church school had a troubled history, as regards funding. Eventually, there came a move for the establishment of a public school. Some records claim that the land (between today's Lagan Street and Englefield Road) was gifted by Mr Tisch. Other records state that the land (2.25 acres) was purchased by the Canterbury Provincial Government.

The School (at 665 Main North Road)

A new North Road School came into being in 1878 at the site of today's Kapuatohe Historic Reserve, and was under the temporary charge of Mr Kay, who had been master of the Church School to the north. The first permanent headmaster from May 1878 was Henry WILSON. The school opened with 38 pupils on the roll. Robert DUNCAN was the first Chairman of the School Committee



The Foundation Pupils

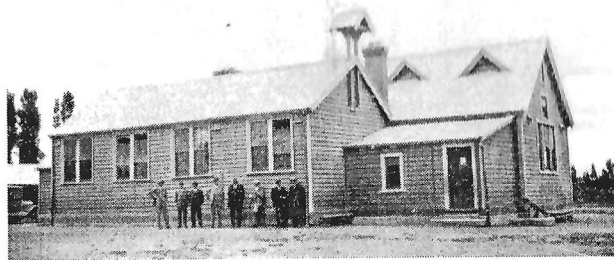
An assistant teacher, Miss Jane SOMERSET, was added to the school staff in 1881, followed by Miss Finney in 1883. The roll was 82, John LONGMAN was the Chairman of the North Road School Committee, and Edward MORGAN became headmaster. In 1885, the roll was up to 125, and Miss Alley was added to the staff.

In 1887, the roll was 219. Richard FERGUSON was appointed as headmaster, Belfast township had been in existence for a few years, and the school name was changed to "Belfast School".

By the 20th century, 'The Belfast Public School occupies a section of about three acres in extent. There are 300 children on the roll, and the average attendance for the year that ended on the 31st of March, 1902, was 218. The headmaster's residence is on a portion of the school property' (Cyclopedia, 1903).

In May 1938, when the school moved to its present site, it comprised the senior school at 665 Main North Road, and a junior school, built in 1899, further north. 'The infant school was to remain in Wilson's Road for some months and then to move into the old "Big School" while their school was dismantled and transported by traction engine to the new site there to be remodelled on the open air plan' (Roberts, 1978).

There are many comments in reminiscences about the school, which refer to playground equipment, such as "fly poles", "maypole flies" and "strider". One definition of a "Giant-stride" is 'gymnastic apparatus of pole with revolving head and hanging ropes enabling user to take huge strides around pole'. A "maypole" is a 'pole painted and decked with flowers and ribbons, for dancing around on May Day' (1 May).



The School At 665 Main North Road

One area of confusion relates to the actual school property. The best-known map of the site is that from the 1904 Kapuatohe Settlement. Section 8 to the south is that with the crofter's cottage, and is now 663 Main North Road. Land associated with the schoolmaster's house is now shorter than section 8, and is not much longer than half the house in the 1904 map. An aerial photograph of 1946 shows both the cottage and the house, and what were probably the school buildings well behind the house. Prominent in the photograph is bare land, immediately north of 665 Main North Road, and roughly equal in area to the school land in the 1904 map. There is a track leading to the buildings behind the house, from the north-east corner of the bare land. This would be in keeping with the memories of students at the school, that there was a turnstile at that point.

The Schoolmaster's House

Tenders were called during 1877 for the building of both a school (for example, "Lyttelton Times", 5 May 1877) and a schoolmaster's house (for example, "Lyttelton Times" 5 July 1877). The architect in each case was Thomas CANE.

<p>THE BOARD OF THE EDUCATION DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY.</p> <p>TENDERS are invited for BUILDING a new SCHOOL in the North road District, near the Styx. Plans, specification, conditions, &c., can be seen at the office of the Architect, Union Buildings, Cashel street, Christchurch. Endorsed tenders are to be sent in to the Chairman of the Board not later than MAY 15, 1877.</p> <p>THOMAS CANE, Architect. Christchurch, May 3, 1877. 9998</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tenders.</p>
<p>THE BOARD OF THE EDUCATION DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY.</p> <p>TENDERS are invited for BUILDING a Schoolmaster's House at the North road, near the Styx River. Plans, specification, and conditions can be seen at the office of the Architect, Union Buildings, Cashel street, Christchurch. Endorsed tenders are to be sent to the Chairman of the Board at Christchurch, by noon on TUESDAY, July 10.</p> <p>THOMAS CANE, Architect. Christchurch, June 30, 1877. 2524</p>

Thomas CANE (1830 – 1905) had practised as an architect in England before coming here in 1874. He became the Canterbury Provincial architect

the following year. Cane designed the Lyttelton Time Ball station, schools, churches, hotels and other commercial buildings, but was bankrupt by 1885. From 1891 to 1893, he taught evening classes at the School of Art, in the former Christchurch Girl's High School building (on the corner of Rolleston Avenue and Hereford Street, now part of the Arts Centre) that he had designed. At the time of his death, he was an architect, a building surveyor and a 'competent landscape artist' (Strange, 1994).

In the research for this book, we found four different floor plans for the schoolmaster's house at Kapuatohe Historic Reserve. The most recent was dated 1998, and produced by Christchurch City Council. The third one was dated 1920, numbered A/32R/1, and signed by an architect, presumably prepared for the relevant education authority. The first and second were drawn by the same person, but bore no name to indicate who that person or his/her authority was. The first has "First Floor Plan" and "Original Ground Floor Plan (1878)". The second has "Stage II Alterations (Present Day)" and is understood to refer to 1985. It has the additions at the north end of the house (additional bedroom and extension to the original Dining Room making a large Lounge) and the changes at the rear (west) of the house (closure of the open space to form a bathroom, etc.). The first plan shows "possible door" (where one now exists) at the north end of the kitchen, another at the north end of the dining room, and a dotted rectangle with "possible verandah" across the north end of the house. Whether those words referred to 1878, or later, we do not know. Similarly, we do not know when the alterations took place. They are certainly shown in the 1920 plan, which may have been when electricity was introduced, for on the first floor plan, in a position corresponding to the hot water cylinder downstairs today, is a circle and "H.W. (indecipherable word)" which almost certainly refers to hot water.

The four plans have been redrawn as two plans, with added notes. These notes draw attention to many doors that seem to have been moved, or re-hung on the opposite sides of their frames. How many of these were errors in the drawings, we will probably never know. They are listed solely in the interests of accuracy.

Some confusion arose when we sighted notes from an address by Bruce SCOTT, son of a former First Assistant Headmaster (H A SCOTT). The Scott family had lived in the house from 1928 until 1931, and 'The extension to the lounge was done after the Scott's time, when Mr Blick lived

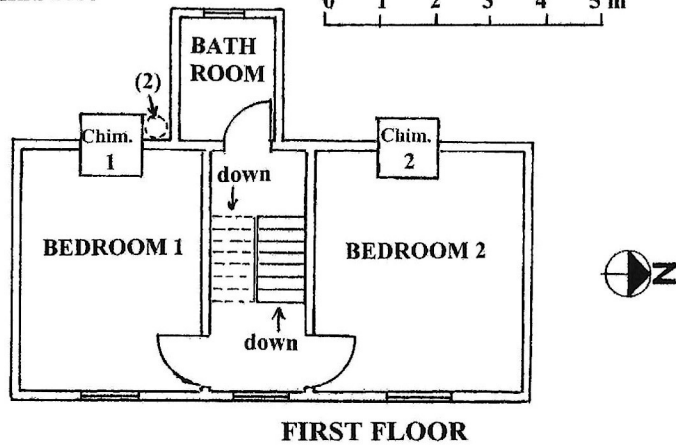
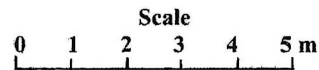
in the house' (KHRMC, 1994). Perhaps the changes, or some of the changes, on the 1920 plan were not made until later.

One of the reasons for writing this book was the number of questions asked by visitors to the house during the October 2006 Open Day of the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve. Some notes had been prepared prior to the day, and the following paragraphs include some of those notes.

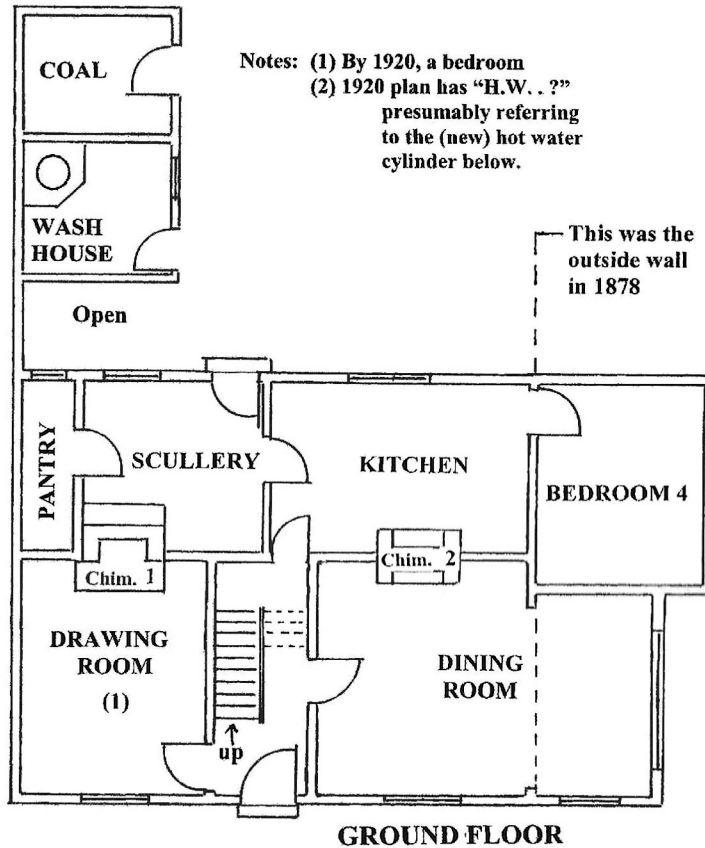
'Three dormer windows rise straight from the front wall and sit high on its façade. These are balanced by two lower windows and a central door' (CCC, 1991?). The building was designed in the "Colonial vernacular style" (a fancy way of saying "ordinary", from the Latin *vernaculus* meaning "domestic"!). The house sits partly on a concrete foundation and partly on stone blocks. Re-piling operations have been carried out in recent years. The roof is clad with corrugated galvanised iron, and the external cladding consists of weatherboards, found to be mainly 200 x 25 mm kauri timber. It has double-hung and casement windows. Internal linings are mainly 3-coat plaster, with some tongue-and-groove lining. The two chimneys are of brick, each containing three flues; at some stage the top courses have been rebuilt. The fire escape was placed above the front door, but was moved as it detracted from the general effect of the main frontage.

SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE 1878 & 1920 PLANS

Drawn D A Hills 2006



FIRST FLOOR



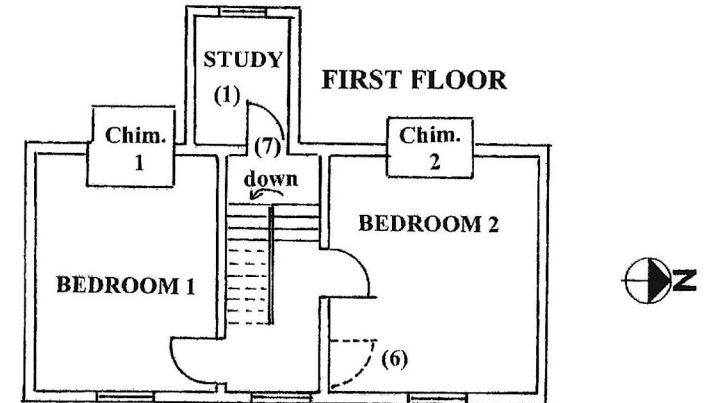
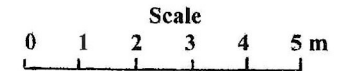
GROUND FLOOR

Notes: (1) By 1920, a bedroom
(2) 1920 plan has "H.W. . ?" presumably referring to the (new) hot water cylinder below.

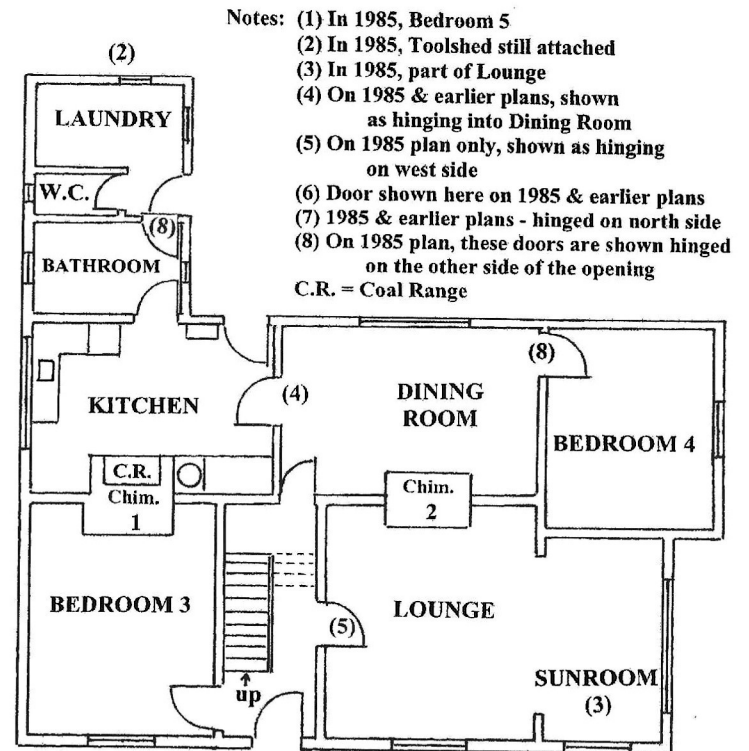
This was the outside wall in 1878

SCHOOLMASTER'S HOUSE 1985 & 1998 PLANS

Drawn D A Hills 2006



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

Notes: (1) In 1985, Bedroom 5
(2) In 1985, Toolshed still attached
(3) In 1985, part of Lounge
(4) On 1985 & earlier plans, shown as hinging into Dining Room
(5) On 1985 plan only, shown as hinging on west side
(6) Door shown here on 1985 & earlier plans
(7) 1985 & earlier plans - hinged on north side
(8) On 1985 plan, these doors are shown hinged on the other side of the opening
C.R. = Coal Range

The original rolled glass panes are still in the upstairs windows and bear witness to the age of this building. Floor joists and sleeper plates were of rimu. The front door is the four-panel original. General comments about each area follow.

- (1) Dining Room (formerly Kitchen) – covered with painted “Pinex” softboard, most probably originally T&G, but may have been three-coat plaster. The original stove has been replaced with an open fire. Surround possibly 1930’s. Timber floor. Window sashes appear to be original, but the frame is later. Wiring is on the outside of walls in steel conduit (before electricity, they would have used lamps and candles).
- (2) Kitchen (formerly Scullery & Pantry) - Existing stove was removed and replaced with an Orion, probably in the late 1930’s, but that has recently been replaced by another coal range that has been restored and is in working condition. The casement window in the south wall was also put in about the 1930’s. Previously, there had been no window on the south side of the house, for privacy from the prying eyes of the school pupils who walked past twice each school day!
- (3) Bathroom – This is an addition to the original building, on the same floor level as the kitchen, having formerly been an open area. Walls and ceiling are lined with hardboard and painted. It has a window, bath and basin.
- (4) Laundry – This is one step down from the main floor level. It has a shower, toilet, etc. These spaces are lined with hardboard that has been painted. The remainder of the walls are unlined, but painted.
- (5) Lounge – Floors are T&G and painted. Walls and ceiling are plaster, papered and painted. The walls have recently been re-papered. It has a simple wooden surround to the fireplace. The north wall and window are an extension to the original building.
- (6) Bedroom 3 (facing Main North Road) – This was the original drawing room. The original fire surround has been replaced about 1900 with a more elaborate one. It is now painted, but would probably have been varnished in the past. The register grate is original. The walls and ceiling are lath and plaster, and are generally in good condition.

- (7) Bedroom 4 (facing north) – Walls and ceiling T&G with painted ceiling, and scrim and paper walls (recently redecorated). The floor had a slope to the north and was recently levelled during re-piling. The window is double-hung.
- (8) Bedroom 1 (first floor, south) – Walls and ceiling are lath and plaster. The ceiling is lined and painted. The fireplace surround has been painted but the original register grate is intact.
- (9) Bedroom 2 (first floor, north) – Similar to Bedroom 1. Both rooms face east for morning sun and have an excellent view to the east and of the Main North Road.
- (10) Bedroom 5 (now study) – Lined with T&G and painted. The casement window is a later replacement. The door is a typical glazed door of the period. The floor is raised one step above the landing level.
- (11) Stairs and Landing – Handrail and balusters (posts supporting rail) have good design and newel posts (at the top and bottom of the handrails) have attractive finials (ornamental tops). All are painted. What appears to have been a dado to the stairs has been covered with hardboard and painted; the dado was probably T&G. At the head of the stairs is a grille over the well below and at handrail height (the story goes that it was put there after a suicide from the top).

The Schoolmasters

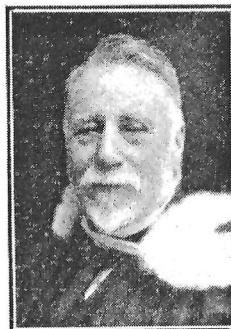
There have been many schoolmasters of the North Road School or Belfast School. It is not clear exactly how many actually occupied the house at 665 Main North Road, both during the life of the school at this site (1878 – 1938) and after the next school was built on the current site east of the Main North Road. We understood that the house was occupied by headmasters until 1971, although Wise’s Directory lists Edward BODGER (headmaster until 1971) as being there until 1976. In addition, there is information to show that it was rented by a Mr Wicks from 1945 to 1948, and that several headmasters did not live in the house.

It may be that Mr Kay from the former Church School was the first occupant of the schoolmaster’s house, but Henry WILSON was the first schoolmaster to live there. We found great difficulty in reconciling electoral roll entries

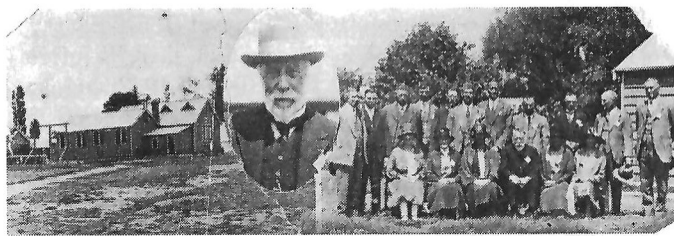
with dates (in brackets after the name) given elsewhere for the tenure of headmasters. It seems that entries were often left on rolls after people had moved. Electoral roll listings giving the school or schoolhouse as the address confirms occupancy. Other listings, or an absence of listings, do not necessarily prove that the headmaster in question did not live in the house. Where birth and death dates for the headmasters are known, these are given in the text and should not be confused with the dates of tenure given in the headings.

Henry WILSON (1878 - 1881)

Henry WILSON was born around 1850, and attended the 50th jubilee of the school in 1928, where he was photographed with former pupils. Mr Wilson does not appear on electoral rolls for 1878-79 or 1880-81, but is listed in Wise's Directory (location "Styx", as Belfast did not exist) for 1880-81. As the first headmaster, he was paid a salary of £138 a year. His wife was paid £12 a year as sewing mistress.



Wilson had married Elizabeth Sarah HISLOP in 1871. They came to North Road from Pareora, near Timaru. They may have returned there for a term after leaving North Road, for son William is recorded as being admitted to Timaru Main School in February 1882, then leaving in May of that year, "destination East Oxford". Three children who attended North Road School became teachers (William Barrett, b1871, Mary Henrietta, b1873, and Francis Prendeville, b1874). Two younger children were Henry Leonidas (b1876, Pareora) and James Scott (b1880, North Road).

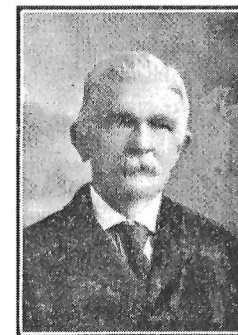


Mr Wilson (inset) and some foundation pupils, in 1928

The 1928 photograph shows a 'group of some of the earliest pupils'. There were, standing, from left, J Englefield, G Englefield, J McSaveny, W Burgess, E Harris, A Chaney, Prof F Wilson (we assume this was Francis Prendeville WILSON), D Burgess, W Longman, T Heissenbuttel, J Tick; sitting, Mrs J Willis, Mrs R Waites, Mrs W G Hillier, Mr H Wilson, B.A., Mrs E Harris, Mrs J Raymond.

Edward MORGAN (1882 - 1886)

Mr Morgan appeared on electoral rolls for Avon from 1880-82, 1883-84, 1886-87, 1887 and 1890 as "Morgan, Edward, residential, North road, schoolmaster" (and later, on the 1893 Riccarton roll, at "Papanui, schoolmaster"). He was shown as "headmaster" at Styx from 1883-84 until 1887-88 in Wise's Directory (in which the use of "Styx" for people in this area continued until the early 1890s).



Edward MORGAN was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales about 1830, and died at Papanui in 1905. He had married Jane GROUSE in Suffolk, England in 1855 and their first son, Hugh Edward, was born there in 1859. At least one other child (Charles Nevinson) was born in New Zealand (in 1863). Morgan 'bought some land on the Lower Lincoln Road just near the Halswell River . . . He advertised that he intended opening a school on the Lower Lincoln Road at the five mile peg opposite the new church' (Macdonald, 1964).

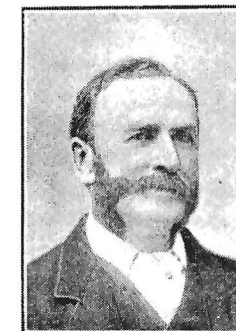
In 1868 - 1870, Edward MORGAN 'was master at the Templeton School. A man called Gardener Levett assaulted him because he said Morgan had severely beaten his child. Morgan summonsed him for assault. W.B.Tosswill, chairman of the school committee conducted the case for Morgan, and Leggett [should be Levett] was fined £2. Morgan took part in forming the Schoolmasters' Association. In November 1871, he was attempting to teach 102 children, having raised the school to that number from under 20. The population, of course, was growing rapidly. The Committee appointed Mrs Morgan as assistant teacher because of the growing numbers' (Macdonald, 1964).

The "*Lyttelton Times*" of 15 June 1870, reporting the assault case, noted that Morgan had, on 2 June, 'had occasion to correct one of the accused's boys'. The following morning, Levett had come to the schoolhouse with his son, then led Morgan to the schoolroom, where he locked the door, removed his coat and ordered his son to remove his jacket. 'When the boy had done this, accused, pointing to a slight mark on the boy's shoulder, said "do you see that?" Complainant replied in the affirmative, when without more ado accused struck him twice violently under the ear. Complainant did not return the blow, as he considered it would have been derogatory to his position as a schoolmaster to have done so'. Levett then asked for the cane that had been used on his son, then 'laid the cane about complainant's back for some time'. In summing up, the judge noted that 'It was a very serious matter to the character of a schoolmaster that he should be the object of such an assault as had been proved in the present case. If the assault were not committed before the whole school, still it was sure to become notorious, and would affect his position more or less with his pupils. Accused would be fined £2'. The full item is shown in the Appendix.

Morgan was appointed to Papanui School in 1874, after almost eight years at Templeton, and having seen the roll there rise from 17 to 147. However, he was dismissed from Papanui in 1881 (see cutting in the Appendix), and then commenced his time at Belfast School.

Richard Hay FERGUSON (1887 – 1897)

Mr Ferguson (c1832 – 1907) first appeared on an electoral roll (for this area) in Riccarton in 1893, as "Fergusson [sic], Richard Hay, Belfast, schoolmaster, residential", along with his wife, Lizzie ("domestic duties") and son Edward John Arlow ("manager of creamery"). Two sons, Richard and Samuel, are listed (Belfast, 1953) as teachers in 1887, presumably as student-teachers (Richard Hay FERGUSON, junior, was 17 in 1887 and Samuel Hay FERGUSON was 14). Their father was shown as "R F Fergusson" in the four issues of Wise's Directory for Belfast from 1892-93 until 1898-99. Having made a mistake with both the surname and his middle initial, they never corrected the error!



Arthur James PATCHETT remembered 'Mr R H Ferguson, who was a great acquisition to the school, a Christian gentleman, and a model in most respects. In addition to his profession, he was a lay preacher, a musician, and leader of our drum and fife school band. He was a capable ventriloquist and convenor of entertaining concerts. It was while giving a public concert at Kaiapoi, or on the way home, he and two of his three sons had an adventurous trip home, through the flooded Waimakariri River. It had broken its banks and covered the Main North Road, over the top of fences, a perilous trip in the dark, with only one horse in a dog cart. One son had to swim and wade in order to keep on the road, and guide the horse to safety. The most dangerous portion was between Chaney's Corner, and the Seven Mile Peg, a Public House' (Patchett, 1950?).

Later, he was remembered by pupils at Belfast School as "Daddy Ferguson". Mrs Laura Pine remembered him 'standing in the doorway between two rooms giving his lecture on "Good Manners" and his Morning Prayer to both classes. In those days there was an infant room and two senior rooms' (Roberts, 1978).

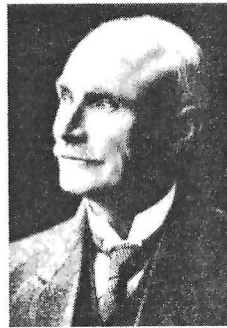
Mr Hay moved to Fernside after his time at Belfast. 'Mr Richard Hay Ferguson, Headmaster of the Fernside School, was born at Carrickfergus, Antrim, Ireland. He was brought up as a teacher and trained at the Training College in Dublin, and served as such for twenty years in his native land. Mr Ferguson arrived at Port Chalmers in January, 1880, with a guarantee of

employment from Sir Julius Vogel, the colony's Agent-General on London, and was appointed to Blueskin [later renamed "Waitati"]. When, five years and a half later, he had to leave the district owing to Mrs Ferguson's ill-health, Mr Ferguson was presented by residents with a gold watch and chain, and an illuminated address. He removed to Canterbury, and after two years at Ashley, he was transferred to Belfast, where he continued for ten years and a half. In 1898, Mr Ferguson took up his duties at Fernside, and, on leaving Belfast owing to ill-health, he and Mrs Ferguson were presented with oil paintings of themselves, a suite of dining room furniture, a set of carvers, and a handsome illuminated address, and other tokens of friendship and goodwill of the settlers. Mr Ferguson was married, in 1862, to a daughter of the late Mr. M. Arlow, merchant, of Belfast, and has five sons and one daughter surviving' (Cyclopedia, 1903). The phrase "illuminated address" may need explanation. One meaning of the word "illuminate" is to decorate the initial letters in a manuscript, etc., with gold, silver & brilliant colours.

Ferguson was replaced as headmaster at Fernside in 1904. 'No doubt, the mention of Ferguson's white horse . . . will rekindle memories for many . . .' (Fernside, 1964). He died in 1907 and was buried at Hastings.

William Alexander BANKS (1898 – 1899)

Mr Banks (1860 – 1941) first appeared on the Avon electoral roll in 1899 ("North road, Belfast, teacher") along with his wife Jane ("domestic duties"). He was listed in Wise's Directory of 1900 as "headmaster" at Belfast. William and Jane were still on the Riccarton 1902 roll with the same entries, although as noted below, W D BEAN was on the No 2 Supplementary roll. Born in 1860, W A BANKS married Jane Anne McINTYRE in 1882. Children located in our research were Isabella Helen, James Francis (born about 1887 at Lincoln) and Helen Christina (b 1885, Ashley). Macdonald notes two sons and three daughters, but does not name them.



William BANKS had been 'educated at Loburn School and served a pupil-teachership at Rangiora. After two years at the Normal School [in Christchurch], he was appointed teacher at Aylesbury, and six months later

was transferred to Carleton, where he continued two years. For fifteen years and a half he was in charge at Lincoln, where he was presented with an illuminated address' (Cyclopedia, 1903). Then followed his two years at Belfast. Then, after teaching for more than 20 years, he took up farming, first in the Rangiora area, to which he later returned and where he died in 1941.

His first farm was "Longhope" of 4000 areas, at Loburn. 'In 1905, he was living at Waikari and Mt Benger on the Hurunui was put up for sale . . . It was of 300 [acres] freehold and 3050 leasehold with 25 years to run . . . he bought it for £9200' (Macdonald, 1903). 'He was also a keen sportsman and noted shot' (Gunby, 1984). He was a Corporal in the Honorary Reserve Corps which he joined in 1890. 'He went Home in the year of the late Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, as a member of the Bisley Rifle Team, in which he was one of the best scorers' (Cyclopedia, 1903).

William BANKS was on the Rangiora High School Board for 22 years, six of those as Chairman. His extensive involvement in education included membership of the Council of Education, the Lincoln College Board, the Canterbury College Board of Governors, and the Canterbury Education Board. He served a part-term as Mayor of Rangiora after the death of F B LANE in 1921, but did not contest the mayoralty in 1923.

William Dallas BEAN (1900 – 1904)

W D BEAN (1865 – 1955) first appeared on the No 2 Supplementary Roll for Riccarton in 1902 ("Belfast, teacher") along with his wife Thirza Ann ("Belfast, housewife"). The same entries were on the Riccarton 1905 roll, although with his wife's second name as "Anne". Bean first appeared at Belfast in Wise's Directory in 1901 and was listed there until 1906.



In 1903, the Belfast school had 'three certificated mistresses, and two pupil-teachers, besides the headmaster, Mr. W D Bean' (Cyclopedia, 1903). The same publication also lists him as secretary of the Belfast Library Committee.

He had earlier taught at Southbrook School, obviously on two occasions as it is noted, of headmasters, 'and in 1890 Mr W D Bean came back, remaining

until 1900' (Southbrook, 1974). An extract from a letter from Mr Bean refers to the swimming pool built at Southbrook: 'During my time as headmaster, we built the swimming pool and laid down the tennis court. This wasn't bad for a small school. The bath necessitated the raising of about £130 cash, but it was done, and the bath opened free of debt. An enormous amount of voluntary labour was done, the chief worker being [a stonemason] who undertook to superintend the whole of the concrete work. He not only supervised, but worked himself for days on end, and made a thorough job of it. We had a lot of difficulty, as when the excavation was made, we found there were numerous springs to contend with and a lot of the concrete had to be laid in water; but in the end we overcame the difficulty. The bath was supplied with water by means of drains from the creek up by Seed's store. These acted very well unless there was too much rain, or the ducks got to work when, instead of water in the bath, we had something resembling pea soup. However, undaunted by this, we found swimming in the 'liquid' quite an easy matter' (quoted in Southbrook, 1974).

The swimming pool at the Belfast School appears to have been stream-fed in a similar manner, from Kaputone Creek at the rear of the school land. It appears that the pool at Belfast School became unsafe, and was filled in, probably during the tenure of Mr Bean or that of his successor, William BALCH.

A Southbrook pupil in the 1890s 'remembers Mr Bean cycling up to Rangiora on his penny farthing cycle, a medal bouncing on his waistcoat, to tennis tournaments' and 'I remember one day I polished my boots and went to school. Mr Bean lined us up and looked at my boots and sent several boys home to clean their boots' (Southbrook, 1974).

W D BEAN is also recorded as playing rugby for Canterbury in 1884.

At Belfast, 'under Mr Bean's tuition the dumb-bell squad attained a standard of near perfection and was in fact never beaten' (Roberts, 1978).

Mr Bean obviously had a liking for women called "Thirza". He married his first wife (Thirza Ann Mulcock) in 1890, but she died in 1920. He remarried (Thirza Olivia Thompson) in 1923. Children appear to have been Athol Eugene, Thirza Lulu (b 1891, Southbrook) and Ralph Coningsby (b

1892, Southbrook) from the first marriage, and William Ewing (b 1925) from the second marriage. William Dallas BEAN died in Nelson in 1955.

William BALCH (1905 – 1915)

William BALCH (1871 – 1949) first appeared on local electoral rolls for Kaiapoi (prior to 1970, Belfast had been in Avon, Riccarton, Kaiapoi, Hurunui, Selwyn and Rangiora electorates!) in 1908 as 'Balch, William, "The Schoolhouse", Belfast, schoolmaster', along with Balch, Janet Campbell, married, at the same address. The 1911 Kaiapoi listings were identical. William BALCH and Janet Campbell SIMSON had married in 1899. His Belfast listings in Wise's Directory ran from 1908 until 1918.



William BALCH was born and educated at Kaiapoi, where he served a pupil-teachership for five years. He trained at Christchurch Normal School for two years, was a relieving teacher for a few months, then assistant to Mr Cook at Warwick House in Christchurch. Balch served as assistant master at Papanui for eighteen months, and was appointed headmaster of Mackenzie [now Cheviot] Public School at the beginning of 1895. 'Mr Balch has always been fond of outdoor games, and has been well-known in athletic circles. He has been connected with the Canterbury College and the Kaiapoi Football Clubs, and has represented New Zealand as well as Canterbury on many occasions' (Cyclopedia, 1903)

William BALCH was All Black No. 47, playing only once, on 15 September 1894 against New South Wales. New Zealand lost 8 – 6, both sides scoring two tries, but Balch (a three quarter and a recognised kicker) was unable to convert either. Four days earlier, he had scored a try and kicked a conversion in Canterbury's 11 – 3 win over the tourists.

Balch was later headmaster at Shirley School, and then a school inspector. He wrote the English textbook "Sentence Structure and Hints on Composition" which was used in primary schools throughout New Zealand. William BALCH is noted as having become an authority on growing daffodils! Perhaps he followed on from an interest of his wife. Mrs Marjorie Bell remembered (Roberts, 1978) that 'Mrs Balch grew prize daffodils and raised pedigree White Leghorn hens. The latter, when let out in the mornings

were a prime target for the schoolboys'. Mrs Bell also remembered that 'On a cold frosty morning, when the bell was rung, Mr Balch stood at the door with a big broom. With this he used to chase the children around the school to get them warm. Mrs Balch used to have her clothes line near the school but moved it because some of the boys made rude remarks about her under-clothing' (Roberts, 1978).

John Gunn POLSON (1916 – 1918)

John Gunn POLSON appeared on the 1919 electoral roll at 'North Road, Belfast, schoolmaster' along with Martha Jane, married. The lack of a specific address does not allow confirmation that the Polson family lived in the schoolmaster's house. 'William James POLSON, Belfast, shearer' on the same roll may have been their son. All three had gone by the time of the 1922 roll. Wise's Directories of 1921, 1922 and 1923 all show John POLSON as a teacher at Belfast, although names often appeared in those directories after the person had left (as with William BEAN and William BALCH).



A pupil at that time recalled that 'when war broke out, in 1914, most people thought it would be over in a very short time. Mr Polson, however, predicted that it would last several years and that some of the boys in Standard VI might take part' (Roberts, 1978). The same pupil recalled that during Mr Polson's tenure, the school started having swimming lessons in the Canterbury Frozen Meat company's pool. Earlier, after the school's pool was filled in, trips had been made to the Waimakariri River for swimming twice a week.

Alfred Ernest WERRY (1920 – 1921)

The name of 'Albert Earnest WERRY, Belfast, school master' was (still) on the 1922 electoral roll, along with 'Florence Beatrice WERRY, School House, Belfast, married', which confirms their residence. The schoolmaster's name is in error; his christian names were in fact "Alfred Ernest". Werry did not appear in Wise's Directory of 1921.



He was born in 1873 in Cornwall and married Florence Beatrice CHENOWETH in 1900. Their eldest son, Chase Chenoweth WERRY, was noted as a teacher in 1940. Their third child, identified only as "B WERRY" attended Belfast School in 1920. Florence CHENOWETH was aged 5, at Gravesend, Kent, on the English 1881 Census, with her mother, Harriet, "Head" (of the house), occupation "Chief Mate's Wife". The connection with ships was confirmed when young Florence arrived in New Zealand and enrolled at Timaru Main School in 1891, when her father's address was shown as "Steamer 'Muna'".

NZ Gazette entries sighted for Alfred Ernest WERRY as a teacher were 1896 (location not shown), 1899, 1900 & 1901 (South Canterbury), 1908 (Timaru), 1910 (no location) and 1917 (Canterbury). Werry was shown as a pupil at either Waimataitai or Timaru Main Schools from 1882 to 1890, when he became a pupil-teacher.

Frederic William MOORE (1922 – 1925)

Frederic (yes, that is the correct spelling) William MOORE was on the 1925 Kaiapoi electoral roll at 'School House, Belfast, teacher' along with Eliza, his wife. He had married Eliza JAIR in 1919. He died at Christchurch in 1950, occupation shown as schoolteacher. Moore finally appeared in Wise's Directory of 1927, as "W F Moore". The only teacher living in Belfast, according to Wise's Directory of 1925, was "Miss Cook, school mistress".



Alexander BRINGANS (1926 – 1928)

It is noted that he 'came from Otago'. His father, Andrew, was a mill worker and Alexander attended Mosgiel School from 1896 – 1907. Two NZ Gazette entries sighted show him as a teacher (1917, Otago; 1940, location not stated). Alexander BRINGANS, was at 'Schoolhouse, Belfast, teacher' on the 1928 roll along with his wife, Alice Gertrude nee SCOLLAR. They had married in 1922. Bringans died in 1972, a



'retired government school inspector' and is buried at Andersons Bay Cemetery in Dunedin.

Richard William MORGAN (1929 – 1930)

'Did fine work until death overtook him' (Belfast, 1953). The date of tenure should be 1929 – 1931, as the Christchurch City Council Cemeteries Database shows that he was buried 10 September 1931 and the address 109 St James Avenue is given. His death notice showed that he died 'On September 8th, 1931, at his residence, 109 St James Avenue, Papanui, Richard William, dearly loved husband of Lucy May Morgan, in his 54th year'. We had thought for a time that he was the person that had died at the schoolhouse, but this shows that that was not the case. He was not on the 1931 Kaiapoi electoral roll.



NZ Gazette entries referring to Teachers Examinations, show Richard MORGAN at North Canterbury in 1901 and Christchurch in 1904. He appears to have been born in 1887 (which suggests an age of 43 or 44 at death) and married Lucy May BARR in 1908. She died, a widow, at New Plymouth in 1970.

Bruce SCOTT, son of a former First Assistant Headmaster at Belfast (Mr H A SCOTT) spoke to the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve Management Committee in 1994. He is reported as noting that the Scott family came to Belfast in 1928 – 1929 and lived in the schoolhouse until 1931. Wise's Directory of 1931 has "Scott, Henry A, teacher" in Belfast. 'The headmaster at the time, Mr Morgan, had his own house in Christchurch and preferred to live in it. After Mr Morgan's death, Mr Scott became Acting Head until Richard Blick was appointed, who wished to live in the schoolhouse' (KHRMC 1994).

At the meeting, Mr Scott talked about the property and the house, and the minutes record that 'The extension to the lounge was done after the Scott's time, when Mr Blick lived in the house' (KHRMC 1994). As noted earlier, it may be that the lounge extension shown on the 1920 plan was not made until the 1930s.

Richard Adolphus BLICK (1932 – 1944)

Richard Adolphus BLICK (sometimes recorded as Richard Adolphus Ernest) was born at Whitecliffs in Victoria, Australia about 1892. He married Mabel Edith GILLBEE in 1914, and they both died in Nelson (Richard in 1969, Mabel in 1964). Children located were Richard junior (Richard Thomas John, born 1914), Raymond and Iona. Another girl had lived for only a few days in 1915. Iona BLICK was also on the staff at Belfast in 1940. Richard BLICK was listed in Wise's Directories from 1933 until 1946, as a teacher living at Belfast.



R A BLICK was the son of Thomas and Sarah BLICK. His father drowned when Richard was about 10 years old and 'the family experienced very hard times . . . [they] came to New Zealand thinking that nothing could be worse' (Blick, 1977). R A BLICK appeared as a pupil at Invercargill Middle School in 1904. However, his mother 'soon found that things were not much better, and returned to Australia. There my father got his first job with the Consul for Chile (as office boy) - there were something like 40 or 50 boys after it, but he was given the job because of two things - he had travelled to New Zealand and back and had his "Certificate of Attainment" [from] Victoria' (Blick, 1977).

His pay of 5 shillings per week was given to his mother. She gave him sixpence per week which he spent on books on mechanics and other literature. They came back to New Zealand, and went to the railway camp in the bush at Forest Vale in Southland. 'My father worked on the cuttings with shovel and wheelbarrow by day, and at night he would read. The teacher at Tokonui had to leave the district for a few days and having marked my father as a well-spoken and knowledgeable young man, asked him if he would like to look after the school for a few days - which he did! Thereafter, he decided to become a teacher. He worked on the railway by day and then by candle-light and kerosene lamp would work at night studying for the teacher's exam' (Blick, 1977).

R A BLICK is shown as passing his Teachers Examination at Invercargill in 1912 (NZ Gazette 1912 Vol 1 page 953), and teaching in Southland prior to

his military call-up in 1918. He taught at several schools in Otago and Southland, and was at Edendale from 1929 until the end of 1931.

Richard junior records how when they arrived in Belfast at the beginning of 1932, the house 'was being occupied by Mr H Scott who was to be my father's first assistant teacher at the old Belfast School' (Blick, 1977). By the time that the Blick family occupied the house, the condition of the building had deteriorated. It was condemned several times during the tenure of the Blick family, 'but each time the Board Architect was "talked round" and the house reprieved but at one stage the Blicks seriously considered buying it themselves just to save it from demolition' (Roberts, 1978). Richard BLICK (junior) remembered, some 40 years later, '. . . the beautiful pikelets and girdle scones which his mother made on the top of the old coal stove . . . the rather cramped little pantry held all sorts of wonderful things such as tins of cake, vanilla slice and other goodies all turned out by that very good old range. The night he set fire to the curtains in the kitchen after everyone else had gone to bed, trying out a model steam engine he had just made and a bottle of methylated spirits somehow became ignited, spurting out flames all over the curtains. Panic stations! Jugs of water everywhere – all in a few seconds and finally only a few charred holes in Mother's curtains. A lesson was learned that night. The end room off the living room was for years used as a workshop with a bench in it. Richard Blick still [had] a photo of his father working at his lathe in this room. A model railway ran around this room . . . The water supply for the house came from the deep bore put down for the old school. It was very cold and sweet . . .' (Roberts, 1978).

The Kaiapoi electoral rolls of 1935, 1938 and 1941 show Richard Adolphus Ernest and Mabel Edith BLICK at the Belfast School House, "school teacher" and "married", respectively. In 1941, they were joined on the roll by their son referred to above, "Blick, Richard Thomas John, Belfast School House, Belfast, tchr". Richard BLICK junior died in Southland in 1997, but his ashes were interred at Marsden Valley, Nelson along with his parents and other family members. His parents had moved to Feilding after their time at Belfast, with R A BLICK being headmaster at Lytton Street School until he retired in 1957 to live at Stoke.



View From Rear of School, Showing House, 1936

G W COTTON (1945 – 1947)

After 1941, there were no electoral rolls until 1949, hence Mr Cotton was not found on a roll during his tenure as headmaster. Also, the gap between electoral rolls covers the period (1945 – 1948) when a Mr Wicks is recorded as having rented the house. The Belfast District Museum has a photograph (acquisition 97/55) donated by Mr Wicks, and showing the schoolhouse during the snow of 1945.

S W GOWER (1948 – 1955)

He was the current headmaster at the time of the 75th anniversary celebration in 1953. In 1949, "Gower, Sidney William, Schoolhouse Belfast, teacher" and "Gower, Elsie, School House Belfast, married", appear on the Kaiapoi electoral roll. They were also on the 1954 Selwyn electoral roll, along with "Gower, Geoffrey Hunter, Schoolhouse, Belfast, teacher". "Sid W Gower, teacher" was listed at Belfast in Wise's Directories of 1950-1 and 1953-4.

E J N RICE (1955 – 1962)

We did not find E J N Rice on the 1957 electoral rolls (Selwyn and Hurunui

each covered part of Belfast), the 1960 Hurunui roll or the 1963 Rangiora roll. We therefore could not confirm occupancy of the schoolhouse.

J J GILL (1962 – 1965)

The names of "Gill, James Joseph, 665 North Road, Belfast, teacher" and Gill, Teresa Celine, married, were found on the 1963 Rangiora electoral roll. Wise's Directories of 1964 and 1966 have "James Gill, headmaster" at 665 Main North Road. The 1962 entry has "Harold Keane, teacher" at that address.

E A BODGER (1965 – 1971)

Edward Alexander D BODGER, 665 North Road, Christchurch, teacher and Josephine Elizabeth Bodger (same address; married) appeared on both the 1966 and 1969 Rangiora electoral rolls. Bodger was the last of the listed headmasters to appear on electoral rolls as living in the schoolhouse, which agrees with the 1971 date found elsewhere. However, Bodger's name appeared in Wise's Directory at 665 Main North Road from 1968 until 1976 (long after his tenure as headmaster). There were no occupants shown from 1977 to 1980, which was the last time that residential listings were given in Wise's Directory.

Subsequent headmasters (until the 1978 centennial celebrations) were K T HEXTALL (1971 – 1972, but not on the 1972 Rangiora electoral roll), R T ELLMERS (1972 – 1973, but not on the 1972 Rangiora electoral roll) and K A O MATCHES (from 1974, not on the Rangiora roll in 1975 or 1978, but on the 1978 Papanui roll as living in Gardiners Road). None of the three is believed to have occupied the schoolhouse.

The Kapuatohe Historic Reserve

This reserve comprises 665 Main North Road, and the adjoining 663 Main North Road. Number 665 (R.S. 412299, formerly Lot 1 DP 11748, Christchurch Survey District) has an area given (CCC, 1991?) as 2731 m²; this is 0.273 Ha or 0.675 acre. The original land purchase was 2¾ acres, but much was sold off after the school closed. 663 Main North Road (Section 8, Kapuatohe Hamlet, S.O. 1494) had an area shown as 2023 m² - this was 0.202 Ha or half an acre. Each property is zoned as a Heritage Protection Item within the Residential G zone (Waimairi District Scheme). Number

665 is a Historic Reserve by NZ Gazette 1982, page 1455. Number 663 is a Council-owned residential lot. Collectively, they form the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve. Number 663 was half an acre when first marked out, but now has an area of 1922 m² or 0.475 acre. In the 1980s, 'because of future road widening proposals . . . 182 m² was taken along the eastern boundary' (CCC, 1991?). This refers to the combined land of the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve, with the areas of numbers 663 and 665 both reducing.

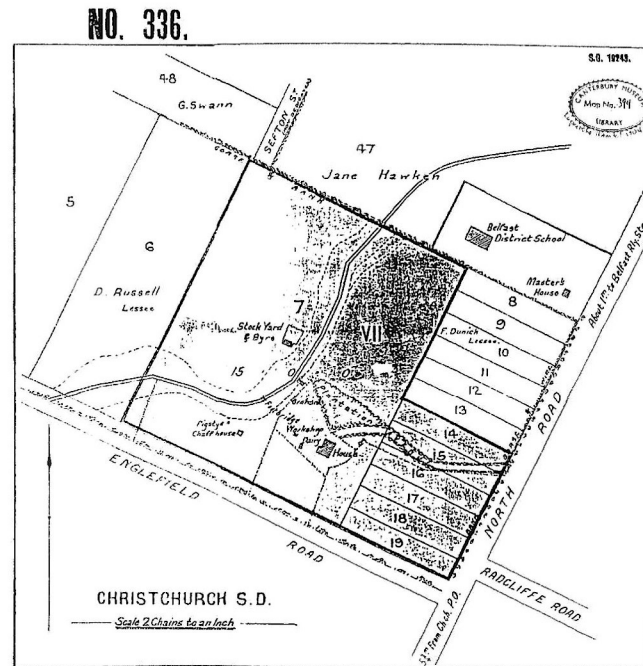
Section 8 in the 1904 subdivision map is now 663 Main North Road, and the school land has since been reduced in size so that its depth from the Main North Road is now less than that of the adjoining section 8. This section was part of the Kapuatohe Hamlet, a 'Government settlement scheme which was set up around 1880 with the intention of providing small holdings for immigrants and farm workers' (CCC, 1991?). The settlement was divided into 12 half-acre sections and seven larger blocks. It appears that, as few workers had the money for building a house, or the time to harvest crops, demand for the sections was low. The CCC publication also notes 'Section 8 was an example of the lack of demand. This half acre was offered for selection in October 1901 but it was not applied for until February 1906 when William Bartlett was given a lease in perpetuity at a rental of two pounds per year'. The 1901 subdivision map shows the schoolmaster's house and the school, but no house on section 8.

An undated cutting from 1978 noted that 'In August, 1977, a public meeting in Belfast gave unanimous support to the principle of preserving the schoolmaster's house under some form of public ownership. A steering committee of local residents was formed . . . What does seem likely is that once the property has passed from the Education Board through the Ministry of Works into the hands of the Lands and Survey Department, the Waimairi County Council will come into the scene. Last December the county purchased a section of about half an acre next to the schoolhouse, on which there is a fine stand of trees and an interesting old cottage. The two sections would together make an attractive historic reserve which could be vested in the County Council' (Wilson, 1978). This subsequently took place.

Until 2006, the management of the Reserve has been by the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve Management Committee, set up in 1978. Since local authority amalgamation in 1989 (when Waimairi District [previously, County] Council was disbanded and the area became part of Christchurch City, this Committee comprised elected representatives of the Shirley-

Papanui Community Board and individuals representing specific organisations or the community at large. Its role has been replaced by a new City Council Management Plan, and the Belfast District Museum and Kapuatohe Historic Reserve Open Days (once or twice each year) have become the responsibility of the newly-formed Belfast District Museum Trust (Inc).

As noted elsewhere, 665 Main North Road is a shortened (from both north and west) part of the land of the North Road School, later the Belfast School.



1904 lease, 15 acres, Kapuatohe Hamlet (Courtesy Canterbury Museum, map 399)

The Crofter's Cottage

The section at 663 Main North Road was unrelated to the schoolhouse site until 1977, when it was purchased by the Waimairi County Council (later to become Waimairi District Council). As noted above, it was part (section 8)

of the Kapuatohe Settlement. The various dates mentioned in the literature make for a confused picture as to the age of the crofter's cottage (or farmhand's cottage). For example, it dates 'back to the 1870's', the Government settlement scheme 'was set up around 1880', and the section 'was offered for selection in October 1901 but it was not applied for until February 1906' are all to be found in the CCC literature.



Cottage at 663 Main North Road

That literature states 'it was originally believed that this cottage had been brought out in a prefabricated form from Scotland due to its resemblance to the crofters cottages which were built in Scotland at that time. This theory however, was disproved during the restoration of the cottage in 1988, when it was discovered that many of the timbers used in its construction were in fact native timbers. It is likely though that whilst the main body of the building may not have been shipped from Scotland, some of the fittings in the cottage may have been shipped out' (CCC, 1990?). Although we found no suggestion that the cottage had been moved on to section 8, we believe that this must have been the case.

Like the schoolmaster's house, the cottage had been allowed to deteriorate during the 1960s and 1970s 'With constantly changing tenants and little or

no maintenance over this period, the cottage by 1987 was . . . declared uninhabitable. The condition of the cottage was in fact so poor that demolition . . . was considered. Fortunately, this option was not actioned and it was resolved by the Management Committee to restore the cottage to a standard suitable for letting' (CCC, 1991?). An undated cutting (probably about 1980) noted that three quotes to bring the cottage up to "long-term letting standard" ranged from \$18,000 to \$22,500. Retired builder Lewis McFadden offered to do the work on a labour-only contract for an estimated \$14,700. 'The chimney would be pulled down and rebuilt, the open fire replaced with an electric heater and the roof and walls will also be repaired. One of the cottage's dozen-or-so previous tenants decided to let more light into the kitchen by replacing part of the roof with corrugated plastic. "We are going to restore the cottage to its original condition so that will go", Mr McFadden said'.

The only references to early occupiers of the section were the mention of William BARTLETT (lease in 1906), the transfer of the lease to Joseph BRADSHAW six years later, and 'Mr and Mrs Hill who lived in the cottage around the 1900's, left a mark which is very much evident today. As a traveller with Buxtons Nursery Mr Hill planted many trees in the garden which he had obtained from the nursery. Containing a wide range of native and exotic species this planting is now mature and is largely responsible for overshadowing the farm hand's cottage' (CCC, 1991?). Mr Hill came on the scene much later than the 1900s! James Joseph HILL (on all records except his marriage, where he was James Joseph Aolysius) died in 1957, as a woolclasser. He had married Eleanor Kathleen Garrett PALMER in 1925, and she died in 1970, the last year she was shown in Wise's Directory as occupying 663 Main North Road.

Neither the 1901 "lease in perpetuity" of "sections for workmen's homes" map nor the 1904 map reproduced in this book show houses on the half-acre sections 8 to 19 – despite showing buildings as small as a pigsty on section 7 - which confirms that the cottage was moved to section 8 from another site. Its age may be similar to that of the schoolmaster's house, but it must have been moved to 663 Main North Road more than 30 years after it was built. This was perhaps after William BARTLETT took the lease in 1906. He had been around Belfast for many years, as had been found during research for the second Styx book (Hills, 2006). He was not on the 1883 Avon roll, but was on the 1887 & 1890 Avon rolls and the 1893 Riccarton roll as 'Bartlett, William, Belfast, labourer, residential'. Street addresses were not

common on rolls at that time, and house numbers did not appear until much later, so it is not possible to identify occupants of the crofter's cottage by the address of 663 Main North Road. Bartlett was listed in Wise's Directory (no occupation, no address other than "Belfast") from 1892-93 until 1902, then as a factory employee at Belfast from 1903 until 1914.

An undated NZ Historical Places information sheet mentions Bartlett's lease in 1906, then 'Six years later he transferred the lease to Joseph Bradshaw (labourer) who, six years later still, was granted a housing loan . . . in April 1912' – some six years seem to have gone missing! – 'In September 1915, Bradshaw sold to Herbert E Laycock (labourer) who freeholded the land for £40, two years later. Laycock was then a "Creamery Manager" of Doyleston. He owned the property until November 1933'. Neither Bradshaw nor Laycock appeared at Belfast in Wise's Directory.

Around 1930, when the Scott family were in the house, the cottage was 'occupied at that time by a woman called Amy who the children were afraid of. They called her a witch, and would not go outside in the dark because of her presence' (KHRMC 1994). Our inability to identify the occupant(s) at that time spares "Amy" from being identified!

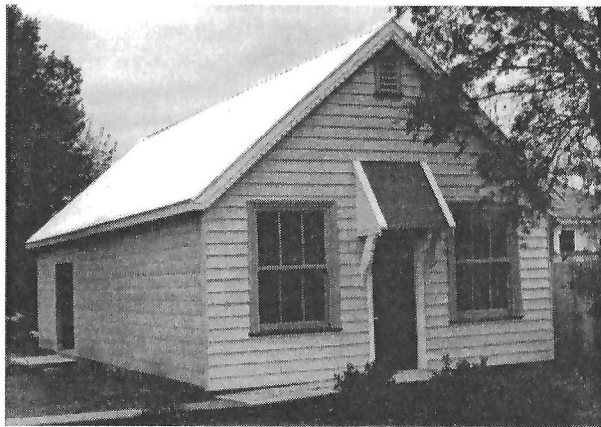
So, who lived in the cottage prior to 1980? Street addresses are not given on early electoral rolls or Wise's Directory listings (which were discontinued for private properties from 1981), and house numbers did not appear until the 1949 roll. We therefore cannot confirm occupancy prior to 1949. Electoral rolls show "James HILL, Main North Road, Belfast, traveller" from 1935 until 1941. The next rolls (1949) and 1954) show the address as "663". Confusing the situation are the listings for "Eleanor Kathleen Garrett HILL, The Nurseries, Belfast, Married" in 1935, 1938 and 1941, with the address in 1949 shown as "c/- T.D. Lennie, The Nurseries, Belfast". This gives the impression that she lived at a different address to her husband, or they both lived at "The Nurseries", which may have been elsewhere on the Main North Road. In 1954, she was shown at "663 North Road, married" and in 1957 & 1960 at "663 North Road, Belfast, widow". Wise's Directories continued to list her at that address until 1968.

They may have been in the crofter's cottage as early as 1935, but we can only confirm occupancy from 1949 when full addresses appeared for the first time. Wise's Directories list no occupants for 663 Main North Road in

1972, 1973-4, 1979 and 1980. Frederick P SIMMONS is shown at that address in 1976, and P J ALLAN is shown there in 1977 and 1978.

Belfast District Museum

The other main building on the reserve is the Belfast District Museum. It was constructed in 1985. The building work was started in May of that year by Lewis McFadden. In October 1985, the shell of the museum building was opened by Margaret Murray, Chairman of the Waimairi District Council. "A lot of work lies ahead, before the museum can be opened to the public" (Herald, 1985). The front of the building was constructed to be in keeping with the schoolmaster's house. As local museums are few and far between, the name "Belfast District Museum" refers to an area greater than the Belfast township itself. As will be seen in the photographs, the front of the museum building was constructed to be in keeping with the appearance of the house, which is probably why many people are not aware of its existence!



Belfast District Museum

The museum has been operated from then until 2006 by a sub-committee of the Kapuatohe Historic Reserve Management Committee, and is currently operated by the Belfast District Museum Trust (Inc) which was incorporated on 1 March 2007. The museum is open to the public on the first Sundays from September to May, from 2 pm to 4 pm.

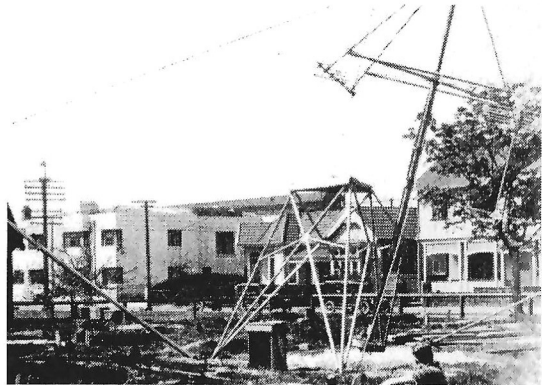


Belfast District Museum beside the Old Schoolmaster's House

The Schoolmaster's House & Scientific Research

The schoolmaster's house can claim to have been part of World War II scientific research! The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research set up units in several places, under the name "Radio Development Laboratory", combining the skills of their own scientists, university staff and military personnel. These RDL units worked on various aspects of radio communication and the development of radar, as part of a long-range warning system of possible attack. They also developed microwave radar units and built mobile radar units for use by forces in the Pacific. One of the RDL units was in Christchurch, at the former site of Canterbury University College, now the Arts Centre (see "CIDD -The Backroom Boys"). The Physics Department building in Hereford Street was part of one experiment in long-range air warning research. 'From a transmitter on the north-eastern corner of the building, radio waves were bounced off the ionosphere to a receiver in the old schoolmaster's house in Belfast. The measurements made

enabled calculations of the best times of day and wavelengths for radio communication' (Strange, 1994). Photographs in "CIDD – The Backroom Boys" show long-range air warning aerials being set up in the area just west of the Students' Association building (today's Dux de Lux) on the corner of Montreal and Hereford Streets. One photograph is included here.



Long Range Air Warning Aerial being set up during World War II, from "CIDD – The Backroom Boys" by D A Hills

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1870.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS.

CHRISTCHURCH.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14.

(Before C. C. Bowen, Esq., R.M.)

ASSAULT.—Gardener Levett, an elderly man, was summoned by Edward Morgan for having violently assaulted him at Templeton on the 3rd instant. Complainant is master of the Templeton School, and by consent of the Bench, Mr W. B. Tosswill, chairman of the school committee, conducted the case. Complainant said that on the 2nd inst. he had occasion to correct one of accused's boys attending the school. On the following morning accused, who is employed at the Works of the Meat-preserving Company, came to the school-house at about half-past eight o'clock, and asked to speak to complainant. Complainant went out and said "Good morning," but accused made no answer. Complainant then asked him to step into the house, but instead of replying, he walked off towards the schoolroom—distant about forty yards. When they got to the schoolroom accused asked, "Is this your schoolroom?" and complainant said "yes." Accused then went in, and when complainant had joined him, he locked the door, took the key out, and put it into his pocket. He then took off his coat, and said "I am an old colonial," at the same time ordering his son—the boy complainant had chastised—to take off his jacket. When the boy had done this, accused, pointing to a slight mark on the boy's shoulder, said "do you see that?" Complainant replied in the affirmative, when without more ado accused struck him twice violently under the ear. Complainant did not return the blow, as he considered it would have been derogatory to his position as schoolmaster to have done so. Otherwise he certainly should have chastised accused. Accused then asked for the cane with which complainant had flogged the boy, and he gave him the one produced (about eighteen inches of a walking cane of the smallest possible dimensions), which was the only one he had used in the school since he had been master—nearly three years. Accused remarked, "How came you to cane a child in such a manner?" and then laid the cane about complainant's back for some time. Subsequent to this, some further conversation passed, during which accused said, "I wish to leave my son with you, he likes you as a master; and if you do not look over what has passed, I will take you before Mr Bowen, even if it costs me £30 to do so." Complainant said if accused had felt aggrieved at the usage of his son he would be quite right in doing so, and that he (complainant) would not look over the matter or take the child back without

first consulting the committee. With regard to accused's son, complainant said that he had been unsuccessfully trying for six successive days to teach him the simplest rudiments of addition, but that, although the boy had displayed some aptitude to learn, when threatened with punishment, he generally refused to reply when spoken to, and would do nothing but look about the school. Complainant had been master of the school for upwards of three years, and had 41 boys under his charge, but never had been complained of for inflicting unnecessary punishment. Accused's son is nearly eleven years of age, and complainant, on the occasion of the alleged ill-usage, only struck him with the cane produced three times over the shoulder. Accused had said that his son was so ill from the punishment, they had to sit up with him all night, but complainant could prove he did not leave the public-house until 12 o'clock. The boy had been six days at the school, and when accused made him take his coat off before the assault, complainant only saw one mark of the cane on his shoulder. By accused: He did not say to accused "If you take me before Bowen, I shall lose my situation," nor "If you will send the boy back on Monday morning, all shall be forgotten." Complainant had put off taking out the summons because he wanted first to consult the committee. He wrote to the chairman for this purpose directly after the assault. He did not seek to deny that he had beaten the child, nor that he would do it again if absolutely necessary. He did not inflict unnecessary punishment. His ear was not cut, but it was sore for three or four days after the assault. By the Bench: There were 42 boys present when complainant chastised accused's son. There was only accused's son present when the assault was committed. Mr Samuel Barclay was called to give evidence as to the general character of the school under complainant, in respect to punishment, but his Worship said he must decide the case of assault on its own merits, and he would then hear witnesses for or against complainant's general mode of conducting the school. The accused then called evidence in defence. James Knuts said he saw accused's boy the morning after he had been whipped. His shoulders were blue and "reddish." There were four or five marks which he should consider rather bad ones. They were weal, and appeared raised and very red, as if the blood was nearly coming through the skin. James Voyce said he also had seen the boy, who had some marks on his back as if from a cane. There was a little bruise. By Mr Tosswill: He meant by "a little bruise" that there was a mark as from the sharp cut of a cane. If the boy had been hit he would certainly have taken him to the schoolmaster and shown him the marks. In defence, accused said his boy had been in a very delicate state of health—in fact, had been five or six weeks in low fever, and was subject to fits. When he came home after the whipping the arms were black and blue; there were cuts on his shoulders and jumps on his head as large as a pigeon's egg. They had to sit up with him all the night, and he had not recovered even yet. Mr

ANNUAL ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

PAPANUI.

The annual meeting of householders in this district took place in the schoolroom on Monday evening last, when there was a large attendance—fully 150 being present. Mr Goodland was voted to the chair, and read the minutes of the last annual meeting, which were duly confirmed. The usual report of the Committee was presented, but being, after considerable discussion, rejected, it was taken possession of by a member of the Committee, who claimed it as his private property, and objected to its being published, and therefore does not appear. The meeting altogether was very excited, and the Chairman had repeatedly to call the audience to order. In fact, at one time he threatened to close the proceedings by adjourning, and it was not until a constable had been called in, and several unruly persons removed, that order was restored, and the business proceeded with.

Referring to the report, Mr De la Hunt asked why the present master, Mr Morgan, had resigned, and why a successor had not been appointed. He was of opinion that the Committee did not deserve the confidence of the district, and should be censured for their action in the matter of Mr Morgan's dismissal.

The Chairman, in reply to the question read a resolution from the minutes of the Committee, showing that it was because that body had not considered Mr Morgan competent for the position he occupied, and he had therefore received notice that his services would have to be dispensed with and a successor appointed. As to why the Committee had not appointed his successor, he thought that they had not been able to agree.

Mr Smith said it appeared then that the Committee had dismissed Mr Morgan, and not the Board of Education, as appearing in the report. The Chairman replied that the Board had done so at the request of the Committee.

Mr Leversedge moved, and Mr Thomas seconded, that the words—"At the request of the Committee," be added to the clause in the report, which stated that Mr Morgan had been dismissed by the Board. Carried.

Mr D. Thomas would like to know the reasons the Committee had for recommending Mr Morgan's removal. Now that he had been dismissed by the Board they seemed to be in no better position, as through the disagreement of the Committee he one had been appointed to succeed him. He considered that the Committee should have resigned, and would therefore move—"That the report be rejected."

Mr Adams having seconded the resolution, it was moved by Mr Leversedge, and seconded by Mr Jones as an amendment—"That the report as read and altered be adopted."

The Chairman having called for a show of hands, the resolution was carried by a very large majority, amidst uproar and confusion.

Order having been restored, Mr De la Hunt stated that it was reported that three of the Committee—mentioning the names of Messrs John and James Low and Cresswell—had sent a private communication to the Board relating to the business of the Committee, without the Chairman's consent, and he for one should like to know the contents of the letter.

Tosswill bore evidence to the correctness of complainant's statements about having written to the committee relative to an enquiry into the matter at the earliest moment, and said that the committee had endeavoured to push forward the case as quickly as they could, in order that if the boy had been punished so severely as stated, he might have been brought forward to show the marks. The fact of the small cane produced was sufficient to show that the punishment could not have been great. Accused said the cane produced was not the one used, it was three or four times as thick. His Worship said he must convict prisoner of the assault, and would, before imposing a fine, hear evidence as to the general character of the school under accused's management. Mr Tosswill said that his own sons attended the school, and he had never heard any complaints either from them or anyone else, as to the extent of punishment or anything else. Samuel Bailey said he had children attending both day and night schools, and was perfectly satisfied with the manner in which they progressed, and the treatment they received. He thought complainant was a little hasty, but had never heard that he had maltreated any of the scholars. Witness had been on the committee five years. Complainant re-examined by accused, said he had never pulled a boy out of the school by the hair of the head. James Voyce said he had a child at the school, and had never had any reason to complain of the manner in which it was treated. James Ennis said the school was well conducted so far as he knew. He had never heard any previous complaints against the school. Two of his children attended the school, but he never heard of their having been ill-treated. His Worship said he had heard a deal about the assault, and also other evidence in order to see if there were any reasonable grounds on the part of accused for assuming that if he felt himself aggrieved he could not obtain a remedy easily. He thought that accused had not taken any steps to obtain redress; also that the school was well conducted, and he must say that the master of a school exercises a power of correction under serious responsibilities, as liable to the law, if he exercises reasonable punishment, and can be used at the same time. Fathers should understand that their children must be punished, and should not complain if it were done in reason. If, as he had said before, there had been any case of aggravated assault on the boy, the accused should have appealed to the committee or come to that Court for redress. It was a very serious matter to the character of a schoolmaster that he should be the object of such an assault as had been proved in the present case. If the assault were not committed before the whole school, still it was sure to become notorious, and would affect his position more or less with his pupils. Accused would be fined £2. Accused said he could not pay that amount, but that he must go to prison. His Worship said a distress warrant would be issued for the amount if it was not paid within the prescribed time.

Mr James Low in reply, and as mover of the resolution dismissing Mr Morgan, gave the reasons for the action he and the other two Committee-men had taken. He was glad of this opportunity of explaining his conduct during his year of office, and could assure them that whatever he had done had been without fear or favour. Referring to the letter in question, he said that after the Board had refused to sanction the appointment of the gentleman first nominated by the Committee out of the applicants for the position now held by Mr Morgan, a resolution had been carried by which it was agreed to forward the whole of the applications to the Board, and ask them to appoint one of the number. The Board accordingly made a selection, and forwarded to the Committee the name of Mr O. S. Howard, he in their opinion being the most eligible for the appointment. This, however, did not suit some of the Committee, who, without any reason whatever, ignored the resolution previously carried placing the matter in the hands of the Board, and forthwith selected another name from the applicants in question and forwarded it to the Board for approval. In the face of such an unheard of course of procedure, those present could not wonder that the gentlemen named and himself should protest against such conduct. They had, therefore, sent to the Board a protest, and the reason that it had not been forwarded through the Chairman was because they had no hopes of its reaching its destination had they done so. He could say that his conduct had been consistent throughout the year. He had told them previously to his election that he should vote for the removal of the present master, and, as he was appointed by them, he understood it to mean that his action would be approved. All that he could say was that he had not succeeded so well as he should have liked. He could not understand why members of the Committee had acted as they had done, unless it was as personal friends of the present master. He could say that neither personal influence or favouritism had prompted him, but simply a sense of duty and the interests of the district.

Mr Cresswell, one of the retiring members who had voted against Mr Morgan, stated that he had good reasons for what he had done. As those present were doubtless aware, he had been a member of the Committee during the year preceding this. At that time he was Chairman, and when holding that position had been the means of keeping Mr Morgan in his position during that period at any rate. This the minute book of their proceedings would show, as the Committee were equally divided for and against a resolution which was brought forward requesting the Board to dismiss Mr Morgan, on account of the continued bad reports from the Inspector after the usual examinations of the school. On this occasion he had given his casting vote in favour of Mr Morgan, believing that the Inspector had been prejudiced against their master, Mr Morgan having told him (Mr Cresswell) that Mr Bestell had threatened to send in an unfavourable report to the Board. Under these circumstances he had done all in his power to support Mr Morgan, but was very sorry to find that his confidence in that gentleman had been misplaced, for Mr Bestell, having heard of the statements made by Mr Morgan, demanded an explanation, and, after some correspondence in the matter (which was produced), it was proved that the master's statements were quite

untrue. This, added to the fact that the last year's report had been unfavourable, also led him to do all in his power to obtain a better man for the school, and, if again elected, he should pursue the same course of action. (Uproar and applause.) (Mr Godfrey was asked for the last report, but said he had left it at home.) In continuing, Mr Cresswell stated it had been said that he and two other gentlemen of the Committee had made up their minds to turn Mr Morgan out, in order to get Mr Howard in. He denied this, and had never asked any member to vote for Mr Howard, and only voted for that gentleman himself, because he believed him to be the best man amongst the applicants for the appointment. In this he was not wrong, for, after the matter had been left in the hands of the Board, they replied, as Mr Low had already told them, that Mr O. S. Howard was the most eligible for the situation, and it was because the other gentlemen of the Committee were prejudiced that they had not accepted Mr Howard. This was the explanation of his conduct during office, and he trusted it would be satisfactory.

Mr Hudson said that, when attending a meeting of the Committee on Thursday last, the Chairman (Mr Godfrey) read a copy of a letter from himself to the Board, stating that, when it was agreed to forward the names of the applicants to the Board, in order that a master might be appointed by that body, two of the members had voted in error. If that was so, he should like to ask Mr Godfrey who it was that had voted in error.

Mr Godfrey having refused to do this, Mr Cresswell said that it was Messrs Kruse and Munro who were accused of doing so. These gentlemen, however, both certified that they had perfectly understood and intelligibly voted for the proposition named.

Mr Godfrey was also accused by Messrs Hudson and Smith of having told them that he did not think Mr Morgan fit for the office he held, and yet as Chairman of the Committee, and the representative of the parents, he had done all in his power to retain Mr Morgan.

Mr Thomas moved, and Mr De la Hunt seconded, the following resolution, which was carried, viz:—"That the action of the old Committee in endeavouring to carry on the business without a working majority is worthy of censure, and that they be censured accordingly."

Mr Clison proposed that for the ensuing year a Commissioner be appointed instead of a Committee to carry on the business of the school, which, on being put to the meeting, was unanimously rejected.

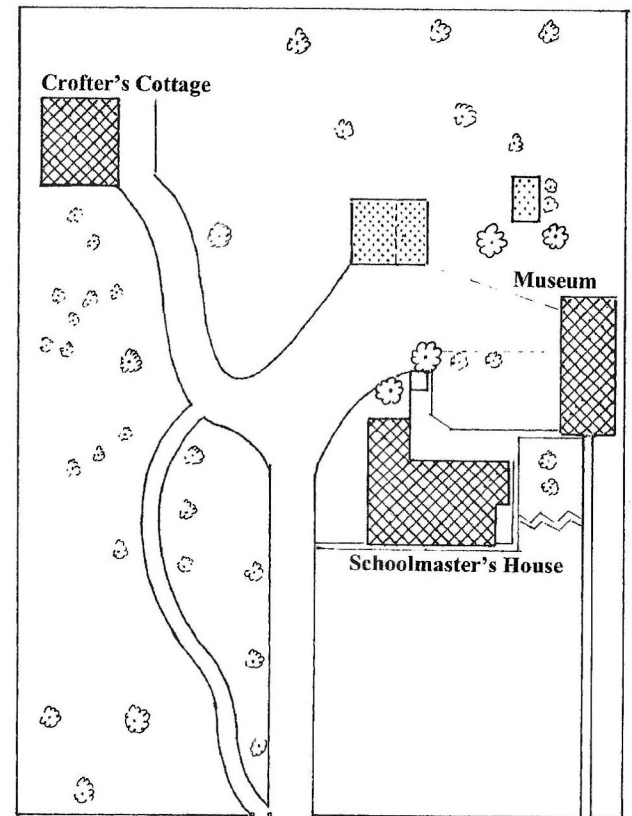
A number of persons having been nominated, balloting was proceeded with, and resulted in the return of the following as members of the Committee for the ensuing year, viz., Messrs Goodland, Godfrey, Cresswell, James Low, De la Hunt, D. Thomas and Calvert in the order named.

Before closing, a motion in favour of Mr Morgan being retained was brought forward and carried amidst uproar, the Committee being requested to recollect this in the discharge of their duties.

The meeting then terminated with a vote thanks to the Chairman.

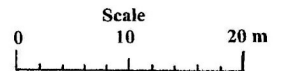
At a meeting of the Committee held immediately after, Mr D. Thomas was elected by ballot as Chairman.

KAPUATOHE HISTORIC RESERVE



663 & 665

← MAIN NORTH ROAD →



Drawn D A Hills 2006